



On White House lawn, Sutherland chats with Presidential Press Secretary Donald L. Ziegler. The picture of Jack and his wife, the former Virginia Shockley, shown above was taken in 1941 on the old Journalism bridge.

By John Cauley

Jack Sutherland Heads White House Correspondents

The story which best illustrates the journalistic skills of John P. (Jack) Sutherland, a graduate of the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri-Columbia, is that for a week in the early years of the Eisenhower administration, he got up at dawn, stationed himself at 6:30 a.m. at the side entrance of the White House and finally got an audience with a high administration official who rarely saw reporters.

Sutherland wanted to see Sherman Adams, the top assistant to President Eisenhower who prided himself on being the first man to arrive at the White House each morning.

For a week Adams, who came in at 7 a.m., saw Sutherland at the side entrance and finally asked him, "What the hell are you doing here, and who are you?"

Sutherland told Adams that he was the White House correspondent for *United States News and World Report*.

Then Adams, a crusty and hard-bitten New Englander, said, "if you can get up this early, tell my secretary I'll see you."

When Sutherland got into Adam's office he was not even offered a chair and Adams said, "you can have five minutes."

To which Sutherland replied, "if that is all the time I can have, forget it."

As Sutherland turned to leave, Adams called him back and talked to him 30 minutes for background.

On May 8, Jack was honored by his colleagues when he became the first reporter from a magazine to become president of the 57-year-old White House Correspondents Association.

Jack entered the University of Missouri in 1939 but joined the army shortly after Pearl Harbor and did not return to the campus until after the war. He received his AB in 1947 and his BJ in 1948.

A full-time assignment at the White House is becoming more and more demanding and the physical exertion alone is tremendous, but Sutherland, 50, still manages to keep up with his youthful competitors many of whom are in their 30s and 40s.

In covering Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon, Sutherland has traveled to over 60 countries and has logged about a million miles on the White House beat.

After leaving Columbia, Sutherland became an editor with the Barrack Publishing company in Kansas City and later joined the Washington bureau of the *Wall Street Journal*.

In 1952 he became associated with *United States News and World Report* and, since 1953, has covered every presidential diplomatic conference held in Europe, North Africa, Asia, Australia and Latin America. Assignments have taken him to South Vietnam four times in the last five years.

Sutherland is a veteran of political conventions and campaigns and has been fortunate enough in his predictions to have been with the winning presidential candidate on every election night since 1952.

Perhaps Sutherland's greatest journalistic triumph was an exclusive story he wrote based on a series of personal interviews with the late General George C. Marshall, head of the joint chiefs of staff in World War II — which disclosed many secrets, including the processes leading up to the use of the atomic bomb in 1945. In an agreement with Marshall, the article was not published until after the death of the general. The story appeared in *U. S. News and World Report* in 1959.

Among the stories Sutherland covered which he considers the most memorable are the heart attack suffered by President Eisenhower in Denver in 1955; the breakdown of the Paris summit conference between General Eisenhower and Premier Khrushchev in 1960; the Vienna summit meeting between President Kennedy and Khrushchev in 1961; the political campaign of President Johnson in 1964, and the splashdown of the first "moonmen" in 1969.

His "happiest" story was the trip of President Kennedy to Ireland in 1963 and the "saddest," the funeral of Mr. Kennedy. Jack says the most exhausting assignment was the trip around the world made by President Johnson in 1967 and "the most dangerous," the Washington riots of 1968, although Jack was once marooned on a Vietcong beach near the demilitarized zone in Vietnam and had to be rescued by Marine helicopters.

Sutherland is the author of *Men of Waterloo* and is currently writing a book on the post Waterloo period of 1815-1830.

Sutherland married the former Miss Virginia Shockley of Kansas City, his birthplace, in 1942. He was graduated from DeLaSalle Academy in Kansas City in 1938. Mr. and Mrs. Sutherland reside in Alexandria, Virginia. □

John Cauley, chief of the Kansas City Star's Washington bureau, graduated from the School of Journalism in 1932 and is a long-time friend of Sutherland's.