Ladies and gentlemen, the story you are about to hear is true. The names have been changed to protect the innocent.

Dragnet is brought to you by Chesterfield, made by Liggett and Myers, first major tobacco company to give you a complete line of quality cigarettes.

You're a detective sergeant. You're assigned to Homicide Detail. An elderly woman in your city has disappeared. There's no lead to where she's gone, or why she left. Your job .... find her.
"DRAGNET" Radio
January 19, 1954
FIRST COMMERCIAL

1. Penn: Draget is brought to you by Chesterfield .... made by
Liggett & Myers -- whose research laboratory in Durham,
North Carolina is acknowledged the most modern and best
equipped for tobacco research. Enjoy your choice of
these three brands .... tested and approved by thirty
years of scientific tobacco research .... L & M Filters --
newest, best and purest filter-tip cigarettes.
Fatima -- with tips of perfect cork ....
And America's most popular two-way cigarette,.... regular
and king-size Chesterfield.
Dragnet, the documented drama of an actual crime. For the next thirty minutes, in cooperation with the Los Angeles Police Department, you will travel step by step on the side of the law through an actual case, transcribed from official police files. From beginning to end ... from crime to punishment ....

Dragnet is the story of your police force in action.

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

SOUND: JOE AND FRANK'S STEPS ALONG SIDEWALK . . . UP STEPS AND ACROSS PORCH. SLIGHT STREET B.G.

It was Wednesday, July 14th. It was hot in Los Angeles. We were working the day watch out of Homicide Detail. My partner's Frank Smith. The boss is Captain Lehrman. My name's Friday. We were on our way out from the office and it was 9:17 A.M. When we got to 654 Kenmore Ave. ..... (SOUND: STEPS STOP . . . DOOR KNOCK)

SOUND: DOOR OPEN

WINNIE: Yes?

JOE: Mrs. Crocker?

WINNIE: It's Miss Crocker .... but I'm her.

JOE: Police officers.

WINNIE: Oh yeah. C'mon in.

SOUND: THE OFFICERS ENTER THE HOUSE. DOOR CLOSE BEHIND THEM.
JOE: (AS THEY ENTER) This is my partner Frank Smith ... my name's Friday.

FRANK AND WINNIE SAY HELLO.

WINNIE: Just sit down there on the couch. Move the afghan. I was laying down when you got here. Terrible thing. I just know it.

FRANK: Yes ma'am. If you'd tell us about it?

WINNIE: You just bet I will. First off .... can I get you somethin'. Maybe a cuppa coffee .... little piece of cinnamon toast?

JOE AND FRANK SAY "No thanks .... no".

WINNIE: Okay .... if you change your mind .... you just let me know.

JOE: Yes ma'am. Now if you'd tell us about this Mrs. Gillespie.

WINNIE: Hope if anything ever happens to me I get this kind of service.

FRANK: Yes ma'am. You a friend of this Mrs. Gillespie?

WINNIE: Her best. That's why I know something's happened to her.

JOE: Uh huh.

WINNIE: She wouldn't just take off like this without tellin' me. Matter of fact, she didn't tell nobody. Just all of a sudden she was gone.

JOE: If you'd start right at the beginning and tell us the whole story, it might make it easier to follow.

WINNIE: Well .... Bertha and me have been friends for years.

JOE: Bertha?

WINNIE: Yeah ... Mrs. Gillespie.
JOE: Uh huh.

WINNIE: Her and me've been friends for years. Every since her husband died and she opened up the Tea Cozy...that's the little tea shop she has.

FRANK: Yeah.

WINNIE: Nice place. She's done real good with it. All the ladies in the neighborhood go down there for afternoon tea.

WINNIE: Serves those little tiny cake rolls with a pot of tea...

WINNIE: Lady finger's. Y'know?

JOE: Yes ma'am.

WINNIE: Well, couple of days ago I went down there to see Bertha.

JOE: You know what day it was exactly?

WINNIE: Huh?

WINNIE: You know the exact date?

WINNIE: Let's see...This is Wednesday....I guess it must have been... Saturday. Yeah...that's it Saturday.

JOE: You wanna go ahead.

WINNIE: Well, I went down to the Tea Cozy...and there was the sign.

WINNIE: Right on the door. Tellin' how Bertha was sick and she'd gone away for a couple of days.

FRANK: Was she in poor health?

WINNIE: Bertha?

FRANK: Yes ma'am.

WINNIE: Bertha was as strong as an ox. Nothin' wrong with her.

WINNIE: Besides that, I saw her only Friday night. She didn't say nothin' to me about bein' sick. Not a word.

JOE: Uh huh.
That's what made me figure that there was something wrong.

For the past ten years...if there was anything on Bertha's mind...she told me about it. You just bet she did.

Isn't it possible that she just used the pretended illness as an excuse? That she just went away on a trip?

Bertha wouldn't do that.

Why do you say that?

Because she wouldn't do it. Not with Saturday comin' up.

Isn't anything in the world that could make Bertha leave.

What's happening Saturday?

Scrabble.

Beg pardon?

Scrabble. Y'know the word game?

Oh, yeah. I know what you mean.

Well, the ladies in the neighborhood have a sorts club. We meet down at the Cozy and play our tournaments.

Bertha's the champion. Hasn't been anybody that can beat her real good. Y'know....not regular.

Uh huh.

But that's why she wouldn't leave. This Saturday was her first big match outside the club. Woman from West Los Angeles was coming out here to challenge her. Bertha's been in training all week. She wouldn't just walk out on the match. I'm tellin' you, officers....there's something wrong.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scene</th>
<th>Dialogue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>JOE: Has Mrs. Gillespie any relatives in Los Angeles?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>WINNIE: No. She's got some people back east. Mississippi, I think.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>JOE: Possible that she might have left to see them?</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>WINNIE: I told you...not with the big match comin' on. Ain't nothing in the world that could keep Bertha from playin' in that. Nothin'...and you believe that.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>FRANK: Does she have any men friends?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>WINNIE: Y'mean romantic?</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>FRANK: Yes, ma'am.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>WINNIE: Well, there's Chester. But that's not what I'd call a real romance. Bertha'd go out to a movie with him once in a while. Maybe, he'd come over to the Tea Cozy of an evening, and they'd sit and watch the television...but there'd always be somebody else there. Mostly me. No...Y'couldn't say that it was any kind of a romance with Chester.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>JOE: You have his address?</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>WINNIE: You gonna talk to him?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>JOE: Yes, ma'am.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>WINNIE: Won't do no good. I already did. He don't know where Bertha is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>JOE: Can you give us his address?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>WINNIE: I suppose so, if you gotta have it...but he ain't gonna be able to tell you anything I can't.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>JOE: Uh huh. Did Mrs. Gillespie have any financial worries?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WINNIE: I should say not. She didn't make a fortune with the tea shop, but she did good.

JOE: Uh huh.

WINNIE: 'Course she had a good start.

JOE: What?

WINNIE: Bertha had a real good start. When her husband died, he left an insurance policy worth 15 thousand dollars. Cash money. Good start. That's what she opened up the Tea Cozy with.

FRANK: She have living quarters in the restaurant?

WINNIE: Yeah. Lived right in the back. Little sitting room... bedroom and a kinda pullman kitchen. Real nice. She had it all fixed up. Kinds ruffles and a lotta chinz, y'know. All period furniture. Real nice.

JOE: Where's the restaurant located?

WINNIE: Just down the street. Tea Cozy...big sign on the front... y'can't miss it. Big teapot with steam comin' out of the spout.

JOE: Uh huh. All right, Miss Crocker, if you'll give us the phone number of this Chester, we'll check on your friend.

WINNIE: You check. You'll find out what I said is true.

JOE: Yes, ma'am.

WINNIE: Somebody did somethin' to Bertha. She wouldn't just take off like this without tellin' me.

FRANK: She have any enemies in the neighborhood? Anybody that'd want to do her harm?
WINNIE: Not a soul. Not a single one. Isn't anyone who didn't
like her. Well, maybe Mrs. Rumson didn't care much for
her....but I think that was kinda a jealous thing.

JOE: What'dya mean?

WINNIE: Scrabble.

JOE: What?

WINNIE: Mrs. Rumson... Helen... she thought she could play the game.

Then when she challenged Bertha to a match, well, it was
pretty terrible. 457 to 214. Helen was pretty upset.

She tried to make out like she was a good loser...Y'know...
... kinda smiled and laughed. But I could tell... she
didn't like it at all.

JOE: Can you think of any reason why anyone would want to harm
Mrs. Gillespie?

WINNIE: Not right off, unless it was for the money.

JOE: What?

WINNIE: Last time I saw her, she had twenty-five hundred dollars
in cash.

(END SCENE 1)
JOE: 10:33 A.M. We put in a call to Missing Person's Detail and checked the name Bertha Gillespie through the files. There's been no report filed on her, and her name did not appear in the "gaga" file. We checked the name through R. and I., but she had no criminal record in Los Angeles. 10:47 A.M. We drove by the Tea Cozy restaurant. On the front door, attached with cellophane tape was a hand-lettered note reading: "Taking a short vacation. Watch for reopening." Through the glass pane, we could see the interior of the shop. Everything appeared to be in order. Frank and I checked the rear of the building, but from what we could see there was nothing out of line. 11:28 A.M. We put in a call to the missing woman's boy friend, Chester Aven. He told us that he'd talked to the Gillespie woman on the previous Friday night, but she'd appeared in good spirits and had said nothing about leaving. We checked at her bank, and found that she'd made a withdrawal from her savings account in the amount of 25 hundred dollars. This left a balance of over 12 thousand dollars in the savings account, and of 6 thousand dollars in a checking account. The manager of the branch told us that he'd spoken with Mrs. Gillespie when she'd taken the money, and that she'd told him that she was thinking of taking a short vacation. We got in touch with Miss Crocker and told her what we'd found. We asked her if she wanted to file a Missing Person's report. She said she'd wait until the end of the week, and if her friend hadn't returned by then, she'd come into the office.

(MORE)
JOE: (CONT) A month passed before we heard from her again. On the morning of Friday, August 20th, she called to tell us that she still hadn't heard from Mrs. Gillespie and asked that we conduct an investigation. She came down to the office and filled out a ___ _ 1__+ form. Frank and I drove out to the restaurant to check it. It was exactly as it had been when we had last seen it. We tried the doors and found that they were still locked. 1:43 P.M. We went back to the office.

SOUND: SQUADROOM B.G.

FRANK: (INTO PHONE) Yes sir... Uh huh. That's kinds high isn't it? Yeah. Have any of your people checked into it? Uh...

I see. Well, thanks Mr. Jones. If you find out anything, I'd appreciate you letting us know. Right. That's Michigan 5211 ...extension 2521... either Officer Frank Smith or Sergeant Joe Friday. That's right and thanks for your help. Right. G'bye.

SOUND: HANG UP.

FRANK: That finishes up the untility calls.

JOE: What've you got?

SOUND: FRANK REFERS TO NOTES UNDER

FRANK: Telephone bill for the past thirty days is just the service charge. No toll calls. Same with the electric lights.

JOE: They received payment in the last month?

FRANK: No. Telephone company says they haven't been paid in over 60 days. Says they've sent a couple of reminders. Only reason they haven't cut off service is that the bills have always been paid promptly in the past.
JOE: Uh huh.
FRANK: Checked it with the business office. Girl tells me that the bill usually runs around 10 bucks.
JOE: Possible then that the phone hasn't been used at all.
FRANK: Shapes up that way. Same with the lights. But one thing doesn't match.
JOE: What's that?
FRANK: Water bill. Checked with them... normal bill is about 4 bucks for the place.
JOE: Yeah.
FRANK: Last 60 days it's been 79 dollars.
JOE: That's a lotta water.
FRANK: Talked to one of the engineers at the company. Fella named Jones.
JOE: Uh huh.
FRANK: He tells me that about the only thing that could cause a water jump like that.
JOE: What's that?
FRANK: Been a water tap runnin' for a month.

(END SCENE 2)
JUE: 2:06 P.M. We called the bank where Mrs. Gillespie had her accounts. The head cashier told us that since the date she'd withdrawn the 2500 dollars, there'd been no deposits or withdrawals made. We telephoned the missing woman's friend, Miss Winifred Crocker. From her we got the name and address of the owner of the building where the Tea Cozy restaurant was located. Frank and I signed out of the office and drove out to see him. The address we'd been given was a large house in the Silver Lake district. We rang the bell to the front door but got no answer. We walked around to the back of the property to a large garage.

SOUND: OUTDOOR B.G. STEPS ON GRAVEL.

FRANK: If we find this guy, we can find out if she gave him any indication she was going to leave.

JOE: Yeah.

SOUND: OFF MIKE WE HEAR FOUNDING, WOODEN MALLET ON WOOD.

JOE: Sounds like there's somebody there.

FRANK: Uh huh.

SOUND: STEPS HOLD FOR A WHILE THEN STOP, WE HEAR FRANK KNOCK ON DOOR.

BEAT

SOUND: DOOR OPENS.

VIRGIL: Yeah?

JOE: Like to see Virgil Medina.

BEAT

VIRGIL: I'm him. What d'ya want?

JOE: Police officers. We'd like to check a few things with you.
1 VIRGIL: What about?
2 JOE: Might be better if we talked inside.
3 VIRGIL: I got no truck with the cops. Got none and want none.
4 You can just ask your questions from out there.
5 JOE: If that's the way you want it.
6 VIRGIL: That's the way it's gonna be. Now get your questions asked and go about your business.
8 FRANK: You own a building located at 687 Kenmore Avenue?
9 VIRGIL: Why?
10 JOE: Look Mr. Medina, we're trying to conduct an investigation.
11 We'd like to have your cooperation. If you don't want to talk here we can go downtown.
13 VIRGIL: I own the building. Why?  
14 FRANK: You have a tenant named Bertha Gillespie?
15 VIRGIL: Yeah. Why?
16 FRANK: When'd you see her last?
17 VIRGIL: 'Bout a month ago. Least that.
18 JOE: You remember the exact date?
19 VIRGIL: I dunno. Long time ago. What's all this about Bertha anyway. What're all these questions. You got something you wanna know about her...go ask her yourself. Isn't anything I can tell you she can't. Go talk to her...
23 leave me alone.
24 FRANK: Where'd you see her?
26 BEAT
26 VIRGIL: Down at the Restaurant.
27 JOE: What time of day?
JOE: Would you try to remember what date it was. It's pretty important.

VIRGIL: Wait a minute...I'll try to figure. (BEAT) Guess it must have been on a Saturday night. Yeah...I'd say it was Saturday the...10th of July.

JOE: Have you any way of being sure that's the date?

VIRGIL: Look...You come around here askin' questions. I've given you an answer. You can take it or leave it. I got now way of being sure. That's the day I think I saw her last.

FRANK: Did she seem in good spirits?

VIRGIL: What d'ya mean by that?

FRANK: Was she happy or was there something worrying her?

VIRGIL: Seemed happy to me. I didn't pay a lot of attention. I went over to see her about the lease. After I finished talkin' with her about that...I left. Didn't stay around. Usually a bunch of old hens around there. Didn't want to stay until they got there.

JOE: What time were you there?

VIRGIL: I told you...late.

JOE: Yes sir...but about what time?

VIRGIL: 10...10:15.

JOE: Did she seem to be in good health?

VIRGIL: Bertha never had a sick day in her life that I ever heard about.

JOE: How long has she been a tenant of yours?

VIRGIL: Guess it's been about 10 years. I've got the records if you want me to look it up.
JOE: She pay how rent regularly?

BEAT:

VIRGIL: I don't think it's any of your business. You wanna ask questions like that you go talk to Bertha. Don't you come around here tryin' to pry into her affairs. None of your business.

JOE: Was she a good tenant?

VIRGIL: What're you cops tryin' to find out. You come right out and tell me what you want and maybe I'll have the answer.

But I haven't got time to stand around and waste time with you. Now you tell me why you're askin' those questions or you can leave.

JOE: Mrs. Gillospie's been reported missing. We're trying to trace it.

VIRGIL: Who done that? Who says she's missing?

JOE: That's not important. We got the report, we've got to check it out.

VIRGIL: Well, whoever told you that is crazy. If Bertha's gone, there's a good reason for it. I guess she finally got fed up and left town.

JOE: What d'ay mean?

VIRGIL: She made a mint of money from that place. A regular mint.

She used to tell me that when she had enough, she was gonna just take off and see the world. Go around the whole world on a tramp steamer. She told me when she signed the last lease that she thought this'd be the last one. She ain't missing, she's just gone.

JOE: She say anything to you about leaving the last time you saw her?
VIRGIL: No, didn't have to, I talked to her about something else. I got somebody else who wants to lease the restaurant. I talked to Bertha about giving up her lease. She said it wouldn't be very long before she would. Told me that she was just about ready to quit. Probably figured that there wasn't any reason to stay around. She's like that y'know.

JOE: That right?

VIRGIL: Oh yeah. Real extremist. Does everything on an urge. She got's an idea and there ain't nothing in the world that can make her stop and think about it until it's done.

JOE: Uh huh.

VIRGIL: Like that sign in front of the place. She got to thinkin' one day and decided that she needed a big sign in front. Right off she decided on a big tea pot. That same day she called the sign people and told 'em to start on it. Didn't ever call more than one place. Took the first price they offered. Extremist. Nothin' in the middle. She's like that.

JOE: Yeah.

VIRGIL: Just decided to pack up and leave so that's what she did.

JOE: Ain't nothin' wrong with Bertha... she just left.

VIRGIL: What'ya mean?

JOE: The furniture... all the fixtures. They belong to her don't they?

VIRGIL: Yeah... guess they do.

JOE: She make any arrangements to dispose of them?
1 VIRGIL: Not to me, she didn't.
2 JOE: Wonder if you have a key to the place?
3 VIRGIL: The Tea Cozy?
4 JOE: Yes sir.
5 VIRGIL: No I don't.
6 JOE: You own the building and you don't have a key to the
7 restaurant?
8 VIRGIL: No. Had one...but I lost it. Never had another one made.
9 JOE: Why? What do you want with a key?
10 VIRGIL: We want to check the premises.
11 JOE: Far as I'm concerned...you got no right to do that. Place
12 belongs to Mrs. Gillespie. You got no right to go
13 trompin' around in there.
14 JOE: 'Fraid we're gonna have to do it.
15 VIRGIL: Then you're gonna do it without my say so.
16 JOE: If that's the way it has to be.
17 VIRGIL: I'm tellin' you. She ain't gonna like it. She ain't
18 gonna like you goin' in the place when she isn't there.
19 JOE: We'll take that up with her.
20 VIRGIL: Well, you better, cause I'm not gonna take any
21 responsibility for it.
22 JOE: We're not askin' you to, Mr. Medina.
23 VIRGIL: I'll give you this though.
24 JOE: What's that?
25 VIRGIL: You go nosin' around and you're liable to come up with
26 somethin' you ain't lookin' for.
1 JOE: Yeah. Well, thanks for your help Medina.
2 VIRGIL: Don't mention it. You just remember what I told you about
3 finding trouble when you ain't lookin' for it.
4 JOE: That doesn't often happen.
5 VIRGIL: Huh?
6 JOE: We're lookin' for it.
7 (END SCENE 3)

9 JOE: 3:14 P.M. Frank and I drove back to the Tea Cozy
10 restaurant on Kenmore Avenue. We checked the front door
11 of the place. It was locked. While Frank covered one
12 side of the building, I took the other side, looking for
13 open windows.

14 SOUND: JOE'S STEPS ON PAVEMENT, FRANK'S STEPS FADE IN, SLIGHT
15 TRAFFIC B.G.
16 FRANK: (FADE IN) How 'bout it?
17 JOE: No luck.
18 FRANK: Me neither. What d'we do?
19 JOE: Let's try to force one of the windows in back.
20 FRANK: Right.

21 SOUND: THEY WALK AROUND THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING, AS THE WALK.
22 THE TRAFFIC SOUNDS FADE TO FAR B.G. STEPS STOP?
23 JOE: I think we can get in here.
24 FRANK: Gonna break it?
25 JOE: Have to.
26 FRANK: Wait a minute Joe?
27 JOE: Huh?
28 FRANK: You hear water running? Sound like it's coming from
29 inside.
30 BEAT
JOE: Might be. Let's get in there.

FRANK: Want my gun?

JOE: No...I'll use my handcuffs. See if I can knock a hole
in the top half of the window.

FRANK: Better use your handkerchief.

JOE: Yeah.

SOUND: WE HEAR JOE TAKE HIS CUFFS FROM HIS BELT AND WRAP THE
HANDBAND AROUND HIS HAND. THEN A BEAT AND HE RAPS
THE GLASS. IT DOESN'T BREAK. PAUSE...HE HITS IT AGAIN.
THIS TIME IT CRACKS AND A FEW SMALL PIECES FALL TO THE
FLOOR INSIDE.

JOE: (AS THE GLASS BREAKS) That does it.

SOUND: HE REACHES INSIDE THE WINDOW AND UNLOCKS THE LATCH. WE
HEAR HIM SLIDE THE WINDOW UP.

JOE: I'll go on in and open the door.

FRANK: Okay...I'll meet you out in front.

JOE: Right.

FRANK: Want us to give you a hand?

JOE: (AS HE CLIMBS UP INTO THE WINDOW) No...I can make it okay.

SOUND: JOE GOES IN THROUGH THE WINDOW.

FRANK: I'll be in front.

SOUND: JOE GOES THROUGH THE WINDOW AND DROPS TO THE FLOOR. AS HE
DOES, IN THE B.G. WE HEAR THE SOUND OF WATER RUNNING IN
A TAP. JOE WALKS RAPIDLY TO THE FRONT DOOR AND WE HEAR
HIM SNAP A LOCK OPEN AND OPEN THE DOOR.

JOE: C'mon in.

SOUND: FRANK ENTERS THE STORE
FRANK: See anything?

JOE: Haven't looked yet.

SOUND: JOE AND FRANK WALK BACK INTO THE LIVING QUARTERS.

FRANK: Must be the living room.

JOE: Yeah.

FRANK: Everything looks okay here. Little dusty.


SOUND: JOE WALKS TO THE BATHROOM DOOR AND OPENS IT. AS HE DOES, THE SOUND OF RUNNING WATER COMES ON.

BEAT

JOE: Wanna turn off that water

FRANK: Yeah.

SOUND: FRANK MOVES TO THE SINK AND TURNS OFF THE WATER. HE WALKS BACK TO JOE.

FRANK: Better call the crime lab.

JOE: Yeah. Rough one.

FRANK: Looks like she put up quite a fight. Bloodstains all over the place.

JOE: Guess this is what killed her.

SOUND: FRANK MOVES A COUPLE OF STEPS.

FRANK: Butcher knife.

JOE: Uh huh. Let's find out who used it.

(END SCENE 4)
JOE: From a picture and the description we'd gotten from Winifred Crocker, we identified the victim as the missing woman, Bertha Gillespie. We put in a call for the crime lab. Lee Jones and his crew came out and went over the place. The rest of the restaurant seemed to be in order. There was no sign of a struggle of any kind except in the bathroom where the body had been found. The murder weapon, a butcher knife, was dusted for prints as was the rest of the restaurant but the partials that the crime lab came up with were worthless for classification. They would be sufficient however for comparison if we caught the killer. A search of the personal effects of the dead woman revealed no further information to aid in apprehending her killer. The twenty five hundred dollars she was known to have had when she was last seen was missing. 6:21 the men from the Crime Lab finished their investigation on the scene and the coroner's office was called. They came out and removed the body. They also locked the door and affixed the coroner's seal. 6:45 P.M.

Frank and I got to our car to go back to the office. 

SOUND: TRAFFIC B.G. CAR DOOR CLOSE. STEPS FADING IN...RUNNING.

GORDON: (LITTLE OFF) Hey...wait a minute.

JOE: Hold it Frank.

FRANK: Yeah.

SOUND: STEPS GET CLOSER

FRANK: Little kid.

GORDON: (FADING ON) You guys the cops?
1 JOE: Yeah son. What's the matter.
2 GORDON: Lotta excitement around here huh?
3 JOE: Yeah. Somethin' we can do for you?
4 GORDON: No..I figured maybe there was something I could do for you.
5 JOE: What do you mean.
6 GORDON: You know who did the murder yet?
7 JOE: Why do you say it was a murder son?
8 GORDON: I can tell you who did it.
9 (END: SCENE 5)
10 (END ACT 1)

11 GIBNEY: You are listening to Dragnet, the authentic Story of your
12 Police force in action.

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)
"DRAGNET" Radio
January 19, 1951
SECOND COMMERCIAL

1 FENN: There are good reasons why thousands of people are changing to Chesterfield every day .... Why Chesterfield is the largest selling two-way cigarette in America .... Why Chesterfield is best for me and best for you.

People these days want facts. When you want people to use your product .... you have to tell them what effect it has on people who do use it regularly. That's why a doctor has examined for almost two years -- a large group of Chesterfield smokers. Forty-five per cent of them have -- on the average -- been smoking Chesterfields for well over ten years. What is the effect on these people from smoking Chesterfield? No adverse effects to the nose, throat and sinuses .... says the doctor. Consider Chesterfield's record with these smokers .... with millions of other smokers throughout America. Another good reason for you to change to Chesterfield. Regular or king-size....Chesterfield is best for me....Best for you.

LG 0189155
The record proved that approximately 60 percent of all homicides are solved within twenty minutes after the arrival of the authorities. Two things are necessary in establishing the identity of a killer: motive and opportunity. In the present instance, we had the motive.

Twenty-five hundred dollars that the dead woman had drawn from her account was missing. However, a month had passed between the time the actual murder had taken place. And it had been discovered, ample time for the killer to cover his tracks. Now, before we could leave the scene, we had a witness who stated that he could name the killer for us. We asked the boy to get into the back seat of the police car while Frank and I questioned him.

FRANK: What's your name son?
GORDON: Gordon Erick. Kids all call me Gordy.
FRANK: Uh huh. How old are you?
GORDON: 13.

JOE: Now what's this about you bein' able to tell us who killed Mrs. Gillespie?
GORDON: I can.
FRANK: Who was it?
GORDON: Mr. Medina.
FRANK: The man who owns the building?
GORDON: Yeah... that's who I mean.
JOE: That's a pretty serious charge Gordon. You have any way to prove it?
GORDON: I guess not really prove it. But I know it's true.
JOE: How do you know?

GORDON: I just know that's all. I seen him there, seen him goin' in and out.

JOE: When was this?

GORDON: Three weeks ago. Maybe a month. But he used to go in there all the time. Argue with Mrs. Gillespie.

JOE: What do you mean by argument?

GORDON: Loud. Mr. Medina scrammin' at Mrs. Gillespie.

FRANK: You ever hear any of these arguments?

GORDON: Sure. My Mother's a friend of Mrs. Gillespie's. We just live a couple of blocks over on Dewey Street. I play over here all the time. I've heard Mr. Medina yell and yell at her.

JOE: What'd they argue about?

GORDON: Mostly about a lease or somethin'. Seems like Mr. Medina wanted Mrs. Gillespie to move out. She didn't want to. Made him pretty sore. You go talk to him and he'll tell you the same thing. About how he used to fight with her.

JOE: Alright son. Your mother ever hear any of these fights?

GORDON: Sure. You ask her... she'll tell you just the way I have.

JOE: Okay, she home now?

GORDON: Should be. Maybe she went to the store or somethin' but she should be home.

JOE: Okay, let's go Frank.
FRANK: Yeah.

SOUND: UNDER, FRANK STARTS CAR AND PUTS IT IN GEAR. IT MOVES AHWAY FROM THE CURB

GORDON: Guess this is about the most excitement we've had for a long time.

JOE: Yeah.

GORDON: Poor old Mrs. Gillespie. Sure a nice old lady. Real nice.

JOE: (GRUNTS)

GORDON: Wasn't hardly anybody didn't like her. Hardly anybody.

JOE: How 'bout Mr. Medina?

(END SCENE 6)

JOE: 7:04 P.M. we drove young Gordon Erick to his home and talked with his mother. She verified his story about the arguments between the victim and Medina. She went on to say that Medina had threatened Mrs. Gillespie saying that if she wouldn't vacate the premises, he'd take care of her. We had their statements taken and at 8:40 P.M. we went by Medina's house and asked him to accompany us downtown. He finally agreed although he was sullen and uncooperative. When we got him down to the office, we checked his name through the record bureau but found that he had no criminal record in Los Angeles. His prints were rolled and sent to Harlan Stall for comparison with those found on the murder weapon. While we waited for the results, we talked to the suspect in the squadroom.

SOUND: SQUADROOM B.G., NOT TOO MUCH ACTIVITY.
1 VIRGIL: You're gonna regret this. You know that.
2 JOE: Uh huh.
3 VIRGIL: I'm tellin you. You drag me down here with all these questions. You just wait until my lawyer gets here. He'll put a stop to all this foolishness.
4 JOE: You wanna tell us about it Medina?
5 VIRGIL: Tell you about what? How one of my tenants got herself killed? Listen...I got property all over town. Lotta tenants. If I worried about each one of 'em, I wouldn't have no time to do nothin' else.
6 FRANK: We understand you had some pretty big arguments with Mrs. Gillespie.
7 VIRGIL: Who said that? Huh...who told you that?
8 FRANK: Is it true?
9 VIRGIL: It's a lie. You bring the person in here who said it and I'll tell 'em it's a lie right to their face. You bring 'em in here.
10 JOE: We can't do that.
11 VIRGIL: Of course you can't. And y'know why? Want me to tell you?
12 JOE: Go ahead. You tell us.
13 VIRGIL: Y'can't show the person who said that because there ain't no such person. Isn't anybody in the world who says I argue with Bertha.
14 FRANK: You try to get her to break her lease with you?
15 VIRGIL: That's none of your business. I told you before. I'm not about to answer a lot of questions that aren't none of your concern.
JOE: Couple of things we better set you straight on Mr. You're a suspect in a murder. We're aren't here to play games, and if you're smart, you're gonna realize that and give us some straight answers.

VIRGIL: You just wait until my lawyer get's here, he'll take care of all this. And he's gonna fix you for takin' my fingerprints. I still don't think you had any right to do that...no right at all.

JOE: What'd you do with the money you took?

VIRGIL: What money?

JOE: The 2500 dollars, you took from Mrs. Gillespie?

VIRGIL: I didn't take no money from her. I got enough money myself.

JOE: We got somebody who says they saw you in the place after she was killed. How 'bout that?

VIRGIL: Same person who told you about the arguments?

JOE: Might be.

VIRGIL: I told you before...you bring 'em in here. You bring 'em in and stand 'em right there and I'll tell 'em to their faces they're dirty vicious liars. I don't know why'd they tell you a lie like that. They can't know how much trouble they're gettin' me into. They can't know. Terrible thing to say about anybody.

JOE: (GRUNTS)
VIRGIL: Especially about me and Bertha. We was friends. Been friends for a long time. We had maybe a few words over

THE VICTIM HIS NEVER NO RIGHTS. NEVER.

VIRGIL: Especially about me and Bertha. We was friends. Been friends for a long time. We had maybe a few words over

THE VICTIM HIS NEVER NO RIGHTS. NEVER.

SOUND: PHONE RING

JOE: I'll take it.

SOUND: COUPLE OF STEPS AND BUTTON PUNCHED. PHONE LIFTED.


SOUND: JOE HANGS UP THE PHONE, TAKES A COUPLE OF STEPS BACK TO MEDINA.

JOE: You wanna tells us why you killed her, Medina?

VIRGIL: What're you talkin' about?

JOE: That was our fingerprint man. They checked your prints against the ones we found on the murder knife. They match perfectly.

VIRGIL: They're sure are they?

JOE: They're sure.

VIRGIL: (BEGIN TO CRY) I didn't mean to do it. I really didn't mean to. Just all of a sudden, I got so mad. Her standing there smilin'. You should have known her. She had a way of smilin' at you and you knew there wasn't any thing you could do. Just stand there smilin'. I didn't mean to kill her though. You gotta believe that. I didn't mean to kill her.
1 FRANK: Wanna tell us how it happened?
2 VIRGIL: You got a cigarette?
3 FRANK: Yeah... here y'go.
4 SOUND: HE GIVES VIRGIL A CIGARETTE.
5 VIRGIL: Thanks.
6 FRANK: Match. (NO QUESTION)
7 SOUND: LIGHT BUSINESS.
8 VIRGIL: (LIGHTS CIGARETTE AND TAKES LONG DRAG.. SLOW EXHALE.) I had a chance to lease the place to some other people.
9 More money. I tried to get her out.
10 JOE: Go ahead.
11 VIRGIL: I tried to talk to her. Tried to get her to retire. She had enough money. She didn't ever have to worry. All I wanted her to do was to get out. But she wouldn't. Said I'd signed a lease with her and she was gonna keep it.
12 FRANK: How much difference was there between what she was payin' and what the new people were gonna give you?
13 BEAT
14 VIRGIL: Fifty dollars, a month.
15 JOE: You killed a woman for that?
16 VIRGIL: You don't understand. You gotta try. It's important. If you knew Bertha... you'd know why I did it. Y' see... I went to her. I told her I'd give her a lease on another piece of property. Give it to her at less money. I was tryin' to be fair. You can see that. I wanted to be fair.
JOE: Uh huh.

VIRGIL: That Saturday night. I decided to have it out with her. I went over to talk. Try to convince her. But she wouldn't listen. She just wouldn't listen. I tried everything to make her listen. But she wouldn't. She just stood there and told me that she had the lease and that she was goin' to keep it. Just stood there with that superior smile of hers...like she knew it all. Makes you want to hit her as hard as you could. If you knew her you'd see what I mean. You'd see.

FRANK: Did you take the money?

VIRGIL: Yes. I don't know why I did that. Just all of a sudden, I got so mad at her, I picked up the knife and killed her. I didn't mean to. As soon as I saw her I was sorry.

Real sorry. Then I got scared. I was afraid of what I'd done and I tried to make it look like a robber had come in. That's the only reason I took the money. Just to make it look like a robber had come in.

JOE: Did you turn the water on?

VIRGIL: I guess so. I don't remember too good. I washed my hands after I'd killed her. I remember that. I guess I did leave the water on. I guess I did.

JOE: Wanna get the stenographer, Frank?

FRANK: Yeah.

SOUND: FRANK GETS UP AND LEAVES THE ROOM. DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE

BEHIND HIM
JOE: Here...wanna 'nother cigarette?

VIRGIL: Yes please.

SOUND: HE TAKES A CIGARETTE FROM THE PACKAGE...MATCH BUSINESS

VIRGIL: If you'd seen the way she thought she was so much better than anybody else, you'd know.

JOE: That right?

VIRGIL: Sure. All those old hens cluckin' around her. All the time buildin' her up. Made her feel superior. Real superior.

JOE: Uh huh.

VIRGIL: If she'd just moved out. If she'd just let me have the place. It all would have been alright. If she'd just done that. (HE TAKES A DRAG AND EXHALES) That's a lot of money y'know...fifty dollars a month. That's what I stood to make on the deal.

JOE: You're gonna get a lot more'n that.

MUSIC: SIGNATURE
FENN: (EASILY) The story you have just heard is true. The names were changed to protect the innocent.

GIBNEY: On November 10th, trial was held in Department 97, Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the county of Los Angeles. In a moment, the results of that trial.

FENN: Now, here is our star, Jack Webb.

WEBB: (COMMERCIAL INSERT)
1 FENN: Now, here is our star - Jack Webb.
2 WEBB: Thank you, George Fenneman. Friends, we've told you that Chesterfield is the best cigarette for you to smoke. To me, Chesterfield's record with people who do smoke them regularly, backs up that statement. Chesterfields are best because they're highest in quality...low in nicotine....because they smoke mild and they're really satisfying. I wish you'd give 'em a try and see for yourself. America's most popular two-way cigarette.....regular or king-size Chesterfield. Best for me....Best for you.
GIBNEY: Virgil Emil Medina was tried and convicted of murder in the second degree and received sentence as prescribed by law. Murder in the second degree is punishable by imprisonment in the state penitentiary for a period of from five years to life.
HARRISON: You have just heard Dragnet -- a series of authentic
cases from official files. Technical advice comes from the
office of Chief of Police, W.H. Parker, Los Angeles Police
Department. Technical advisors: Captain Jack Donohoe.
Sgt. Marty Wynn, Sgt. Vance Brasher. Heard tonight were:
Ben Alexander


Hal Gitney speaking.

MUSIC: THEME UNDER...CONTINUES

FENN: Watch an entirely new Dragnet case history each week on
your local NBC Television station. Please check your
newspapers for the day and time. (BEAT) Chesterfield has
brought you Dragnet, transcribed, from Los Angeles.

(FATIMA HITCH HIKE)
"DRAGNET" Radio
January 19, 1954
L & M FILTERS - 37 Seconds

ANNCR: Filter tip smokers -- this is it! L & M Filters -- the one filter cigarette with plenty of good taste .... And a pure, non-mineral filter. You get effective filtration .... because only the L & M Filter contains alpha cellulose .... entirely pure .... harmless to health. L & M Filters give you much more flavor ... much less nicotine. It's the light and mild smoke. Yes, this is it. As Fredric March puts it .... Quote: L & M Filters are just what the doctor ordered .... never had a filter cigarette that tasted so good, and a filter that does the job so well. Try them. Unquote. Today .... Buy L & M Filters.

28/70

29/05