

AN AMERICAN LIFE

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The title is too broad. I chose to write about a United States citizen,
eliminating 70 percent of Americans.

I have always wanted to write about Robert Kennedy, the third of four talented sons of Joe Kennedy Sr. Here are a few words on the youngest U.S. Attorney General to serve. They derive not directly from an association with The GENERAL, but as a result of his 1960 effort to obtain Colorado's six electoral votes for his brothers' Democratic nomination for President, and those consequences 1000 days.

Colorado Democrats, in 1952 and 1956 had endorsed Adlai Stevenson for President in their convention. Both years Eisenhower won Colorado comfortably. Then in 1956 Colorado did elect a Democratic Senator. Is the state changing?

In 1960, Colorado's Democratic sentiment was divided. Stevenson was still popular, but so were Senators Lyndon Johnson and Jack Kennedy. Senator Kennedy began meeting with Coloradans in 1958 in a search for his Presidential effort; a central figure Joseph Dolan, then in the Colorado House. And, as in most States, WWII young veterans became increasingly active in politics. The 1960 advance group for Senator Kennedy were led by his brother Bobby, who sought loyal local talent provided them strategy and support in a series of no more than a few days each.

I mention this as Joe Dolan was a friend then; became better known, 1988 to 2008 as part of a weekly Denver breakfast group, men generally Jesuit Educated, meeting under the name **Regis 1942**, the year several had graduated from that Denver Jesuit High School.

In 1960 the Kennedy team controlled the Denver delegates, met further in the Los Angeles Convention, where Jack Kennedy narrowly defeated Lyndon Johnson for the nomination, later win the Presidency. JFK did lose Colorado, rather badly.

But in each state the Kennedy's' discovered talent they brought to Washington for the change in Administration from 19th Century Republican Eisenhower to the 20th Century Democrat, young JFK. One was Joe Dolan, who became an Assistant Attorney General under Bobby, joining a long, talented list, that included Nicholas Kaltenbach and Byron White.

Some staff was often taken to the White House on Judicial topics, freely joining in the discussion, supporting that decision afterward. In a 1962 gathering, the topic was the appointment of a Supreme Court Justice,. JFK apparent choice had been Byron White a popular Colorado All American football player, a JFK friend from time together in Europe before the war, White a Rhodes Scholar in England, and JFK's dad the Ambassador; then again, those tumultuous 1943 months in Guadalcanal, White, Naval Intelligence Officer for The Command that included Jack's boat PT 109.

Suddenly it appears that some Joe Sr. friend was being suggested; when the discussion quieted slightly, the President suggested that Bobby tell Byron, that his turn would come next. And before Bobby could reply, Joe Dolan volunteered, "Mr President, you may not have another appointment to make," which reopened the talk in Byron's behalf, eventually winning.

Alas, when the President died, Bobby's tenure as Attorney General lost momentum. J Edgar Hoover dominated the Office once more, by insisting Hoover reported to the President, not to his superior the Attorney General, just as he had done under former Presidents. When Bobby left the office in 1964, so had most of that excellent staff.

A short time later, RFK,41, announced for the Senate from New York State and appointed Joe Dolan,46, his Chief of Staff. a position he held until the Senator was assonated in California in 1968.

Yes, there is more to tell.

Joseph F Dolan was born in Brooklyn (Woodhaven) New York in 1921. In an accident while a child, he lost his left eye, constantly wore a artificial eye afterward. Of slight build, his handicapped removing him from sports, he devoted his time to reading, education and music of the times, especially Jazz.. Gifted with something close to total recall, he was a good student, attending Catholic schools.

When finishing St John's University, he pestered the Army for an enlistment in spite of the handicapp. He arranged enlistment with a Restriction of duties, one, he could never be sent overseas.

In the initial interviewing , Joe talked the Army into designation as Recruiter for Musicians, especially the Army, and Air Corps bands, for he exhibited a complete memory library of songs, singers, and musicians. He would spend a year assigning

those drafted in the eastern states, to dance and marching bands. With the war nearing an end, he volunteered for the Army Air Corps Photography School Lowry, Colorado. While here, before discharge, he became interested in his first sport, skiing. He became a competent, careful advocate for the sport and its followers, their night life, listening to jazz.

Discharged, he returned to his Woodhaven, Brooklyn home, attending St John University's Law School. He worked for several large Law firms. He appears to have really impressed the Principals, for when he joined Bobby Kennedy at Assistant Attorney General, it was mandatory that all Lawyers of that office be interviewed by the FBI Director, J Edgar Hoover. Not knowing what to expect, for the Attorney General's Office all knew Hoover was not a Bobby Kennedy fan, Joe was surprised to find that In stead of a grilling, he was greeted as a comrade-in-law. For the extensive interviews Hoover was given form every law office Dolan had worked with, read the same.. This young man has fine legal mind; is a workhorse; provides a thorough treatise in anything legal assignment. Joe was asked to give little information on himself in their hour together,. Then was assured by the Director that Joe would be a welcome asset to both he and the Attorney General.

Joe Dolan chose to leave the Manhattan legal scene and settle in Denver Colorado. He had met an equally bright lawyer there in an earlier time and the Henry and Dolan Law partnership was formed. He had also met and marries, a woman on the ski slopes. She was from an Illinois entrenched Republican family, her father, in Congress down state Illinois. Married they remained away firm their families further east. Further Joe delved into the social set of Denver; and Joe alone joined the Young Dems club first as a witness and then as a member of the Colorado House of Representatives. Joe' wife Marty sold Real Estate.

There were three burials at Arlington at night. The first two were made after President Kennedy died in November 1963. His young son Patrick, dying young, still- born daughter Annabelle, were returned here buried at night. Then in 1968 when Bobby Kennedy's body was returning to Washington by train from New York City, the train journey delayed by thousands lining the train route to pay respect, caused the internment of RFK next to his bother in the early evening, that ceremony lighted by the thousands carrying candles.

Joe Dolan and Attorney General Robert Kennedy resigned the same day.

Yes, there is more o tell.

