CHesterfield #03

Release Date: Tuesday, January 26, 1954

Director: Jack Webb
Writer: Jack Robinson
Music: Walter Schumann
Script: Jean Miles
Sound: Bud Tollerson & Mike Perich
Engineer: Raoul Murphy
Announcer #1: George Penniman
Announcer #2: Hal Ostrin, NBO
Case: "The Big Bid"

Rehearsal Schedule:

Recording: Thursday, December 24, 1953

Cast and Sound: 11:30 - 1:30 P.M.
Editing: T.B.A.
Scoring: T.B.A.
Orchestra: NBO
Announcers: (Commercial)
Broadcast: 6:00 - 6:30 P.M. -- Studio J -- By T.R.

Agency: Cunningham-Walsh
Commercial Supervisor: Pete Peterson
Technical Advisors:
Sgt. Marty Wein: L.A.P.D.
Sgt. Vance Brasher: L.A.P.D.
Capt. Jack Donohoe: L.A.P.D.
"THE BIG BID"

CAST

SGT. JOE FRIDAY ............... JACK WEBB
OFF. FRANK SMITH .............. BEN ALEXANDER
MARTY ......................... HARRY BARTELL
LEONARD DODDS ................ VIC FERRIN
AL BAKER ..................... HERB ELLIS
WALTER CRAMER ................ BERT HOLLAND
OFFICER ...................... (DEL) ............... HARRY BARTELL
MUSIC: DRAGNET SIGNATURE

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

MUSIC: DRUM ROLL UNDER

GIRNEY: 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.

MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR: (COMMERCIAL INSERT)

PENN: (EASILY) You're a detective sergeant. You're assigned to Burglary Detail. You get a call that a clothing store in Hollywood is suffering losses. The value of the stolen property is over 12 thousand dollars.

There's no lead to the identity of the thief. No pattern to his M.O. Your job ..... get him.

MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR:
FENNEMAN: Today, you hear these three words everywhere.

Chesterfields for me. The cigarette tested and approved by thirty years of scientific tobacco research. Chesterfields for me. The cigarette with a proven good record with smokers. And first cigarette to have such a record. Chesterfields for me. Chesterfield gives you proof of highest quality—low nicotine—the taste you want—the mildness you want. The Chesterfield you smoke today is the best cigarette ever made....And best for you.
GIENNY: 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.

SOUND: JOE AND FRANK'S STEPS ON SIDEWALK. SLIGHT TRAFFIC B.G.

JOE: It was Wednesday, June 3rd. It was hot in Los Angeles. We were working the day watch out of Burglary Detail. My partner's Frank Smith. The boss is Captain Barnard. My name's Friday. We were on our way out from the office and it was 9:56 A.M. when we got to 1592 Vine Street. ... (SOUND: DOOR OPEN)... Dodds Men's Store.

SOUND: JOE AND FRANK ENTER THE STORE. DOOR CLOSES BEHIND THEM.

COUPLE OF STEPS THEN STOP...

JOE: Excuse me?

MARTY: Yeah?

JOE: You tell me where we can find Leonard Dodds?

MARTY: (LOOKING) Yeah ....... that's him. Fella back there in the blue suit.

JOE: Thanks.

FRANK: Thanks.

SOUND: JOE AND FRANK WALK TO THE BACK OF THE STORE.
LEONARD: (ON THE PHONE FADING IN) I don't know how it happened, Honey. No ... I just came in this morning and I noticed that the stuff was gone. Huh? Whole shipment of suede coats ... hadn't even been unpacked yet. What ... yeah. 'Bout two dozen of 'em. White with the button down collars. Yeah. I called the cops and the insurance company. Sure. 12 thousand. (HE SEES JOE AND FRANK STOP NEAR HIM) Couple of customers just came in Honey .... I'll call you back. Yeah. Well, don't worry about it. Uh huh. G'bye.

SOUND: LEONARD HANGS UP THE PHONE AND TURNS TO FRANK AND JOE

LEONARD: Yes sir .... can I help you gentlemen?

JOE: Mr. Dodds?

LEONARD: That's right.

JOE: Police officers. This is Frank Smith ... my name's Friday.

FRANK AND LEONARD SAY HELLO TO EACH OTHER.

JOE: You reported a burglary this morning?

LEONARD: Yeah. You guys from Hollywood?

FRANK: No sir ... we're out of Central Division.

LEONARD: Didn't think I'd seen you around here before.

JOE: You want to tell us what happened?

LEONARD: Yeah. C'mon back to the store room.

SOUND: THEY WALK ALONG WOODEN FLOOR

JOE: When did you first discover the theft?
LEONARD: This morning when I came in, I went back here to unpack some new merchandise and found most of it gone.

SOUND: THEY STOP

LEONARD: Here .. I'll get the door.

SOUND: DOOR OPEN. THE THREE MEN WALK INTO THE ROOM

LEONARD: This is our storeroom. When we get a shipment from the East, the cases are kept here until we get a chance to unpack them and check the invoices.

JOE: Uh huh. Was all of the stolen merchandise taken from this room?

LEONARD: I'm not sure about that. I do know that a shipment of suede jackets and weskites was in here. It's gone now. Couple of cases of shirts too. The only way I'd have of knowing if they took anything from out in the store itself would be to take a complete inventory.

JOE: Uh huh. What do you estimate the loss at?

LEONARD: Twelve thousand dollars.

FRANK: When was the last time you saw the merchandise in here?

LEONARD: Yesterday afternoon.

FRANK: About what time?

LEONARD: I'd have to guess at that ... but I'd say about 3:00 or 3:30.

JOE: How many doors are there to the store?

LEONARD: Just the front one, and one in the back ... opens onto an alley.

JOE: Wonder if we could see the rear door?

LEONARD: Sure ... Back this way.

SOUND: THEY START TO WALK BACK
LEONARD: One of the first things I thought of too. But it was locked.

JOE: You opened the door this morning?

LEONARD: Yeah. When I found the stuff gone, I checked it. It was still locked.

FRANK: You have an alarm system in the store?

LEONARD: Yeah. Didn't go off last night though.

JOE: Uh huh.

SOUND: STEPS STOP

LEONARD: Here's the door. You can see for yourself .... there's nothing wrong with the lock.

SOUND: JOE OPENS THE DOOR. SLIGHT TRAFFIC B.G.

FRANK: How 'bout it Joe?

JOE: No signs of a jimmy.

LEONARD: That's what I thought too. I looked pretty close. Couldn't see any sign of where they got in.

JOE: How 'bout windows?

LEONARD: Huh?

JOE: Possible they got in through a window?

LEONARD: No. I'm sure of that. Only two we've got are in the tailor shop. Here ....

SOUND: HE WALKS OUT INTO THE ALLEY.

LEONARD: (POINTING UP) You can see 'em up there. Good ten feet and barred. They couldn't have gotten in there.

JOE: We'll have our crime lab take a look.

FRANK: Who have keys to the place?
LEONARD: Well, I've got one.
FRANK: Yes sir but who else?
LEONARD: Well, there's just me and Al.
JOE: Al?
LEONARD: Yeah. Al Baker. He's sort of the assistant manager.
FRANK: Could we see him?
LEONARD: Can when he comes in. Listen .... I don't want you to
give him any trouble. I'd trust him with anything.
Anything at all. I don't want you asking him a lot of
embarrassing questions.
JOE: Don't worry about it. How long has he worked for you?
LEONARD: I guess it's been about five years. I don't think I
could run the place without him. Sure wouldn't want to
try.
FRANK: Besides this Baker ... how many people do you have
working for you in the store?
LEONARD: Three others, full time. During rush periods, I call
in extra help.
JOE: You give us a list of names?
LEONARD: Yeah. But you can be sure of one thing.
JOE: What's that?
LEONARD: Isn't anybody who works at the store did this.
FRANK: You seem pretty sure about that.
LEONARD: I know my people. All of 'em have been with me for a couple of years. I trust 'em all.

JOE: I notice that you're doin' some remodeling. How 'bout the workmen? Possible one of them took the merchandise?

LEONARD: Mr. Friday ... do you know how much twelve thousand dollars in clothes is?

JOE: I've got an idea.

LEONARD: The both of you couldn't carry it in one trip. Not in a couple of trips. Whoever took those clothes ... was here a long time. And he worked hard gettin' 'em out of the store.

JOE: Yes sir ... but about the workmen ... .

LEONARD: Couldn't have been one of them. None of 'em have keys to the place. We have to open up to let them in and they leave before we close. If they'd tried to get the things out of the store, one of use would have seen it. Couldn't possibly have been one of them.

JOE: Frank?

FRANK: Yeah.

JOE: You wanna call the crime lab?

FRANK: Yeah. (TO LEONARD) Can I use your phone?

LEONARD: Yeah ... it's on the counter in front of the store.

FRANK: Thanks.

SOUND: FRANK FADES OFF

LEONARD: I just don't understand it.

JOE: Sir?
LEONARD: Just doesn't seem to be any way they could have gotten all
of the clothes out. No way at all.

JOE: They must have found one.

(END SCENE 1)

JOE: 10:38 the crew from the crime lab arrived and went over
the place. The whole store was checked and all entrances
and exits of the store were checked for fingerprints. Both
the front door and the rear exit was checked but there
was no mark of a jimmy. The windows on the second floor
were gone over, but the locks on them were secure and
there was no apparent way they could have been used to
remove the stolen merchandise. We talked to the other
clerks in the store. From them we got approximately the
same story that we'd obtained from the store
manager. They verified that the merchandise had been on
the premises at 3:30 pm the day before. None of them could
say for certain that it was there after that however.
While Frank was checking with the members of the crew from
the crime lab, I called the names of the employees in to
the record bureau for a check.

JOE: Yeah... that's (SPELLING) B-A-K-E-R.... that's right.
WMA.... 46 years. 5 feet 10 inches tall... a hundred and
56 pounds. Right. What? no.... no visible marks or scars.
Right.

SOUND: UNDER THE ABOVE WE HEAR FRANK'S STEPS FADE IN.

FRANK: (FADE IN) Joe? Got something for you.
1 JOE: (INTO PHONE) Okay...if you'll check the names, I'll give you a call later. Right.
2
3 SOUND: JOE HANGS UP THE PHONE
4
5 JOE: What've you got?
6 FRANK: C'mon upstairs.
7 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK START TO MOVE
8 FRANK: (AS THEY GO) Got to talkin' to Lee. Figured that from what they found, the merchandise had to be taken out in the daytime.
9
10 JOE: Lee goes along with that?
11 FRANK: Yeah. (UP HERE)
12 SOUND: THEY GO UP A FLIGHT OF WOODEN STAIRS
13 FRANK: (CONTINUING) Way the doors look, if they were opened, somebody used a key.
14 JOE: Uh huh.
15 FRANK: He thinks like we do....that somebody took the cases out...planted them and then picked the stuff up last night.
16 SOUND: THEY GET TO THE TOP OF THE STAIRS AND WALK ACROSS THE ROOM.
17
18 JOE: What've you got here?
19 FRANK: Window that opens out on the roof of the next building.
20 JOE: Checked the lock. Hadn't been tampered with.
21 FRANK: C'mon....climb out.
22 SOUND: THE TWO OF THEM CLIMB OUT ON THE ROOF OF THE BUILDING.
23 JOE: (AS HE CLIMBS OUT) No bars on this one, huh?
1 FRANK: Uh uh. (NO)
2 SOUND: FRANK CLIMBS OUT ON ROOF.
3 FRANK: Over here.
4 SOUND: THEY WALK ACROSS THE ROOF, GRAVEL ON TAR PAPER.
5 FRANK: Behind the air shaft.
6 SOUND: THEY WALK AND STOP
7 JOE: What is it?
8 FRANK: Take a look.
9 JOE: (GRUNTS)
10 SOUND: JOE MOVES IN AND LIFTS CARDBOARD TOP TO PACKING CASE.
11 JOE: Shirts.
12 FRANK: In this one. (INDICATES) Suede coats.
13 JOE: This all that was taken?
14 FRANK: No....the manager says it's about half.
15 JOE: No sign of the rest of it?
16 FRANK: Uh uh. (NO) Must have taken that last night. Figures
17 the thief'll be back tonight for the rest.
18 JOE: Yeah. It'll be here.
19 FRANK: Uh huh.
20 JOE: So'll we.
21 (END SCENE 2)
JOE: We asked the manager of the clothing store to keep watch on the cases of stolen merchandise while we made arrangements to place a stakeout on them. 12:14 P.M., the Crime Lab finished their investigation and Frank and I talked with Lee Jones. He told us that he'd checked the fingerprints found on the doors and windows, but that all of them had been eliminated as they belonged to members of the store staff or to the workmen. He told us that they'd found an impression of a tire print in the dirt of the alley next to the building where the stolen clothing had been found. He went on to say that they'd checked, and had found that the truck belonging to the plaster contractor had tires of the same type that left the impression. A canvas was made of the tenants in the building next to the clothing store, but they could give us no new information on the possible identity of the thief. 3:52 P.M. We checked back with the Record Bureau on the list of names of store employees.

SOUND: STORE B.G.


SOUND: FRANK HANGS UP THE PHONE.

JOE: Anything?
1 FRANK: Yeah. They checked the names... came up with one possible.
2 JOE: Yeah?
3 FRANK: The Assistant Manager... Al Baker.....
4 JOE: (GRUNTS)
5 FRANK: He's done time for burglary.
6 (END SCENE 3)
7 JOE: The Record Bureau had come up with the information that
8 Alfred Roger Baker had been arrested in 1943 for
9 burglary. He'd been tried and convicted on three counts.
10 He spent a term in the state penitentiary at San Quentin
11 and been released. Since that time, he apparently had
12 led the life of an exemplary citizen. 4:07 P.M. Frank
13 and I took him to the office of the clothing store to
14 talk to him.
15 FRANK: Sit down, Baker.
16 AL: Sure.
18 SOUND: BAKER WALKS TO A CHAIR AND SITS DOWN
19 AL: What's this all about? You don't think I had anything to
20 do with the burglary, do you?
21 JOE: How many times have you been arrested?
22 BEAT
23 AL: Why do you ask that?
24 JOE: We want an answer.
25 AL: You've seen the record?
26 JOE: We've seen it.
27 AL: Then you know without me tellin' you.
28 FRANK: We'd like to hear it from you.
I was arrested once. I did the time. I'm clean since then. I thought when you did the time, and they let you out, you didn't owe anybody anything.

That's right.

Then what're you guys hoppin' on me for? I just work here. Don't mean just because I did a hitch for burglary that I had anything to do with this?

We didn't say you did.

You're actin' like I did. Bringin' me in here. Talkin' about how I was arrested. You sure are acting like you think I had something to do with this one.

You look good for it.

How d'ya figure that?

You've got the only other key to the door.

I don't like to bring this up...maybe you bright cops haven't thought about it...but who says Dodds couldn't have done it himself?

What d'ya mean?

He's in trouble. Big trouble. This would be an easy way out of it.

Go ahead.

All the stuff is insured. Be pretty sweet for him to lift the merchandise...collect on the insurance and then sell the stuff, too. He'd come out real good.

That's the way you figure it, huh?
I'm not tryin' to figure it, anyway. All I know is that
you guys are tryin' to wrap something around me that
doesn't fit. I want no part of it. Come right down to
it...must be a couple of guys work here who could have
done it.
Way we got it, the thief used a key.
That brings us right back to Dodds.
If he's in trouble financially, why's he doin' all this
remodeling?
He hasn't got much choice. He's gotta brighten this
place up or he's gonna lose what business he's got. You
check into him. You look it up. You'll see what I'm
talkin' about makes a lot more sense than you haulin'
me in here.
Can you account for your time last night?
From when?
The time you left here.
Yeah. I can give you every minute.
Go ahead.
I left here at 6:30. That's the time I always leave.
Who was here when you left?
Y' mean who locked up?
That's right.
Leonard. He always locks up. Always.
Where'd you go after you left?
Went up to the corner and had a beer. That's like
always, too.
Anybody in the bar know you?
AL: The bartender and the waitress.
J: They'll vouch for you?
AL: They will.
J: Go ahead.
AL: After I left there, I drove home.
F: What time'd you leave the bar?
AL: About 7:10. I had one beer...smoked two cigarettes....
put a nickle in the nut machine on the bar and went home. I left at 7:10. Wish I knew you were gonna wanna
know all this...I'd a been more careful about remembering. I forgot how many nuts I got from the
machine. I'll take a wild guess and say 14. I got no
way of provin' that....you'll have to take my word for it.
B: What time'd you get home?
AL: About 7:50.
F: Where d'ya live?
AL: Out in the valley. Traffic's heavy goin' out the pass
that time of night. Took me 10 minutes longer than it
usually does.
J: You prove when you got home?
AL: I can.
F: How?
AL: Talk to my wife. We got a time clock on the wall just as
you come in the door. I punch in and out. The time'll
be there.
J: What about last night?
I was home all night. Had dinner...sat around and watched television and went to bed.

You didn't leave your house?

Not from the time I got home last night until I left this morning. Pretty bad, isn't it?

What d'ya mean?

I can prove every minute of it. You get off my back, cop. You start lookin' around...you'll come up with a lot of guys who had a lot more chance, and a lot more reason to heist that stuff than I do. That won't be hard...'cause I haven't got any. You sit tight, and I'll show you who stole the stuff.

Huh?

Wait a minute.

Where're you goin'?

Just over to the desk. I wanna show you somethin'.

What?

You'll see.

Hold it.

You show me what you want, and I'll get it for you.

You cops!...Y'never learn, do you? Open the top drawer.

This one?
AL: Yeah.

SOUND: JOE PULLS OPEN THE DRAWER.

AL: Now open that one.

SOUND: JOE PULLS ANOTHER DRAWER OPEN.

JOE: What d'ya want?

AL: That folder there. (INDICATES)

JOE: This one?

AL: Yeah. Put it up on the desk.

SOUND: JOE TAKES MANILA FOLDER FROM DESK DRAWER AND PUTS IT ON THE TOP OF THE DESK.

AL: Open it.

SOUND: JOE DOES.

AL: Now take a good look at the reason the stuff was stolen.

FRANK: What is it, Joe?

SOUND: UNDER THE FOLLOWING JOE GOES THROUGH BILLS.

AL: Bills. Isn't anything in the store that's paid for.

SOUND: HE MOVES TO THE DESK AND LOOKS THROUGH THE BILLS.

AL: Past due ... Please remit .... Your credit is important.

... Over due ... Past due .... Go through the rest of them .. they're all like that. Isn't a place in the country anymore that'll extend any credit to Dodds.

Not one. You're lookin' for somebody who had a reason to steal the stuff .... there's your answer. You talk to Leonard Dodds. He's got the reason.

SOUND: DOOR KNOCK OFF MIKE
J**O**E: Come in.

S**O**UND: **DOOR OPENS**.

O**FFICER**: Joe, Frank, see you a minute.

F**R**ANK: I'll take it.

S**O**UND: **FRANK WALKS TO THE DOOR AND CLOSES IT BEHIND HIM**.

A**L**: (AFTER BEAT) I'm tellin' you .... you gotta lean on somebody .... you lean on Leonard Dodds. He's the one.

D**o**n't come around here botherin' me.

S**O**UND: **DOOR OPENS OFF MIKE AND FRANK WALKS INTO THE ROOM**.

F**R**ANK: (LITTLE OFF) Joe?

J**O**E: Yeah.

S**O**UND: **JOE WALKS TO FRANK, STOPS**.

F**R**ANK: He might be tellin' the truth.

J**O**E: Huh.

F**R**ANK: The stuff on the roof ....

J**O**E: Yeah?

F**R**ANK: It's gone.

E**N**D SCENE 4)

E**N**D ACT 1)

G**I**BNEY: You are listening to Dragnet, the authentic story of your Police Force in action.

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)
DRAGNET RADIO
JAN. 26, 1954
SECOND COMMERCIAL

1 FENNEMAN: Meet Peter Lind Hayes and Mary Healy - America's favorite husband and wife comedy team. They are typical of smokers everywhere who are saying - "Chesterfields for me." Mary says...

5 MARY: I've smoked regular size Chesterfield for about seven years. Guess that ought to prove how I feel about Chesterfield's taste and mildness.

8 FENNEMAN: Peter says - "Chesterfields for me, too"....

9 PETER: Far as I'm concerned king is the only size....and like Mary says. Chesterfield is the only cigarette

11 MARY: Either way you like them...I'll bet you'll find Chesterfield is best for you.

13 FENNEMAN: Yes - smoke America's most popular two-way cigarette ....regular and king-size Chesterfield. The best cigarette ever made and best for you.
With the removal of the remaining packages on the roof, our main opportunity of catching the thief was gone. We questioned the people in the store about it. From them we learned that the manager, Leonard Dodds had brought the cases of clothing into the store himself. We talked to him and he offered as an explanation the fact that the insurance company wouldn't like him leaving the supply of expensive suede coats on the roof. He went on to say that catching the thief was our business and that we were not to interfere with his running the store in attempting to apprehend them. We tried to question him regarding the accusations made by the salesman, Al Baker. He said they were ridiculous and that we should know better than to listen to accusations made by an ex-convict. He went on to say that he resented the questions we put to him and that if we intended to continue, he would have to get in touch with his lawyer. We contacted the office and made arrangements for a stakeout to be set up on the roof of the building next door and then Frank and returned to the office to check further on Leonard Dodds. We checked with his bank and found that he had several notes on the clothing store. The head of the loan department told us that Dodds payments had been irregular and that at the time he was over due on one of the notes.

(MORE)
We contacted the insurance company and found that Dodds had made a claim on the stolen merchandise that morning and had requested payment as soon as possible. We turned a list of the stolen articles over to Pawnshop Detail and asked them to see that the information would get into the hands of the second hand dealers in the city; 10:15 P.M. Frank and I filled out the log and prepared to leave the office.

Joe: (INTO PHONE) Burglar Friday. Yeah...uh huh. That's right we did. Yeah. Who was that? That's right. Yeah Okay...we'll wait here. Right. G'bye.

Radio car out in the Westlake district just picked up a couple of kids.

Both of 'em were loaded down with clothes.
FRANK: Yeah

JOE: Label on them is Leonard Dodds.

(END SCENE 5)

JOE: The radio car officer had told me on the phone, that he and his partner while making a routine patrol of their area, had spotted two boys walking down the streets carrying quantities of clothing. When they were stopped, the two suspects were unable to account for the clothes and were not able to tell the arresting officers where they'd gotten them. In checking the pair out, the officers had called burglary detail and we'd gotten our first concrete lead to the thief. 10:47 P.M. the two suspects arrived at the office. Their names were checked through R. and I., and they were both found to have misdemeanor records listing petty theft and attempted burglary. One of them, Walter Cramer had been convicted on burglary charges and had been sentenced to Preston School for boys. He was at the time, on parole. While the other boy waited in the Squadroom, Frank and I questioned Cramer in the interrogation room.

FRANK: How old are you?

WALT: Eighteen.

FRANK: Where do you live?

WALT: You know that already. Why you askin' me again. I told that other cop. Gave him all the information.

FRANK: Where do you live?

WALT: 2574 Brandon Street.
JOE: You want to tell us where you got the clothing you had when you were picked up.
WALT: You're smart cops...you figure it out.
JOE: You on parole now?
WALT: No...I got out clean.
JOE: Y'still that way?
WALT: That depends on how you read this one.
FRANK: Where'd you get those things?
WALT: I found 'em.
JOE: You except us to buy that?
WALT: I don't care if you buy it or not. It's the truth.
JOE: You're pretty heavy aren't you?
WALT: I been around.
JOE: Time up at Preston didn't do you much good did it?
WALT: You'd be surprised what I learned up there.
JOE: Not what you were sent there for?
WALT: That depends on where you're sittin'.
JOE: There's only one place when you're picked up carryin' a load of stolen clothes...
FRANK: You wanna tell us where you got 'em?
WALT: You tell me.
FRANK: C'mon kid....where'd you get the clothes.
BEAT
JOE: You gonna play it that way?
WALT: There isn't any other.
BEAT
FRANK: Where were you yesterday?

WALT: Startin' when?

FRANK: From when you got up?

WALT: I gotta tell you all that?

FRANK: We want to hear it.

WALT: Pretty dull.

JOE: Go ahead.

WALT: I got up about noon.

JOE: You gotta job?

WALT: Yeah.

JOE: Where?

WALT: Around.

FRANK: What d'ya do.

WALT: Nothin'.....I'm a philosopher. I study people. I just sit around all day and study people.

JOE: How d'ya live.

WALT: I stay with my folks....they pick up the tab.

FRANK: Go ahead.

WALT: With what?

FRANK: What you did yesterday.

WALT: I told you I got up about noon....had some breakfast then I went over to Harry's.

JOE: That's the boy you were picked up with?

WALT: Yeah. I went over to his house. Sat around and watched the television.

JOE: How long were you at his house?
WALT: Till maybe 6. We sat around and talked philosophy.
Talked and watched old movies.

JOE: What'd you do then?

WALT: Laid down and went out to study people.

FRANK: Where'd you go?

WALT: Went down and played a couple of games of pool. Had something to eat.

JOE: And after that?

WALT: We went out to a movie.

JOE: You got any way of provin' that?

WALT: Sure... talk to Harry.

JOE: He's your alibi?

WALT: Yeah... you talk to him and he'll tell you.

JOE: You may not know this... but he's in the theft as deep as you are.

WALT: I got some information for you cop... neither one of us is in it at all.

BEAT:

JOE: Alright... get your coat.

WALT: Where're you takin' me?

JOE: Over to the city jail.

WALT: You gonna book me?

JOE: You called it.

WALT: How 'bout Harry?

JOE: What about him?

WALT: He goin' too?
JOE: Yeah.

WALT: What charge?

JOE: Suspicion 249

WALT: Burglary?

JOE: Yeah. C'mon.'

SOUND: JOE MOVES TO TAKE WALT FROM THE ROOM

WALT: Y'mean that stuff is really stolen?

JOE: It is.

WALT: You're tellin' me right?

JOE: Yeah.

WALT: It ain't true.

JOE: Yeah. You tell us about it.

WALT: No...I mean it. Harry and me didn't steal that stuff.

FRANK: What d'ya mean by that?

WALT: We stole it yeah. You got us cold for that...but not

the first time.

FRANK: Where'd you get it?

WALT: From a garage. That's the truth. We stole the stuff

from a garage.

JOE: Where is the place?

WALT: I'll show you. There's a lot more stuff there. A lot

more.

JOE: Clothing?
WALT: Yeah.

JOE: Who's garage is it?

WALT: I dunno. Harry and me were walkin around up there and we saw this truck pull up. Guy got out and unloaded some packing cases.

JOE: When was this?

WALT: Last night. Way the garage looked though...it wasn't the first time. Place was loaded. Lotta shirts...coats...suits...All kinda things. Harry and me figured that we might as well help ourself. But we didn't steal the stuff originally. Not the first time.

FRANK: What's the address where the garage is?

WALT: I dunno. Up on Shordale Avenue near the lake.

JOE: We take you up there, you point it out for us?

WALT: Sure. I'll show you. I want to see him get his. Get it real good.

JOE: What 'dya mean?

WALT: Imagine...havin' a garage full of stolen stuff. Terrible.

JOE: That's what it is.

WALT: Sure. But the important thing is that you know that we didn't steal it the first time. You gotta believe that.

JOE: We didn't steal it the first time.

JOE: Is there a difference?
JOE: 12:15 A.M. We talked to the suspect that had been picked up with Cramer. He gave us substantially the same story as we'd gotten from the first boy. They both agreed to take us out to the garage where they'd found the stolen merchandise. Before we left the office, we put in a call to the clothing store but there'd been no report from the stakeout on the roof. The two suspects directed us to drive out toward Silver Lake. We took the freeway out to Glendale Boulevard and turned right. We drove out to Loma Vista and turned right again. The boys directed us up the hill and then onto a side street. We went half a block farther before they pointed out the house to us. We drove down the street and parked the car. Frank and I and the two suspects walked back to the house and into the rear of the yard. A two car garage in the rear of the building was unlocked. We went in and scattered around the place we found several large packing cases of clothes. The labels on them were from some of the most exclusive men's stores in the city. There was no question about it, this was the plant for the stolen merchandise. Frank stood by the back door of the house and I went up on the front porch and rang the bell.

SOUND: DOOR OPEN, OUTDOOR NIGHT B.G.

MARTY: Yeah?

BRAT

JOB: You're Martin Hattman aren't you?
1 MARTY: Yeah...do I know you?
2 JOE: Joe Friday, Police Department.
3 MARTY: Oh yeah. I met you over at Dodds. What is it...some more
4 questions?
5 JOE: Yeah a few.
6 MARTY: Kinda late to come around isn't it?
7 JOE: A little.
8 MARTY: I was just gonna turn in. Can you wait until the morning?
9 I could come down to the police department.
10 JOE: Fraid we're gonna have to talk tonight.
11 MARTY: Oh... Okay...c'mon in.
12 SOUND: JOE ENTERS THE HOUSE. DOOR CLOSE B.G. OUT.
13 JOE: Anybody else in the house?
14 MARTY: Just my wife and the kids.
15 JOE: Where're they?
16 MARTY: Up stairs. They're all asleep. I told you...I was just
17 gonna turn in.
18 JOE: Yeah. That garage out back...it belong to you?
19 MARTY: What?
20 JOE: The garage on the back of the lot. It belong to you?
21 MARTY: Yeah it's mine...why?
22 JOE: What d'ya use it for?
23 MARTY: What do you use a garage for? I keep the truck there.
24 JOE: Where's the truck tonight?
MARTY: I left it at a service station down on Glendale Boulevard. Havin' it greased and the oil changed. Why?

JOE: Anybody else use the garage besides you?

MARTY: No.

JOE: Everything in it belong to you?

BEAT

MARTY: You mind if I call my lawyer?

JOE: You can do that from downtown?

MARTY: You arrestin' me?

JOE: Yeah.

MARTY: You found the stuff huh?

JOE: We found it.

BEAT

MARTY: Got a cigarette?

JOE: Here.

SOUND: CIGARETTE BUSINESS.

JOE: Here's a match.

MARTY: (EXHALING) I guess I should have gotten it out of the garage sooner.

JOE: GRUNTS.

MARTY: I figured on it first thing in the morning. When you talked to me this morning at Dodds, I should have known.

I should have known right then: I didn't think that you figure it this way.

C'mon get your coat.
MARTY: Yeah...just let me finish the cigarette. (HE TAKES A DRAG)

Sure had it figured. Goin' real good. Wanna hear about it?

JOE: Go ahead.

MARTY: I'm a plastering contractor. You know that.

JOE: Yeah...you told us this morning.

MARTY: Well, I bid on the jobs. All the contractors submit bids on how much we'll do the work for...y'know what I mean.

JOE: Yeah.

MARTY: I always got in with low bid. Used to drive the other contractors crazy. Never could figure out how I could come out on it. You see it though don't you?

JOE: You tell me.

MARTY: Well y'see if a job would cost me...say 35 hundred dollars to do...I'd put in a bid for 25 hundred. I always get the job and then I'd steal the other thousand in merchandise...

JOE: Yeah.

MARTY: That way I could come out and nobody would get hurt.

JOE: What about the store owner?

MARTY: They were insured. Only body in the middle was the insurance company. So y'see nobody really got hurt.

JOE: You about finished with that cigarette?

MARTY: Just about. You're pretty lucky y'know?

JOE: That right?
MARTY: Sure, this was gonna be the last time. I figured that after this, I'd be able to go it straight. I got my equipment all paid for. Money in the bank. I figured I could go it straight. This was gonna be the last time.

JOE: Well, you were right.

MARTY: You mind tellin' me somethin'? What's that?

JOE: We caught a couple of kids breakin' into the garage. They'd stolen some of the clothes. They were picked up and they pointed the place out.

MARTY: Kids?

JOE: Yeah.

MARTY: How 'bout that. It's really terrible isn't it.

JOE: What's that?

MARTY: The younger generation. Now, I had a legitimate reason. I was just tryin' to come out. Wasn't anybody gonna get hurt my way. But those kids...I hope you're gonna put them away for a long time....little thieves.

JOE: C'mon....get your coat....let's go.

MARTY: Just awful. No sense of honesty at all. Sure hate to think of what the world's comin' to.

JOE: Tell me somethin' will you Hetman?

MARTY: Sure....what d'ya want to know?

JOE: You said you just stole the difference between what you agreed on to do the job and what it should be....that right?
MARTY: Yeah, just the difference.

JOE: You hit the Dodds store pretty hard didn't you? Twelve thousand dollars worth?

MARTY: Well, y' see... that was kind of a deal.

JOE: Yeah.

MARTY: I didn't get anything on the last job. Not a thing so I had to make up for it. Y' see what I mean?

JOE: Yeah.

MARTY: I had to come out some way. Nobody'd expect me to take a complete loss, would they?

JOE: I don't know.

MARTY: I just wanted what I had comin',

JOE: You got it this time.
1 FENN: (EASILY) The story you have just heard is true. The names were changed to protect the innocent.
2 GIBNEY: On October 17th trial was held in Department 89, Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Los Angeles. In a moment, the results of that trial.
3 FENN: Now, here is our star, Jack Webb.
4 WEBB: (COMMERCIAL INSERT)
1. FENN: Now, here is our star - Jack Webb.

2. WEBB: Thank you, George Fenneman. Friends, the next time you buy cigarettes, I wish you'd give our Chesterfields a try. That's all we ask...just try 'em because these cigarettes do a better job of selling themselves than anything I could say. Either way you buy them - regular or king-size,...I know you'll like 'em - because they smoke mild and they're really satisfying. Join the millions of smokers who've made Chesterfield America's most popular two-way cigarette. And when you do, I'm convinced you'll agree that Chesterfields are best for you.
Marvin Avrill Hettman was tried and convicted of burglary in the second degree on counts and received sentence as prescribed by law. Burglary in the second degree is punishable by imprisonment in the state penitentiary for a period of not less than one, or more than 15 years, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year. Walter James Cramer and Samuel Arthur Nicholson were tried and convicted of burglary in the first degree. Burglary in the first degree is punishable by imprisonment in the state penitentiary for a period of not less than five years.


Hal Gibney speaking.

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.

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