## Agent Who Drove Kenn

## Raced to Hospital Without 🖟 Knowing President Had

By ROBERT B. SEMPLE Jr. - Special to The New York Times

\*WASHINGTON, July 1 handwriting on the card, simple handwriting on the card, simple and backward-sloping, conveys a message at once concise and poignant: "For Bill Greer—whom the President loved, and who was with him until the very end. Thank you."

The note, signed by Jacqueline Kennedy, is a cherished possession of William R. Greer, a 56-year-old Secret Service agent who was driving the limousine in which President Kennedy was killed on Nov, 22, 1963.

Mr. Greer retired yesterday.

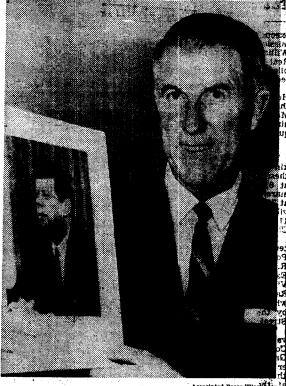
Mr. Greer retired yesterday from his job as -Presidential chauffeur because of an ulcer condition that doctors believe was seriously aggravated by the

tragedy. Mr. Greer, a tall, handsome mative of Ireland with a warm smile and even temperament, joined the Secret Service in 1945 and was assigned to drive Mr. Kennedy right after the inaug-uration. He drove for President Johnson until he was required to undergo stomach surgery to undergo stomach surgery last January.

## Hazards of His Job

In an interview today at his comfortable but modest split-level hime in a nearby Maryland subdivision, he recalled that day in Dallas, spoke briefly about Presidents he has scheduled to speak. I was too served, and explained a few of the hazards Presidential drivers face. In an interview today at his

land Hospital, where he helped put Mr. Kennedy on a stretcher and carry him into the emergency room.



William R. Greer at his home in Maryland after he and nounced his retirement as the Presidential chauffeur

ired," he recalled, "I thought it was a sound I'd heard many times before — a motorcycle backfire. I glanced over my right shoulder and saw a red spot on [Texas Gov. John B.] "I wasn't sure what had happened but I tramped on the East Room overnight." I wasn't sure what had happened but I tramped on the East Room overnight. "I wasn't sure what had happened but I tramped on the East Room overnight. "There was hardly a moment im the East Room overnight." There was hardly a moment in the first 12 hours after the know the President had been hit." "was not near Mr. Greer was not near Mr. Kennedy. He even watched the autopsy at hit with the car reached Parkland Hospital, where he helped

## A 'Rough' Experience

A Rough' Experience

"I was there mainly for professional reasons," he said.
"We were looking for traces
or bullet fragments that
have helped us later on
It nothing for a policeman to
watch an autopsy. But this one
was very rough."

Mr. Greer has kind words for
all the chief executives he has
served (the first was Mr. Truman), but the one he knew best

man), but the one he knew best and felt the closest to was Mr.

Kennedy.

"He made us all feel at home. He would stop and talk to us and kid a little bit and keep track of what we were doing there was a waiting list to work at the White House is those days, he was a wonderful man, always laughing...

The pace quickened under Mr. Johnson. "There was a schoole in the old days, but, under Ir. Johnson we as to be ady

to move at anytime. I'd be sit-M (there is no garage at 22d and M (there is no garage at the White House) and then Migest a call saying "hustle on aver, we're going to Texas."

Mr. Greer, who lives in seach brook, Md., is married and the father of an 19-year-old son, student at the University of Maryland. He is looking 2007, ward now to playing gois 326, annual retirement pay will be two-thirds of his \$12,900 salary as an agent.

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