God Bless Lee Ruth, continued from Page 17

We would chit chat about goings on in town and catch her up on each of our family happenings. All the while, we would be accepting just one more' finger sandwich, homemade cookie and glass of sweet tea.

As the sun was about to set, finally Lee Ruth would say something like "well, boys, you didn't come here to talk to an old lady like me," and she would excuse us to her stock pond to hunt. We'd both look at each other as if to say, "Oh yeah! We came over to hunt"!

Of course, we would try to help her clean up a little, but she'd shoo us out the door. As soon as that screen door shut, we would jog to the truck, grab our gear and run to the pond.

With just minutes left until sundown, we would get after it - bam! foil and follow our quick, simple recipe for the post-Lee-Ruth-dove ritual. We would lay them in the foil in single rows, his and mine, breast up,

and pour a little bit of Jack Daniels

"Oh yeah! We came over to hunt!"

bam! bam! - and get maybe four or five doves each before dark. Then we'd head over to Bradley's house.

Bradley and I would clean the birds, start the grill up, lay them in tin over the birds, and then some juice from pickled jalepeños, salt, pepper, fajita seasoning, and then close them up and poach them on the grill.

They were the most tender this way and of course, couldn't be any

more fresh (there were flying just a few minutes ago). About 20 minutes on the grill and the alcohol had burned away and tenderized them with the jalepeño juice. By ths time it was good and dark outside, and when we were sitting around happy and full of doves, we'd say "God Bless Lee Ruth."

Lee Ruth is gone now, but she was one of the fine country characters of Mills County, and while we are sad that she is gone, we couldn't be more grateful for her friendship and our dove hunts with her.

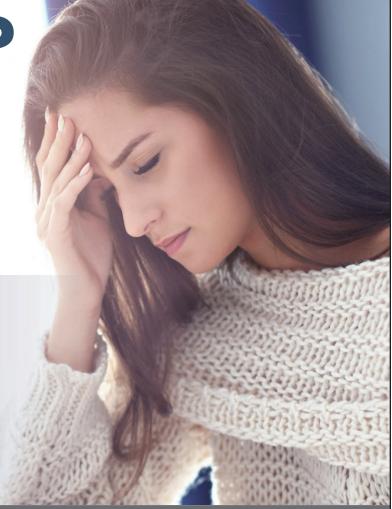
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