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Frederick Phillip Hammer
New River Valley Regional Jail
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Dear Mr. Hammer,

Thank you for your last letter. The seams were intact. I am still working on the series. I've waited a while to write you back because my editor had a trip planned to Philadelphia and I wanted to see what her research there found and if it raised any questions. She was able to obtain copies of part of your testimony in your trial about Charlie Uffelman, as well as your initial statement to police. According to those documents, about two hours after you were arrested, you signed a typewritten police statement that said you were hitchhiking on Delaware Avenue when Mr. Uffelman stopped and offered you a ride. You said he looked like he was going to get sick. He took out his false teeth and put them on the dash. He was drunk. He got out, walked around the car and reached in the window and grabbed you. He tried to pull you out of the car. You got out, and punched him several times in the chest. Then you grabbed a 4X4 post leaning against a fence. You hit him in the back of the head twice. You panicked, dropped the post, jumped in the car and took off. You didn't know he was a policeman. His wallet was on the front seat and you took \$170. About 90 minutes after that statement, you signed another statement saying you took the wallet from his back left pocket as he was unconscious on the ground. You also changed your story about the confrontation. According to the second statement, you said he didn't try to pull you out of the car. He was sick. He threw up. You rolled down the window and asked if he was all right. He didn't answer. You got out and went to where he was sitting on the curb. You kept asking him if he was all right and he told you to leave him alone. You leaned over and slapped him in the face to snap him out of it. He punched you in the chest. That's when you grabbed the 4X4 and started hitting him. You said he was on his knees by the car when you hit him in the head with the post. When they asked why you hit him, you said: "I don't know why I did it." But in court you told a different story, about how he tried to make a homosexual advance to you, pulled a gun and pointed it at your face, then stopped the car, dragged you out, grabbed your arms and pushed you against a fence. You said that's when you grabbed the post and hit him. You said he reminded you of your father. You testified that your father was an abusive alcoholic and you heard growing up that he was a homosexual. The transcript quotes you saying: "It just seemed like that was my father who – he reminded me of my father in a way." Again, Mr. Hammer, I'm trying to figure out the truth of all this. What actually happened? I should tell you in talking with Mrs. Uffelman and her daughter, that the family is still very upset about the

things you said about their husband and father. Were those things true? There's no court now that could prosecute you in relation to the Uffelman case because you've already been tried and acquitted. Can you tell the truth about what happened that day? Did Mr. Uffelman make an advance on you or were you projecting your own fears and feelings about your father?

In reading your last letter, I noticed that you said the Hudler family knows deep down that you didn't do this, but didn't say the same thing about Mr. Miller, the young man who was going into the garage. Did you kill Mr. Miller? They were cutting wood that day and he had come to the garage to get a four-wheeler with a flat bed to haul off the wood. He'd been a construction worker but lost his job because of the housing downturn just weeks before his baby was born. He got a job at the Christmas tree farm to try to make a living to support his wife and new baby. He was just working that day. The sheriff said you'd worked for Ron Hudler but no longer worked for him after a falling out. What happened? Just to make sure I'm clear, do you in fact deny that you killed Ron and Fred Hudler?

I have also researched your bankruptcy records. A court order said you had to resume payments by the end of January or the case would be dismissed. Did you go to try steal the safe and things got out of hand? That seems to be a theory of the case. Incidentally, we had a big storm in Wilkes County about two weeks ago. It sounded like a freight train with the wind blowing. A tree fell on the side porch entrance of Mr. Luck's office and smashed it in so badly they had to demolish the whole porch.

Finally, if you could write a letter to people and tell them anything you wanted to say, what would you say? We would consider publishing it. What do you want people to know?

Again, Mr. Hammer, I am sorry to be so blunt with my questions. I am still trying to get to the truth of what happened. Thank you for the Bible verse in your last letter. That is a good one.

Sincerely,

Monte Mitchell
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