



DRAGNET

CHESTERFIELD #24 NBC #193 RELEASE DATE: SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1953

DIRECTOR: JACK WEBB

SPONSOR: CHESTERFIELD CIGARETTES

WRITER: JOHN ROBINSON

AGENCY: CUNNINGHAM-WALSH

MUSIC: WALTER SCHUMANN

COMERCIAL-SUPERVISOR:

PETE PETERSON

SCRIPT: JEAN MILES

TECHNICAL ADVISORS:

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WAYNE KENWORTHY

SGT. MARTY WYNN: L.A.P.D.

ENGINEER: RAOUL MURPHY

SGT. VANCE BRASHER: L.A.P.D.

ANNCR. #1 GEORGE FENNEMAN

CAPT. JOHN DONOHUE: L.A.P.D.

ANNCR. #2 HAL GIBNEY, NBC

CASE: "THE BIG LAUGH"

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

RECORDING: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1953.

CAST AND SOUND: 12:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.

EDITING: T.B.A.

SCORING: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1953.

ORCHESTRA: 9:00 - 1:00 P.M.

ANNCRS: XLD.

(COMMERCIAL)

BROADCAST: 6:30 - 7:00 PM - STUDIO J - BY T.R.

Agene

"THE BIG LAUGH"

C A S T

SGT. JOE FRIDAY.....JACK WEBB
OFF. FRANK SMITH.....BEN ALEXANDER
GRACE TERRANCE.....PEGGY WEBBER
THOMAS CONANT.....JACK KRUSCHEN
JOHNATHON BENSON.....HARRY BARTELL
BETTY.....LILLIAN BUYEFF

DRAGNET RADIO

March 8, 1953

OPENING

- 1 GIBNEY: Chesterfield is best for you.... First cigarette with
- 2 premium quality in both regular and king-size.
- 3 Chesterfield brings you Dragnet

"THE BIG LAUGH"
N.B.C. #193 CHESTERFIELD #24.
FOR BROADCAST MARCH 8, 1953

- 1 MUSIC: "SOUND OFF FOR CHESTERFIELD"
- 2 GIBNEY: Sound off for Chesterfield.
- 3 MUSIC: "SOUND OFF FOR CHESTERFIELD"....DRUM ROLL
- 4 GIBNEY: Chesterfield, the first and only cigarette in America
- 5 to give you premium quality in both regular and king
- 6 size...
- 7 MUSIC: DRUM ROLL CONTINUES
- 8 GIBNEY:brings you Dragnet.
- 9 MUSIC: DRAGNET SIGNATURE
- 10 FENN: (EASILY) Ladies and gentlemen, the story you are about
- 11 to hear is true. The names have been changed to protect
- 12 the innocent.
- 13 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR:
- 14 FENN: (EASILY) You're a detective sergeant. You're
- 15 assigned to Bunco Detail. For the past year, a
- 16 confidence man has been bilking women in your city.
- 17 You finally get a lead on him....,your job....get him.
- 18 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR:

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)

DRAGNET RADIO
March 8, 1953

FIRST COMMERCIAL

59

1 FENNEMAN: Tonight, I have a new report for you. A most important
2 one, too, because when you are asked to try a cigarette,
3 you want to know and you ought to know what that
4 cigarette has meant to people who smoke it all the time.
5 After a full year of observation, a medical specialist, 115
6 who has given a group of Chesterfield smokers thorough
7 examinations every two months for the full year ...
8 reports no adverse effects to their nose, throat or
9 sinuses from smoking Chesterfields. More and more men 130
10 and women all over the country are finding out every day
11 that Chesterfield is best for them. Enjoy your smoking.
12 Try Chesterfields today! They're best for you ... much
13 milder ... with an extraordinarily good taste. 143

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
5 step on the side of the law through an actual case
6 transcribed from official police files. From beginning
7 to end.....from crime to punishment....Dragnet is
8 the story of your police force in action.
9 MUSIC: UP TO SEMI BUTTON AND FADE ON SUSTAINED CHORD.
10 SOUND: JOE'S STEPS ON HARD SURFACE, CAFETERIA B.G.
11 JOE: It was Wednesday, February 12. It was cold in Los
12 Angeles. We were working the day watch out of Bunco
13 Detail. My partner's Frank Smith. The boss is
14 Captain Steed. My name's Friday. We were at the
15 Armstrong-Thomas Department store and it was 3:14 P.M.
16 when I got back to the table.....
17 SOUND: HE PUTS DOWN THREE CUPS OF COFFEE
18 FRANK: Here Joe.....let me give you a hand.
19 JOE: Thanks.
20 SOUND: FRANK GET'S UP AND TAKES ONE OF THE CUPS.
21 FRANK: Here you are Miss Terrance.
22 GRACE: Thank you.
23 JOE: Wonder if you'd tell us what this is about now ma'am?
24 GRACE: Surely. Sorry you had to wait but I thought it might
25 be better if we talked up here.
26 JOE: Yes ma'am.

1 GRACE: Would you pass the sugar please?

2 FRANK: Yes ma'am. Here you are.

3 SOUND: SHE PUTS SUGAR IN COFFEE AND WE HEAR HER STIR COFFEE

4 GRACE: Well, it's not a pretty thing. I don't know how I
5 could have been so foolish. But I guess when you get
6 to be my age.....and you haven't got anything....almost
7 any attention makes you forget.

8 JOE: How'd you first meet Mr. Benson?

9 GRACE: I saw him first at a musicale. I met him very
10 briefly that night. He called me the next day. Said
11 that he wanted to see me again. Well, I told him that
12 I didn't think that it'd be proper but he insisted,
13 so that night we had dinner together. He seemed so nice.
14 I still can't believe it.

15 FRANK: Yes ma'am.

16 GRACE: Such a wonderful time. I didn't think anybody could be
17 so happy. We ate at a wonderful little place down at
18 the beach. Then we went for a long drive and listened
19 to the music on the radio. Just beautiful.....the way
20 the ocean looked. All the moonlight and all.

21 JOE: When'd you see him again?

22 GRACE: Not until he left. He'd call a couple of times a day.
23 It got a little embarrassing. The girls at the store
24 here got to kidding me about it but I didn't care. Then
25 he told me that he wanted to marry me. I couldn't
26 believe it. So wonderful.

1 JOE: Yes ma'am.

2 GRACE: He said that he wanted me to quit work right after we
3 got married. Said that he didn't want his wife to work.
4 I told him that I didn't mind. Told him that I rather
5 enjoyed it. You know.....meeting new people.

6 FRANK: Yes ma'am.

7 GRACE: He said that it didn't matter. That I was going to
8 stop as soon as we got married. That we'd just spend
9 our time together.

10 JOE: Go ahead ma'am.

11 GRACE: Then one day he told me that he was going to have to
12 take a business trip up north.

13 JOE: When was that ma'am?

14 GRACE: I'd guess it was about three weeks ago. Something like
15 that.

16 JOE: Uh huh.

17 GRACE: He said that he didn't want to go but that it was to
18 get some business cleaned up and that as soon as he
19 got back we'd get married. I believed him. Never once
20 doubted that he meant what he was saying. Don't know
21 how I could have been such a fool.

22 JOE: Uh huh. Go ahead ma'am.

23 GRACE: Well he left. I went down to the station and saw him
24 off. He kissed me and said that when he got back we'd
25 be married. We were going over to Las Vegas on our
26 honeymoon. Wonderful plans. Wonderful. Then I heard
27 from him when he got to San Francisco. Called me from
28 the hotel and said that he'd lost his wallet on the
29 train. Told me that he lost everything..all his money..
30 identification. Everything.

1 FRANK: Uh huh.

2 GRACE: That's when he asked me for the hundred dollars. I
3 didn't think that anything was wrong. So I sent it to
4 him.

5 JOE: Where'd you send it ma'am?

6 GRACE: To his hotel. He said that he didn't know anyone there
7 and that he couldn't cash a check without identification.
8 He said that he only had a couple of dollars in change
9 and that he was putting everything on his hotel bill
10 until he could get some money through the bank. He
11 said that he would only need a hundred dollars to last
12 until the bank clearance on his checks came through. So
13 I sent it. Wouldn't you have done the same thing?
14 Wouldn't you?

15 FRANK: Did you hear from him at all after that?

16 GRACE: Not a word. At first I thought that maybe he was just
17 busy. I did think that it was kinda funny that he
18 wouldn't say something about getting the money I'd sent.
19 But not a word. Then I got worried.

20 JOE: Yes ma'am.

21 GRACE: Finally I called the hotel and they told me that he'd
22 checked out. I figured that maybe he was back in town
23 and wanted to surprise me. So I called his apartment.
24 The landlady told me that he had left a couple of
25 weeks before. That he didn't leave any forwarding
26 address.

27 JOE: Uh huh.

1 GRACE: I didn't know what to think. I didn't want to believe
2 that he'd just used me....but there didn't seem to be
3 anything else to think.

4 JOE: Yes ma'am.

5 GRACE: Then, too, it was only a hundred dollars. Seems that
6 if he wanted to rob me he'd have asked for more. I still
7 can't believe it. Even when I know it's true.

8 JOE: Wonder if you could give us a description of the man?

9 GRACE: Yes. I can do that. Let's see...he was tall.

10 FRANK: 'bout how tall ma'am?

11 GRACE: Over 6 feet. Maybe 6 feet two. He had blond hair.
12 Kinda wavy. How much would you say he weighed, Miss
13 Terrance?

14 GRACE: I'd just be guessing. But I'd say about a hundred
15 and 90 or so.

16 JOE: Uh huh. Wonder if you'd come down to the city hall and
17 look at some pictures?

18 GRACE: You think that you might have one of him?

19 JOE: It's possible ma'am. Maybe it'd make you feel better to
20 know that you're not the only woman that this Benton has
21 taken. There have been quite a few.

22 GRACE: I guess I knew that. Even if I didn't want to believe
23 it. I guess I knew it was just a confidence game.
24 Such a cruel thing though. To use a person's loneliness
25 to rob them.

26 JOE: Yes ma'am.

1 GRACE: When you get along in years and you haven't got
2 anything to hold on to.....a little attention and
3 affection makes you forget everything else. Nothing
4 else seems to matter.
5 JOE: Yes ma'am. I guess that's the way they figure it.
6 END SCENE I

1 JOE: Frank and I had been looking for Johnathon Benton for
2 the past year. During that time he'd taken approximately
3 37 thousand dollars from women in the Los Angeles Area.
4 His method of operation was to answer the ads in the
5 personal columns of the daily papers. He'd give the
6 woman a whirlwind courtship, then under the pretext of
7 having to clean up some business, before marriage, he'd
8 leave town. He'd call the next day and give them the
9 story about losing his wallet and identification. He'd
10 ask them for a hundred dollars. This in itself was to
11 throw off the suspicions of the victims. In the event
12 that they suspected that they were being taken in a
13 racket, a hundred dollars was small enough so that their
14 fears were quieted. Benton would answer about 20 to 30
15 of these ads at a time. And the requests for money
16 would hit all of the suspects at once. We'd had several
17 complaints lately and there was no way of knowing how
18 many women were being taken and were to embarrassed to
19 report it to the authorities. 4:30 P.M. We drove Miss
20 Terrance back to the city hall and had her check the
21 mugg books. She was unable to give us an identification
22 however. Another month passed. During that time we
23 received 14 more complaints. In all instances the
24 description of the suspect matched that of Johnathon
25 Benton. All available sources of information were
26 checked. Bulletins had been gotten out carrying his
27 description and the name he used. No results.

(MORE)

1 JOE: (CONT'D) On Wednesday, March 25th, we got a call that
2 a man answering Benton's description had placed an ad
3 in the personal columns of one of the daily papers.
4 He'd used the name of Thomas Conant. The clerk at the
5 ad counter gave us his address and at 5:32 P.M. Frank
6 and I went out to talk to him.

7 SOUND: DOOR OPEN

8 TOM: (FROM TEXAS) Yeah?

9 JOE: You Thomas Conant?

10 TOM: Yeah...that's right. What can I do for you?

11 JOE: Police officers.....like to talk to you.

12 TOM: Sure. C'mon in. Always glad to talk to the law.

13 JOE: This is my partner, Frank Smith.

14 TOM: How do you do Mr. Smith. Come on in.....I'll shut the
15 door.

16 SOUND: DOOR CLOSE

17 TOM: Now, what's this all about?

18 FRANK: Did you put this ad in the paper?

19 SOUND: FRANK SHOWS TOM A NEWSPAPER?

20 TOM: Lemme see? (READS) Texas cow man desires to meet petite
21 young lady, object companionship. Yeah. That's mine.
22 Wrote it myself.

23 JOE: How long have you been in Los Angeles?

24 TOM: Well, now let's see. Got in on the bus last Tuesday...
25 that'd be a week and a day.

1 FRANK: Uh huh. What brings you here?
2 TOM: Well, I guess you could say it's kinda a business trip.
3 Got a little tired of the same faces back home so I
4 thought that I'd see what the rest of the country looked
5 like. What little there is of it....I'm from Texas
6 y'know. Amarillo. What's all this about anyway? Some
7 law I've broken?
8 JOE: No sir.....it's about that ad.
9 TOM: Oh....you found out huh?
10 FRANK: Beg pardon?
11 TOM: You found out about me sayin' I was a cattle man. That's
12 it, isn't it?
13 JOE: What do you mean sir?
14 TOM: Well, now, I didn't mean no harm. Not really. Just that
15 I was so darn lonsome, that I kinda thought that this
16 might be a way to meet some nice girl. I didn't mean
17 no harm. You can see that can't you?
18 FRANK: Yes sir. I guess so. I wonder if you mind taking a
19 ride with us?
20 TOM: Why I should say not. Always happy to go along with
21 the law. Where you figure to go?
22 JOE: Like for you to meet someone.
23 TOM: Well, now.....that's real nice of you. You got some
24 girl you'd like me to meet huh?
25 FRANK: It's not exactly that sir.
26 TOM: Well, don't matter. I got nothin' to do anyway. Just
27 sittin' here wonderin' if I'd get any replies to the
28 ad.

1 JOE: Alright sir.....if you wouldn't mind.
2 TOM: Not at all. I'll get my hat.
3 SOUND: TOM MOVES ACROSS THE ROOM AND OPENS THE CLOSET DOOR.
4 TOM: Don't hardly feel conspicuous in this hat at all.
5 JOE: That right?
6 TOM: Yeah. Kinda thought that people might make somethin'
7 of it. But they hardly even notice it. Had two little
8 kids come up today and ask for my autograph. Guess
9 they figured I was a movie star. Made me feel real good.
10 Then I wrote my name for 'em and they didn't know who
11 I was but that didn't make no mind to them. They just
12 thanked me and went on their way. Real nice kids.
13 JOE: Yeah....well, let's go.
14 TOM: Sure. Real nice people here in L.A. Real nice.
15 Haven't met a bad one yet.
16 JOE: Well, you haven't been here long. We got 'em.
17 END SCENE II

1 JOE: 5:40 P.M. We drove Thomas Conant downtown and had a
2 car go out and pick up Miss Terrance. While we talked
3 to Conant in the interrogation room, she walked by the
4 open door and looked at the suspect. She told us that
5 Conant was not the man who'd victimized her. She was
6 returned to her home and after Conant had been checked
7 through R. and I. he was released. The next morning
8 Frank and I ran down a tip from an informant but it
9 led us nowhere. 10:18 A.M. we checked back into the
10 office.

11 SOUND: SQUADROOM B.G.

12 FRANK: You get the latest bulletin from San Francisco?

13 JOE: Yeah. Checked it over this morning. They checked out
14 the hotel Benton was staying at. He checked out of
15 there and they haven't seen him since.

16 FRANK: That means that he's probably back here in town.

17 JOE: If he is then we should start hearing about him again.

18 SOUND: PHONE RING

19 JOE: I'll get it.

20 SOUND: JOE MOVES TO PHONE AND PICKS UP RECEIVER

21 JOE: Bunco, Friday. Who? Yes ma'am. Yes Miss Terrance.....
22 I remember. Yes ma'am. Where was that? Uh huh. Would
23 you give me that again? Yes ma'am....48 Vine Street?...
24 Uh huh.....that's right ma'am. We'll get in touch
25 with you. That's right. Thank you ma'am. G'bye.

26 SOUND: PHONE HANG UP AND JOE MOVES BACK.

1 FRANK: Grace Terrance?

2 JOE: Yeah. She just saw Benton.

3 FRANK: Where?

4 JOE: Went into an apartment out on Vine Street.

5 END SCENE 3

1 JOE: 10:41 A.M. Frank and I got to the apartment on Vine
2 Street. We talked to the landlord and he told us that
3 there was a Mr. Benson registered in Apartment 4B. He
4 told us that Benson had just moved in and paid his
5 first month's rent in advance. Benson had said that
6 he was just going to be in town for a short time and
7 that in the event he moved before his month was up, he
8 expected no refund. He also said that he was here for a
9 rest and that he'd appreciate it if the manager
10 discouraged calls to him. Frank and I went up to the
11 fourth floor and knocked on the door.

12 SOUND: DOOR OPEN

13 JOHN: Yes?

14 JOE: You Johnathon Benson?

15 JOHN: Who're you?

16 JOE: Police officers, we want to talk to you.

17 JOHN: What about?

18 FRANK: Might be better if we talked inside.

19 JOHN: Maybe I don't want you in my place.

20 JOE: Alright mister. Get your hat. We want to talk to you
21 downtown.

22 JOHN: What for?

23 FRANK: C'mon.....get your hat.

24 JOHN: Now just a minute. I think that maybe there's been
25 some kind of mistake here. Just tell me exactly what
26 it is you're looking for. I'm sure we can work it out.

1 JOE: Come on mister. Quit stallin'. Get your hat,
2 BEAT
3 JOHN: C'mon in.
4 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK WALK INTO THE APARTMENT. DOOR CLOSE
5 JOHN: I'll get my hat.
6 SOUND: HE STARTS TO MOVE.
7 FRANK: I'll get it for you. In this closet?
8 JOHN: Yeah. The grey one.
9 SOUND: FRANK WALKS OVER TO CLOSET AND OPENS DOOR.
10 JOHN: (OVER FRANK'S ACTION) You sure you got the right man?
11 JOE: Looks that way.
12 JOHN: Uh huh. No way to work this out?
13 JOE: What d'ya mean by that?
14 JOHN: Well, you know. I don't even know why you want me to
15 go with you. Seems that you could fill me in on that.
16 FRANK: (FADING BACK ON) Got some people we'd like you to meet.
17 JOHN: Who?
18 JOE: You'll see when we get there.
19 FRANK: Here's your hat. C'mon let's go.
20 JOHN: You guys sure think you're the gestapo. Comin' in here
21 and draggin' a private citizen out of his house.
22 JOE: If you haven't done anything wrong, you got nothin' to
23 worry about have you?
24 JOHN: That's not the point. I don't like it. Comin' in here
25 and takin' me downtown so a lot of stupid old broads
26 can look at me.

1 FRANK: Who said we wanted women to look at you?
2 JOHN: You did.
3 JOE: No.....we said we wanted you to meet some people.
4 JOHN: I musta misunderstood huh?
5 JOE: Yeah.....I guess you did.
6 JOHN: No way we can work this out huh?
7 JOE: Afraid not.
8 SOUND: THEY START TO MOVE TO THE DOOR. DOOR OPEN.
9 JOHN: Just a minute.....I wanna be sure I've got my key.
10 Don't want to be locked out.
11 JOE: Don't worry about it.
12 JOHN: What d'ya mean?
13 JOE: You might not be comin' back.
14 END SCENE 4

1 JOE: Frank and I took Johnathon Benson downtown. We ran him
2 through R. and I. but we got no identification. His
3 fingerprints were rolled and checked but they didn't
4 make him. Miss Terrance was called and asked to come
5 down to the city hall to try to identify the suspct.
6 2:30 P.M. we took him to the interrogation room.
7 JOHN: Now look, why don't you come off it. Tell me what
8 this is all about.
9 JOE: You told us you just got into town, that right?
10 JOHN: Yeah. Been here about a week.
11 FRANK: Where 'd you come from?
12 JOHN: Up north.
13 JOE: Where?
14 JOHN: San Francisco.
15 JOE: You live up there do you?
16 JOHN: Most of the time...yeah.
17 FRANK: Most of the time...what's that mean?
18 JOHN: Just that.....most of the time I live in San Francisco,
19 That hard for you guys to understand?
20 JOE: What line of work are you in?
21 JOHN: I'm a salesman.
22 FRANK: What do you sell?
23 JOHN: What ever people want to buy.
24 JOE: What are you sellin' now?
25 JOHN: Nothin' right now. That's why I'm here. Lookin' for a
26 deal.
27 FRANK: You know a woman named Terrance.....Grace Terrance?

1 JOHN: Don't think so. Might. Why?
2 JOE: Just like to know.
3 JOHN: Maybe I'm wrong about all of this but it seems to me
4 that when they taught me Civics in school, they said
5 that I had to be booked or you had to let me go. They
6 changed that law?
7 JOE: No, the law's still good.
8 JOHN: Then let's stop horsin' around. I got a lot of things
9 I wanna do. Fill me in on this and then let me outta
10 here.
11 JOE: Alright Mister. There's been a confidence man working
12 the L.A. area. Been takin money from women. Gives them
13 a big pitch about wantin' to marry them and then he hits
14 them up for a hundred bucks and leaves them.
15 JOHN: Sounds like a good racket.
16 JOE: He's taken a lot of money from people who haven't got
17 it to spare.
18 JOHN: Offhand I'd say that's their tough luck.
19 JOE: Offhand you're wrong.
20 JOHN: Way you look at it. Where do I fit into this little
21 fantasy?
22 FRANK: You look good for the guy who's been pullin' the deal.
23 JOHN: Me?
24 FRANK: That's right.
25 JOHN: You guys are flippin'.
26 JOE: Description matches.

1 JOHN : So I look like another guy.
2 JOE : Everything else about you matches.
3 JOHN : So you figure you've made me for the jobs huh?
4 JOE : We figure maybe.
5 BEAT
6 JOHN : Which way's the gas chamber. Oh come off it
7 fellas. You guys know you're trying to hang a bad
8 rap on me. You know it and so do I. Now let's
9 call the whole thing off and I can get outta here
10 and you can get to the Pinochle.
11 SOUND : DOOR KNOCK
12 FRANK : I'll get it.
13 SOUND : FRANK MOVES TO THE DOOR AND OPENS IT. CORRIDOR B.G. IN
14
15 GRACE : (OFF) Hello Mr. Smith. They told me that I could
16 find you here.
17 FRANK : (OFF) Yes Miss Terrance. Would you come in please?
18 SOUND : GRACE COMES INTO THE ROOM. FRANK CLOSES THE DOOR
19 BEHIND HER. SHE WALKS TO THE TABLE AND THEN STOPS
20 BEAT
21 GRACE : Hello Johnathon.
22 JOHN : What?
23 GRACE : Why'd you do it Johnathon. Why? If you wanted the
24 money you could have asked for it. I'd have given
25 it to you. You didn't have to lie about what you
26 thought.
27 JOHN: : The place is full of 'em loonies.

1 JOE : Is this the man Miss Terracne?
2 GRACE : Yes, sergeant. That's him.
3 JOE : Alright...how 'bout it Benson?
4 JOHN : I don't know what she's talkin' about. What's this
5 bit with "that's him".....Loonies...jumpin' with 'em.
6 JOE : (HARD) Alright Benson. I've had enough of your lip.
7 Now come off it. You've just been indentified. We
8 got a lot more of 'em that we can have here. I
9 think that they'll identify you too.
10 GRACE : (BREAKING A LITTLE) Why John? Why?
11 BEAT
12 JOHN : Oh get her out of here. One thing I can't stand is
13 a woman bawlin'. Something comes along that they
14 can't figure out and right away they gotta bawl.
15 ~~Anything~~ comes along and they gotta cry. I'm sick
16 of it.
17 (JOE TO GRACE) Alright ma'am. Maybe it'd be better if you waited
18 in our office.
19 GRACE : Yes sergeant. But still don't know why he did it.
20 Why he took this way to get the money.
21
22 JOHN: : I took this way because it was the easy way. You
23 broads are all alike. Every last one of you.
24 Lemme get a few things straight first. You say I
25 took a hundred dollars from you. That right?
26 GRACE : (CRYING) Yes.

1 JOHN : Alright. Now I want you to think about this. And
2 think real careful. Didn't I say that I wanted to
3 borrow the money..Isn't that what I said? Borrow?
4 GRACE : Yes, that's what you said.
5 JOHN : Did I say that I'd pay the money back in any certain
6 time?
7 GRACE : I don't know.
8 JOHN : You think real good. You'll remember that I didn't.
9 I just said that I'd pay you back. That's all. I
10 didn't say when.
11 GRACE : I guess so. I don't know. I don't care.
12 JOHN : (TO JOE) There you are. Is it any crime to borrow
13 money from a friend. I borrowed the money from her.
14 I'll pay it back. Maybe not right now....but I will
15 pay it back. Face it cop. You got nothin' to
16 hold me on. You talk to the rest of these broads
17 who you say I took. They'll tell you the same thing.
18 JOE : That right?
19 JOHN : You bet it's right. I borrowed a little money from
20 'em. They'll get it back. No need to raise all this
21 commotion. No need at all. I gotta check with a
22 lawyer. I think maybe I got grounds for a suit
23 here. Ruining my good name.
24 GRACE : But you said you wanted to marry me. You said that
25 you loved me.

1 JOHN : Oh come off it Sarah. You got no beef. You got the
2 soft light and the romantic music. You got it all.
3 Look at you. Take a good look. Who'd wanna marry
4 you? Here. just a minute. (HE REACHES INTO HIS
5 POCKET) Here....here's the hundred bucks I borrowed
6 I wanna pay you back. I got a hundred dollars worth
7 of laughs from you. That much easy! Here's
8 your dough. Now go home and have a good cry. I
9 wouldn't marry you if you were the last woman on
10 earth.
11 JOE : That's enough Benson.
12 JOHN : You're not just kiddin'. This old harpy with
13 romantic ideas. Whatta laugh. She thinks anybody'd
14 wanna marry her and she's a loony too.
15 GRACE : (CRYING) I didn't think anybody could be this mean.
16 I didn't think anyone could be this cruel. I just
17 can't believe it.
18 JOHN : You got no choice. You knew it all along. Thanks
19 for the laughs.
20 FRANK : Come on Miss Terrance.
21 SOUND : FRANK TAKES HER OUT OF THE SQUADROOM. WE HEAR B.G.
22 COME IN AS DOOR IS OPENED AND CLOSED.
23 BEAT
24 JOHN : You imagine that...that old bag really thinkin'
25 that I'd marry her.
26 JOE : Yeah
27 JOHN : Real laugh.
28 JOE : I'd like to knock your teeth in Benson.

1 JOHN : For why? I done nothin'. She got her dough back.
2 I said I'd pay her back..I did. You check with the
3 rest of 'em. They'll tell you the same thing. I
4 borrowed the money. That's all. I can't help it
5 if they thought something else. I can't help it can I?
6 BEAT
7 JOHN : C'mon. Let's get this over with. I wanna get out of
8 here.
9 JOE : Yeah.
10 JOHN : You look upset cop. Don't be. Won't prove anything.
11 You got nothin' on me. That's the way it is...and
12 that's the way it's gonna be.
13 JOE : I got something for you Benson.
14 JOHN : That right?
15 JOE : Yeah. Someplace...sometime...You're gonna make a
16 mistake. And when you do, we're gonna be right there.
17
18 JOHN : That right?
19 JOE : Yeah. And when you do, we're gonna walk up one side
20 of you and down the other.
21 JOHN : Don't hold your breath cop.
22 JOE : Don't worry.
23 JOHN : Huh?
24 JOE : It won't be that long.
25 END SCENE 5
26 END ACT 1

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)

DRAGNET RADIO
March 8, 1953

SECOND COMMERCIAL

18/42

1 FENNEMAN: Chesterfield regular ... Chesterfield king-size ...
2 the first cigarette to give you premium quality
3 either way you like 'em. This means that king-size
4 Chesterfield contains tobaccos of better quality and
5 higher price than any other king-size cigarette.
6 Chesterfield is first to name all its ingredients ... 191-
7 ingredients that make the best possible smoke. And
8 Chesterfield gives you this full year's scientific
9 report. No adverse effects to the nose, and throat 2165
10 of a group smoking only Chesterfields. So enjoy your
11 smoking! Change to Chesterfield today ... much milder
12 with an extraordinarily good taste. 11-10

1

2 JOE : We had twelve of the victims of the confidenceman look
3 at Benson. All of them gave a positive identification
4 but verified his story that he had "borrowed" the money
5 from them. 4:25 P.M. Frank and I got in touch with the
6 District Attorney's office and talked with them. What
7 Benson had said was true. In borrowing the money, or in
8 saying he was borrowing it, he'd committed no violation
9 of the law. We had to release him from custody. A month
10 passed. During that time we heard nothing more from the
11 suspect. He had stopped working the dodge in the Los
12 Angeles area. We contacted the San Francisco authorities
13 and informed them of what had happened. They said that
14 they'd be on the lookout for Benson. During the next
15 two weeks, Frank and I worked on a ring of bunco
16 artists that were working the obituary columns. We
17 were lucky and were able to clean it up in that time.
18 On June 16, we got a call from Burglary Division that they
19 had gotten a report of a theft. In talking to the victim,
20 they'd gotten the name Jack Benson. They checked the
21 files on him and found that it could be Johnathon
22 Benson. The victim, a Miss Betty Lindsey came to our
23 office to talk to us.

24 SOUND: SQUADROOM B.G.

25 BETTY: I don't know why they thought that I should see you. It's
just a plain theft.

1 JOE : The officers in burglary said that they thought we might
2 be interested in the theif Miss Lindsey. Wonder if you'd
3 tell us about him?
4 BETTY : Lousey Crumb. This guys a real schnook. A schnook of
5 the first water.
6 FRANK : Yes ma'am. What's his name?
7 BETTY : Called himself Bentley. Jack Bentley. Wotta bum.
8 JOE : What'd he look like Miss Lindsey?
9 BETTY : Tall and blond. Kinda nice lookin' guy if you went
10 for the type. I did. And now I got troubles. Oh
11 wotta no good bum.
12 JOE : Wonder if you'd look at some pictures we've got here
13 See if he's here?
14 BETTY : Sure. Like to see you get him. Where're the pictures?
15 JOE : Frank?
16 FRANK : Yeah.
17 SOUND : FRANK GET'S UP AND MOVES TO FILE CABINET. HE OPENS
18 THE DRAWER AND TAKES OUT SEVERAL MUGG SHOTS. HE
19 CLOSES THE DRAWER AND MOVES BACK TO JOE AND BETTY.
20 JOE : (WHILE FRANK IS OFF) Where'd you meet this Bentley?
21 BETTY : Well, I'm sorta the hostess at a place downtown. Over
22 on fifth. Anyway, about two....three weeks ago this
23 schnook comes in. Orders a couple of drinks and leaves.
24 Next night he's back again. Oh he was a cagey one.
25 Didn't work too fast. Took about a week to make the
26 pitch. Then he asks me out to dinner. Well, he always
27 seemed nice. So I told him that I'd go.
28 SOUND : FRANK COMES BACK ON MIKE

1 FRANK : Here're the pictures ma'am.
2 JOE : If you'd just look through them and see if there's
3 one of Bentley.
4 BETTY : Sure.
5 SOUND : SHE GOES THROUGH ABOUT A HALF A DOZEN PICTURES.
6 BETTY : (AS SHE LEAPS THROUGH THEM) No.....UH huh....Not him...
7 Say he's kinda cute. What's he wanted for?
8 JOE : (Looks) Works the casualty racket.
9 BETTY : What's that?
10 JOE : Get the names of people that have died tells their
11 families that they ordered stuff.
12 BETTY : What kind of stuff?
13 JOE : Pen and pencil sets. Watches. Cheap stuff. Charges
14 a lot of money for it. Most of the people figure that
15 it's one of that last things their loved ones wanted
16 so they pay the prices. Stuff's worthless,.
17 BETTY : Lousy racket. Such a nice looking guy too. So honest.
18 JOE : That's why it works.
19 BETTY : Yeah. Suppose so. (BACK TO THE PICTURES) No...that's
20 not him....Wait a minute.
21
22 JOE : yes ma'am?
23 BETTY : That's him. Oh what a noodnick.
24 FRANK : Ma'am?
25 BETTY : A noodnick. A real bum. But that's him. I'm sure
26 of it.
27 FRANK : Benson.
28 JOE : Yeah.
29 BETTY : You mean you know this guy?

1 JOE : Yes ma'am. Wonder if you'd tell us exactly what
2 happened.
3 BETTY: : Sure. Like I was tellin' you. This guy....Benson?
4 JOE : Yes ma'am....Johnathon Benson.
5 BETTY : Yeah, well anyway he asked me out to dinner. I told
6 him that I'd go. He looked like he was pretty well
7 fixed so I figured that it wouldn't do no harm. Well
8 I don't get off until 12:30. Ain't many places...nice
9 places open after that. But I said yeah so he told me
10 that he'd pick me up. Got to the club about 10:00.
11 Said that he'd gotten through with whatever it was he
12 was doin' and that he came by to see if he could use
13 my apartment to freshen up a bit. Freshen up a bit.
14 Foy what a way to say heist the place. Oh what a bum.
15 JOE : Go ahead ma'am.
16 BETTY : Well, I gave him the key to the place. He said that
17 he'd stop at a drugstore and pick up a razor....shave and
18 wash his face and then he'd be back to pick me up.
19 Last I ever saw of him.
20 JOE : Uh huh.
21 BETTY : Walked off with a fur coat I had. Saved for three
22 years for that coat. Cost me 900 bucks. And then
23 he took a ring worth a hundred and fifty. Diamonds.
24 Belonged to my mother. Sure hope you get him. Nail
25 him good.
26 FRANK: : Yes ma'am.
27 BETTY : Oh what a noodnick.
28 END SCENE 6

1 JOE: We continued to question Betty Lindsey. From her
2 we got the name of one of Benson's friends. We
3 checked on him and he gave us the name of a girl
4 who knew the suspect. We talked to her and she was
5 able to give us Benson's address. It was a rooming
6 house on Franklin Avenue in the Hollywood area.
7 6:47 P.M. Frank and I went to his room.

8 SOUND: DOOR KNOCK.

9 JOHN: (OFF) Yeah...c'mon in.

10 SOUND: DOOR OPEN AND JOE AND FRANK ENTER THE ROOM.

11 JOHN: I shoulda kept my mouth shut. What d'you guys want?

12 JOE: Wanna talk to you downtown Benson.

13 JOHN: We aren't gonna get on that merry-go-round again
14 are we. I'm gettin' tired of this whole deal. What
15 are you guys trying to tie on me this time?

16 FRANK: We didn't have to do it Benson...you took care of
17 that yourself.

18 JOHN: That right?

19 JOE: Yeah. I told you you'd make a mistake. Well you did.

20 JOHN: What is it this time. You figure I took some candy
21 away from a blind newsboy?

22 JOE: C'mon Benson..let's go.

23 JOHN: You gonna arrest me this time or am I going as a
24 favor?

25 JOE: This time it's on us.

26 JOHN: Y'mean we're playing for keeps now?

27 FRANK: Yeah.

28 JOHN: What's the charge?

1 FRANK: Grand theft.
2 JOHN: You're kiddin!
3 JOE: No.
4 JOHN: I really believe you are serious.
5 JOE: Yeah. You called it.
6 JOHN: This is gonna be interesting.. If you can't prove
7 this...I'm gonna own city hall. First thing I'm gonna
8 do is fire you two. You know that, don't you.
9 JOE: We'll take the chance.
10 JOHN: All right. But don't say I didn't warn you.
11 SOUND: THEY MOVE TO THE DOOR
12 JOHN: Y'know, someday I'm gonna wrote a book. Call it
13 "Some of my best friends are cops".
14 JOE: Yeah...do that.
15 JOHN I will.
16 JOE: You'll have the time.
17 END SCENE 7

"LAUGH"

- 1 JOE: We took the suspect downtown. We talked to him for over
2 an hour but he'd admit nothing. Without being able to
3 produce the stolen articles, the case would be difficult
4 to prosecute. We had Benson take everything out of his
5 pockets. Among his personal effects we found a key to
6 a locker in the Subway terminal. Two men from Bunco
7 took the key and went down to the terminal. They
8 recovered a locked suitcase and brought it back to the
9 Squad room where we were questioning Benson.
- 10 SOUND: SQUADROOM B.G.
- 11 FRANK: How 'bout it Benson? This yours?
- 12 JOHN: I never saw it before in my life.
- 13 SOUND: JOE TRIES TO OPEN THE CASE. IT'S LOCKED.
- 14 JOE: (AS HE TRIES) Locked. You got a key to this Benson?
- 15 JOHN: I told you it wasn't mine. What more can I say?
- 16 JOE: Let's see those keys there huh Frank?
- 17 FRANK: Yeah. Here.
- 18 SOUND: FRANK PICKS UP KEYS AND TOSSES THEM TO JOE.
- 19 JOE: Let's try 'em huh?
- 20 SOUND: JOE PUTS KEY IN SUITCASE AND UNLOCKS IT.
- 21 JOHN: I don't know what this is all goin' to prove. I told
22 you that the suitcase isn't mine.
- 23 JOE: Then how come these keys fit?
- 24 JOHN: Cheap suitcase. Lot of the keys double.
- 25 JOE: That right?

1 JOHN: Sure. Lotsa times I've lost the key for one suitcase
2 and used the key from another one to open it.
3 JOE: Ever find one of these in the case?
4 JOHN: I never saw that fur coat in my life. I haven't
5 got the slightest idea of how it got there. I want
6 to talk to a lawyer.
7 JOE: Gettin' kinda jumpy aren't you Benson?
8 JOHN: Sure. I don't mind admitting it. I told you I got
9 no idea of where that coat came from but I know you
10 guys aren't going to believe it. You're out to
11 get me. You said so and you're goin' to try everything
12 you can to do it.
13 JOE: Wanna tell us about it now?
14 JOHN: There ain't nothing' to tell. I don't know nothin'
15 about it.
16 FRANK: You don't ever give up do you?
17 JOHN: I don't know what you're talking about. I want to
18 see a lawyer.

1 JOE: We'll fix it so you can put the call in. But it
2 isn't gonna do you any good. You built this thing
3 all yourself. We got the owner of this coat on the
4 way down here. She'll identify you. That's all we
5 need. You been ridin' real high. You been there
6 for a long time. You figured that you didn't have
7 a thing to worry about. But you made the mistake.
8 All you smart guys make it. Now you act just like
9 all the rest. You got a streak a mile wide running
10 right up the middle of your back. But it figures
11 with guys like you. You haven't got the nerve to
12 tackle a man. You pick on women, then when you get
13 tabbed you haven't even got the nerve to admit that
14 you've had it.

15 SOUND: PHONE RING

16 JOE: I'll get it.

17 SOUND: JOE MOVES TO PHONE AND PICK UP.

k8 JOE: Bunco Friday. Yeah...Oh yeah sure I remember. What
19it did huh? Gee that's fine. When? Well,
20 yeah...we'd like to be there. Sure. Where's it
21 taking place? Uh huh. Sure. Okay you can count
22 on us. Right...G'bye.

23 SOUND: PHONE HANG UP.

24 JOE C'mon Benson. Let's go.

25 JOHN: You gonna book me now?

26 JOE: That's right. C'mon Frank we got another appointment.

27 FRANK: Yeah?

1 JOE: The phone call. It was that kid from Texas y'know
2 Thomas Conant?
3 FRANK: Oh yeah...the cowhand.
4 JOE: That's right...the ad paid off. Met a real nice girl.
5 FRANK: Yeah?
6 JOE: Havin' a party tonight. He's gettin' married.
7 MUSIC: SIGNATURE
8 FENN: (EASILY) The story you have just heard was true. The
9 names were changed to protect the innocent.
10 GIBNEY: On October 17th trial was held in Department 87
11 Superior Court of the State of California in and for
12 the County of Los Angeles. In a moment, the results
13 of that trial.

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)

DRAGNET RADIO
March 8, 1953

CLOSING COMMERCIAL

1 FENNEMAN: Now, here is our star - Jack Webb. 27/13
2 WEBB: Thank you, George Fenneman. Quality throughout is
3 what we try to put in every Dragnet Show. And it's
4 what Chesterfield gives you in every cigarette, It's
5 the first premium quality cigarette in both regular
6 and king-size..And smoking two packs a day myself,
7 I can tell you they're milder with a real good taste.
8 Chesterfield! 27/8

"THE BIG LAUGH"

TRIAL PAGE

1 GIBNEY: Johnathon Arthur Benson alias Jack Bentley was tried
2 and convicted of Grand theft. He recieved sentence as
3 prescribed by law. Grand theft is punishable by imprisonment
4 in the state penitentiary for not less than one nor more
5 than ten years.

DRAGNET - RADIO
3-8-53

PAY ROLL SAVINGS ALLOCATION

1 FENN: Ladies and gentlemen...make tomorrow your D-Day. Get
2 an extra Bond for Defense. Step into any bank or post
3 office, and buy yourself a profitable share in America's
4 future. As an investment, Bonds are better than ever.
5 They can help you save safely, conveniently and
6 profitably. So whether you already buy on the payroll
7 savings plan where you work, or the Bond-a-month plan
8 where you bank, get an EXTRA Bond for Defense tomorrow.

(END PAGE)

1 MUSIC: THEME

2 THEME: UNDER

3 GIBNEY: You have just heard Dragnet - a series of authentic cases
4 from official files. Technical advice comes from the office
5 of Chief of Police, W.H. Parker, Los Angeles Police
6 Department. Technical advisors: Captain Jack Donohoe,
7 Sgt. Marty Wynn, Sgt. Vance Brasher. Heard tonight were
8 Ben Alexander _____

9 _____
10 Script by John Robinson. Music by Walter Schumann.
11 Hal Gibney speaking.

12 MUSIC: THEME UNDER.....(CONTINUES:)

13 FENN: For a million laughs tune in Chesterfields Martin and
14 Lewis Show Tuesday on this same N.B.C. station and sound
15 off for Chesterfield either regular or king size, you'
16 will find premium quality Chesterfield much milder.
17 Chesterfield is best for you.

18 GIBNEY: Chesterfield has brought you Dragnet, transcribed from
19 Los Angeles.