

My references to Leo are based on the short time I was calling on him after he had sold the front end of Cogdell's to the guys from Tyler. Most of the things I remember could not be retold anywhere near as funny as we thought they were or were as much fun as it seemed at the time...or in mixed company and are most certainly not fit for public consumption. I was around some about the time his daughter, Miss Brandywyne Winchester Bradshaw was born, and Leo was certainly a proud papa....and of course everybody made fun of Leo's naming the baby girl after his favorite brand of guns & ammo.

You really need to track down one of Leo's oldest crony's from Richardson named J.R. "Jim" Crook, or mebbe the guy who owns Collector Firearms on Fondren in Houston who's name escapes me.

I ran into JR about 25 years ago the last time I saw him, at a hotel in Waco, in the breakfast bar...and JR was bigtime hungover after spending the previous evening out late with Leo. JR built a business on Arkansas Whetstones into a small string of mall retail knife shops and a multistate multiline wholesale business.

Lots of guys from that era are gone now. Guys I knew from the wholesale and retail side of the business, like Larry Richmond that I had partnered with at the Distributor and later became a USCG Admiral & Chief of Staff at CG Station New Orleans, or Dudley Grounds who repped Weatherby for 25 years before I got him on with Glock after I turned it down in '88 was my closest friend & competitor in the gun business - Dud and I travelled together some...as SAKO & Weatherby reps, or Harold Bramer aka "Grumpy" who was famous for 40+ years and all his small gun gadget trinket lines and Daskocill gun cases, the always snotty Ron Moore from West Virginia retired to Florida, Kenny Sedlecki & his partner Tommy Oliver from S&W are both gone from cancer but were champion target shotgun guys I'm sure Leo would remember. Kenny was honored at the Dallas Safari Club for his work with introducing young people to the Shotgun Sports. I see Gary Grant from Wylie sometimes behind the gun counter at Bass Pro in Grapevine after his brush with a severe brain medical issue who'd had Leupold, Nosler for 30 years. Rick Snow from Houston, Joe McBride from Austin ...these are all people that knew Leo lots better than I did, and more. I was and always have been proud to call Leo Bradshaw a friend, just like most of the folks I've mentioned who are people of merit. On & on time takes it's toll.

I am 68, down to 2 or 3 lives left of my Allocation of 9, and got a heart full of 4 stents so far that the Doc's say are just temporary bandaid for the Triple Bypass I need to escape the Big One, I have a chronic case of skin cancer that has put me on the table 8-9 times for more than a simple dose of the freeze bottle including rebuilding the left side of my face, removal of a non malignant 26oz softball sized tumor off the right side of my neck that the PT folks said had crippled me for life - NOT, it just took 18 months of rehab using a portable battery powered muscle/nerve stimulator for 3 hours a day instead of the prescribed 30 minutes a day that wore out 3 sets of 24 month life batteries along with an open unlimited access to waaaay more serious scrip's of pain pills than any of the 3 attending docs knew I had, to a pre

diabetic blood sugar level, survived a ruptured eye when I accidentally stuck a piece of steel thru it that was "fixed" with a cornea transplant, lens implant and has resulted in a chronic case of keloid scar tissue that won't heal 12 years later, and and and yadda yadda. The one common denominator from this crowd if you look close at us is that we ALL believed that we were 10' Tall and Bullet Proof and lived that way 24/7 without thinking about it. Even Ray Murski died last year in Bosque County?? in a car wreck going home to Dallas from the deer lease...Ray was semi retired and too rich and successful to die in a dumb car wreck.

God Bless you for the project.

Ron Virnelson

Schoellkopf Sports, Carrollton TX 1976-1982

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