

THE BIG MASK

PART II

FOR BROADCAST: JANUARY 4, 1953

*Agley*

CAST

SGT. JOE FRIDAY.....JACK WEBB...  
OFFICER FRANK SMITH.....BEN ALEXANDER  
VERA (DBL.).....VIRGINIA GREGG  
JENKINS.....HARRY BARTELL  
CAPT. DIDION.....VIC PERRIN  
MURPHY (DBL.).....JACK KRUSCHEN  
ALEX.....RALPH MOODY  
JERRY ROGERS.....JACK KRUSCHEN  
GIRL.....VIRGINIA GREGG

1 MUSIC: SOUND OFF FOR CHESTERFIELD  
2 GIBNEY: Sound off for Chesterfield.  
3 MUSIC: SOUND OFF FOR CHESTERFIELD ... DRUM ROLL  
4 GIBNEY: Chesterfield, the only cigarette in America to give  
5 you premium quality in both regular and king size ...  
6 MUSIC: DRUM ROLL CONTINUES  
7 GIBNEY: ... brings you Draghet  
8 MUSIC: DRAGNET SIGNATURE  
9 FENN: (EASILY) Ladies and gentlemen. The story you are  
10 about to hear is true. The names have been changed  
11 to protect the innocent.  
12 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR:  
13 FENN: (EASILY) You're a detective sergeant. You're  
14 assigned to Robbery detail. For the past six months,  
15 the managers of large markets in your city have been  
16 the victims of a hold-up man. You know he's armed  
17 and dangerous. Your job ... get him.  
18 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR:

(FIRST COMMERCIAL INSERT)

DRAGNET - RADIO  
JANUARY 4, 1953

FIRST COMMERCIAL: 59

1 FENN: There's only one premium quality cigarette in America  
2 available in both regular and king-size - and that is  
3 Chesterfield.

4 GIBNEY: Premium quality in a cigarette means the world's best 1/15  
5 tobaccos - the best ingredients - the best cigarette  
6 paper...only Chesterfield gives you this premium quality  
7 in both popular sizes.

8 FENN: King-size Chesterfield contains tobaccos of better  
9 quality and higher price than any other king-size 1/30  
10 Cigarette. That's certainly important to every king-size  
11 smoker. Of course, it's the same fine tobacco as in  
12 regular Chesterfield. There is absolutely no difference  
13 except that king-size Chesterfield is larger...contains  
14 so much more of these premium quality tobaccos that you 1/45  
15 get more than a fifth longer smoke from king-size  
16 Chesterfield.

17 GIBNEY: Yes - the modern way to sell cigarettes is the  
18 Chesterfield way...premium quality...both regular and  
19 king-size. 2/00

20 FENN: And either way you like 'em ... Chesterfields are MUCH  
21 MILDER. Chesterfield is best for you. 2/06

1 MUSIC: THEME

2 GIBNEY: Dragnet, the documented drama of an actual crime. For  
3 the next thirty minutes in cooperation with the Los  
4 Angeles Police Department, you will travel step by step  
5 on the side of the law through an actual case  
6 transcribed from official files. From beginning to end  
7 ...from crime to punishment...Dragnet is the story of  
8 your police force in action.

9 MUSIC: UP TO SEMI BUTTON AND FADE ON SUSTAINED CHORD

10 SOUND: TRAFFIC B.G. JOE AND FRANK'S STEPS ON SIDE WALK

11 JOE: It was Saturday, March 22nd. It was cold in Los Angeles.  
12 We were working the day watch out of Robbery Detail. My  
13 partner's Frank Smith. The boss is Captain Didion. My  
14 name's Friday. We were on our way out from the office  
15 and it was 9:35A.M. when got to 4623 Linwood...  
16 (SOUND: STORE DOOR OPEN)...the Bakery shop.

17 SOUND: DOOR CLOSE JOE AND FRANK WALK INTO SHOP

18 VERA: (OFF) Yes, sir? Can I help you?

19 JOE: Police officers ma'am.

20 VERA: Oh yes...you want to see Mr. Jenkins. He's in the back.  
21 Right through that door.

22 FRANK: Thank you ma'am.

23 SOUND: THEY WALK TO DOOR AND OPEN IT. THEY WALK INTO ROOM.

24 CARLSON: (OFF, FADING IN) Friday, Smith.

25 JOE: Carlson. How is he?

26 CARLSON: Alright. Got a bad cut on his head. Ambulance was here.

1 FRANK: Any witnesses?  
2 CARLSON: No. None that we could find. Holmes is out  
3 checking the neighborhood  
4 JOE: How long you been here?  
5 CARLSON: About 20 minutes. We were just a coupla blocks over  
6 when the call came in.  
7 JOE: You talked to Jenkins yet?  
8 CARLSON: No, Figured you'd wanna do that. He's back there  
9 lying down.  
10 JOE: Okay, Carlson, thanks.  
11 CARLSON: Right.  
12 SOUND: CARLSON WALKS OUT THROUGH DOOR AND CLOSSES IT BEHIND  
13 HIM. JOE AND FRANK WALK BACK TO ALCOVE WHERE  
14 JENKINS IS LYING DOWN.  
15 JENKINS: Who it it?  
16 JOE: Police officers, sir. My name's Friday ... this is  
17 my partner Frank Smith.  
18 JENKINS: Oh. What happened to the other officer?  
19 JOE: He left, Mr. Jenkins. Couple of questions we'd  
20 like to ask you about this.  
21 JENKINS: Sure. Pull up that chair there.  
22 JOE: Thanks.  
23 SOUND: JOE PULLS UP CHAIR AND SITS DOWN.  
24 FRANK: You feel all right sir?  
25 JENKINS: Yeah. Head aches a little but I feel okay. The  
26 guy from the ambulance said I should see my own  
27 doctor. Don't know when I'm gonna get the time to  
28 do that. Nothin' serious. Little cut.  
29 JOE: Yes sir. Would you tell us just what happened?

1 JENKINS: Sure. Not much to it. Where do you want me to  
2 start?  
3 JOE: Well, what time'd the man come in?  
4 JENKINS: Lemme see. Musta been about 6:30 this morning. I  
5 was just fryin' the doughnuts. Heard this knock  
6 on the back door and I let him in.  
7 FRANK: What'd he look like, sir?  
8 JENKINS: Just like the descriptions in the paper. That's  
9 how I knew it was the black mask bandit. Had the  
10 overcoat on and the hat ... and the mask on his face.  
11 JOE: Was he carrying a gun?  
12 JENKINS: Yeah. Looked like a 38 revolver ... long barrel.  
13 JOE: Uh huh ... what happened then?  
14 JENKINS: Well, at first I couldn't figure it. Y'know ...  
15 I'd read where he was robbing markets. Couldn't  
16 figure what he was doin' in a bakery.  
17 FRANK: He was alone then?  
18 JENKINS: Yeah. Least I couldn't see anybody with him.  
19 JOE: Go ahead sir.  
29 JENKINS: Well, he came in and sat down. Told me to go ahead  
21 with what I was doing. Sat right over there ...  
22 in that chair. Leaned back against the wall and  
23 just talked.  
24 JOE: What'd he talk about?  
25 JENKINS: This and that. Nothin' special. Then he asked me  
26 to hand him one of the doughnuts I'd finished.  
27 Said he wanted one of the chocolate ones. I gave it  
28 to him and he just leaned back and ate it.

1       JOE:            Uh huh.  
2       JENKINS:        I asked him what he wanted ... why the gun, y'know?  
3       JOE:            Yes sir.  
4       JENKINS:        He said that he didn't want me to get any bright  
5                      ideas. He asked me how much money I had.  
6       JOE:            Yeah.  
7       JENKINS:        I told him that I only had about a hundred and fifty  
8                      bucks. And he said that wasn't much. I said that  
9                      it wasn't but that's all I had. Then I asked if  
10                     he was gonna rob me.  
11      JOE:            What'd he say to that?  
12      JENKINS:        Said that he probably would.  
13      JOE:            Uh huh. All this time did he keep the mask.  
14      JENKINS:        Yeah. Never took it off.  
15      JOE:            Uh huh. How long was he here?  
16      JENKINS:        He got here like I said at 6:30 ... left about 8:15.  
17                      Just before Vera came in. She's the one who found  
18                      me.  
19      JOE:            Vera?  
20      JENKINS:        Yes. She's the girl who takes care of the store.  
21                      You probably saw her out front when you came in.  
22      JOE:            Yeah. Go on.  
23      JENKINS:        Well, I finished up with the doughnuts and then I  
24                      asked him if he'd like a drink. Said I had some  
25                      brandy locked up ... asked him if he'd like a shot.  
26      JOE:            Uh huh.

1 JENKINS: He said he would so I went over to get it. I keep  
2 it over there ... (INDICATES) In that cupboard.  
3 When I walked over I had to walk right in front of  
4 him.  
5 JOE: Yes sir.  
6 JENKINS: Well, you probably know that it get's pretty hot in  
7 a bakery ... the ovens and all ... and I guess he  
8 was kinda relaxed ...  
9 JOE: Yeah.  
10 JENKINS: Well, when I walked by him, I grabbed his gun ...  
11 took it right out of his hands. He jumped up and  
12 told me to hand it over to him. Said for me to  
13 give it back and I wouldn't get hurt. I told him  
14 that he had the shoe on the wrong foot. That I was  
15 callin' things now.  
16 FRANK: Yes sir. What'd he do then?  
17 JENKINS: Well, if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes ... if it  
18 hadn't happened to me, I never'd believe it.  
19 JOE: What's that sir?  
20 JENKINS: When I took the gun away from him, he looked real  
21 surprised. Then when I told him that I was the  
22 boss, he just stood up and started to walk toward  
23 me. I told him to stop. I pointed the gun at him  
24 and told him to stay where he was.  
25 FRANK: Yeah.



1 JENKINS: He didn't stop. Kept comin' right at me. I told him again  
2 but he kept right on walkin'. Then I fired at him.  
3 Wasn't any farther away from him than...10...maybe 15 feet.  
4 Didn't hit him, so I pulled the trigger again. Shot right  
5 at him 6 times. Right at him. He just kept walkin' at me.  
6 First I thought that the shells in the gun were blanks...  
7 then I could see where the bullets were hitting. There you  
8 can see a couple of them in the wall. Couldn't believe my  
9 eyes. I missed him every time.

10 JOE: What'd he do after you shot at him?

11 JENKINS: When I fired the last shot, the gun clicked a couple of  
12 times and he just stopped and laughed. Said that I'd run  
13 out of bullets and that I'd better give the gun to him.

14 JOE: Did you?

15 JENKINS: Yeah...I threw it at him as hard as I could. Missed him  
16 then too. Gun hit the floor and I could see the sparks  
17 fly. Then he picked it up and came after me. I didn't  
18 think I'd be in much trouble...he looked so little. But  
19 when he grabbed at me, I knew I'd had it. That man had  
20 hands like a vice. Grabbed my arm and hit me on the head  
21 ...Right here (INDICATES). Knocked me out. Came too when  
22 Vera came in. Guy was gone and so was the money.

23 JOE: Where'd you keep the money?

24 JENKINS: In my pocket. Had it in my wallet. I don't usually put  
25 it in the cash register until Vera gets in.

1 JOE: Uh huh. You said that when the gun hit the floor, you  
2 saw sparks fly from it, that right?  
3 JENKINS: Yeah. Y'know like when you hit a piece of flint with  
4 another rock? Like the Boy Scouts.  
5 JOE: Yeah.  
6 JENKINS: Like that.  
7 FRANK: Did you notice if the gun seemed damaged in any way?  
8 JENKINS: No, I didn't have time to notice anything. Right after  
9 that he hit me.  
10 JOE: Uh huh. Wonder if you'd give us a description of the  
11 man?  
12 JENKINS: Sure. Like I told the other officers. He was a little  
13 man. Real old.  
14 JOE: How old sir?  
15 JENKINS: Oh maybe 50 or so. Not any younger.  
16 JOE You pretty sure about that are you?  
17 JENKINS: Yeah.  
18 FRANK: 'Bout how tall?  
19 JENKINS: Maybe 5 - two. Not any more than that. Kinda hard to tell  
20 with that big coat on. Looked like it was 5 or 6 sizes too  
21 big. Looked kinda funny at first. Then you realized who  
22 he was and it wasn't funny any more. I wasn't too scared  
23 of him when I first saw him. Even when he came at me.  
24 But when he grabbed my arm, I knew I had trouble.  
25 JOE: Yes sir.  
26 JENKINS: Still can't understand it, six shots and I didn't hit  
27 him once. I tell you, the guy's not human.  
28 JOE: Well, he's scoring pretty good for a ghost.  
29 (END SCENE 1)

1 JOE: 10:02A.M. The crew from the crime lab came out and went  
2 over the bakery. Ray Pinker removed the slugs from the  
3 wall and the floor and took them back to the Lab. The  
4 bandit as usual had worn gloves so there's no possibility  
5 of fingerprints. a search of the neighborhood failed to  
6 turn up any new leads. None of the people in the immediate  
7 area had seen anyone answering the description of the  
8 Black Mask bandit. Additional supplementary bulletins  
9 were gotten out and all of the cars in the surrounding  
10 vicinity were alerted. The Staats office made run after  
11 run on the M.O. of the bandit. The leads they gave us  
12 were checked out. All gunsmiths were alerted in the event  
13 that the gun had been damaged and the thief would try  
14 to have it repaired. All leads were checked and rechecked.  
15 They netted us nothing. Informants were questioned.  
16 Nothing. The plan that had been worked out for checking  
17 with the managers of super markets in the city was  
18 continued. Three weeks passed. The bandit hit again. This  
19 time a market just outside of Eagle Rock. The M.O. was  
20 the same as had been used in the previous robberies.  
21 However, in this one instance, the market didn't have a  
22 large meat storage refrigerator so the thief locked the  
23 manager in a back room. In locking the door, the thief,  
24 had taken off his gloves and Latent Prints was able to  
25 lift a partial print from the door knob. It wasn't  
26 enough for classification, but Bergman said that if we  
27 caught the man, he'd be able to identify him for us.

28

(MORE)

1 JOE: June came and went. July, August. The bandit had been  
(Cont'd)  
2 operating for almost a year. He'd widened his theatre  
3 of operations. We'd gotten reports from San Francisco,  
4 to Stockton, from San Diego to Pomona. In each case, the  
5 thief seemed to know what markets were staked and stayed  
6 away from them. The leg work continued without result.  
7 Tuesday, August 19th, Frank and I checked back into the  
8 office.

9 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK WALKING DOWN CORRIDOR, CORRIDOR B.G.

10 FRANK: Never see it fail. Every time we have lunch at Sol's  
11 I eat too much.

12 JOE: Yeah, he puts out a good lunch.

13 FRANK: Too good.

14 SOUND: DOOR OPEN AND THE OFFICERS ENTER SQUAD ROOM. B.G. CHANGE

15 JOE: Wanna check the book?

16 FRANK: Right.

17 SOUND: FRANK WALKS OVER TO BOOK AND LOOKS THROUGH IT. JOE GOES  
18 TO LOCKER AND OPENS IT.

19 JOE: Anything?

20 FRANK: (LITTLE OFF) Call from Jerry.

21 JOE: Informant?

22 FRANK: Yeah. Says he can't get with me tonight. Says he'll call  
23 in the morning.

24 SOUND: DOOR TO CAPTAIN'S OFFICE OPENS

25 DIDION: (OFF) Friday...Smith.

26 JOE: Yeah, Skipper.

27 DIDION: C'mon in here will ya?

28 JOE: Yeah...right away.

29 SOUND: JOE CLOSSES LOCKER AND HE AND FRANK WALK INTO DIDION'S  
OFFICE

1 DIDION: (FADING IN) Sit down.

2 JOE: Yeah.

3 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK PULL UP CHAIRS AND SIT

4 JOE: What's the bit skipper?

5 DIDION: You guys been on this Black Mask thing how long now?

6 JOE: Goin' on a year.

7 DIDION: And you're no closer to him than you were when you started.

8 FRANK: Not much.

9 DIDION: You know that you're tyin' up half the men at Metro. You  
10 got this town covered like a blanket and you still can't  
11 turn the guy.

12 JOE: We're doin' everything we can.

13 DIDION: I been tellin' you for the last 6 months that I wasn't  
14 goin' to buy that anymore. I mean it this time. Now just  
15 exactly what have you got on the guy?

16 JOE: You know it as well as we do, Skipper. Description...M.O.  
17 even the partial print Bergman lifted from the place out  
18 in Eagle Rock. We've been over it a hundred times. Isn't  
19 a lead we haven't run out and then checked it again.

20 DIDION: Nothin' new on the information from Folsom?

21 JOE: Nothin'. We've had 5000 circulars printed. They're  
22 scattered all over the country. It doesn't look like  
23 the guy's ever done time before. Way he works you'd think  
24 he knew just exactly what we were doing. We cover the  
25 markets, he hits bakeries. We cover the bakeries, in  
26 L.A., he hits in San Diego. They cover the stores and  
27 he hits up north. Where we are...he isn't.

1 DIDION: How about the car...the Ford?  
2 JOE: Nothin'. We got no license.  
3 DIDION: You ever hear anything on the damaged gun?  
4 JOE: No. He never tried to have it fixed that we can find  
5 out about. He's gotten ahold of another gun someplace  
6 Latest reports say he's using a revolver with a two  
7 inch barrel.  
8 DIDION: Well where do you stand now?  
9 JOE: I dunno. We've got every store from LaCienega to Alameda  
10 covered. From Hollywood Boulevard south to Jefferson.  
11 DIDION: Big area.  
12 JOE: Yeah...lotta stores. There's a cruiser car or a cop in  
13 or near every large store and bakery in that area. Every  
14 police unit in the city is looking for him. If he hits  
15 again, we should have him.  
16 SOUND: STEPS INTO OFFICE FROM SQUAD ROOM  
17 MURPHY: Friday?  
18 JOE: Yeah, Murph?  
19 MURPHY: Call just came in from Wilshire. Figure you want it.  
20 Here you go.  
21 SOUND: MURPHY HANDS JOE LOCAL BROADCAST  
22 JOE: Thanks.  
23 FRANK: What is it?  
24 JOE: We got the whole town waiting for him with open arms...  
25 everything's set and he pulls a switch.  
26 DIDION: What is it Friday?  
27 JOE: Black Mask Bandit...he's going in for kidnapping.  
28 (END SCENE 2)

1 JOE: The local broadcast stated that the manager of one of  
2 the big super market chains in the city had been taken  
3 from his home about 2:30 in the morning. The bandit  
4 forced him to drive to the store, and open the safe.  
5 The thief than bound the manager, taped his mouth  
6 and left the premises. The manager gave us a complete  
7 description of the bandit and locals and A.P.B.'s were  
8 gotten out on him. In this instance, the thief didn't  
9 use his own car. He forced the manager to drive his  
10 own car to the market. The manager told us that when  
11 they'd left the house, he hadn't seen any cars on the  
12 streets. Tuesday, August 19th, 5:20 P.M. Frank and I  
13 got in touch with Lieutenant Dick Tieman of the  
14 Sheriffs Robbery Squad. With him we worked out a plan  
15 to try to keep the homes of the managers under  
16 surveillance. In addition to this, men from the  
17 sheriffs department aided in canvassing the houses of  
18 the owners and managers. One car was assigned to each  
19 house, while another watched three markets. A month  
20 passed. The Black Mask Bandit hit 5 times, each time  
21 in areas which were not under direct surveillance.  
22 Friday, September 26th 5:20 A.M. we got a call at home  
23 that there had been another kidnapping, this time of  
24 an elderly market manager and his wife. Frank and I  
25 drove out to see them. The radio unit had returned  
26 them to their home.

27 SOUND: OUTDOOR B.G. DOOR OPEN

28 ALEX: Yes?

29 JOE: Mr. Gunther?

1 ALEX: That's right.  
2 JOE: Police officers, Mr. Gunther.  
3 ALEX: Oh yes.....come in.  
4 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK GO INTO HOUSE. DOOR CLOSES...BG OUT.  
5 ALEX: You have some sort of identification?  
6 JOE: Yes sir....here's my I.D. I'm Joe Friday...this is my  
7 parther Frank Smith.  
8 ALEX AND FRANK SAY HELLO TO EACH OTHER.  
9 ALEX: Come into the living room won't you.  
10 SOUND: THEY WALK INTO LIVING ROOM.  
11 ALEX: Sit down. Hope you didn't mind about my asking for your  
12 identification. Just that the way things have been  
13 happening, you can't be too sure.  
14 JOE: That's alright sir. Now, would you tell us what  
15 happened?  
16 ALEX: Sure. Awful thing. Awful. Just can't believe that a  
17 man his age would do a thing like this. Seems that he'd  
18 know. Not be so cruel.  
19 FRANK: Yes sir. Just what did happen.  
20 ALEX: Well, last night. It must have been about 2 or 2:30. I  
21 woke up with this flashlight shining in my eyes. At  
22 first I didn't know what it was.....just this real  
23 bright light. Y'know.  
24 JOE: Yes sir.  
25 ALEX: Well, right away of course, I knew that there was  
26 somebody else in the room. 'bout that time, Agnes  
27 woke up. Agnes is my wife. Anyway she woke up. Wanted  
28 to know what was going on. I told her I didn't know.  
29 All this time that light didn't move. Just stayed in one  
30 place and shone right in my eyes.



1 JOE: Uh huh.

2 ALEX: Then we heard this voice tell us to get out of bed. Said  
3 that he wanted me to go with him. I told him to get  
4 out of the house. That I didn't want any trouble. If  
5 he wanted money, he'd find all we had in the house...  
6 right on the dresser with my wallet.

7 FRANK: Uh huh. Could you see who the person was sir?

8 ALEX: No, not then. The light and all. But I got out of bed  
9 and then I could see. Little old man....with a black..  
10 mask over his eyes.

11 JOE: How could you tell his age sir?

12 ALEX: Just could that's all. Little beady eyes. And his  
13 mouth, mean. Never saw a mouth like that on a young  
14 man. His voice was old, I could tell.

15 JOE: Yes sir.

16 ALEX: Well, he told me to get dressed. Said that I should  
17 hurry up about it.

18 FRANK: Was he armed? Could you tell?

19 ALEX: Yes. I could see that he was holding a gun. All this  
20 time Agnes was yelling at him to get out of the house.  
21 She's not well y'know.

22 JOE: Sir?

23 ALEX: Agnes. She has a bad heart. Been with a doctor for  
24 years. Takes pills and medicine. That's the big  
25 reason that I did what he said. I didn't want there to  
26 be any trouble to get Agnes excited.

27 JOE: Uh huh.

28 ALEX: Well, finally I told him that if he'd get out of the  
29 room and leave her alone, I'd do what he wanted. Not  
30 give him any cause to hurt anyone.

1 JOE: Yeah.

2 ALEX: Then he did about the meanest thing he could have done.  
3 Told Agnes to get out of bed. Said for her to get up  
4 and get dressed and go with us. Just can't understand  
5 why he'd want to do a thing like that. Just plain  
6 meanness.

7 JOE: Did your wife do what he said?

8 ALEX: At first she said she wouldn't do it. Really told him  
9 off. I thought he'd maybe get mad and hit her. He was  
10 mean enough to do it.

11 JOE: Yeah.

12 ALEX: Finally I asked her to do what he wanted. Figured that  
13 it'd be the easiest way of gettin' him out of the place.  
14 I thought that maybe I could talk him out of takin' her  
15 with us. But I couldn't.

16 JOE: He made you leave the house then?

17 ALEX: Yeah. Told me to get the car out of the garage and then  
18 he and Agnes got in the back seat. Made me drive him  
19 down to the store.

20 FRANK: Did you notice any other cars in the area. Any cars  
21 parked near your house that aren't usually there?

22 ALEX: No. On the way to the store though, I saw a police car.  
23 I thought about trying to attract their attention. He  
24 must have thought about it too though.

25 JOE: Why do you say that?

26 ALEX: Well, he told me that if I did anything to call attention  
27 to us he'd kill Agnes. I think he would have to. I  
28 didn't do anything to get him upset.

29 JOE: Yes sir.

1 ALEX: Well, we got to the market and he made me open the safe.  
2 Then he took the money and tied us up. I begged him not  
3 to tie Agnes. I've never done that before sergeant. I'm  
4 fifty-two and I've never begged a man for anything.  
5 But I did this time. Begged him not to kill Agnes. I  
6 knew that if he tied her up like he said he was going to  
7 do, it'd kill her. Pleaded with him, but it didn't do  
8 any good. Tied her up and put that tape over her mouth  
9 One thing I can say for him. Just one, he called the  
10 police. Told them where we were. If he hadn't done  
11 that, I think we'd have both died. Agnes. almost  
12 suffocated.

13 FRANK: Where is your wife now, Mr. Gunther?

14 ALEX: In the other room. Doctor's with her. He gave her a  
15 sedative. Awful thing Sergeant...I just don't know how  
16 anyone could be that mean.

17 JOE: Just one reason I can think of.

18 ALEX: What's that?

19 JOE: He's had a lot of practice.

20 END SCENE 3

1 JOE: 11:30 A.M. We talked to Mrs. Gunther. She told us  
2 pretty much the same story that we'd gotten from her  
3 husband. The police car in the area was contacted but  
4 they reported that they hadn't noticed the Gunther car.  
5 The unit that was patrolling the area around the store  
6 was contacted. They reported that they had checked the  
7 store at 3:15 A.M. At that time, there were no lights  
8 and no suspicious cars in the vicinity. The black mask  
9 bandit had been working for over a year. In that time  
10 he had robbed 59 stores that we knew of. His theatre of  
11 operations had taken him from northern California to  
12 the Mexican border. From the desert to the beach. He'd  
13 stolen approximately a half a million dollars. The  
14 entire nation had received communications carrying the  
15 description of the man. The entire facilities of the  
16 police and sheriff's departments in Los Angeles were  
17 devoted to apprehending him. Thousands of man hours had  
18 gone into stake outs and searches. None of them  
19 produced any results. As the case grew in importance,  
20 Robbery Detail began to get an average of thirty calls a  
21 day from well meaning citizens with information. Every  
22 lead, no matter how remote had to be checked out. This  
23 meant more hours of leg work and interrogation. Every  
24 officer in the southland was looking for the bandit.  
25 Every car and motorcycle on the streets had his  
26 description. None of it did any good. The thief  
27 apparently could do what he wanted and we were helpless  
28 to stop him.

1 JOE: Thursday, October 2, 11:05 P.M. Frank and I checked  
(CONT'D)  
2 back into the office.

3 SOUND: DOOR OPEN AND SQUADROOM B.G. JOE AND FRANK WALK INTO  
4 ROOM.

5 FRANK: Another one that didn't go anyplace.

6 JOE: Yeah. Wanna fill out the reports and I'll check the  
7 book.

8 FRANK: Never fails does it Joe?

9 JOE: What's that?

10 FRANK: Something like this come along and some people use it to  
11 get back at their neighbors. Now that deal tonight.  
12 Pretty silly. Sure like to know who gave us the tip.  
13 Something kinda sneaky about annoyous phone calls.

14 JOE: We'd miss a lot of breaks if we didn't get 'em.

15 FRANK: You figure we're ever gonna nail this guy?

16 JOE: Who knows. I'm gettin' punchy.

17 FRANK: Yeah....and every time we miss him we get another  
18 pasting. You read the papers lately?

19 JOE: You gotta expect it. They're probably calling it the  
20 way it looks to them. Only way to answer 'em is to nail  
21 the guy.

22 SOUND: PHONE RING

23 JOE: I'll get it.

24 SOUND: JOE TAKES A COUPLE OF STEPS AND PICKS UP PHONE.

1 JOE: Robbery, Friday. Yeah it is. What's that son? Can.  
2 you speak a little louder, I can't hear you very well....  
3 that's better. What? Uh huh. When'd this happen?  
4 Yeah. What's the address? (AS HE WRITES) Uh huh.  
5 Yeah son. We'll take care of it. Right. G'bye.  
6 SOUND: PHONE HANG UP.  
7 JOE: Looks like we got it. Market manager's, son.  
8 FRANK: Yeah.  
9 JOE: Say someone has just kidnapped his father.  
10 END SCENE 4 - END ACT 1

DRAGNET - RADIO  
JANUARY 4, 1953

SECOND COMMERCIAL:

19/05

1. FENN: ~~The~~ modern way to sell cigarettes is the Chesterfield way  
2 - premium quality in both regular and king-size... 19/15  
3 and we're the only one that does ~~it~~. We tell you what  
4 Chesterfields are made of to give you that premium  
5 quality in both popular sizes. Our scientists select the  
6 best materials. They select for Chesterfield the world's  
7 best tobaccos...blend them just right - and they keep 19/30  
8 Chesterfields tasty and fresh with the best of  
9 moistening agents. Now, here's something else that's  
10 completely modern about Chesterfield...people smoke  
11 Chesterfield - and we tell you what happens...  
12 scientifically but simply... 19/45

13 GIBNEY: A medical specialist ~~is~~ making regular bi-monthly  
14 examinations of a group of people from various walks  
15 of life. Forty-five per cent of this group have smoked  
16 Chesterfield for an average of over ten years. After  
17 eight months, the medical specialist reports that he ~~he~~ 20/15  
18 observed no adverse effects on the nose - throat -  
19 and sinuses of the group from smoking Chesterfield.

20 FENN: I'd say that means real mildness. And finally - we ask  
21 you to try Chesterfield and prove what we say... 20/15  
22 Chester~~field~~ is best for you - they are much milder to  
23 give you all the pleasure that the modern cigarette  
24 can give.

20/22

1 JOE: 11:23 P.M. Frank and I checked the manager's name on  
2 the list. We got the address and 7 minutes later we  
3 pulled up in front of the store. In the rear of the  
4 store, we could see the outlines of two men. One was  
5 dressed in a bathrobe, the other in a large over coat,  
6 with a brown hat pulled down over his eyes. Immediately  
7 in front of the store, was a dark 1951 Lincoln. We  
8 checked the car and found that it bore the registration  
9 of Donald Anderson, the manager. Frank went around to  
10 the rear door of the market, and I covered the front  
11 entrance. We waited. At 11:42 P.M. the bandit  
12 started for the front door.

13 SOUND: NIGHT NOISES. OFF IN FAR B.G. WE CAN HEAR SLIGHT  
14 TRAFFIC. PAUSE THEN OFF MIKE WE CAN HEAR THE DOOR TO  
15 THE MARKET OPEN AND A COUPLE OF STEPS ON CONCRETE.

16 JOE: (UP) Alright mister.....Police officer, hold it right  
17 there.

18 SOUND: SHOT FROM JERRY. JOE DUCKS BACK.

19 JOE: C'mon drop the gun.....give it up.

20 SOUND: SHOT FROM JERRY FOLLOWED BY TWO SHOTS FROM JOE

21 JERRY: Leave me alone cop.....get outta here.

22 SOUND: ANOTHER SHOT FROM ON MIKE. BEAT. RUNNING STEPS AS  
23 JERRY TRIES TO GET AWAY.

24 JOE: (UP) Frank....cover the other side of the building.

25 SOUND: JOE STARTS TO RUN AFTER JERRY. STEPS HOLD FOR A WHILE.  
26 THEN OFF MIKE WE HEAR FRANK'S STEPS.

27 FRANK: He's goin' for that fence Joe.



1 JOE: (UP TO JERRY) C'mon mister....give it up.  
2 SOUND: OFF MIKE WE HEAR JERRY JUMP FOR FENCE  
3 JOE: (I'M SORRY BUT YOU GOTTA SAY IT) Stop or I'll shoot.  
4 BEAT  
5 SOUND: JOE FIRES TWICE, BEAT THEN WE HEAR JOE'S STEPS OVER TO  
6 FENCE.  
7 FRANK: (AS HE COMES IN) You alright Joe?  
8 JOE: Yeah....let's get over this fence.  
9 SOUND: THEY CLIMB OVER FENCE.....ABOUT 6 FEET TALL. WE HEAR  
10 THEM DROP ON OTHER SIDE AND THEN PAUSE.  
11 FRANK: (SOTTO) Hear anything?  
12 JOE: No....Wanna take that side?  
13 FRANK: Yeah..  
14 SOUND: WE HEAR FRANK MOVE OFF AND THEN JOE'S STEPS ON MIKE AS  
15 HE WALKS DOWN FENCE. STEPS HOLD AND THEN STOP.  
16 FRANK: (OFF) He's not over here.....  
17 JOE: We missed him. Musta got over that wall. Better get  
18 back to the car and notify the radio cars.  
19 SOUND: FRANK MOVES INTO SCENE.  
20 FRANK: Right. Think you hit him?  
21 JOE: Dunno. Might have.  
22 FRANK: Let's check the ground by the fence.  
23 JOE: Got your flashlight?  
24 FRANK: Yeah.....here.  
25 SOUND: CLICK OF FLASH. SLOW STEPS OVER TO FENCE.  
26 FRANK: Hold it Joe.....

1 JOE: Yeah?

2 FRANK: Here.....by the fence.

3 SOUND: STEPS STOP. JOE KNEELS DOWN

4 JOE: (AS HE LOOKS) Yeah...bloodstains. Quite a few of 'em.

5 FRANK: I'll stay here and check.

6 JOE: Okay. I'll be right back.

7 SOUND: JOE CLIMBS FENCE AND WALKS TO CAR. DOOR OPEN AND JOE  
7A SLIDES IN CAR AND TAKES MIKE FROM COMPARTMENT

8 JOE: (ON RADIO) Unit 1K80 to Control 1...Unit 1K80 to  
9 Control 1.

10 GIRL: (OVER SQUELCH) Control 1 to 1K80...Go ahead.

11 JOE: While attempting to arrest market bandit during  
12 commission of robbery exchanged fire with suspect. Suspect  
13 is known to be wounded. Suspect armed and use caution.  
14 Suspect seen fleeing on foot. All cars in area converge  
15 on corner of Figueroa and Woodlawn. Suspect described  
16 as W.M.A. 50 to 55 years, 130 to 140 pounds...Block off  
17 area at Vernon to Slauson. And from Figueroa to Main  
18 Streets. Suspect last seen going through houses at 49th  
19 and Figueroa.

1 GIRL: (OS) Roger 1K80....Attention all units. Attention all  
2 units...All units in the vicinity of 49th and Figueroa.  
3 Robbery suspect wounded while attempting robbery of  
4 market. Suspect described as W.M.A. 50 to 55 years,  
5 130 to 140 pounds...Block off area at Vernon to Slauson.  
6 And from Figueroa to Main streets. Suspect last seen  
7 going through houses at 49th and Figueroa.  
8 JOE: Unit 1K80 to Control 1. Unit 1K80 to Control 1.  
9 GIRL: (OS) Control 1 to Unit 1K80. Go ahead.  
10 JOE: Suspect is known to be armed. Approach with caution.  
11 Unit 1K80 to Control 1. KMA 367.  
12 GIRL: (O.S.) All units. Robbery suspect at 49th and Figueroa  
13 known to be armed. Approach with caution. Repeat.  
14 Approach with caution.  
15 SOUND: JOE PUTS MIKE BACK IN COMPARTMENT AND WALKS BACK TO  
16 FRANK  
17 JOE: What d'ya figure, Frank?  
18 FRANK: He's in here someplace....let's find him.  
END SCENE 5

1 JOE: In the next three hours, 37 police cars combed the area.  
2 Every possible hiding place was investigated. A house  
3 to house search was started. Citizens were asked to  
4 lock their doors and to open their homes to no one. In  
5 one of the yards, we found the hat and coat worn by the  
6 suspect, but apparently, he'd made good his escape.  
7 Broadcasts were gotten out to the entire city, putting  
8 them on the alert. Additional officers were sent to  
9 the blockaded area to help with the search. Captain  
10 Didion came out from the office to direct the operations  
11 3:30 A.M. the area had been checked and re-checked. No  
12 sign of the suspect. Frank and I went back to our car.

13 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK'S STEPS ON SIDE WALK.

14 FRANK: I dunno, Joe, guy's got us jinxed. Seems like every  
15 way we turn, he's got us beat.

16 JOE: Doesn't make much sense. We gotta turn him....  
17 sometime.

18 FRANK: We been sayin' that for the past year. Didion was sure  
19 in rare mood tonight.

20 JOE: He's got trouble with his stomach.

21 FRANK: I'm gonna have trouble with mine if this keeps up much  
22 longer.

23 SOUND: STEPS HOLD FOR A MINUTE. THEN STOP.

24 FRANK: Joe....the car.

25 JOE: Yeah. Take the other side of it.

1 FRANK: Right.

2 SOUND: JOE WALKS TOWARD CAR.....WE HEAR FRANK'S STEPS FADE OFF

3 JOE WALKS FOR ABOUT 10 FEET AND STOPS.

4 PAUSE

5 JOE: C'mon out of the car mister.

6 BEAT

7 JOE: C'mon.....we know you're there....get out.

8 SOUND: GUN SHOT FROM CAR. BREAKING GLASS OF WINDOW AS SHOT IS

9 FIRED.

10 JERRY: (OFF) Get outta here Cop.

11 JOE: C'mon, throw the gun out here. You can't go anywhere.

12 Give it up before you get killed.

13 JERRY: (OFF) I ain't comin' out. And don't you try to come

14 after me.

15 FRANK: (OFF) You haven't got a chance....drop the gun.

16 SOUND: JERRY FIRES ONCE MORE. PAUSE.....JOE FIRES TWICE.

17 JERRY: Alright....alright.....I quit. I got no more ammunition

18 I can't fight anymore.....I quit. I quit. Please

19 dcn't shoot anymore.

20 JOE: (UP) Throw the gun out here.

21 BEAT

22 SOUND: CAR DOOR OPEN AND GUN IS THROWN OUT.

23 JOE: Now get outta the car.....keep your hands up.

24 SOUND: JERRY GETS OUT OF HIS CAR. WE HEAR FRANK WALK INTO

25 MIKE.

26 JOE: Turn around.....put your hands against the car.

27 SOUND: WE HEAR JERRY TURN AROUND

28 FRANK: I'll shake him.....

29 SOUND: FRANK MOVES IN AND SHAKES JERRY.

1 JERRY: You gonna call an ambulance for me....I'm hurt. Can't  
2 you see....I'm hurt. Ain't you gonna do anything for  
3 me?  
4 FRANK: He's clean, Joe.....  
5 JOE: Here;.....  
6 SOUND: WE HEAR JOE TOSS CUFFS TO FRANK.....  
7 FRANK: Get your hands behind you.  
8 SOUND: FRANK HITS JERRY'S WRISTS WITH CUFFS.....WE HEAR THEM  
9 SPIN AROUND AND CATCH. THEN OTHER CUFF ON.  
10 JOE: Wanna put a call in for the ambulance.  
11 FRANK: Right.  
12 SOUND: WE HEAR FRANK WALK OFF MIKE  
13 JERRY: You didn't have to shoot. I woulda stopped if I'd know  
14 you were cops.  
15 JOE: You got trouble with your ears?  
16 JERRY: No.....  
17 JOE: We told you we were officers....you built this thing.  
18 We just went along with you.  
19 JERRY: Lousy deal anyway. Shoulda stopped. Shoulda quit when  
20 I was ahead. If I'd stopped you guys woulda never  
21 cought me. Never.  
22 SSOUND: FRANK'S STEPS FADE IN.  
23 FRANK: They're on the way Joe.  
24 JOE: Good. What's your name mister?  
25 JERRY: Jerry .... Jerry Rogers.  
26 JOE: How old are you?

1 JERRY: 35.  
2 FRANK: All this time we're lookin' for an old man....how'd you  
3 figure it Joe?  
4 JOE: You ever been arrested Rogers?  
5 JERRY: Yeah. Once.....isn't that ambulance ever gonna get  
6 here?  
7 JOE: It's comin'.....What'd you fall for?  
8 JERRY: Huh?  
9 JOE: What were you arrested for?  
10 JERRY: Drunk drivin'.....I shoulda quit. I should layed off.  
11 JOE: Yeah...too bad you didn't figure it that way sooner.  
12 JERRY: I don't want any morals.....When's that ambulance  
13 gonna get here.  
14 JOE: Don't worry about it, Rogers.  
15 JERR: What?  
16 JOE: You gotta lot of time.  
17 MUSIC: SIGNATURE  
18 FENN: (EASILY) The story you have just heard was true. The  
19 names were changed to protect the innocent.  
20 GIBNEY: On February 4th, trial was held in Department 87,  
21 Superior Court of the State of California, in and for  
22 the County of Los Angeles. In a moment, the results  
23 of that trial.

DRAGNET RADIO

1/4/53

CLOSING COMMERCIAL

1 FENN: And now, here is our star, Jack Webb. 26/47

2 WEBB: Thank you, George Fenneman.

3 ~~L~~et me tell you again why Chesterfield is best for me....

4 and for you. Now, you have scientific evidence on the

5 effects of smoking. No adverse effects on the nose -

6 throat and sinuses of the group from smoking Chesterfields.

7 And remember - Chesterfield ~~is~~ the only cigarette to give 27/1-

8 you premium quality in both regular and king-size. I'd

9 like you to buy Chesterfields and prove that Chesterfield

10 is best for you. Regular or king-size - they're much

11 milder to give you all the pleasure the modern cigarette

12 can give.

27/14



TRIAL PAGE

THE BLACK MASK - 2

1 GIBNEY: Gerald Steven Rogers was tried and found guilty of 12  
2 counts of robbery in the first degree and 4 counts of  
3 kidnapping. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in the State  
4 penitentiary, San Quentin, California.