Executive Mansion Tells Own Romantic Story
In Autobiography Penned by Mrs. Lehman

As a matter of fact, I really served a three-year probation term for Gov. Samuel J. Tilden rented me when he was elected in 1874. No adequate explanation had previously been provoked by this. The Governor, who, since 1878, when Albany was first rented to him by the Legislature as the residence of the Governor of the Empire State, had rented homes in various parts of the city. I came a long way from humble beginning as a farmer's house to become the Executive mansion, which enviable position I have proudly held continuously since 1874.

Tilden a Bachelor.

As Gov. Tilden, the first Governor to be housed under my roof, was a bachelor, I could not imagine what he would do with so much space. It fell to the Governor's sister, Mrs. Pelton, who managed his social and domestic affairs, to see that the boundaries of my walls were not wasted. She made creditably, for Gov. Tilden's incumbency was marked by much lavish entertaining and many brilliant affairs, perhaps the most outstanding of which was the reception in honor of William Cullen Bryant in February, 1875. This has been referred to as "one of the finest entertainments ever held at the mansion."

Home of Two Presidents.

While I do not want to appear boastful, I am mighty proud of the long line of distinguished Governors who have graced my threshold and the many crucial problems which have been discussed and oftentimes solved under my roof. You will understand the pride I feel in my unexcelled record when you recall that two of our greatest Presidents, Grover Cleveland and Franklin D. Roosevelt—both of whom have graced my threshold, were born in the White House via the New York Executive Mansion, and that they both—well, as another great Governor, Alfred E. Smith—received word of their Presidential nominations in my rooms.

Mrs. Hughes Popular.

Although space does not permit a detailed reference to each of the Governors I have known, my story would be incomplete without mentioning Theodore Roosevelt, who distinguished himself not only as a great Governor, but as a great President as well.

Then, too, I cannot refrain from mentioning another, whose long record of distinguished service makes me especially proud of having known him—and whose wife I have frequently heard referred to as "one of the most popular First Ladies of New York the state has ever known." Perhaps you have already guessed that I refer to the present Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States—Charles Evans Hughes—who was Governor of New York State from 1904 to 1910.

Old Friends.

It is a temptation to go on and on, reminiscing about the interesting and colorful incidents I have personally witnessed in the past. Since, however, this is 1940, and the trend of the times is to live in the present and future rather than in the past, I am going to bring you down to the present day and touch upon the lives and personalities of people, some of whom you know or with whom you have become familiar through the press.

Because of your interest in me, I feel you would like to know some of the people, some of whom you know or with whom you have become familiar through the press.
I had, however, known their children but casually prior to 1933, when they celebrated their father's first inauguration here. Soon we grew to be close friends, for my corridors seemed to hold charms for them and their young friends.

For the first two years John, then a lad of 13, and Hilda, 12 years old, attended school in Albany. Peter, the eldest son, was at boarding school, and subsequently went to college. Since a long while now, I regret to say, their young voices and gay laughter resound but seldom in my halls, for John and Hilda are at college and Peter is married.

At the present time the Governor's days are so crowded I often wonder how he can possibly get through. Mine is an unusually busy place during this period, for Gov. Lehman frequently works at home and many of his conferences are held in his second-floor study. This means that my halls are transformed into a busy thoroughfare by the continuous flow of visitors who come to see him.

A Governor's wife, too, has her official duties, for there are many formal and informal functions taking place during the winter months. A customary reception is held on New Year's Day, when the Governor and his wife welcome their friends and neighbors. It is always a joy to see the host of small children who come to shake hands with Gov. and Mrs. Lehman on this occasion, and it is easy to see how deeply touched they are by this courtesy and friendship on the part of their little neighbors.

While the formality and type of social entertainments at the mansion vary with each administration, there are two functions which, over a period of years, have come to be a part of the tradition of the Governor's official life.

To the legislative reception and ball, usually held early in February, are invited all legislators, heads of the executive departments of the state government, newspaper correspondents covering the capital district, members of the Governor's office staff and many other groups connected with the government of the state.

The other function to which I refer is the state dinner to the judges of the Court of Appeals and their wives. It seems to me that Gov. and Mrs. Lehman always look forward to this occasion with particular pleasure, perhaps because the Governor's brother—now Chief Judge—has sat as a member of this court since long before the Governor entered public life.

There are, of course, many other