

Batchelor Assumes Police Chief Duties



CHARLES BATCHELOR
New Police Chief

Assistant Chief of Police Charles Batchelor Friday took over the reins of the Dallas Police Department replacing ailing Chief Jesse Curry who resigned Thursday.

Following the announcement of his new assignment, Chief Batchelor said he was "gratified by the confidence shown in me by City Manager (Elgin) Crull."

"I will do my very best to be a worthy chief," he said.

The new chief, who will remain in the status of acting chief until Mr. Curry's resignation becomes effective March 10, said he plans no radical changes in the department.

Chief Curry, 52, resigned late Thursday morning after almost 30 years on the force. He cited recurring bouts with high blood pressure as the reason.

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The new head of the city's police force has been a close associate of the retiring chief since high school days.

They both attended the old Bryan or Dallas High School, were in the same police school graduating class which they attended without pay, and both signed on with the force on the same day, May 31, 1936.

Mr. Batchelor, a 59-year-old officer who worked his way up the ranks like the man he replaces, said he will name a new assistant chief after he assumes full command.

He noted that the elevation of some officer to the assistant chief's position will result in other changes down through the ranks.

Chief Batchelor began his police career in the Traffic and Patrol Divisions. He served as an accident investigator, point control officer, and in the Radio Patrol.

He served in all of the field grades of sergeant, lieutenant and captain, and in 1947 was given command of the Police Academy with the rank of inspector of police.

Mr. Batchelor was appointed deputy chief of police late in 1951

and given command of the newly created Traffic Division. He stayed in that post until 1958 when he was placed in charge of the Patrol Division.

On January 20, 1960, he was appointed assistant chief of police.

During his career he was graduated from Northwestern University's Traffic Institute and has taken various specialized police courses at Southern Methodist University, Texas A&M University, the University of Texas and Michigan State University.

He is a visiting instructor at all of these institutions.

In addition, he is a graduate of the Yale School of Alcohol Studies and has studied at the University of Toronto in the field of alcohol and road traffic.

For a number of years, he has been active in the work of the Dallas Council of Alcoholism. He served three years as chairman of the council.

He is president of the Texas Police Chiefs' Association.

Chief Batchelor, a powerfully built man, is noted for his soft-spoken manner, gentlemanly polish, and extensive vocabulary. He is a tasteful dresser who prefers bow ties.

Mr. Batchelor has two sons and one daughter, all married. He is an elder in the Sunset Presbyterian Church.

It was under the administration of Chief Curry that the assassination of President John F. Kennedy occurred in Dallas. Dallas police arrested Lee Harvey Oswald 90 minutes later.

Criticism for the department was heavy, however, less than two days later. That erupted when night club operator Jack Ruby, a police buff, walked into the city hall basement and fatally shot Oswald.