

**THE WOMAN WHO LIVES
ON PILLS**

Los Angeles Mother Must Take 50
Pills Every Day in Order to Remain
Alive

Attractive Venita Ector, a 30-year-
old mother of five, suffers from a

mysterious malady that often leaves
her limp as a paralytic. For no
apparent reason at all, she suddenly
sags. All strength leaves her body.
She cannot lift her eyelids or walk
or swallow. She gasps for breath and
can't muster up enough energy to
reach energizing pills only inches
away. To remain alive, she must take

50 pills a day.

For almost two years now, the Los
Angeles mother has suffered from
Myasthenia Gravis, a dread disease of
muscle weakness which plagues some
50,000 to 100,000 persons. Outwardly,
Mrs. Ector looks like an average,
normal housewife. At worse, she
looks more fatigued than ill. As a
pill-taking myasthenic, however, she
has to live by the clock, for if she
goes too long without her dosage she
may not have the strength to swallow
the pills or to call for aid. She takes
physostigmine drugs, science's lone
antidote for myasthenia.

MG, as experts call the disease
which is believed to be caused by some
body poison, can wreck a person's
life, but Mrs. Ector has stood up to
her malady without caving in spirit-
ually. She is also rearing five little
boys. "My sons will never suffer be-
cause of my illness," she declares. "I
do all I humbly can to keep my prob-
lem away from my children. I want
them to grow up without worrying
about me. They are youngsters and
they deserve to have all the fun they
can get out of life."

People who know Mrs. Ector well
express great admiration for her
spunk and say that her attitude to-
ward her illness may be an inspira-
tion to others who fall victim to the
dread disease. "I realize what I'm up
against," she says, "and I know what
I have to do to keep alive. But not
even the pills, the agony or the dis-
comforts that come with MG can
dampen my desire to keep going in
this world."

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ALASKA BUSINESS MAN

Frank Patrick Operates \$100,000
Business

Frank Patrick, 46, had only \$13 to
his name when he unloaded his bag
of dental tools in cold, dismal Fair-
banks, Alaska, in early 1953. Behind
him were 25 years of mechanical den-
tistry, a bankrupt record and tele-
vision business, a real estate and
grocery enterprise that fell short
financially, a wife and two school
children. With him he brought from
Los Angeles the hope that the arctic
frontier would give him a chance to
start over and eventual success. Be-
fore him was a tough winter.

Back in 1951, Patrick heard that
"people in Alaska are waiting 12
months for dental appointments." By
soliciting from every dentist in Fair-
banks their denture, cast inlay and
x-ray work, he was able to save \$500
the first winter. Dissatisfied, however,
with the prices he was getting for
his work, he soon invested in a trailer
sales business, which is highly lacra-
tive in high-cost Alaska. Today, he and
his wife Celeste operate the largest
trailer and real estate sales in the
Fairbanks area, a \$100,000 business
they say will grow with this mineral
rich country.