

TWO DEATHS

BY

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MONAM

IT'S BEEN A CRAPPY WINTER AT THE LOVE HOUSE. ALMOST EVERY AFTERNOON, WE TRAVELLED TO THE E.C. GREEN

CANCER CENTER AT JENNIE STUART MEDICAL WHERE MY WIFE CHERRYLL SUCCESSFULLY(WE THINK AND HOPE) UNDERWENT

RADIATION THERAPY FOR BREAST CANCER,WHICH WAS DETECTED IN A VERY EARLY STAGE IN JULY.

REMEMBER HOW BITTERLY COLD IT WAS MOST OF THOSE DAYS? I SURE DO!

ADD TO THAT SOME MYSTERIOUS PAINS I BEGAN EXPERIENCING THE FIRST OF THE YEAR WHICH I CHOSE TO KEEP

TO MYSELF, GIVEN WHAT CHERRYLL FACED.

WHAT, YOU MAY ASK, DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH A MARCH THIRD ATHENAEUM PAPER?

WELL, I HAD LAID OUT AN AMBITIOUS PRESENTATION INCLUDING MUSIC, DANCE, POETIC RECITATIONS, WITH AN

OVERALL THEME OF LONG-TERM MEMORY AND HOW WE CAN REMEMBER SUCH OBSCURE FACTS AS THE NAMES OF THE SAFETY PATROLS

AT PIONEER SCHOOL ON THE EAST SIDE OF SOUTH ELGIN, ILLINOIS IN THE MID-1950'S BUT CAN'T TELL SOMEONE WHAT WE HAD

TO EAT LAST NIGHT.

OBVIOUSLY, IT WAS GOING TO TAKE A GOOD DEAL OF EFFORT TO TIE ALL THAT TOGETHER, AND I LACKED THE DISCIPLINE

TO PULL IT OFF, THOUGH IN THE TRUE TRADITION OF PROCRASTINATION, I KIDDED MYSELF UNTIL LATE LAST WEEK!

THAT SENT ME SCRAMBLING, WITH MY FIRST THOUGHT BEING THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA, WHICH CONTESTED 66 YEARS

AGO LAST MONTH AND I HAD RECENTLY REREAD ''FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS''.

THAT WENT RIGHT DOWN THE TOILET WHEN MY LONE SURVIVING SIBLING ARRIVED TO HELP ME CELEBRATE MY 67TH

BIRTHDAY LAST SATURDAY.

I THEN TURNED TO ANY RECENT LITERARY OUTPUT WHICH TURNS OUT TO BE TWO EULOGIES I WILL PRESENT TO YOU

TONIGHT.

Untitled

I ASSUME THERE ARE THOSE PRESENT TODAY WHO, IF HARD PRESSED, COULD ACCOUNT FOR THEIR WHEREABOUTS IN JULY OF 1963. BUT AFTER ONLY MINIMAL RESEARCH, I CAN SWEAR, THAT ON TUESDAY NIGHT , JULY 23RD, 1963, I WAS ON A BLANKET UNDER A TREE ON THE GROUNDS OF THE RAVINIA JAZZ FESTIVAL OFF THE SHERIDAN ROAD ON THE NORTH SIDE OF CHICAGO LISTENING TO JOAN BAEZ WITH SUE PRITCHARD, SUE HARRINGTON AND JOHN B. DALY. WE WERE DRINKING CUBA LIBRES, COURTESY OF A MAN WHO IS NOW A RATHER PROMINENT ATTORNEY (AND FRATERNITY BROTHER OF MINE) WHO BOUGHT US THE RUM. I CONSIDERED MY SELF THE LUCKIEST GUY IN THE CHICAGOLAND AREA, AS A RESULT OF A DATE ARRANGED BY DALY, WHO WAS DATING SUE'S ROOMMATE.

MY NAME IS JIM LOVE. I WAS NO MORE THAN A CASUAL ACQUAINTANCE OF SUE DURING OUR SIX YEARS TOGETHER AT ELLIS JUNIOR HIGH AND ELGIN HIGH. I ALWAYS FELT SHE WAS WAY OUT OF MY LEAGUE, BUT SHE APPARENTLY SAW SOMETHING IN ME THAT I DIDN'T.

THAT FIRST DATE WENT WE ENDED UP DATING THROUGH THE FALL AND FINALLY BROKE UP BEFORE THANKSGIVING AFTER I RETURNED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AND SHE ENROLLED IN ELGIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

THE LAST TIME I SAW SUE WAS 9 YEARS AGO AT OUR 40TH YEAR CLASS REUNION.

HER SALUTATION WAS, "'HAVE YOU BEEN ON A SCAVENGER HUNT ON SHERIDAN ROAD LATELY?'" , A REFERENCE TO OUR FIRST DATE 39 YEARS EARLIER.

I RESPONDED, "'NO...WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU WENT THE WRONG WAY ON A 4-LANE HIGHWAY WITH A DRUNK AT THE WHEEL?'"

BOTH OF THOSE STORIES BEAR REPETITION ONLY IN A DIFFERENT VENUE, BUT SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT THE SUE PRITCHARD I KNEW AND LOVED

IN THE SUMMER OF 1963 WAS A MUCH DIFFERENT PERSON FROM THE ONE MOST OF YOU KNEW.

SHE WAS A SMOKING, DRINKING, PARTYING, DANCING, GOOD-LOOKING 19-YEAR OLD WHO HAD THE ABSOLUTE ATTENTION AND AFFECTIONS OF ONE

JAMES HARRISON LOVE.

OUR LAST CONTACT, ACCORDING TO MY RECOLLECTION, WAS LAST YEAR

Untitled

WHEN I WROTE HER A HEARTFELT ''MASH NOTE'' FROM ONE WHO, AT THE AGE OF 66, IS SENSING HIS MORTALITY AND TOLD SUE THAT SHE WAS ''NUMBER ONE'' ON MY LIST OF GOOD-LOOKING WOMEN I HAD BEEN FORTUNATE TO DATE.

SHE RESPONDED THAT THE THE E-MAIL ''MADE HER DAY'', AND SHE INDICATED SHE HAD JUST COMPLETED SOME SORT OF MEDICAL PROCEDURE.

AS I RECALL, I RESPONDED WITH SOME VAGUE, ''FISHING'', COMMENT, WHICH FAILED TO ELICIT A RESPONSE.

I WISH I HAD IT TO SHARE WITH YOU.

WHAT I WILL SHARE WITH YOU IS WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW, IT WAS AN EXTREAORDINARY GIRL AND WOMAN WHO PROMPTED SOMEONE REMOVED BY 49 YEARS AND 500 MILES TO SHARE HIS FEELINGS ABOUT ONE SUSAN IRIS PRITCHARD.

BOBBY COOK EULOGY/2/12/11
GOODWIN FUNERAL HOME, CADIZ.

(INTRODUCE SELF, ALL FROM MEMORY, WORKING WITHOUT A NET, BUT
GOT THREE "TIPS" WHICH WILL INCORPORATED INTO MY PRESENTATION,)

HERE GOES.

AROUND THE LOVE HOUSE, ROBERT ELZA COOK WAS KNOWN AS THE
"REAL BOBBY COOKS".

THAT CAME BECAUSE MANY OF THE YOUNGSTERS WHO WOULD CLIMB
THAT STAIRCASE IN THE OFFICE OFF 5TH STREET AT THE REAR OF WHAT
WAS THEN THE "NEW COUNTY JAIL" AT 5TH AND WEBER STREETS WOULD
ASK TO SEE "BOBBY COOKS, WITH THE "S" ADDED JUST AS CLIENTS OF
THE STORE OPERATED BY THE LATE CIRCUIT CLERK ON EAST 9TH STREET
ADDRESSED HIM AS "MISTER HAD-DOX".

CHIEF COOK OFTEN MANNED THE DESK AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS AND
WHEN HE IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS "BOBBY COOKS", THE ANSWER
INVARIABLE WAS, NO, I NEED TO SEE THE "OTHER BOBBY COOKS", WHO
PROVED TO BE EITHER MARVIN CHEWNING OR TOM SKILLIAN OR ONE OF
THE OTHER OFFICERS WHO WORKED WITH THE COUNTY POLICE OVER
THE YEARS.

IT'S A TRIBUTE TO BOBBY THAT ANY JUVENILE OFFICER WAS "BOBBY
COOKS". HE STOOD FOR THE ENTIRE DEPARTMENT, MUCH LIKE "BUD
HUDSON" FOOTBALL IS THE LOCAL PROGRAM FOR GRADE SCHOOL KIDS.

I GUESS I FIRST MET BOBBY DURING A FISCAL COURT MEETING, WHICH I
BEGAN COVERING IN 1972 WHEN GRADY RUFF WAS COUNTY JUDGE AND
THE COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT, WHICH FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON
JUVENILE CRIME, WAS COMPOSED OF CHIEF COOK, JERRY JOINER, AND A
BLUE FORD FAIRLANE, WHICH THE DEALER REFUSED TO ACCEPT AS A
TRADE-IN WHEN THEY GOT A NEW BROWN VEHICLE.

IT'S BEEN MY GREAT, GOOD FORTUNE TO HAVE AS FRIENDS OVER THE
YEARS SEVERAL PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD SOME PHYSICAL AILMENT
EITHER VISITED ON THEM OR INFLICTED ACCIDENTALLY.

THE FIRST ONE WAS ONE WILLIAM ROBERT "PALEFACE" STEVENS OF
WEBSTER COUNTY, WHO I LIVED NEXT TO IN HILTON HALE'S TRAILER
PARK ON THE NORTH SIDE OF MURRAY WHILE I WAS GOING TO COLLEGE.

PALEFACE, WHO HAS SINCE PASSED ON, IS THE ONLY PERSON I KNOW WHO EARNED A COLLEGE DEGREE WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF EITHER A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR A G-E-D.

HE WAS CONFINED TO A WHEEL CHAIR AS A RESULT OF A CAR WRECK HE HAD WHILE IN THE AIR FORCE, BUT, LIKE BOBBY COOK, HE NEVER LET THAT STAND BETWEEN HIM AND WHAT HE WANTED TO DO AND WHAT HE WAS CAPABLE TO DOING.

I LEARNED FROM PALEFACE THAT THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH HIM WAS TO GET OUT OF HIS WAY AND LET HIM DO WHATEVER WAS NEEDED TO GET SITUATED, WHETHER IT WAS DRIVING, GETTING IN AND OUT OF HIS CAR, OR MOVING FROM HIS WHEEL CHAIR TO THE COUCH, WHERE HE AND I BOTH SPENT A GOOD DEAL OF TIME.

BOBBY COOK WAS MUCH THE SAME. HE IGNORED HIS HANDICAP AND WENT ABOUT THE BUSINESS OF POLICING, ASKING FOR NO SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS, COMING TO WORK AND DOING HIS JOB.

TWO PEOPLE WHO WERE HIRED BY CHIEF COOK EARLY IN THEIR LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREERS VOLUNTEERED INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS PRESENTATION.

STATE POLICE LIEUTENANT MARK MAYES, WHOSE CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT BEGAN AS A DISPATCHER WITH THE CHRISTIAN COUNTY POLICE, STOPPED ME IN THE PARKING LOT HERE AT GOODWIN LAST NIGHT AND SAID BE SURE TO TELL PEOPLE THAT BOBBY COOK NEVER WHINED, NEVER COMPLAINED, AND NEVER EXPECTED ANYTHING MORE THAN ANY OTHER PERSON MIGHT RECEIVE.

CURRENT SHERIFF'S DETECTIVE BOBBY NICHOLS WAS HIRED BY CHIEF COOK AND THAT DURING THE INTERVIEW PROCESS CHIEF COOK SAID HE PREFERRED TO REFER TO HIMSELF AS A "PEACE OFFICER" AND NOT A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, AND THAT HE WANTED TO SEND SOMEONE HOME RATHER THAN TO JAIL IF THERE WAS ANY POSSIBLE WAY IT COULD BE DONE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HE COULD VERBALLY PEEL THE PAINT OFF THE WALL IF THE SITUATION WARRANTED IT, AND I UNDERSTAND SEVERAL PEOPLE ATTENDED LAST NIGHT'S VISITATION AND SAID THEIR LIVES WERE TURNED AROUND BY SOME WELL-CHOSEN AND PROPERLY ADMINISTERED WORDS FROM BOBBY COOKS.

I WAS PRIVY TO ONE SESSION FROM OUTSIDE THE OFFICE ON 5TH STREET WHICH HAD THE AREA AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS WHERE TWO DESKS WERE LOCATED, AND AN "INNER OFFICE" WHICH WAS CHIEF COOK'S.

A MAN HAD BROUGHT HIS SON IN FOR COOK TO SET ON THE "STRAIGHT AND NARROW".

ALL I REMEMBER HEARING IS CHIEF COOK TELLING THE YOUNGSTER IN A MOST CONVINCING TONE THAT HE HADN'T BROKEN HIS DAD'S LAWS, HE HAD BROKEN THE STATE'S LAWS AND THE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES WERE SERIOUS.

I LEFT BEFORE THE YOUNGSTER EXITED.

I WAS NOT A WITNESS TO AN INCIDENT WHICH WAS THE ONLY CASE I EVER HEARD OF WHERE CHIEF COOK'S CONDITION MAY HAVE PLAYED A PART IN HIS ACTIONS AS A POLICE OFFICER.

GET TOM SKILLIAN TO PROVIDE THE DETAILS, BUT AS I RECALL, IT INVOLVED TWO "PAN-HANDLERS", WHO WERE STOPPING CARS ON THE NORTHWEST BY-PASS, BUT INSIDE THE CITY LIMITS, BEGGING FOR MONEY.

CHIEF COOK AND TOM HAPPENED TO BE PATROLLING IN THAT AREA WHEN THE CALL WENT OUT AND COOK GOT ON THE RADIO AND TOLD THE CITY TO DISREGARD THE CALL, THAT HE WOULD HANDLE IT.

AS TOM TELLS IT, THEY PULLED UP AND COOK CALLED ONE OF THE PAN-HANDLERS AN OBSCENE NAME AND ORDERED HIM TO GET IN THE CAR.

THE MAN PROTESTED AND COOK REPEATED HIS ORDER, ADDING SOME OTHER CHOICE REMARKS INAPPROPRIATE FOR THIS SETTING...OR ANY INVOLVING MIXED COMPANY.

I NEVER ASKED COOK ABOUT IT, BUT I SOMEHOW FELT THAT HE THOUGHT IT WAS A CRIME FOR SOMEONE PHYSICALLY ABLE TO WORK TO BE OUT BEGGING FOR MONEY, AND ALSO AN INSULT FOR THOSE WHO WERE PHYSICALLY IMPAIRED, BUT WORKED EVERYDAY ANYWAY.

I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE OUTCOME OF THE CASE WAS, BUT I BET THAT WHOEVER THE PANHANDLER WAS--AND WHEREEVER HE IS---HE CAN RECITE THE DETAILS OF HIS CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH CHRISTIAN COUNTY POLICE CHIEF BOBBY COOK IN HOPKINSVILLE, KENTUCKY.

IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT THE OFFICE OFF 5TH STREET HAD A SECOND DOOR WHICH LED TO TWO OR THREE CELLS WHICH WERE SET ASIDE FOR JUVENILES.

BACK IN THOSE DAYS, THE JUVENILE COURT JUDGES COULD ORDER INCARCERATION IN A LOCAL FACILITY FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

CHIEF COOK SAID THAT REALLY GOT THOSE KIDS' ATTENTION WHEN THEY WERE FACED WITH SPENDING A WEEKEND LOCKED UP RATHER THAN RUNNING THE STREETS.

HE SAID IT WAS A REAL DETERRENT TO CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, WHICH WAS EVENTUALLY REMOVED BECAUSE OF COURT RULINGS WHICH REQUIRED FACILITIES ENTIRELY SEPARATE FROM ADULTS, WITH A SEPARATE STAFF.

THAT PROVED COST PROHIBITIVE AND IN CASES WHERE THERE WAS NO CHOICE BUT TO INCARCERATE A JUVENILE, THE YOUNGSTER WAS TRANSPORTED TO AN APPROVED FACILITY WHICH CHARGED AN OUTRAGEOUS DAILY FEE TO HOLD THOSE UNDER AGE 18.

THE OFFICE WITH ACCESS TO THE THREE JUVENILE CELLS WAS A MARKED IMPROVEMENT FROM THE ORIGINAL COUNTY POLICE OFFICE IN THE FORMER SHERIFF'S OFFICE AT 5TH AND MAIN, WHICH WAS SO CLOSE TO THE TOILET THAT, FOR YEARS, CHIEF COOK'S PICTURE WAS MOUNTED INSIDE A TOILET SEAT!... OR IT MAY BE THAT THEY CONVERTED A TOILET TO AN OFFICE FOR THE COUNTY POLICE.

SOMETIME IN THE LATE 19-70'S OR EARLY 19-80'S, THE CHRISTIAN COUNTY POLICE FORCE, WHICH HAD EXPANDED TO ABOUT 3 OR 4 OFFICERS ALONG WITH A SECRETARY AND ONE TIME, A DISPATCHER, WAS RE-LOCATED TO THE FORMER PETROLEUM BUILDING BEHIND THE BOWLES BUILDING WHEN IT WAS CONVERTED TO THE HALL OF JUSTICE AND THE ROAD DEPARTMENT MOVED OUT ON THE RUSSELLVILLE ROAD.

THAT PRODUCED ONE OF THOSE TIMES WHICH SOME OF US ARE FORTUNATE TO EXPERIENCE, WHICH IS THE HAVE A GOOD TIME---AND GET PAID FOR IT.

DURING THAT TIME FRAME, I WAS THE CO-HOST OF THE "EARLY BIRD SHOW" ON WHOP WITH THE LATE COLONEL DINK EMBRY, WHICH INVOLVED COMING IN ABOUT 3:30 IN THE MORNING, GETTING THE NEWS READY, AND WORKING THE EARLY BIRD SHOW FROM 5 UNTIL 7, WHICH WAS LIKE STEALING MONEY AS THOSE OF YOU WHO LISTENED TO THE PROGRAM MAY RECALL.

I READ THE NEWS AT 7:15 AND DEPARTED TO MAKE THE ROUNDS OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, COURT HOUSE, AND COOK'S OFFICE, WHERE I USUALLY SPENT MORE THAN AN HOUR BEING ENTERTAINED BY A VARIETY OF SOURCES, CHIEF OF WHICH WAS BOBBY COOK.

THE BEST TIMES WERE TUESDAY AND THURSDAY MORNINGS BEFORE JUVENILE COURT WHEN A MUCH YOUNGER JUDGE JIM ADAMS, WHO WAS THEN THE CHIEF PROSECUTOR OF JUVENILES, WOULD CHIP IN WITH LOCAL STORIES WHICH WERE ALL NEW TO ME, BEING A "FOREIGNER".

ON THE SUBJECT OF BEING A "FOREIGNER", AS I SAID AT THE OUTSET, BOBBY WAS KNOWN AS THE "REAL BOBBY COOKS" AROUND OUR HOUSE, BUT I'M SURE OUR THREE CHILDREN, AMY, BOBBY, AND JENNIFER HAD A MUCH MORE ADMIRABLE NAME FOR HIM AFTER HE INVITED US TO THE ANNUAL COOK FAMILY REUNION HELD AROUND THE FOURTH OF JULY AT THE LEWIS OWEN PLANTATION WEST OF TOWN.

WE WERE ALL VERY FLATTERED WHEN INVITED TO ATTEND WHAT WAS ESSENTIALLY A FAMILY EVENT, WITH GREAT FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP, BUT, FOR THE KIDS, THE GREAT ATTRACTION WAS THE OWENS' SWIMMING POOL. WE ALWAYS HAD PROBLEMS ROUNDING THEM UP AND GETTING THEM READY TO GO WHEN THE DAY'S FESTIVITIES WERE WINDING DOWN.

WHAT A TREAT IT WAS TO BE INVOLVED WITH SUCH A DIVERSE GROUP, WHICH INCLUDED THE LATE "POP" COOK---ONE OF THE TWO OTHER ROBERT COOKS TO DIE THIS MONTH IN HOPKINSVILLE--AND ALSO THE LATE LOWE "RADIO" JOHNSON, WHO WAS A ONE-MAN PICNIC IN HIMSELF.

ANYWAY, BACK TO THE OFFICE VISITS, I SPENT COUNTLESS HOURS OVER A PERIOD OF SEVERAL YEARS HANGING OUT AT THE COUNTY POLICE CHIEF'S OFFICE AND ATTAINED AN INSIGHT INTO THE "POLICING BUSINESS" AND HOW IT WORKED WITH NEWS, WHICH HAS PROVEN TO BE VERY HELPFUL TO ME IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER OVER THE YEARS.

CHIEF COOK TRUSTED ME AND I DIDN'T VIOLATE THAT TRUST, BUT I ACQUIRED A GREAT DEAL OF INSIGHT INTO CRIMINAL HAPPENINGS THAT OTHER REPORTERS DIDN'T HAVE.

THAT DID MUCH FOR MY CONFIDENCE AND I WAS ABLE TO TRANSFER IT TO OTHER AGENCIES.

ON THAT SUBJECT OF CONFIDENCE, COOK AND I ONCE AGREED THAT PEOPLE IN THE PUBLIC EYE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL WHO THEY DRANK WITH.

HE WAS IN THE NEWS SEVERAL TIMES A WEEK AS A SPOKESMAN FOR LAW AND ORDER AND I WAS ON THE HIGH PROFILE EARLY BIRD SHOW.

AGAIN, I WAS FLATTERED WHEN HE ASKED ME TO RIDE ALONG WITH HIM AND MARVIN CHEWNING OR ONE OF THE OTHER COUNTY POLICE OFFICERS TO MEETINGS OF AN ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS THE PENNYRILE REGIONAL CRIME COUNCIL, WHICH WERE KNOWN AS "DRINKING TRIPS".

OTHER THAN TEACHING DANNY BOZARTH THE "INS AND OUTS" OF BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURES, THE CRIME COUNCIL HAD LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE, WITH ITS "RECOMMENDATIONS" ON GRANTS, LOANS AND PROGRAMS CARRYING LITTLE WEIGHT IN THE OVERALL SCHEME OF THINGS, THOUGH THE 9-COUNTY AREA DIDN'T GO WITHOUT ITS SHARE OF SUCH FEDERAL FUNDS.

THE MEETINGS WERE LITTLE MORE THAN AN EXCUSE TO GATHER SOMEWHERE, EAT, AND SWAP WAR STORIES AND TRADE SOME POTENTIAL LEADS ON CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IN THE AREA.

WE USUALLY DRANK ON THE WAY THERE AND THE WAY BACK..AND I HAD TO WRITE A STORY FOR THE NEXT MORNING AFTER TRAVELLING FROM SMITHLAND OR SOME OTHER FAR-FLUNG AREA OF THE PENNYRILE, INCLUDING THE EDDYVILLE STATE PEN, WHERE WE ONCE HAD A MEAL AND A MEETING.

AS I RECALL, CHIEF COOK HAD A NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND HE NAMED "JUDGE", SAYING HE WOULD KICK HIM WHEN HE GOT MAD AT COUNTY JUDGE GRADY RUFF. I DOUBT THAT WAS THE CASE, CAUSE COOK COULDN'T KICK AND I CAN'T IMAGINE HIM ABUSING HIS DOG.

BY THE WAY, HE PROUDLY PROCLAIMED THAT "JUDGE" WAS DOING HIS JOB, THAT THERE WASN'T ONE NORWEGIAN ELK WITHIN 100 MILES OF HIS HOUSE.

IF YOU'VE NOTICED, MANY OF THOSE PEOPLE I'VE MENTIONED HAVE GONE ON AND THE LAST TIME I TALKED WITH BOBBY, IT WAS FOR JUST THAT PURPOSE.

WARREN ^{Cornell} CORNELL, ONE OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THE NOTORIUS BELL MURDER CASE OF THE EARLY 70'S AT THE "SQUARE DEAL GROCERY" ON CANTON PIKE AT THE NEWSTEAD ROAD, DIED LAST YEAR AND AS I WAS WRITING A STORY FOR THE 7:15 NEWS, I WOKE COOK UP TO FIND OUT WHO THE LOCAL CIRCUIT JUDGE WAS WHO PRESIDED OVER THE TRIAL.

I CORRECTLY RECALLED THAT IT WAS JUDGE IRA SMITH, WITH COOK CONFIRMING THAT, AND I ALSO ASKED HIM TO CONFIRM THAT HE WAS INVOLVED IN THE ARRESTS, WHICH HE WAS...AND HE ENDED WITH "THOSE WERE THE GOOD OLD DAYS"..

THERE WERE FEWER RESTRICTIONS ON OFFICERS THEN AND I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DIDN'T PAY TRIBUTE TO ALL THOSE LIKE CHIEF COOK, WHO DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE SAFETY OF ITS CITIZENS.

IN ADDITION TO THOSE WHOSE NAMES ARE ON THE MONUMENT BETWEEN THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING AND THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING IN HOPKINSVILLE, WE NEED TO REMEMBER THOSE WOUNDED IN THE LINE OF DUTY, LIKE MIKE OUSLEY, CARY HAYES AND ROGER ROBINSON, WHO HAVE ALL BEEN SERIOUSLY WOUNDED DURING MY TENURE AT WHOP.

I'M NOT SURE IF ROGER EVER RECOVERED FROM HIS WOUNDS, WHICH FORCED A PRE-MATURE RETIREMENT FROM THE FORCE AND I WAS THERE WHEN HE EXPRESSED HIS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE VERDICT OF A JURY WHICH ESSENTIALLY AGREED THAT ROGER WASN'T TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT THE INCIDENT WHICH RESULTED IN HE AND CARY HAYES BEING SHOT.

I'LL ALSO QUOTE THE LATE BROTHER JOHN CHRISTIAN, WHO PREACHED THE FUNERAL OF HOPKINSVILLE POLICE CHIEF RAYMOND WALKER, SAYING WE'LL NEVER KNOW HOW MUCH CRIME GOES UNCOMMITTED BECAUSE OF THE MERE PRESENCE OF A POLICE OFFICER, AND HOW MANY WOULD-BE CRIMINALS ARE DETERRED BECAUSE AN OFFICER HAPPENS TO COME BY.

ON THE SUBJECT OF RAYMOND WALKER, THOSE OF US WHO KNEW BOBBY KNOW OF HIS LOVE AND INTEREST IN FIREARMS, AND HE ONCE TOLD ME THAT HE AND CHIEF WALKER CONDUCTED AS CLOSE TO A "SCIENTIFIC" EXPERIMENT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF DIFFERENT CALIBER HIGH-POWER RIFLES ON A VEHICLE.

I THINK THEY WENT TO A JUNK YARD AND PICKED OUT A WRECK AND BEGAN FIRING FROM VARIOUS ANGLES WITH EVERYTHING FROM A 22 LONG RIFLE TO A 44 MAGNUM.

THE CONCLUSION WAS THAT A 30-0UGHT-6 INFLICTED THE MOST DAMAGE..FOR WHAT THAT'S WORTH, THOUGH I NEVER SAW THE PUBLISHED RESULTS OF THE "COOK-WALKER" FIREARMS EXPERIMENT.

HE WAS ALSO A BOATER AND FISHERMAN OF GREAT ENTHUSIAM.

ONE MORNING ON THE EARLY BIRD SHOW, I EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO HAVE A SIMPLE, LOW-MAINTENANCE, BOAT WITH AN OUTBOARD SUFFICIENT TO PULL ONE WATER-SKIER(YANKEES SAY WATER SKIER... WHEN WE SAY "SKIING" WHERE I COME FROM, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT BOARDS ON YOUR FEET, POLES ATTACHED TO YOUR WRISTS...AND SNOW)

I SAID I'D BE SATISFIED TO GO TO THE LAKE ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH AND DIDN'T WANT TO TIE UP ANY GREAT SUM IN A BOAT.

COOK CALLED AND SAID IT WASN'T AS EASY AS THAT....HE SAID HE STARTED OUT WITH A 14 FOOT "JOHN BOAT" AND KEPT UPGRADING TO MEET UNMET WANTS UNTIL HE HAD A 40 FOOT HOUSEBOAT AT PRIZER POINT.

THE FISHING WAS PRETTY SERIOUS.

HE TOLD ME ABOUT SAUGER FISHING BELOW BARKLEY DAM WHEN THE ICE WAS KNOCKED OFF THE LINE WHEN IT WAS RETRIEVED AND HIS REEL EVENTUALLY FROZE, THOUGH HE DID BRING SOME FISH HOME.

WE HAD A RUNNING JOKE ABOUT THE MANNER IN WHICH A CASE DEVELOPED AND HOW IT CAME TO BE SOLVED.

DURING AN INTERVIEW ABOUT THE CRIME, I'D GET THE VITAL INFORMATION AND EVENTUALLY ASK HOW HE CAME TO MAKE THE ARREST.

COOK WOULD INVARIABLY SAY...."GOOD POLICE WORK.THEN PAUSE AND ADD..HE TOLD ME HE DID IT".

MOST OF THE TIME, IT WAS MUCH MORE THAN THAT, WITH CHRISTIAN COUNTY POLICE CHIEF A RESPECTED MEMBER OF THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY.

NOW HE'S SOMEWHERE ELSE, WHERE HE'S IN FULL COMMAND OF ALL HIS FACULTIES AND PHYSICAL CAPABILITIES, WITH A GREAT REUNION IN STORE.

AND AFTER HE FINISHES TRADING INSULTS WITH DALE ROBERTSON, CATCHING UP ON STORIES WITH GRADY RUFF, AND DOING SOME MORE SHOOTING WITH RAYMOND WALKER, HE'LL FULFILL TWO OF HIS LIFETIME AMBITIONS.

DAUGHTER ANGIE EAST SAYS "COOK", AS SHE ALWAYS REFERRED TO HIM AS, HAD TWO UNFULFILLED AMBITIONS---TO PLAY FOOTBALL AND TO DANCE WITH A WOMAN.

SO AFTER THE NICETIES OF THE REUNION HAVE BEEN DISPENSED WITH, BOBBY COOK WILL DON SPIKES, SHOULDER PADS, FOOTBALL PANTS AND A JERSEY AND TUCK A FULL HEAD OF HAIR, FINELY SCULPTURED INTO THE CLASSIC 50'S D-A STYLE, INTO HIS HELMET AND SET OFF DOWNFIELD AT THE HEAD OF A PACK OF PURSUING DEFENSEMEN.

AFTER THE GAME, HE'LL GO TO THE HOMECOMING DANCE AND CUT A RUG WITH GINGER ROGERS, AND HE'LL MAKE FRED ASTAIRE LOOK LIKE NED AND THE FIRST READER.

THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GONNA BE...BECAUSE HE EARNED IT.