



CITIZENS FOR KENNEDY



PORTRAIT IN COURAGE . . . Hope and courage are hard enough for the hale and hearty to maintain; for an MS patient they are doubly difficult qualities to muster against the bonds of chronic disability. Regina Brand Fayne, subject and author of this profile, has an abundant store of both — enough to go 'round among all KEYNOTES readers. Mrs. Fayne is shown beneath a self-portrait which dates back to her pre-MS days as an acrobatic ballet dancer.

Keynotes Quotes . . .

. . . MS patient Mrs. Regina Brand Fayne of New York City:

"If Alexander Pope were alive today he could well say, 'hope springs eternal in the human breast' — of the MS patient.

"Hope is a good thing to have. It is like a condiment in the food of life. I would not like to have a meal without salt and pepper and I feel that I have gained an added stimulant in my existence by maintaining a steady, undaunted faith that in the very near future an answer is going to be found.

"It is good that I am able to feel this way because I have lost the use of my legs and arms. It has heightened my ability to think and now I do mental gymnastics instead of physical ones.

"I used to be an acrobatic-ballet dancer. When MS first started to appear it was so slow and insidious that I kept on dancing for a couple of years and then walked with a Canadian crutch. Finally, after a few more years, I had to get into a wheelchair.

"When I couldn't dance any longer I began to paint in earnest.

"I always had a flair for all the arts and at one time had almost decided to become a commercial artist.

"When at college I used to edit a monthly magazine, sketched the cover and even wrote some of the short stories. I could still keep busy and continue to find the necessary outlet for my creative drives.

"In 1960 I did a cartoon for the Kennedy campaign and it was the very last thing I was able to do with my right hand.

"I have turned to the last of my talents — writing. And I am still trying to keep as occupied as ever.

"It's amazing how much courage and fortitude all of us seem able to pull out of a hat.

"I know so many people — young people — who are so afflicted and all of them go on constantly and consistently making adjustments. More than that they still retain their interests and are still able to enjoy, to the maximum of their ability, the companionship of other people and their awareness of the world around them.

"I used to say that I felt like a general on a battle ground who turned around and could see no army behind him.

"I don't feel that way anymore.

"The MS Society is ever there fighting the cause through to the end and will win for all of us an eventual victory."