

The Most Interesting People I Know

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MARJORIE POST MAY

■ Marjorie Post May is exciting because she doesn't know the meaning of leisure—even though she is a great beauty, a great charmer, and one of the richest women in America.

She looks after her grain and cereal empire as her father trained her to do. She personally supervises her 60-room home in Washington, which is complete with an air-conditioned wing for her 32 servants, a movie theater walled in royal-blue velvet, and acres upon acres of gardens graced with Japanese cedars, a waterfall, and flowers beyond description. In addition, she keeps several suites on reserve in Washington hotels for any weekend guests she cannot accommodate at her home. She entertains on a gigantic but incredibly efficient scale.

She is completely conversant with the movie and television career of her beautiful daughter Dina Merrill.

She has a good life with her devoted husband Herbert May and sees to it that they spend considerable time at their house in Pittsburgh, his home town.

She supports the Washington Ballet and does great good with her Music for Young America, through which scholarships are granted to aspiring musicians.

An incredible woman, Marjorie Post May. I am glad to be her friend. Whenever I find myself harassed by the variety of things I have to do, I sit back, take a deep breath, and remember the poise with which she handles all phases of her ceaselessly demanding existence.



THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. KENNEDY

■ I have known the President and Mrs. Kennedy for a long time. When Jacqueline was awaiting Caroline, she used to spend an occasional afternoon with me at my New York apartment. She and her husband have attended my parties.

I have always been intrigued by the quiet understanding between them. Unlike many wives, Jackie even gives evidence of having understanding of Jack's great attraction for women—an attraction which springs from his electric vitality, delightful humor, and almost courtly manners.

During the Presidential campaign, I urged Jackie to do something about her husband's hair—to use bobby pins, if necessary, to keep it down. I told her he must not look so young.

I must admit that, although I never doubted his brilliance, I did have misgivings about his youth. But either I underestimated John F. Kennedy or he learned fast. Probably a little of both is true.

Historians tell us that when there is need for a great leader one appears. In truth, men frequently exhibit an inspiring ability to rise to the occasion.

Our President, with his great sense of history, cares very much for our country and goes out of his way to show it. He has made mistakes. He undoubtedly will make others. But I am satisfied that his mistakes will pale beside the things he will accomplish.

It seems to me that Jacqueline also emerged overnight into the sort of woman the First Lady of the United States should be—and too rarely is. I have always found her charming and attractive. But the sensitive know-how she displayed from Inauguration Day on has astounded me. I obviously underestimated her, too.

I do not find Jackie as beautiful as many proclaim her. Nor do I consider her one of the world's best-dressed women. I think she is too small to carry clothes with any great authority. I applaud her for far more important things: for the way she entertains; for the credit she does us abroad; for her genuine interest in artists and scientists; for the feeling of history with which she is re-decorating the White House.

As our President and First Lady, as man and wife, and as individuals, Jack and Jacqueline Kennedy are indeed interesting and imposing figures.

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