



DRAGNET

CHESTERFIELD #63 NBC #231 RELEASE DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1954

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ENGINEER:	RAOUL MURPHY	SGT. VANCE BRASHER:	L.A.P.D.
ANNCR. #1	GEORGE FENNEMAN	CAPT. JACK DONOHUE:	L.A.P.D.
ANNCR. #2	HAL GIBNEY, NBC		
CASE:	"THE BIG BILL"		

Cast & Personnel Agency

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

RECORDING: Thursday, December 24, 1953

CAST AND SOUND: 9:30 - 11:30 P.M.

EDITING: T.B.A.

SCORING: T.B.A.

ORCHESTRA:

ANNCRS: (COMMERCIAL)

BROADCAST: 6:00 - 6:30 PM -- STUDIO 1 --

"THE BIG BILL"

C A S T

SGT. JOE FRIDAY JACK WEBB
OFF. FRANK SMITH BEN ALEXANDER
WINIFRED VIRGINIA GREGG
VIRGIL RALPH MOODY
GORDON

DRAGNET
"THE BIG BILL"
NBC # 231 CHESTERFIELD #63
BROADCAST: JANUARY 19, 1954

-1-

- 1 MUSIC: DRAGNET SIGNATURE
- 2 FENN: (EASILY) Ladies and gentlemen, the story you are
3 about to hear is true. The names have been changed
4 to protect the innocent.
- 5 MUSIC: DRUM ROLL UNDER
- 6 GIENEY: Dragnet is brought to you by Chesterfield, made by
7 Liggett and Myers, first major tobacco company to
8 give you a complete line of quality cigarettes.
- 9 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR:
- 10 FENN: (EASILY) You're a detective sergeant. You're 30
11 assigned to Homicide Detail. An elderly woman in your
12 city has disappeared. There's no lead to where she's
13 gone, or why she left. Your job find her.
- 14 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR:

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)

"DRAGNET" Radio
January 19, 1954

FIRST COMMERCIAL

45

1 FENN: ~~Dragnet~~ is brought to you by Chesterfield made by
2 Liggett & Myers -- whose research laboratory in Durham,
3 North Carolina is acknowledged the most modern and best
4 equipped for tobacco research. Enjoy your choice of 60
5 these three brands ~~tested~~ and approved by thirty
6 years of scientific tobacco research L & M Filters --
7 newest, best and purest filter-tip cigarettes.
8 Fatima -- with tips of perfect cork
9 And America's most popular two-way cigarette..... regular
10 and king-size ~~Chesterfield~~.

1/23

1 MUSIC: THEME

2 GIBNEY: Dagnet, the documented drama of an actual crime. For
 3 the next thirty minutes, in cooperation with the Los ¹³⁰
 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
 7 beginning to end ... from crime to punishment
 8 Dagnet is the story of your police force in action.

9 MUSIC: UP TO SEMI BUFTON AND FADE ON SUSTAINED CHORD.

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

12 JOE: It was Wednesday, July 14th. It was hot in Los Angeles.
 13 We were working the day watch out of Homicide Detail. ²¹⁰⁰
 14 My partner's Frank Smith. The boss is Captain Lohrman.
 15 My name's Friday. We were on our way out from the
 16 office and it was 9:47 A.M. when we got to 654
 17 Kenmore Ave. (SOUND: STEPS STOP .. DOOR KNOCK)

18 SOUND: DOOR OPEN

19 WINNIE: Yes?

20 JOE: Mrs. Crocker?

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

22 JOE: Police officers.

23 WINNIE: Oh yeah. C'mon in.

24 SOUND: THE OFFICERS ENTER THE HOUSE. DOOR CLOSE BEHIND THEM.

1 JOE: (AS THEY ENTER) This is my partner Frank Smith ... my
2 name's Friday.
3 FRANK AND WINNIE SAY HELLO.
4 WINNIE: Just sit down there on the couch. Move the afgan. I
5 was laying down when you got here. Terrible thing. I
6 just know it.
7 FRANK: Yes ma'am. If you'd tell us about it? 230
8 WINNIE: You just bet I will. First off can I get you
9 somethin'. Maybe a cuppa coffee little piece of
10 cinnimon toast?
11 JOE AND FRANK SAY "No thanks no".
12 WINNIE: Okay if you change your mind you just let me
13 know.
14 JOE: Yes ma'am. Now if you'd tell us about this Mrs.
15 Gillespie.
16 WINNIE: Hope if anything ever happens to me I get this kind of
17 service.
18 FRANK: Yes ma'am. You a friend of this Mrs. Gillespie?
19 WINNIE: Her best. That's why I know something's happened to
20 her.
21 JOE: Uh huh.
22 WINNIE: She wouldn't just take off like this without tellin' me.
23 Matter of fact, she didn't tell nobody. Just all of a
24 sudden she was gone.
25 JOE: If you'd start right at the beginning and tell us the
26 whole story, ~~it might make it easier to follow.~~
27 WINNIE: Well Bertha and me have been friends for years.
28 JOE: Bertha?
29 WINNIE: Yeah ... Mrs. Gillespie.

1 JOE: Uh huh.

2 WINNIE: Her and me've been friends for years. Every since her
3 husband died and she opened up the Tea Cozy...that's the
4 little tea shop she has. 3/00

5 FRANK: Yeah.

6 WINNIE: Nice place. She's done real good with it. All the ladies
7 in the neighborhood go down there for afternoon tea.
8 Serves those little tiny cake rolls with a pot of tea...
9 Lady finger's. Y'know?

10 JOE: Yes ma'am.

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

12 JOE: You know what day it was exactly?

13 WINNIE: Huh?

14 JOE: You know the exact date?

15 WINNIE: Let's see...This is Wednesday....I guess it must have
16 been ... Saturday. Yeah..that's it Saturday. 3/30

17 JOE: You wanna go ahead.

18 WINNIE: Well, I went down to the Tea Cozy...and there was the sign.
19 Right on the door. Tellin' how Bertha was sick and she'd
20 gone away for a couple of days.

21 FRANK: Was she in poor health?

22 WINNIE: Bertha?

23 FRANK: Yes ma'am.

24 WINNIE: Bertha was as strong as an ox. Nothin' wrong with her.
25 Besides that, I saw her only Friday night. She didn't
26 say nothin' to me about bein' sick. Not a word.

27 JOE: Uh huh.

1 WINNIE: That's what made me figure that there was something wrong
2 For the past ten years...if there was anything on Bertha's
3 mind...she told me about it. You just bet she did. 4/100
4 JOE: Isn't it possible that she just used the pretended
5 illness as an excuse? That she just went away on a trip?
6 WINNIE: Bertha wouldn't do that.
7 JOE: Why do you say that?
8 WINNIE: Because she wouldn't do it. Not with Saturday comin' up.
9 Isn't anything in the world that could make Bertha leave.
10 FRANK: What's happening Saturday?
11 WINNIE: Scrabble.
12 FRANK: Beg pardon?
13 WINNIE: Scrabble. Y'know the word game?
14 FRANK: Oh, yeah. I know what you mean.
15 WINNIE: Well, the ladies in the neighborhood have a sorta club.
16 We meet down at the Cozy and play our tournaments. 4/100
17 Bertha's the champion. Hasn't been anybody that can beat
18 her real good. Y'know....not regular.
19 FRANK: Uh huh.
20 WINNIE: But that's why she wouldn't leave. This Saturday was her
21 first big match outside the club. Women from West Los
22 Angeles was coming out here to challenge her. Bertha's
23 been in training all week. She wouldn't just walk out on
24 the match. I'm tellin' you, officers....there's
25 something wrong.

1 JOE: Has Mrs. Gillespie any relatives in Los Angeles?
2 WINNIE: No. She's got some people back east. Mississippi, I think
3 JOE: Possible that she might have left to see them?
4 WINNIE: I told you...not with the big match comin' on. Ain't ^{5/100}
5 nothing in the world that could keep Bertha from playin'
6 in that. Nothin'....and you believe that.
7 FRANK: Does she have any men friends?
8 WINNIE: Y'mean romantic?
9 FRANK: Yes, ma'am.
10 WINNIE: Well, there's Chester. But that's not what I'd call a
11 real romance. Bertha'd go out to a movie with him once
12 in a while. Maybe, he'd come over to the Tea Cozy of an
13 evening, and they'd sit and watch the television....but
14 there'd always be somebody else there. Mostly me. No...
15 Y'couldn't say that it was any kind of a romance with
16 Chester. ^{5/30}
17 JOE: You have his address?
18 WINNIE: You gonna talk to him?
19 JOE: Yes, ma'am.
20 WINNIE: Won't do no good. I already did. He don't know where
21 Bertha is.
22 JOE: Can you give us his address?
23 WINNIE: I suppose so, if you gotta have it...but he ain't gonna
24 be able to tell you anything I can't.
25 JOE: Uh huh. Did Mrs. Gillespie have any financial worries?

1 WINNIE: I should say not. She didn't make a fortune with the tea
2 shop, but she did good.

3 JOE: Uh huh.

4 WINNIE: 'Course she had a good start.

5 JOE: What?

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

10 FRANK: She have living quarters in the restaurant?

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

15 JOE: Where's the restaurant located?

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

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

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

22 JOE: Yes, ma'am.

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

25 FRANK: She have any enemies in the neighborhood? Anybody that'd
26 want to do her harm?

1 WINNIE: Not a soul. Not a single one. Isn't anyone who didn't
2 like her. Well, maybe Mrs. Ruman didn't care much for
3 her....but I think that was kinda a jealous thing.
4 JOE: What'dya mean? 6/00
5 WINNIE: Scrabble.
6 JOE: What?
7 WINNIE: Mrs. Ruman...Helen...she thought she could play the game.
8 Then when she challenged Bertha to a match, well, it was
9 pretty terrible. 457 to 214. Helen was pretty upset.
10 She tried to make out like she was a good loser...Y'know..
11 ..kinda smiled and laughed. But I could tell...she
12 didn't like it at all. 4/30
13 JOE: Can you think of any reason why anyone would want to harm
14 Mrs. Gillespie?
15 WINNIE: Not right off, unless it was for the money.
16 JOE: What?
17 WINNIE: Last time I saw her, she had twenty-five hundred dollars
18 in cash.
19 (END SCENE 1) 6/40

1 JOE: 10:33 A.M. We put in a call to Missing Person's Detail and
2 checked the name Bertha Gillespie through the files.
3 There's been no report filed on her, and her name did not
4 appear in the "gaga" file. We checked the name through
5 R. and I., but she had no criminal record in Los Angeles. 7/100
6 10:47 A.M. We drove by the Tea Cozy restaurant. On the
7 front door, attached with cellophane tape was a hand-lettered
8 note reading; "Taking a short vacation. Watch for reopening"
9 Through the glass pane we could see the interior of the
10 shop. Everything appeared to be in order. Frank and I
11 checked the rear of the building, but from what we could see
12 there was nothing out of line. 11:28 A.M. We put in a call
13 to the missing woman's boy friend, Chester Aven. He told us
14 that he'd talked to the Gillespie woman on the previous
15 Friday night, but she'd appeared in good spirits and had
16 said nothing about leaving. We checked at her bank, and 7/30
17 found that she'd made a withdrawal from her saving's account
18 in the amount of 25 hundred dollars. This left a balance of
19 over 12 thousand dollars in the saving's account, and of
20 6 thousand dollars in a checking account. The manager of
21 the branch told us that he'd spoken with Mrs. Gillespie
22 when she'd taken the money, and that she'd told him that she
23 was thinking of taking a short vacation. We got in touch
24 with Miss Crocker and told her what we'd found. We asked
25 her if she wanted to file a Missing Person's report. She
26 said she'd wait until the end of the week, and if her friend
27 hadn't returned by then, she'd come into the office.

(MORE)

8/10-10-

1 JOE: A month passed before we heard from her again. On the
(CONT) morning of Friday, August 20th, she called to tell us that
2 she still hadn't heard from Mrs. Gillespie and asked that
3 we conduct an investigation. She came down to the office
4 and filled out a 316 form. Frank and I drove out
5 to the restaurant to check it. It was exactly as it had
6 been when we had last seen it. We tried the doors and
7 found that they were still locked. 1:43 P.M. We went back
8 to the office.

10 SOUND: SQUADROOM B.G.

11 FRANK: (INTO PHONE) Yes sir....Uh huh. That's kinda high isn't
12 it? Yeah. Have any of your people checked into it? ~~uh~~
13 ~~huh~~. I see. Well, thanks Mr. Jones. If you find out *8/30*
14 anything, I'd appreciate you letting us know. Right.
15 That's Michigan 5211 ...extension 2521...either Officer
16 Frank Smith or Sergeant Joe Friday. That's right and
17 thanks for your help. Right. G'bye.

18 SOUND: HANG UP.

19 FRANK: That finishes up the untillity calls.

20 JOE: What've you got?

21 SOUND: FRANK REFERS TO NOTES UNDER

22 FRANK: Telephone bill for the past thirty days is just the
23 service charge. No toll calls. Same with the electric
24 lights. *9/10*

25 JOE: They recieved payment in the last month?

26 FRANK: ~~No~~. Telephone company says they haven't been paid in over
27 60 days. Says they've sent a couple of reminders. Only
28 reason they haven't cut off service is that the bills have
29 always been paid promptly in the past.

1 JOE: Uh huh.
2 FRANK: Checked it with the business office. Girl tells me that
3 the bill usually runs around 10 bucks.
4 JOE: Possible then that the phone hasn't been used at all.
5 FRANK: Shapes up that way. Same with the lights. But one thing
6 doesn't match.
7 JOE: What's that?
8 FRANK: Water bill. Checked with them...normal bill is about 4
9 bucks for the place.
10 JOE: Yeah.
11 FRANK: Last 60 days it's been 79 dollars.
12 JOE: That's a lotta water. 9/30
13 FRANK: Talked to one of the ~~engineers~~ at the company. Fella
14 named Jones.
15 JOE: Uh huh.
16 FRANK: He tells me that about the only thing that could cause a
17 water jump like that.
18 JOE: What's that.
19 FRANK: Been a water tap runnin' for a month.
20 (END SCENE 2)

1 JOE: 2:06 P.M. We called the bank where Mrs. Gillespie had her
2 accounts. The head cashier told us that since the date
3 she'd withdrawn the 2500 dollars, there'd been no deposits
4 or withdrawals made. We telephoned the missing woman's
5 friend, Miss Winifred Crocker. From her we got the name
6 and address of the owner of the building where the Tea ^{rd/00}
7 Cozy restaurant was located. Frank and I signed out of
8 the office and drove out to see him. The address we'd
9 been given was a large house in the Silver Lake district.
10 We rang the bell to the front door but got no answer. We
11 walked around to the back of the property to a large
12 garage.
13 SOUND: OUTDOOR B.G. STEPS ON GRAVEL.
14 FRANK: If we find this guy, we can find out if she gave him any
15 indication she was going to leave.
16 JOE: Yeah.
17 SOUND: OFF MIKE WE HEAR POUNDING. WOODEN Mallet ON WOOD.
18 JOE: Sounds like there's somebody there.
19 FRANK: Uh huh.
20 SOUND: STEPS HOLD FOR A WHILE THEN STOP. WE HEAR FRANK KNOCK ON
21 DOOR.
22 BEAT
23 SOUND: DOOR OPENS.
24 VIRGIL: Yeah?
25 JOE: Like to see Virgil Medina.
26 BEAT
27 VIRGIL: I'm him. What d'ya want?
28 JOE: Police officers. We'd like to check a few things with you.

10/30

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
7 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
12 talk here we can go down town.
13 VIRGIL: I own the building. Why? 11/50
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
20 anyway. What're all these questions. You got something
21 you wanna know about her...go ask her yourself. Isn't
22 anything I can tell you she can't. Go talk to her...
23 leave me alone.
24 FRANK: Where'd you see her?
25 BEAT
26 VIRGIL: Down at the Restaurant.
27 JOE: What time of day?
28 VIRGIL: Night. Night time.

1 JOE: Would you try to remember what date it was. It's pretty
2 important.

3 VIRGIL: Wait a minute...I'll try to figure. (BEAT) ~~Guess~~ it must ^{11/30}
4 have been on a Saturday night. Yeah...I'd say it was
5 Saturday the....10th of July.

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

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

10 FRANK: Did she seem in good spirits?

11 VIRGIL: What d'ya mean by that?

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

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

18 JOE: What time were you there?

19 VIRGIL: I told you...late.

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

21 VIRGIL: 10...10:15.

22 JOE: Did she seem to be in good health?

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

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

26 VIRGIL: Guess it's been about 10 years. I've got the records if
27 you want me to look it up.

1 JOE: She pay her rent regularly?

2 BEAT:

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

7 JOE: Was she a good tenant?

8 VIRGIL: What're you cops tryin' to find out. You come right out
9 and tell me what you want and maybe I'll have the answer.
10 But I haven't got time to stand around and waste time
11 with you. Now you tell me why you're askin' these
12 questions or you can leave.

13 JOE: Mrs. Gillespie's been reported missing. We're trying to
14 trace it.

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

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

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

21 JOE: What d'ay mean?

22 VIRGIL: She made a mint of money from that place. A regular mint.
23 She used to tell me that when she had enough, she was
24 gonna just take off and see the world. Go around the 12/30
25 whole world on a tramp steamer. She told me when she
26 signed the last lease that she thought this'd be the last
27 one. She ain't missing..she's just gone.

28 JOE: She say anything to you about leaving the last time you
29 saw her?

1 VIRGIL: No, didn't have to. I talked to her about something else.
2 I got somebody else who wants to lease the restaurant. I
3 talked to Bertha about giving up her lease. She said it
4 wouldn't be very long before she would. Told me that she
5 was just about ready to quit. Probably figured that there
6 wasn't any reason to stay around. She's like that y'know.

7 JOE: That right?

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

11 JOE: Uh huh.

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

19 JOE: Yeah.

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

21 Ain't nothin' wrong with Bertha... she just left.

22 JOE: She say anything to you about the fixtures, in the place?

23 VIRGIL: What' dya mean?

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

26 VIRGIL: Yeah...guess they do.

27 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 Why? What do you want with a key?
10 JOE: We want to check the premises. 13100
11 VIRGIL: 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.

13/30

1 JOE: Yeah Well, thanks for your help Medina. .
2 VIRGIL: Don't mention it. You just remember what I told you about
3 findin' 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)
8 JOE: 3:14 P.M. Frank and I drove back to the Tea Cozy
9 restuarant on Kenmore Avenue. We checked the front door
10 of the place. It was locked. While Frank covered one
11 side of the building, I took the other side, looking for
12 open windows.
13
14 SOUND: JOE'S STEPS ON PAVEMENT. FRANK'S STEPS FADE IN. SLIGHT
15 TRAFFIC B.G.
16 FRANK: (FADING 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

14/100

1 JOE: Might be. Let's get in there.

2 FRANK: Want my gun?

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

5 FRANK: Better use your handkerchief.

6 JOE: Yeah.

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

12 JOE: (AS THE GLASS BREAKS) ~~That~~ does it. 14130

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

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

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

17 JOE: Right.

18 ~~FRANK: want me to give you a hand?~~

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

20 SOUND: JOE GOES IN THROUGH THE WINDOW.

21 FRANK: I'll be in front.

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

26 JOE: C'mon in.

27 SOUND: FRANK ENTERS THE STORE

1 FRANK: See anything?
2 JOE: Haven't looked yet.
3 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK WALK BACK INTO THE LIVING QUARTERS.
4 FRANK: Must be the living room.
5 JOE: Yeah. 15/100
6 FRANK: Everything looks okay here. Little dusty.
7 JOE: Uh huh. Water's running someplace. Sounds like it's from
8 over here.
9 SOUND: JOE WALKS TO THE BATHROOM DOOR AND OPENS IT. AS HE DOES,
10 THE SOUND OF RUNNING WATER COMES ON.
11 BEAT
12 JOE: Wanna turn off that water
13 FRANK: Yeah.
14 SOUND: FRANK MOVES TO THE SINK AND TURNS OFF THE WATER. HE WALKS
15 BACK TO JOE.
16 FRANK: Better call the crime lab.
17 JOE: Yeah. Rough one.
18 FRANK: Looks like she put up quite a fight. Bloodstains all
19 over the place.
20 JOE: Guess this is what killed her.
21 SOUND: FRANK MOVES A COUPLE OF STEPS. 15/30
22 FRANK: Butcher knife.
23 ~~JOE: Uh huh. Let's find out who used it.~~
24 (END SCENE 4)

1 JOE: From a picture and the description we'd gotten from
2 Winifred Crocker, we identified the victim as the missing
3 woman, Bertha Gillespie. We put in a call for the crime
4 lab. Lee Jones and his crew came out and went over the
5 place. The rest of the restaurant seemed to be in order.
6 There was no sign of a struggle of any kind except in the
7 bathroom where the body had been found. The murder weapon,
8 a butcher knife, was dusted for prints as was the rest
9 of the restaurant but the partials that the crime lab
10 came up with were worthless for classification. They
11 would be sufficient however for comparison if we caught
12 the killer. A search of the personal effects of the dead
13 woman revealed no further information to aid in
14 apprehending her killer. The twenty five hundred dollars
15 she was known to have had when she was last seen was
16 missing. 6:21 the men from the Crime Lab finished their
17 investigation on the scene and the coroners office was
18 called. They came out and removed the body. They also
19 locked the door and affixed the coroners seal. 6:45 P.M.
20 Frank and I got to our car to go back to the office.

16/00

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

16/30

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

23 JOE: Hold it Frank.

24 FRANK: Yeah.

25 SOUND: STEPS GET CLOSER

26 FRANK: Little kid.

27 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 d'ya 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.

16/52

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)

"DRAGNET" Radio
January 19, 1954

SECOND COMMERCIAL

17/07

1 FENN: There are good reasons why thousands of people are
2 changing to Chesterfield every day Why Chesterfield
3 is the largest selling two-way cigarette in America....
4 Why Chesterfield is best for me and best for you. 17/15
5 People these days want facts. When you want people to
6 use your product you have to tell them what effect
7 it has on people who do use it regularly. That's why a
8 doctor has examined for almost two years -- a large group
9 of Chesterfield smokers. Forty-five per cent of them 17/30
10 have -- on the average -- been smoking Chesterfields for
11 well over ten years. What is the effect on these people
12 from smoking Chesterfield? No adverse effects to the
13 nose, throat and sinuses says the doctor. Consider
14 Chesterfield's record with these smokers with 17/45
15 millions of other smokers throughout America. Another
16 good reason for you to change to Chesterfield. Regular
17 or king-size....Chesterfield is best for me....Best for
18 you.

18/07

1 JOE: The record proved that approximately 60 percent of all
2 homicides are solved within twenty minutes after the
3 arrival of the authorities. Two things are necessary in
4 establishing the identity of a killer. Motive and
5 opportunity. In the present instance, we had the motive.
6 Twenty-five hundred dollars that the dead woman had drawn
7 from her account was missing. However, a month had passed
8 between the time the actual murder had taken place. And
9 it had been discovered, ample time for the killer to
10 cover his tracks. Now, before we could leave the scene,
11 we had a witness who stated that he could name the killer
12 for us. We asked the boy to get into the back seat of
13 the police car while Frank and I questioned him.

14 FRANK: What's your name son?

15 GORDON: Gordon Erick. Kids all call me Gordy.

16 FRANK: Uh huh. How old are you?

17 GORDON: 13.

18 JOE: Now what's this about you bein' able to tell us who
19 killed Mrs. Gillespie?

20 GORDON: I can.

21 JOE: Who was it?

22 GORDON: Mr. Medina.

23 FRANK: The man who owns the building?

24 GORDON: Yeah.....that's who I mean.

25 JOE: That's a pretty serious charge Gordon. You have any way
26 to prove it?

27 GORDON: I guess not really prove it. But I know it's true.

18/30

19/00

1 JOE: How do you know?
2 GORDON: I just know that's all. I seen him there. Seen him goin'
3 in and out.
4 JOE: When was this?
5 GORDON: Three weeks ago. Maybe a month. But he used to go in
6 there all the time. Argue with Mrs. Gillespie.
7 JOE: What do you mean by argument?
8 GORDON: Loud. Mr. Medina screamin' at Mrs. Gillespie. 19/30
9 FRANK: You ever hear any of these arguments?
10 GORDON: Sure. My Mother's a friend of Mrs. Gillespie's. We just
11 live a couple of blocks over on Dewey Street. I play over
12 here all the time. I've heard Mr. Medina yell and yell
13 at her.
14 JOE: What'd they argue about?
15 GORDON: Mostly about a lease or somethin'. Seems like Mr.
16 Medina wanted Mrs. Gillespie to move out. She didn't
17 want to. Made him pretty sore. You go talk to him and
18 he'll tell you the same thing. About how he used to
19 fight with her.
20 JOE: Alright son. Your mother ever hear any of these fights? 20/00
21 GORDON: Sure. You ask her....she'll tell you just the way I have.
22 JOE: Okay, she home now?
23 GORDON: Should be. Maybe she went to the store or somethin' but
24 she should be home.
25 JOE: Okay. Let's go Frank.

1 FRANK: Yeah.

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

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

6 JOE: Yeah.

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

9 JOE: (GRUNTS)

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

11 JOE: How 'bout Mr. Medina? 20/00

12 (END SCENE 6)

13 JOE: 7:04 P.M. we drove young Gordon Erick to his home and
14 talked with his mother. She verified his story about the
15 arguments between the victim and Medina. She went on to
16 say that Medina had threatened Mrs. Gillespie saying that
17 if she wouldn't vacate the premises, he'd take care of her.
18 We had their statements taken and at 8:40 P.M. we went
19 by Medina's house and asked him to accompany us downtown.
20 He finally agreed although he was sullen and
21 uncooperative. When we got him down to the office, we
22 checked his name through the record bureau but found the 21/00
23 that he had no criminal record in Los Angeles. His prints
24 were rolled and sent to Harlan Stall for comparison with
25 those found on the murder weapon. While we waited for the
26 results, we talked to the suspect in the squadroom.

27 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
4 questions. You just wait until my lawyer get's here. He'll
5 put a stop to all this foolishness.

6 JOE: You wanna tell us about it Medina?

7 VIRGIL: Tell you about what? How one of my tenants got herself
8 killed? Listen..I got property all over town. Lotta
9 tenants. If I worried about each one of 'em, I wouldn't
10 have no time to do nothin' else.

11 FRANK: We understand you had some pretty big arguments with Mrs.
12 Gillespie.

13 VIRGIL: Who said that? Huh...who told you that?

14 FRANK: Is it true?

15 VIRGIL: It's a lie. You bring the person in here who said it and
16 I'll tell 'em it's a lie right to their face. You bring
17 'em in here.

18 JOE: We can't do that.

19 VIRGIL: Of course you can't. And y'know why? Want me to tell you?

20 JOE: Go ahead. You tell us.

21 VIRGIL: Y'can't show the person who said that because there ain't
22 no such person. Isn't anybody in the world who says I argue
23 with Bertha.

24 FRANK: You try to get her to break her lease with you?

25 VIRGIL: That's none of your business. I told you before. I'm not
26 about to answer a lot of questions that aren't none of your
27 concern.

21/30

1 JOE: Couple of things we better set you straight on Mr. You're
2 a suspect in a murder. We're aren't here to play games,
3 and if you're smart, you're gonna realize that and give
4 us some straight answers.

5 BEAT

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

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

11 VIRGIL: What money?

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

13 VIRGIL: I didn't take no money from her. I got enough money myself.
14 I don't have to take none from her.

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

17 VIRGIL: Same person who told you about the arguments?

18 JOE: Might be.

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

25 JOE: (GRUNTS)

1 VIRGIL: Especially about me and Bertha. We was friends. Been
2 friends for a long time. We had maybe a few words over
3 ~~the years. But never no fights. Never.~~

4 SOUND: PHONE RING

5 JOE: I'll take it.

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

7 JOE: (INTO PHONE) Homicide Friday, yeah Harlan. Uh huh. How
8 many? Yeah. Okay. Thanks.

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

11 BEAT

12 JOE: You wanna tells us why you killed her, Medina? 22/30

13 VIRGIL: What're you talkin' about?

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

17 BEAT

18 VIRGIL: They're sure are they?

19 JOE: They're sure.

20 BEAT

21 VIRGIL: (BEGINS TO CRY) I didn't mean to do it. I really didn't
22 mean to. Just all of a sudden, I got so mad. Her standing
23 there smilin'. You should have known her. She had a way of
24 smilin' at you and y'knew there wasn't any thing you could
25 do. Just stand there smilin'. I didn't mean to kill her
26 though. You gotta believe that. I didn't mean to kill her.

23/00

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
9 had a chance to lease the place to some other people.
10 More money. I tried to get her out.
11 JOE: Go ahead. 23/30
12 VIRGIL: I tried to talk to her. Tried to get her to retire. She
13 had enough money. She didn't ever have to worry. All I
14 wanted her to do was to get out. But she wouldn't. Said
15 I'd signed a lease with her and she was gonna keep it.
16 FRANK: How much difference was there between what she was payin'
17 and what the new people were gonna give you?
18 BEAT
19 VIRGIL: Fifty dollars, a month.
20 JOE: You killed a woman for that?
21 VIRGIL: You don't understand. You gotta try. It's important. If
22 you knew Bertha..you'd know why I did it. Y'see....I went
23 to her. I told her I'd give her a lease on another piece
24 of property. Give it to her at less money. I was tryin' to
25 be fair. You can see that. I wanted to be fair. 24/00

1 JOE: Uh huh.

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

11 FRANK: Did you take the money?

12 VIRGIL: Yes. I don't know why I did that. Just all of a sudden,
13 I got so mad at her, I picked up the knife and killed her.
14 I didn't mean to. As soon as I saw her I was sorry.
15 Real sorry. ~~Then I got scared. I was afraid of what I'd~~
16 ~~done and I tried to make it look like a robber had come~~
17 ~~in. That's the only reason I took the money. Just to~~
18 ~~make it look like a robber had come in.~~

19 JOE: Did you turn the water on?

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

23 JOE: Wanna get the stenographer, Frank?

24 FRANK: Yeah.

25 SOUND: FRANK GETS UP AND LEAVES THE ROOM..DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE
26 BEHIND HIM

1 JOE: Here...wanna 'nother cigarette?
2 VIRGIL: Yes please.
3 SOUND: HE TAKES A CIGARETTE FROM THE PACKAGE...MATCH BUSINESS
4 VIRGIL: If you'd seen the way she thought she was so much better
5 than anybody else, you'd know.
6 JOE: That right?
7 VIRGIL: Sure. All those old hens cluckin' around her. All the
8 time buildin' her up. Made her feel superior. Real
9 superior.
10 JOE: Uh huh. *25/30*
11 VIRGIL: If she'd ~~just~~ moved out. If she'd just let me have the
12 place. It all would have been alright. If she'd just
13 done that. (HE TAKES A DRAG AND EXHALES) That's a lot
14 of money y'know...fifty dollars a month. That's what I
15 stood to make on the deal.
16 JOE: You're gonna get a lot more'n that.
17 MUSIC: SIGNATURE *26/00*

1 FENN: (EASILY) The story you have just heard is true. The
2 names were changed to protect the innocent.
3 GIBNEY: On November 10th, trial was held in Department 97,
4 Superior Court of the State of California, in and for
5 the county of Los Angeles. In a moment, the results of
6 that trial.
7 FENN: Now, here is our star, Jack Webb.
8 WEBB: (COMMERCIAL INSERT)

DRAGNET RADIO

CLOSING COMMERCIAL - NO. 3

26/28

- 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.

26/53

27/05

TRIAL PAGE

1 GIBNEY: Virgil Emil Medina was tried and convicted of murder
2 in the second degree and received sentence as prescribed
3 by law. Murder in the second degree is punishable by
4 imprisonment in the state penitentiary for a period of
5 from five years to life.

27/17

END PAGE

1 MUSIC: THEME

2 THEME: UNDER

3 GIBNEY: You have just heard Dragnet -- a series of authentic
4 cases from official files. Technical advice comes from the
5 office 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: Watch an entirely new Dragnet case history each week on
14 your local NBC Television station. Please check your
15 newspapers for the day and time. (BEAT) Chesterfield has
16 brought you Dragnet, transcribed, from Los Angeles.
17 (FATIMA HITCH HIKE)

"DRAGNET" Radio
January 19, 1954

L & M FILTERS - 37 Seconds

28/20

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

29/05

