Jesse E. Curry, ex-police chief, dies after suffering heart attack

By TRAVIS BROWN Staff Writer

Jesse Curry

Jesse E. Curry, Dallas police chief when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, died late Sunday at Baylor Medical Center after suffering a heart attack at his home.

Curry, who was 66, drove the lead car in the motorcade carrying Kennedy through downtown Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. The police department, under Curry's direction, first was praised after officers quickly arrested Kennedy's suspected assassin.

But after Lee Harvey Oswald was shot to death on national television by nightclub owner Jack Ruby in the basement of the Dallas police station, Curry became the focal point for much of the scorn and ridicule heaped on Dallas.

Curry's wife said her husband suffered "either a massive stroke or a heart attack" Sunday night as he was lying in bed working a crossword puzzle. Curry was pronounced dead at the emergency room at Baylor at 10:55 p.m.

Curry became Dallas police chief on Jan. 20, 1960, and retired in 1966 after serving 30 years on the force. He worked as director of security for the Texas Bank Building from 1966 until 1992, when he retired.

The paper was under the direction of former police chief Jesse E. Curry.

Curry's wife said he suffered from diabetes and that he suffered a stroke in 1978 as he drove an auto on Greenville near Lovers Lane.

After the Kennedy assassination, Curry later said critics were influenced in phrasing the response.

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