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"Eve Curie, Like Her Mother, Remains Humble", article about Mrs. Labouisse in "Kayhan International," dated November 21, 1972.

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CF/RAI/USAA/DBOI/HS/2004-00230

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, November 21, 1972.

Eve Curie, like her mother, remains humble

by *HALEH AFSHAR*



EVE CURIE

INTERNATIONAL fame and the search for knowledge never affected the family life of the Curies, nor left Madame Curie's daughter Eve with any feeling of inferiority.

Eve, who is best known for her biography on her Nobel Prize winning mother and is in Tehran at present with her husband, UNICEF Director Henry Labouisse, comes from a family of outstanding scientists.

Her father and mother's work led to the discovery of radium

and her older sister Irene also won a Nobel Prize in 1935 with her husband Frederic Joliot for discovering the use of artificial radioactivity.

"You are not mixing me up with my sister by any chance?" Eve Curie asked when I aksed to interview her yesterday.

"You never know, as you see I am the only one of the family not to have won a Nobel Prize," she explained.

Speaking in English with a pronounced French accent, Eve Curie recalled her childhood with warmth, gratitude and gleaming eyes.

"My mother was such a simple person and thought so little of herself that I was not even conscious of how famous she was," she said.

The Curies, according to Eve, led a simple bourgeois life typical of the French of their class. "My mother could have been just any lecturer at a university as far as our life was concerned."

Madame Curie worked in the day-time while her children

were at school. The evenings were sacred and dinner was a formal family gathering when discussions kept everyone around the table till the late hours and everyday details were discussed to great extent.

There was practically no outside social life for Madame Curie except for occasional dinners with colleagues at home. She was always available for her children and avoided work when they were at home.

Eve Curie did not realise the extent of her mother's fame till she was 16. Then Madame Curie was invited to visit the United States and she took her two daughters with her. The arrival and the crowds that gathered to welcome her was a revelation to her daughter.

Looking back, Eve Curie feels privileged to have had such a famous mother "though at the time I never realised it." "Now it makes me feel quite humble," she said.

Eve Curie does not try to idealise her mother, not intentionally anyway. She admits

that Madame Curie had her weaknesses.

"Her simplicity was deceptive. She never became marked by fame and always remained a good devoted mother to us," Eve said.

Eve Curie's biography of her mother marked the dawn of her own fame and success. The book generated lectures and the lectures led to many trips. She had as many as seven coast-to-coast lecture tours in the United States.

Looking back Eve Curie feels that they were worthwhile. They gave her the opportunity to see the United States.

She returned to France during the war and worked with the Ministry of Information. After the occupation she joined the Free French in London and later began working on a book about the allied camps. Eve Curie travelled across the camps from New York to China and wrote "Journey Among the Warriors." While compiling her book Eve Curie had been a regular feature writer for the Herald Tribune and the Kingsley papers.

After the war Eve Curie returned to Paris where she

and the search for knowledge never affected the family life of the Curies, nor left Madame Curie's daughter Eve with any feeling of inferiority.

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After the war Eve Curie returned to Paris where she became joint publisher of the evening paper Paris Press.

Later she decided to write about the Atlantic Alliance and in the process of compiling notes she found herself working with NATO.

In 1954 Eve Curie married Labouisse, then the director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and in 1956 she became an American citizen.

Although not a Nobel Prize winner, Eve's record of achievement is one of great distinction, which she does not talk about.

It was only later that I found that Eve Curie won the National Book Award for non-fiction for her biography of Marie Curie in 1937. She has been awarded honorary degrees by Mills College, Russell Sage College and the University of Rochester in the United States. Eve Curie is also a Chevalier de Legion d'Honneur (awarded in France in 1939) and Polonia Restituta (Poland in 1939) and received the Croix de Guerre during World War II.