



—Lucy H. Wallace Photos, Mission.

**EISENHOWER HEADQUARTERS** — President Eisenhower's headquarters next week-end will be the home of Governor and Mrs. Shivers at Sharyland, near Mission, shown above mirrored in a palm-fringed lake on the 15-acre estate. The president's quarters will be in the one-story section at left, and he will be able to pick his breakfast grapefruit 10 feet from his bedroom window.



**SHARYLAND SPLENDOR**—This is the Red Room of the Shary-Shivers home in Sharyland where President Eisenhower will be a guest. One of two smaller living rooms in the mansion, it measures 20 by 40 feet and is furnished in original Louis XV furniture, upholstered in red velvet. The portrait is of the late John H. Shary.

## Golf, Fishing, Hunting

# Vast, Luxurious Shary Mansion To Be at Disposal of Eisenhower

BY SAM KINCH.  
Star-Telegram Writer.

MISSION, Oct. 10.—A living room big enough to hold the average house—and filled with Old World furnishings and decorations—will be at the disposal of President Eisenhower when he visits Governor Shivers at "Sharyland" next week.

The president also will find a golf course not more than two wood shots away, a lake stocked with fish at something like a short approach shot and dove hunting only slightly farther.

And if he doesn't want to leave the house, the president can bowl and enjoy billiards in the huge game room.

The 23-room family home of Mrs. Shivers, which will be Eisenhower's headquarters while he is in the Rio Grande Valley to dedicate Falcon Dam, is one of the state's finest mansions.

The first lady of Texas and her mother, Mrs. John H. Shary, have filled it with authentic period furniture, fine art work and delicate glass chandeliers.

### BRYAN WAS GUEST.

The living room alone is 60 by 70 feet, contains nine oriental rugs, six large sofas and a crystal chandelier.

William Jennings Bryan, who there, probably is the top "celebrity" among the thousands who brity" among the thousands who have been guests in the big white stucco house of Spanish architecture.

The president probably will stay in the downstairs bedroom which was converted from an office before Mr. Shary's death in 1945. A new bathroom has been installed there for the president.

The president is due to confer with a few close friends and probably will meet with them in one of the first floor offices or in the "small" living room which has seats for about 26 persons.

It has venetian glass chandeliers and other antiques obtained in the exercise of Mrs. Shary's favorite hobby.

### PORCELAIN OF KINGS.

Called the Red Room, it has red tapestries and a table which has a top made of porcelains of the kings of France. Furniture is of the Louis XV period, and in the room is a portrait of Shary.

If the president prefers Louis XIV furniture, he may use the Gold Room, the other downstairs parlor, which has more porcelains. This room also contains portraits of the governor and Mrs. Shivers and their children.

Meals may be served in two formal dining rooms, or on the long, enclosed veranda which overlooks the well stocked lake across the driveway.

A short walk will take the president to the chapel with 60-foot ceiling, erected as a memorial to Shary, who is known

as the "Father of the Texas Citrus Industry."

That chapel, which contains a large chandelier that once graced the living room, is located in a grave of ebony trees and overlooks a sunken garden.

The house and grounds are no more fabulous than the man whose name they bear.

### HAD MAGIC TOUCH.

Shary was born in Nebraska in 1872 of immigrant (Austrian) parents, and after working his way through Doane College in Nebraska, he got himself a pharmacist's license and opened two drug stores.

Later he became salesman for a California firm, and was sent to Texas.

Recognizing its possibilities, he interested some associates and bought a 30,000-acre ranch which was sold out in parcels at a profit of \$100,000.

Later, he and an associate developed 250,000 acres of cotton producing land around the present townsites of Taft, Sinton, Gregory, Robstown, Odem, Portland and Corpus Christi.

He operated special trains weekly from the Middle West to South Texas, and over a period of nearly 40 years sold \$55,000,000 worth of real estate.

### DEVELOPED INDUSTRY.

He began development of the Rio Grande Valley in 1912, buying acreage first on the site of the present towns of Pharr and San Juan and later in the area where McAllen is located.

It was in 1917 that Sharyland was erected, partially for use as a country club and partially as a place to entertain prospective land buyers. Later, Mr. Shary took it over as his home.

He was the first planter of

commercial citrus groves (in 1915) and that same year organized the United Irrigation Company which ultimately made 55,000 acres productive.

In 1922, he moved the first valley fruit to market, and on noting the shortcomings, developed the grading and marketing processes which made later operations profitable on a large scale.

Shary entered banking, publishing, nursery, finance and other fields, winding up with 11 companies under his direction.

He was known for many public and private charities.

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