

AUTHOR IS CHOSEN BY MRS. KENNEDY

Manchester Will Write Book
About the Assassination

WASHINGTON, March 26 (AP)—Mrs. John F. Kennedy has chosen the author to write what she hopes will be the authoritative story of the assassination of the President.

He is William Manchester of Middletown, Conn., whose "Portrait of a President" impressed the former First Lady. An announcement today from the Kennedy family said:

"Because versions of what occurred Nov. 20-25 already have appeared and because it is understood other articles and books are in the course of being prepared for later publication, these arrangements were made with Mr. Manchester in the interest of historical accuracy and to prevent distortion and sensationalism."

"I have mixed feelings about this," the slender, dark-haired, ruddy-faced writer said today. "It's an honor and a privilege and a solemn responsibility. But I don't think anyone who remembers the anguish of those days will want to relive them."

Mr. Manchester said he had never met Mrs. Kennedy—even when he was interviewing the President in the White House for his 1962 book.

Called at Wesleyan

He said Pierre Salinger, then White House news secretary, called him at his job at Wesleyan University at Middletown on Feb. 5 to tell him of Mrs. Kennedy's wishes.

He has taken indefinite leave from Wesleyan, where he is managing editor of the Wesleyan University Press.

Besides the Kennedy book, he has published biographies of H. L. Mencken and the Rockefeller family, and four novels that he said were "politely received" by the critics.

The assassination book will be a long-term project, with publication not expected for three to five years.

Will Discuss Oswald

Mr. Manchester plans to open with the judiciary reception at the White House Nov. 20 and conclude with Mrs. Kennedy's reception for foreign dignitaries in the White House five days later, after her husband's funeral.

The author will write extensively on the background of Lee Harvey Oswald, the man accused of slaying Mr. Kennedy. And he hopes to interview Jack L. Ruby, convicted murderer of Oswald.

Hoping to interview President Johnson, Mr. Manchester also plans to travel to Texas to interview eyewitnesses to the tragedy, police officials and the doctors who worked in vain to save Mr. Kennedy's life.

He intends to begin conversations with Mrs. Kennedy as soon as possible "while her recollections are fresh."

He said he and his publisher, Harper & Row, had agreed that profits from the book, "beyond a moderate return on investment on the first printing by both the author and the publisher," will be donated to the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston.

He expects to meet his expenses while preparing and writing the book through an advance from his publisher.

Mr. Manchester plans to move with his wife and three children to Baltimore. He is a former foreign correspondent for The Baltimore Sun.