

THE HEART THAT DID NOT BREAK

By Dorothy Walworth

HER FATHER had no love for Adeline De Walt. Instead of a daughter he wanted another son to help on the farm. So he made her work in the fields. When she craved an education, he tried to break her spirit. He tied her to a stanchion in the barn and lashed her with a horsewhip. She made no sound except a small, proud whisper, "I won't cry!"

Adeline De Walt Reynolds, now 88 years old, has always known how to survive sorrow and keep her spirit whole. She became, in 1940, a Hollywood star, at an age when many people whimper they never had a chance to do what they really wanted. Millions of fans call her Grandma Reynolds, for she has appeared in 19 pictures, including *Going My Way*, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* and *The*

Corn Is Green. But no camera has told the bracing story of this unbreakable woman who postponed her dreams for 70 years and then made them all come true.

Grandma Reynolds lives in a house with a passionflower vine near the top of a steep hill. Telephone her and she answers, "The top of the morning to you, whoever you are!" Meet her and be refreshed, for she is like the wind blowing off salt water. Say to her, "I can't," and her hazel eyes turn green with scorn. Her face is tanned and firm, with wings of white hair waving back from a broad forehead. She dresses simply, and an air of exhilaration is her only ornament.

In her small plain sitting room whose walls were lined with battered books, Grandma Reynolds and I talked about what has happened

