



# Eve Prime Fout

by  
Jane Porter Fogleman

**W**ebster's Dictionary defines the word "contributor" as "Someone who plays a significant part in bringing about an end or result." They should add, "See Eve Prime Fout," because that has been the essence of Eve's adult life. With her resolute good cheer and determination she has set about making an immense contribution to her home state Virginia, the worlds of racing, foxhunting, art, and children and their

equine friends.

Eve was born in Stamford, Connecticut, in 1929 but moved to her mother's home in Warrenton when she was 10 years old. Eve's family was dedicated to horses, both on the racing oval and in the hunt field. Eve's grandmother and mother imbedded in her their love for racing and foxhunting. Eve's youth was spent riding her ponies around Warrenton, foxhunting, and horse showing. This was

the beginning of her lifelong love of the Virginia countryside and her commitment to preserving that agrarian and rural atmosphere.

Eve met her husband Paul, who sadly died this year, when they were riding in horse shows in the Warrenton area. They became a formidable partnership in the steeplechase, horse show, and foxhunting world. They settled in The Plains and formed a racing stable named Coosaw



MOC Sunday meet

Photo by Ann Travell

after a family plantation in the Beaufort, South Carolina, area and began training steeplechase horses full-time. Thus, Paul and Eve began a lifelong career of saddling some of the best racehorses in Virginia. Eve was actually the first woman trainer in the history of the Virginia Gold Cup to saddle the winner with Moon Rock Eyes in 1964.

Paul and Eve have three children, Doug, Nina and Virginia, who all appreciated their parents involving them in the world of horses. Doug was a successful “jump jock” and later worked with his parents in the training aspect. With his commitment to Coosaw and his racing feats, Doug has certainly carried on the Fout name. He has saddled many winners in the steeplechase world, and he and his mother can be seen watching the gallops in the morning at Coosaw. Doug paid tribute to his father and their relationship this year when he won the Temple Gwathmey in Saratoga which his father had won in 1975. Nina Fout has been active in fox-hunting, horse showing, and three-day eventing. Nina was a member of the US Bronze Medal Olympic Three-Day Team

along with her father’s ex-racehorse, Magic Beans. Virginia grew up fox hunting and horse showing. She now has a thriving event coordination business in California, but is still active in the horse show world. Eve says her greatest achievement is ‘raising three pretty sharp kids.’ “We’re pretty lucky. They share our enthusiasms for the countryside and are willing to go out and do something for themselves. They work within the community to make a contribution. They ‘give back’ and I think that is so important.”

When her children were younger and riding, Eve was instrumental in starting the Pony Club in the Middleburg area. As time went on, she found that for some of the kids it had ceased to be fun. “When you have too many rules, the boys leave and nobody will go beyond the C-level.” As for hunting she says, “Frankly I got sick and tired of seeing the kids jammed behind the big horses in the hunt field.” So she put on her thinking cap. She remembered that her old friend Mrs. Gregory McIntosh, who lived near her mother in Warrenton, always had beagles running around that they used to train their

horses for hunting. She also remembered that in England beagles were used as harriers. She decided to use that knowledge and do something just for the kids to make hunting fun and teach them about the environment and the wonders of the chase. Thus began, with the help of Melvin Poe and the Middleburg and Orange County Hunts, the MOC Beagles. The MOC Beagles are a pack of beagles that run fox in the Hunt’s territory with their blessing. Adults must be accompanied by a child and the children go first! The kids have a blast as the beagles go at the same speed as their ponies and not as fast as foxhounds.

According to Eve, the by-product is that it teaches kids to be neat in their own appearances and the appearance of their ponies. It also teaches them to have respect and appreciation for the landowners over whose land they are able to hunt, and they learn to show good manners when dealing with these landowners and other people. It has helped to create an environmental conscience in the children. They learn to “know what clean air and water are all about.” The MOC Beagles are now under the leadership of Shelly O’Higgins, and, in Eve’s opinion, she has done a wonderful job of involving the kids in the day-to-day care of the hounds and in putting the emphasis on the kids having fun. The MOC Beagles are kenneled at Coosaw farm. There is a wonderful sign in the kennels that quotes Garrison Keillor: “Nothing you ever do for children is wasted.” This could certainly be Eve’s mantra.

Eve Prime is the name under which Eve has delighted many art enthusiasts over the years with her accomplished oils, pencils, and bronzes. Her work has graced the cover of many magazines, particularly *The Chronicle*. Eve’s art career grew out of “doodling” as a young girl, and she went on to study with some of the most talented equine and hunt artists. Eve says her mother always told her, “You have to be able to earn a living.” She was



**Bronze by Eve Fout**



**Doug and Eve Fout**

fortunate to have studied with Paul Brown, Richard Stone Reeves, Frank Voss, and Else Tuckerman Bias. She effusively expresses how grateful she is for the generosity shown to her. When asked who had the greatest influence on her art, Eve responded, “Else Tuckerman, as her vision and thoughts were so clear and she was always encouraging to me and my ideas.” Recently, due to her “eyes changing,” she has turned to bronzes and loves this medium as she enjoys working with her hands. The bronzes have been as successful as her oils and grace such places as the Sporting Library in Middleburg and many private homes. Once again Eve is not content to just be a success: She was a co-founder of and is actively involved in The American Academy of Equine Art, which helps and encourages many young artists.

Eve’s enthusiasm for the environment and nature are boundless. She has been a great advocate for the PEC (Piedmont Environmental Council) for over 20 years. Through the PEC, Eve has been instrumental in putting land throughout the Commonwealth under conservation easements. Their success in this crusade has ensured that thousands of acres of Virginia farmland will remain open and agrarian.

Perhaps her greatest battle for her love of the countryside was in conjunction with the PEC against the Disney Corporation when Disney planned to build a theme park in the Middleburg area. When the theme park plans were made public, the local community and PEC jumped into the fray and ultimately were able to block the urban sprawl that Disney would have created. The person whom she feels was a great force in the battle,

and certainly had a great influence on her, was Julian Sheer. Julian was in public relations for the Space Program. He showed PEC how to use the Freedom of Information Act, through which PEC was able to find out what had been promised to Disney by the politicians, and defeated Disney with that knowledge. She says they were fortunate to have people like Julian who had energy and foresight and that the Commonwealth is a great example for other states that may find themselves in similar situations. The best visual of that entire time was during a march in Washington, D.C. when her cohort, the late Charlie Whitehouse, was going by the White House singing at the top of his lungs “HO! HO! HO! Disney, you gotta go!” Eve feels that the battle was a wake-up call for the general populace to pay attention and learn more about the politicians they are voting for.

When I asked Eve what fox hunting meant to her she replied, “It is a way of keeping the countryside open for people to enjoy.” She finds hunting a great communicator. She feels that for hunting to endure, the foxhunters and the hunt clubs must be more diligent in keeping up with new landowners and make every effort to ensure they can continue to hunt the land. The foxhunters are able to hunt only through the generosity of landowners who must be treated with respect.

Of utmost importance to Eve Prime Fout at this time is “to keep my health and energy so I can keep on doing what I’m doing.” We the general public better hope so, because the legacy that Eve has given our state is one to be held in awe.

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Jane Porter Fogleman is a lifelong fox-hunter. She was born and raised in Charlottesville and lives there today where she hunts with Farmington Hunt Club.