



## “I MARRIED A COWBOY AND ENDED UP WITH A MISSIONARY.”

onship halter horses.

**W&H:** Flag Is Up Farms has been home and work for you for a long time. What's it like?

**PR:** It's a gorgeous farm that Monty and I had built in 1966. Monty designed it. Our ranch-style home is nestled 500 feet above the rest of the farm. Cathedral windows give us a spectacular view from every

**W&H:** How involved in the day-to-day operations are you?

**PR:** It's completely a hands-on operation for us. Monty and I are the farm managers, so one of us is usually here and with his schedule, that's usually me. He's on the road about 10 months of the year. If a decision needs to be made, I make it. Even if it means buying a new tractor instead of fixing the old one for the umpteenth time. Boy, that surprised him (laughing).

**W&H:** How do you balance home and work?

**PR:** It's a busy life and I find balance in my home. I use that alone time, when Monty's away, to sculpt. Sculpture is my down-time. My studio is in my kitchen and I run the farm out of a little office in the back of the house. It was going to be an exercise room which, I guess, it is... my Stairmaster & Leg Blaster are right there next to my computer. I'm 68 but take good care of myself. Pilates, walking and the Stairmaster keep me feeling 30!

**W&H:** Are there unique challenges that come with being an influential woman in the horse industry?

**PR:** I have never felt the challenges of femininity in the horseworld. I show respect and I get it back from both men and women. Inherently I'm a shy person but confident in front of a microphone or one-on-one, and I believe in what I'm saying.

**W&H:** You are the wife of the world's most recognized horseman. Tell me about that.

**PR:** I married a cowboy and ended up with a missionary. For Monty and I, our interests were aligned from the start. We both loved horses. We're a support team for one another. We're both pulling on the same team, not against one another. Monty supports me in

**W&H:** You've lived a life immersed in horses. It's easy to see they're both a passion and a lifestyle for you. Can you remember a time when they weren't?

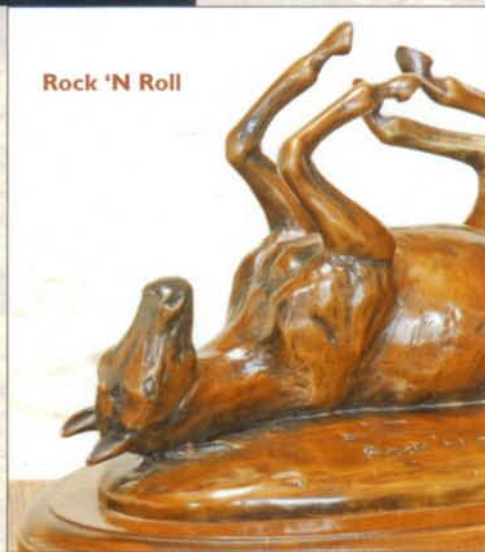
**PR:** Not really. I fell in love with horses at age two. Born and raised in Salinas, California, I was one of the lucky little horse-crazy girls who lived on a ranch. At seven, I was given my first horse.

**W&H:** Tell me about that relationship.

**PR:** Poncho was an unregistered, rather homely, gelding. We spent our days roaming the hills together as best friends, and as a teen spent summers wrangling dudes in the upper Carmel Valley. Early in my life I just knew my destiny was to be with horses.

**W&H:** How did that translate into adulthood?

**PR:** I was raised in a small town and went to school with my future husband from the third grade on. It wasn't just coincidence that we eventually found one another and married in 1956. Monty was a professional Western trainer, and I was successfully showing Western pleasure, stock and cutting horses, and champi-



Rock 'N Roll

room. It's beautifully landscaped which gives it an ambience for all of our many guests – family and friends to Fortune 500 corporate executives.

The farm is 100 acres in all, with 25 to 30 employees. It's busy. Three families and several others live on the property and there are bunk houses and a modular home for instructors who teach Monty's concepts.

**W&H:** How about horses?

**PR:** We've had as many as 450 horses here, but average about 150 with stalls for 90.

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my personal and professional decisions and I'm his toughest critic.

**W&H:** Has his life on the road been hard on your relationship?

**PR:** I've always been willing to give him the freedom to go out and deliver his message.

**W&H:** As consummate partners, have you played defined roles in one another's successes?

**PR:** I don't travel very much with Monty. I'd like to, but we need to keep the balls in the air at home and on the farm. As for his demonstrations, many times I've found myself being a confidante to audience members recalling their own abuse. At one session, a man who was an abuser himself, broke down while listening to Monty's passionate plea for nonviolence with animals and people and came to me for help. He wanted to talk to Monty but was afraid to. I brought him to Monty and today the man helps others with similar problems as he had.

**W&H:** And Monty's role in your career?

**PR:** He's been my toughest critic, and gives me great input on details like tack and conformation.

**W&H:** Your artwork – nature or nurture?

**PR:** Definitely nurture. It all started when we moved into our beautiful home here, and the white walls lacked color. I had the solution. I purchased paints, canvas and how-to books and thus began my artistic career.

**W&H:** You're known around the world for your sculptures with some customers in very high places. Describe your artwork.

**PR:** I try to capture special moments in a very realistic way with just a touch of impressionism. My sculptures have been described as whimsical and humorous. I

create an ambiance of the Old West, even in my modern-day cowboys and buckaroos, and I've definitely immortalized a few Thoroughbred racehorses and champion Quarter Horses I've admired.

**W&H:** It's been whispered in the horse industry that Pat Roberts is the real author of your husband's incredibly successful books?

**PR:** No. I typed them. He dictated. There were others involved in his first book and I could see that it really started losing his voice. So I bought a computer, sat him down beside me, told him to 'write', cried a lot and never looked back. We're partners. It made sense to me to help him tell his story.

**W&H:** You're an accomplished equestrian, wife, mother, and internationally acclaimed sculptor. How do you define yourself outside of those titles?

**PR:** I'm a person who likes people. I'm interested in others. I'm trustworthy.

**W&H:** Tell me about raising 50 children.

**PR:** Kindness and patience were just as important in the home as with the horses in the barn or round pen. But our family came first. Our foster kids were treated no differently than our own three – Debbie, Laurel and Marty. Each child was raised with things they were to be responsible for. Trust was never just given to the kids – they had to earn trust to appreciate the value of it. The kids had rules, but it was a home full of lots of praise, consistency and good communication too.

**W&H:** What are your Golden Rules to live by – your unshaken beliefs?

**PR:** People need to be grounded. People

need to use more common sense in their lives. People should always be kind, even to the rude. When there's nothing good to say, say nothing because words can be as hurtful as whips. These are the rules I live by.

**W&H:** Given the opportunity to change something in your life, what would it be?

**PR:** I wish I would've shown horses more. I wish I would've started sculpting earlier.

**W&H:** With a life so rich in relationships, is there something you're most proud of?

**PR:** Our results with the children. Ours and the foster children. We're very proud of the ones who became successful human beings in spite of some very difficult childhood baggage. To know we played a part in their success is very rewarding. Last year I received the Girl Scouts' "Woman of Distinction" award. It was a very proud moment for me. It gave me the chance to share a message with them.

**W&H:** What was that?

**PR:** I asked young girls across America to never put boundaries on what they can achieve. Dare to dream. Follow your dream. People don't do it nearly enough. There's an extraordinary life out there, for everyone.