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THE FOLLOWING IS AN OPEN LETTER TO DEPUTY GERALD
VAN PATTEN FROM WILLIAM P. SCHMITT, KENOSHA COUNTY
SHERIFF:

November 18, 1967

To: Deputy Gerald Van Patten
Kenosha County Sheriff's Dept.

I wish to express my personal thanks, as well as those from all the members of this department, for the fine piece of police work displayed on your part by stopping the bank robbers who had just

held up the Silver Lake State Bank on Friday, Nov. 17, 1967. Your actions showed much courage, perseverance and good judgment.

After having been shot at and wounded by these men, you followed them in your squad car at speeds up to 100 m.p.h. Due to the high rate of speed that they were traveling, they missed a turn and hit a light post, causing them to go into a ditch. You brought your squad to a stop, and as both men started to run, you ordered them to halt. When one of the men (Haas) turned and fired at you again, you took good aim, fired your revolver and hit Haas. You also took particular notice of the other suspect, and this enabled you to positively identify this subject later. As a result of this identification, one Charles Layton Cox was connected with this bank robbery and the attempted murder of you, and he was then arrested.

It is this type of action that is an example for all officers to follow. The Kenosha County Sheriff's Dept., the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors and the citizens of the city and county of Kenosha can be proud of the courage that was shown and demonstrated by you.

Again, my personal thanks, and I am proud to head the department of which you are a member.

Very truly yours,
William P. Schmitt, Sheriff
Kenosha County Sheriff's Dept.

Dear Mom & Dad -

... This is the reason why this officer can never change his story.

In addition to this he ~~he~~ was on T.V. in person and he is a hero in SILVER LAKE (where he lives)

He was on TV the night before they arrested me and I would give anything to get a transcript of his conversation to see if he said any thing whatsoever about seeing the robber who got away.

The only reason he was showed a picture of me at all is because I called the FBI and asked them if they wanted to see me.

They said no and took three pictures of only me to show him.

They showed him my pictures right after I called them in early morning of November 18 (around 7 or 8) and they didn't arrest me until 5 or 5:30 that night even though they knew where I was all day!

Just this police officer had to see me when they were putting the devil man in an ambulance because everybody was looking at each other and also looking towards where the one robber escaped.

I saw a police officer there with his hat off and other officers were talking to him - (this guy lost his hat and glasses back at the bridge when shot) and that just had to be when he saw me at all.

But what can I do to help myself when I'm locked behind bars? Love Charles