

Eloise grew up in North Carolina. There was nothing about her background which would have suggested a great artist was in the making. Yet beginning with the inspiration of a high school arts teacher, she took to the arts with a vigor that characterized her throughout her life. Her talent was enormous. By the time she was 21, she had won five national scholarships to the Art Students League in New York City.

Once married, her career as an artist was often interrupted, and she clearly determined to make her artistic career secondary. Nevertheless, she continued her work as best she could. She once recalled in a Santa Cruz Sentinel interview that on the rare occasions when she got away to paint, she would think of her children and worry that "they're all out running around in the middle of the street and Page is typing."

Eloise was always a force; a force at home, a force in the community, a force at Cowell College, a force in the world of art, and a force in the life of her husband. But she was always a force with grace and charm. She was coauthor with Page of the style of Cowell College in particular and UCSC in general. On campus, she promoted both greater participation in and understanding of art.

She not only did art, she advocated art and its role in the community. Most notably, she was named by the Governor of California in 1975 to head the California Arts Council, and rather than use that position for more traditional purposes, she determined to start an arts program in the California State prison system as a way to help inmates break patterns that would otherwise bring them back to prison. Despite its modest size and resources, the program enjoyed notable success.

Though she never promoted her own art the way she promoted the role of art in the community, she was widely recognized as an award-winning artist, and particularly in recent years, her art and her reputation as an artist blossomed.

The story of Page and Eloise is not ultimately the story of a historian, an artist, and two educators. The story of Page and Eloise is above all else a love story, and one of the most profound love stories ever lived.

Page as a young soldier in training in North Carolina was walking down the street in town and saw a painting on display in a shop window. He was so taken with it he bought it on the spot and asked to meet the artist. On meeting Eloise, he fell in love at first sight and determined to marry her. They were man and wife for 54 years, had four children, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Of their marriage their daughter, Ann Easeley, recently said, "She allowed him to be the kind of person he was. She made a life and an environment and world for him that enabled him to do the amazing things he did. She was devoted to him and he was dependent on her."

Eloise was in many ways Page Smith's Page Smith, the iconoclast's iconoclast. He would hold forth at a dinner gathering in full professorial bloom, and she would manage to deflate his balloon with an affectionate but effective pin prick. He would rush to his own defense and enjoy the opportunity for intellectual thrust and parry, but take great delight at the same time in this university big name getting his comeuppance. He loved her wit, her challenge, as well as her charm.

Page in his later years wrote a very popular newspaper column on old age, entitled "Coming of Age." Eloise was often the foil for his good-natured satires and complaints about old age. Finally she took over one installment of the column to give her rebuttal, entitled, "Page Smith's Wife Tells All." She noted that she had once, "in a thoughtless moment," said that Page was "almost perfect to live with," and that Page had promptly written it down and had it signed by witnesses and notarized.

She then proceeded to set out her reasons for emphasizing that he was less than perfect. A brief sample: "It pains me to have to say that Page is inherently lazy. For years he has done his best to persuade me that, as 'writer' and 'thinker', he is hard at work as soon as his eyes are open in the morning. Although he has written on the importance of a husband's participating in housework, and prides himself on having been a forerunner of the emancipated modern male, here again he is longer on theory than practice. As he gazes distractedly around our rural abode, he manages to screen out dirt on the floor, crumbs (his) on the rug, spiderwebs trailing from the ceiling, windows crusted with dust stirred up by his barnyard fowls whose droppings are everywhere and who rouse me from my sleep with their crowing and honking. He performs the most modest domestic chores as though they were the labors of Hercules. His so-called study would make a pig blush."

She concluded the article however, by saying simply, "I did say 'almost' perfect. But I still adore him."

Page loved the article, just as he loved its author.

This past May Eloise was diagnosed as having kidney cancer, and her health declined rapidly. Soon after, Page was diagnosed as having leukemia. He determined to live as long as she did.

"As mother failed, he failed," said their daughter. "Four days ago they told him they could keep him alive until she died. It's exactly what Daddy wanted. He said he didn't want to live without her and that he considered it a blessing."

When Eloise died Saturday morning, August 26, Page refused further medication. In a few hours, he slipped into a coma. He died a day and a half after she did.

The Smith's longtime friend, Mary Holmes, a professor of art history who came with them from UCLA to launch UCSC, said, "We couldn't even imagine the shape of a life he would have without her. Apparently, he couldn't either."

She added, "Their relationship was such a rarity and an extraordinary thing. It was a gift, and they became a gift for everyone that knew them. It was a love story; what a love story."

By their own wish, they were cremated and their ashes mixed together.

Death is not newsworthy; it is too common. What is rare is to have truly lived to the fullest, to have left a legacy of creative works, of many lives touched, of community improved, of understanding increased, of fond remembrance. There are no two people who have had more of all that than Page and Eloise Smith. Their lives stand as a celebration of what human lives can be.

TRIBUTE TO COL. LEWIS VINCENT EVANS, IV

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 1995

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Col. Vince Evans upon his retirement from the U.S. Air Force, after serving our great Nation for 24 years. For the past 3 years, Colonel Evans has held the distinguished positions of Chief of the House Air Force Legislative Liaison Office and Chief of the Air Force Weapons Division. Soon after assuming his most recent positions, Colonel Evans quickly established a solid reputation with Members and their staffs as an authority on a diverse array of Air Force programs and issues. His strong operational fighter background quickly established his credibility as he was routinely sought by members of the National Security Committee to provide briefings regarding national security issues.

Colonel Evans' understanding of congressional operations, coupled with his sound judgment and a keen sense of priority, have been of great benefit to both Members of Congress and the U.S. Air Force. Colonel Evans' openness and unquestionable integrity have provided support to Members of the House of Representatives in many difficult situations, ranging from constituent matters to far reaching national defense weapons systems issues. He has demonstrated invaluable support during the historic changes in the House leadership, as well as in meeting the difficult challenges of protecting our Country's military capabilities, while working to balance the Federal budget.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my distinct pleasure to have worked and traveled with Colonel Evans. He has served with great distinction and he has earned our respect and gratitude for his many contributions to our Nation's defense. My colleagues and I bid Col. Lewis Vincent Evans a fond farewell and wish he and his family the very best as they move on to face new challenges and rewards.

TRIBUTE TO SAM MUCHNICK

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 1995

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sam Muchnick, a name familiar to many of my colleagues who represent constituents near the St. Louis metropolitan area. Thousands of the people I represent have loved Sam Muchnick for many years as a neighbor, friend and community spirit whose roots in the Metro East are strong.

Sam Muchnick has been one of the greatest sports promoters in all America. For over 50 years, he served as the Nation's premier wrestling promoter until his retirement from the sport in 1982. Known as Mr. Wrestling, Sam has been a good friend to me and was a very close friend to my predecessor, Congressman Melvin Price.

Sam got his start in the sports business as a writer following Cardinals baseball for the St.