



0. THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL - Story Preface

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Bobby was a father before he was a politician—not just in terms of time-spent but in terms of emotion. It wasn't always easy for the children to behave, though, while their father was working. This image depicts one of those times. Image online, courtesy [University of Sydney](#).

The California Democratic primary was in early June of 1968. Kennedy really needed a victory since McCarthy had defeated him in Oregon.

With his wins in Indiana and Nebraska, Bobby could effectively eliminate McCarthy from the Democratic race if he prevailed in America's largest state. The nominating convention, in Chicago, would then be a two-man contest between Kennedy and [Hubert Humphrey](#), the sitting Vice President (from Minnesota).

At that time of his life, Bobby and Ethel had [ten children](#) with an eleventh on the way. The family was often [with him](#) when he spoke. Ethel was at his side during the California campaign. Bobby was scheduled to speak at the [Embassy Ballroom](#) of the Ambassador Hotel after the primary results were known.

Everything except a small portion of this once-famous Los Angeles landmark was demolished in late 2005. How did the hotel appear during its heyday and at the time when Bobby gave his speech there (shortly after midnight, on June 5, 1968)?

- During the early years of its life, [the Ambassador](#) was in the midst of a restful, picturesque LA [countryside](#).
- [The main entrance](#) of the Ambassador Hotel was located at 3400 Wilshire Blvd.
- The [hotel's exterior](#) was a welcome sight for weary travelers.
- [Bellmen](#) at the Ambassador show off their new "admiral" uniforms on January 12, 1961. Pictured, from left, are: Bud Johnson, Eldon Smith (the bell captain), Penny Clissold, and Paul Persie.
- The interior of the hotel's [Coconut Grove](#) (depicted here, in 1922) was [once](#) the city's most exclusive, [world-famous](#) night club.
- The [Academy-Awards banquet](#) was held in the Coconut Grove ballroom on March 5, 1943. Many of the men attending that year were in uniform because America was still in the midst of World War II.
- The hotel even had a [theater](#) with its [own lobby](#).

- Jerry Lewis and Dean Martin entertained at the hotel on March 24, 1953.
- The Ambassador was closed, and its contents auctioned, before the building was demolished.

Primary results were finally known late in the evening of June 4th. The Senator from New York had won. Bobby, Ethel and their supporters celebrated RFK's victory in the Embassy Ballroom. The Senator was tired but happy. He concluded his victory speech with the words:

***Now it's on to Chicago and let's win there.***

Bobby was guided off the podium to meet with the waiting press corps. En route, the entourage would pass through a small food-preparation area.

At the time, presidential candidates were not given Secret-Service protection.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-AMBASSADOR-HOTEL-Bobby-Kennedy>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-AMBASSADOR-HOTEL-Bobby-Kennedy>

## Media Stream



### Bobby Kennedy and Family

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Bobby-Kennedy-and-Family>



### Bobby Delivering a Speech - With Family at His Side

Image online, courtesy University of Sydney.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Bobby-Delivering-a-Speech-With-Family-at-His-Side>



### Ambassador Hotel - Embassy Ballroom

Image online, courtesy LA Public Library Visual Collection.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ambassador-Hotel-Embassy-Ballroom>



### View of the Ambassador Hotel

Image online, courtesy LA Public Library Visual Collection.

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### Ambassador Hotel in its Early Days

Image online, courtesy [LA Public Library Visual Collection](#).

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ambassador-Hotel-in-its-Early-Days>



### Ambassador Hotel - Main Entrance

Image online, courtesy [LA Public Library Visual Collection](#).

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ambassador-Hotel-Main-Entrance>



### Ambassador Hotel - Front View

Image online, courtesy [LA Public Library Visual Collection](#).

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ambassador-Hotel-Front-View>



### Ambassador Hotel - Bellmen

Image online, courtesy [LA Public Library Visual Collection](#).

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ambassador-Hotel-Bellmen>

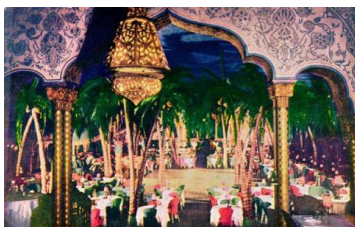


### Ambassador Hotel - Coconut Grove

Image online, courtesy [LA Public Library Visual Collection](#).

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ambassador-Hotel-Coconut-Grove>



### Ambassador Hotel - Night Club

Image online, courtesy [LA Public Library Visual Collection](#).

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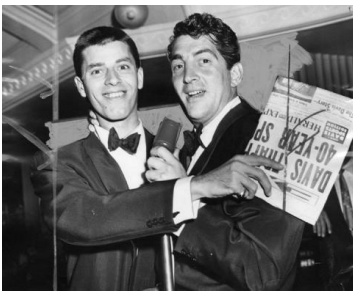
### Ambassador Hotel - Academy Awards Banquet

Image online, courtesy [LA Public Library Visual Collection](#).

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ambassador-Hotel-Academy-Awards-Banquet>





### Ambassador Hotel - Jerry Lewis and Dean Martin

Image online, courtesy [LA Public Library Visual Collection](#).

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### Ambassador Hotel - Public Auction

Image online, courtesy [LA Public Library Visual Collection](#).

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### Ambassador Hotel - Theater

Image online, courtesy [LA Public Library Visual Collection](#).

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ambassador-Hotel-Theater>

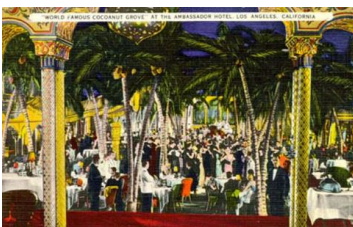


### Ambassador Hotel - Theater Lobby

Image online, courtesy [LA Public Library Visual Collection](#).

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ambassador-Hotel-Theater-Lobby>



### Ambassador Hotel - World Famous Night Club

Image online, courtesy [LA Public Library Visual Collection](#).

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ambassador-Hotel-World-Famous-Night-Club>



### Bobby Kennedy - Victory at Embassy Ballroom

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Bobby-Kennedy-Victory-at-Embassy-Ballroom>



### Victory Celebration at the Embassy Ballroom

Image online, courtesy [LA Public Library Visual Collection](#).

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Victory-Celebration-at-the-Embassy-Ballroom>



[RFK - Final Speech - Joy to Confusion in Crowd](#)

Historical footage, at the Ambassador Hotel, June 4-5, 1968.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/RFK-Final-Speech-Joy-to-Confusion-in-Crowd->