

*Someday help me, please.*  
Friday, March 29, 1968

*Charles L. Cox*  
THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

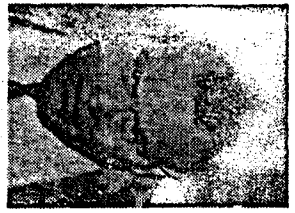
# Witness Confesses at 2nd Man's Trial

A 39 year old ex-convict confessed on the witness stand in federal court Thursday that he committed the robbery of the Silver Lake State bank for which a Glendale man was on trial.

Robert D. Mitchell, Kaukauna, made the admission in the third day of the trial of Charles L. Cox, 34, of 4647-A N. Ironwood la. Cox is accused of the \$13,770 robbery of the Silver Lake bank in Kaukauna county last Nov. 17.

"I don't figure anybody should go to jail for something they didn't do," Mitchell said. Mitchell, who is awaiting trial for the Feb. 16 armed robbery of the state bank at Howard's Grove, said his conscience didn't bother him.

"I used to see Cox every day in jail and wondered how he was feeling," Mitchell continued.



Robert D. Mitchell

Mitchell's startling testimony was almost invalidated

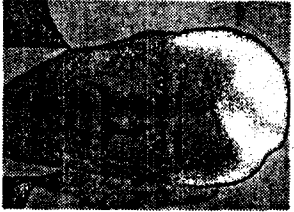
Mitchell said pointing to Thomas E. Weil, an assistant United States attorney. "As of today I'm not answering any more questions," Mitchell said and stepped down from the witness stand.

Federal Judge John W. Reynolds granted Weil's motion that Mitchell's testimony be stricken from the record. The judge explained to Mitchell that his testimony would not be permitted to stand unless he submitted to cross examination.

"I know, I gotta come back to this court next month and face another rap," Mitchell said. He is scheduled to be tried in the Howards Grove robbery on Apr. 30 before Reynolds.

Friday, Mitchell changed his mind. Under Weil's cross examination, he said he had

lived in Kaukauna several months prior to his arrest last month. He also said he had at



Charles L. Cox

one time worked for the Thimmanany Pulp and Paper Co., Kaukauna.

His Friday testimony meant that his Thursday confession

would remain in the court record.

Weil told the court Friday that he had subpoenaed two persons from the paper company as witnesses.

During his testimony Friday, Cox, who denied taking part in the robbery, showed the court that the white tennis shoes which the government introduced earlier as a pair worn by him during the robbery did not fit.

Assisted by his attorney, Cox removed his shoes and tried to put his feet into the tennis shoes. The shoes were too small.

In his earlier testimony, Mitchell said that when he first heard Cox had been arrested for the Silver Lake robbery, "I thought it was a big joke."

"Then, layin' in bed—thinking about it—looking at the walls—I decided to do something about it," Mitchell said.