

"THE BIG FILTH"

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CAST

SGT. JOE FRIDAY JACK WEBB
POLICEWOMAN IRENE GARDNER JUNE WHITLEY
CRYSTAL EGGERS
PAMELA TELFORD
STEVE TELFORD
WILLIS THATCHER
ROWENA TELFORD

DRAGNET - RADIO

-1-

"THE BIG FILTH"

N.B.C. #233 - CHESTERFIELD #65

FOR BROADCAST: FEBRUARY 2, 1954

1 MUSIC: SIGNATURE

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

5 MUSIC: DRUM ROLL UNDER

6 GIBNEY: Dragnet is brought to you by Chesterfield, made by
7 Liggett and Myers, first major tobacco company to bring
8 you a complete line of quality cigarettes.

9 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR: **37**

10 FENN: (EASILY) You're a detective sergeant. You're assigned
11 to Juvenile Detail. Four children in your city have
;2 apparently been abandoned by their mother. There's no
13 trace of the woman's whereabouts. There's a possibility
14 of foul play. Your job investigate.

15 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)

50

1/30

DRAGNET RADIO
JAN. 26, 1954

FIRST COMMERCIAL

50

1 FENNEMAN: Today, you hear these three words everywhere.
2 Chesterfields for me. The cigarette tested and
3 approved by thirty years of scientific tobacco
4 research. Chesterfields for me. The cigarette with
5 a proven good record with smokers. And first
6 cigarette to have such a record. Chesterfields for
7 me. Chesterfield gives you proof of highest quality
8 - low nicotine - the taste you want - the mildness
9 you want. The Chesterfield you smoke today is the
10 best cigarette ever made....And best for you.

1/15

1/30

1 MUSIC: THEME

2 GIBNEY: Dagnet, the documented drama of an actual crime. For
3 the next 30 minutes, in cooperation with the Los Angeles
4 Police Department, you will travel step by step on the
5 side of the law through an actual case transcribed from
6 official police files. From beginning to end, from
7 crime to punishment, Dagnet is the story of your police
8 force in action.

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

10 SOUND: JOE'S STEPS ON CORRIDOR...SLIGHT ECHO...CORRIDOR B.G.

11 JOE: ~~It~~ was Friday, February 8th. It was raining in Los
12 Angeles. We were working the night watch out of Juvenile
13 Detail. My partner's Frank Smith. The boss is Captain
14 Powers. My name's Friday. I was on my way back from
15 Juvenile Hall and it was 7:46 PM when I got to 1335
16 Georgia Street....(SOUND: DOOR OPEN)...the office.

17 SOUND: JOE ENTERS THE OFFICE...B.G. CHANGE..COUPLE OF STEPS
18 INTO THE ROOM

19 IRENE: (LITTLE OFF) Joe?

20 SOUND: JOE WALKS TO IRENE

21 JOE: Yeah, Irene.

22 IRENE: You talked to Captain Powers?

23 JOE: Yeah. Way it looks, Frank is gonna be tied up in court
24 for a couple of days. Goin' hard.

25 IRENE: Gang war isn't it?

1 JOE: Yeah. Seems like everybody in town's climbed on the
2 one. Really making a big thing out of it.

3 IRENE: Uh huh.

4 JOE: Skipper said I was supposed to give you a hand on
5 anything that came up.

6 IRENE: ~~Then~~ you just made it.

7 JOE: Huh?

8 IRENE: Woman in the next office. Better talk to her.

9 JOE: What's it about?

10 IRENE: Be better if you got it straight from her.

11 JOE: Crank?

12 IRENE: I don't think so. See what you can figure.

13 JOE: Okay.

14 SOUND: THE TWO OF THEM WALK TO THE DOOR AND OPEN IT...INTO THE
15 OFFICE AND DOOR CLOSE UNDER

16 IRENE: Mrs. Eggers?

17 CRYSTAL: (LITTLE OFF) Yes, Miss Gardner. You ready to do
18 something about this.

19 IRENE: Yes ma'am. I'd like you to meet Sergeant Friday. Joe...
20 this is Mrs. Eggers.

21 CRYSTAL: How d'ya do.

22 JOE: Mrs. Eggers.

23 IRENE: If you'd give him the story the way you told it to me.

24 CRYSTAL: You bet I will. Sit down, young man. I'll tell you all
25 about it.

26 JOE: Yes ma'am.

27 SOUND: JOE PULLS UP A CHAIR AND SITTS DOWN

1 CRYSTAL: Get your book out. 3/100
2 JOE: What?
3 CRYSTAL: Your book. Y're gonna take some notations, aren't you?
4 JOE: If you'll just tell me what this is about.
5 BEAT
6 CRYSTAL: Yeah. Well, I don't want you to get the idea that I'm the
7 nosey type. I'm not. It's just that I take a interest
8 in the things that go on around me. Civil minded's the way
9 they put it in the papers.
10 JOE: Uh huh.
11 CRYSTAL: Course there are people who say that I pay too much mind
12 to their business but it isn't true. Not a bit of it.
13 IRENE: If you'd tell the sergeant what happened.
14 CRYSTAL: Oh yeah. Well.....These people moved into the house about
15 six months ago. The five of 'em.
16 BEAT
17 JOE: Yes ma'am.
18 CRYSTAL: Stevie...Pamela...Carol...Martin ... and the mother, Rowena.
19 Four ~~kids~~ and the mother. 3/30
20 BEAT
21 JOE: Uh huh...you wanna go on.
22 CRYSTAL: Now right off...I could spot this woman. Seen a lot of
23 'em.
24 JOE: What do you mean, Mrs. Eggers?
25 CRYSTAL: You can make it Crystal if it's any easier.

1 JOE: Yes ma'am. What'd you mean...you've seen a lot of 'em.

2 CRYSTAL: Alky's, Y'know...(LOWERS HER VOICE) Drunks.

3 JOE: Oh yeah.

4 CRYSTAL: Well, she's one. I could spot it right off. Her and those
5 four beautiful children.

6 JOE: Uh huh.

7 CRYSTAL: First few months they lived there, I'd maybe see her a
8 couple times a week. Y'know...goin' in the house or
9 comin' out. Just a couple of times a week.

10 JOE: Uh huh.

~~11 CRYSTAL: When they were there a little bit, I went over...tried to
12 be neighborly...asked if there was anything I could do to
13 help 'em get settled.~~

14 JOE: Yeah.

15 CRYSTAL: Right off she put on the defensive. Told me that there
16 wasn't anything. Said that they could manage good
17 without no help. Wouldn't even let ME in the house. Her
18 standin' there...swayin' around...bleary eyed. Real Alky.

19 JOE: Yes ma'am.

20 BEAT

21 CRYSTAL: Now, I'm gettin to the interestin' part. Last week...ten
22 days...I haven't seen her at all. Not even a little sight.

23 JOE: Uh huh.

1 CRYSTAL: Now right after they moved in, little Stevie...he's 11...
2 he'd come around to the back door and ask if they was
3 anything he could do for me. y'know...sweep up the leaves
4 on the lawn...empty out the garbage...little things like
5 that. Whenever I had somethin' I always let him do it.
6 Used to pay him a nickle or a dime.
7 JOE: Yeah.
8 CRYSTAL: The last week I been givin' him a kinda little plate of
9 lunch too. That's what really told me they was somethin'
10 wrong. That plate of lunch.
11 JOE: I don't understand.
12 CRYSTAL: Well, I don't have any children of my own. But my sister...
13 she's got five of 'em and once in a while...a couple of
14 'em will come to visit with their aunt Crystal. And young
15 man...I know kids. Isn't enough food in the world to fill
16 'em up. None of 'em. Except Stevie. He never ate the
17 food at my house. Always took the plate over to his place.
18 Brought back the dish. He never took a mouthful of food
19 at my place.
20 JOE: Uh huh.
21 CRYSTAL: So right off, I figure that there was something wrong. I
22 figured he must have been takin' that food back to his
23 house for his sisters and brother. That's the way it looks
24 to me.
25 IRENE: What about the children's father, where's he?

1 CRYSTAL: I ain't never seen him. I think he either died or him and
2 Rowena got a divorce or somethin. Never seen him. Matter
3 of fact, I ain't seen the other three kids last week. I
4 guess they just stay in the house all the time. Never see
5 'em out in the yard playin' or actin' like kids.

6 IRENE: Do you know if this Mrs. Telford works?

7 CRYSTAL: No I don't. Never seems like she does. Time's I've seen
8 her goin' and comin...all hours. Never seemed to be on
9 any kinda schedule...y'know like 9 to six. Never seemed
10 to be on anything like that.

11 JOE: Well, thank you Mrs. Eggers. We'll check the house.

12 CRYSTAL: That's what I wanted this officer to do. Told him I'd go
13 right along with you.

14 JOE: That won't be necessary.

15 CRYSTAL: Now listen young man. If there's anything wrong with them
16 kids..I wanna know about it. Do my part. The whole
17 neighborhood's talkin'.

18 JOE: That's right?

19 CRYSTAL: Sure. Little Stevie's been to all the houses lookin' for
20 something to do. Askin' for work. Just seems to me that
21 there's somethin wrong about the whole kiboodle of 'em.
22 Not seein' the mother....the way the boy don't eat the
23 lunch plate...not seein' the other kids. There's something
24 that don't fit over there.

25 JOE: Alright ma'am...we'll look into it.

1 CRYSTAL: You just do that. You'll see what I say is true.
2 IRENE: Thank you, Mrs. Eggers.
3 CRYSTAL: Don't go thankin' me. I'm just tryin' to be civil
4 minded. That's all.
5 JOE: Uh huh.
6 CRYSTAL: Just seems that there isn't anybody who cares about
7 those kids.
8 JOE: That's not true, Mrs. Eggers.
9 CRYSTAL: Huh?
10 JOE: We do.
11 END SCENE 1
12 JOE: 8:14 P.M. Policewoman, Irene Gardner and I left the
13 office and drove over to the address the Eggers woman
14 had given us. The house was a small, ~~one~~ story ^{5/100}
15 clapboard building located on the rear of the lot.
16 The front yard was overgrown with weeds and there were
17 neighborhood advertising papers lying around. When we
18 arrived, there was a faint light on, in one of the
19 front rooms. Irene and I went up to the front door and
20 knocked. We got no answer. I tried the door but found
21 it locked. There was no sound from inside the place.
22 The shades were drawn over the windows so that it was
23 impossible for us to see into the house. We walked
24 around to the rear and tried the back door.
25 SOUND: NIGHT B.G. SLIGHT RAIN. SOUND OF IRENE TURNING THE
26 DOORKNOB.

1 IRENE: Locked.

2 JOE: Doesn't look like there's anybody home.

3 IRENE: Uh huh.

4 JOE: Let's talk to the Eggers woman again.

5 IRENE: Right.

6 SOUND: THEY WALK OFF THE BACK PORCH AND ONTO A CEMENT PATH.

7 JOE: Doesn't make a lot of sense. From the story she gave us,
8 the kids should be at home. *5/30*

9 IRENE: She might be seein' things Joe. Y'know...tryin' to figure
10 out some way to get attention.

11 JOE: Might be. Didn't seem like that to me though.

12 SOUND: STEPS HOLD FOR A WHILE.

13 IRENE: Joe?

14 JOE: What?

15 SOUND: STEPS STOP.

16 JOE: What is it?

17 IRENE: Front window. There...see it?

18 BEAT

19 JOE: Yeah. There's somebody in there. Let's go.

20 SOUND: THE TWO OFFICERS WALK TO THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE. UP THREE
21 WOODEN STAIRS AND ONTO THE PORCH. COUPLA STEPS AND STOP.

22 DOOR KNOCK.

23 BEAT *6/00*

24 JOE: I'll try it again.

25 IRENE: Yeah.

26 SOUND: DOOR KNOCK.

27 BEAT

1 IRENE: Not answerin' .
2 JOE: (UP) C'mon...open the door. We know you're in there.
3 (BEAT) We can wait out here a long time. Now open the
4 door.
5 BEAT
6 PAMELA: (OFF - INSIDE THE HOUSE) What d'ya want?
7 JOE: Police officers. Let us in.
8 PAMELA: There's nothin' wrong. Go away.
9 JOE: We can't do that. C'mon...open up.
10 PAMELA: Who you gonna arrest?
11 JOE: Nobody. We just want to talk to you. 6/30
12 PAMELA: You sure that's all.
13 JOE: Yeah.
14 BEAT
15 PAMELA: Okay...just a minute.
16 BEAT
17 SOUND: DOOR UNLOCKED FROM THE INSIDE...THEN CHAIN LATCH TAKEN
18 FROM DOOR. DOOR OPENS.
19 PAMELA: What d'ya want.
20 JOE: You Pamela Telford?
21 PAMELA: I haven't done anything wrong.
22 JOE: We didn't say you did.
23 PAMELA: Then what're you doin' around here? What're you lookin'
24 for?
25 IRENE: Your mother in?
26 PAMELA: What?
27 IRENE: Is your mother home?

1 PAMELA: Well...yeah. She's here.

2 JOE: We'd like to see her.

3 PAMELA: Y'can't. Y'can't see her.

4 JOE: Afraid we're gonna have to.

5 PAMELA: She's lyin' down. Asleep. ~~That's~~ why you can't talk to
6 her.

7 JOE: What's the matter, honey?

8 PAMELA: Nothin'. Why d'you ask something like that?

9 JOE: You better let us in huh? We're gonna have to talk to
10 your mother.

11 PAMELA: But she's asleep. She's tired. Y'can't talk to her.
12 Y'can't.

13 JOE: C'mon, honey...you want to wake her up? There are some
14 things we've got to talk to her about.

15 IRENE: I wonder if we could come in. It's kinda wet out here.

16 BEAT

17 IRENE: Huh? How about it?

18 JOE: Then you can get your mother and we can have our talk.

19 BEAT

20 PAMELA: I guess you can come in. I guess it's alright.

21 SOUND: SHE TRIES TO OPEN THE DOOR.

22 JOE: (AS HE MOVES TO THE DOOR) Here...I'll help you with the
23 door. (HE TRIES TO PUSH IT OPEN) ~~Stuck.~~

24 IRENE: I'll give you a hand.

25 SOUND: IRENE MOVES TO THE DOOR.

26 JOE: (TO PAM) You have something in front of it?

27 SOUND: JOE PUSHES AGAINST THE DOOR AND IT SWINGS OPEN SLOWLY.

- 1 PAMELA: (LITTLE OFF) It's just the mattress.
- 2 ~~SOUND: JOE GETS THE DOOR PUSHED BACK AND IRENE ENTERS THE ROOM.~~
- 3 IRENE: What's it doing there?
- 4 PAMELA: Me and Steve put it there to keep prowlers out.
- 5 IRENE: Uh huh. C'mon in Joe.
- 6 JOE: Yeah.
- 7 ~~SOUND: JOE ENTERS THE ROOM AND THE DOOR CLOSES BEHIND HIM.~~

7/30

1 JOE: (NARR) The front room was about 12 feet square. The only
2 light in the room came from a candle in a jelly glass on
3 a table. (MUSIC IN) The only furniture in the place was
4 the table that held the candle, and a torn artificial
5 leather and chrome couch. The floor was covered with
6 paper litter, rain soaked cardboard boxes, and dirty
7 clothes. At half a dozen places, drops of dirty water
8 were seeping through the Roof. The water was being caught
9 in empty tin cans that had been placed around the room.
10 To the left, was a door to a bedroom. In it, in a wooden 8/100
11 crib, were two children. From the descriptions we'd
12 gotten from the Eggers woman, we recognized them as Martin
13 Telford, aged 4, and his sister Carol, aged 2. As soon as
14 the children saw Irene and me, they hid their heads under
15 the dirty blanket that covered the crib. There was
16 nothing else in the room except a dirty mattress lying on
17 the floor in one corner. From the appearance of the
18 bedding, it hadn't been laundered or changed in at least
19 three weeks. On the other side of the house, a small
20 kitchen was piled high with dirty dishes, pieces of 8/30
21 rotting food and empty tin cans. The plumbing in the
22 house had apparently been out of order for several weeks.

(MORE)

1 JOE: While Irene and I looked over the house, the girl who'd
(CONT)
2 met us at the door, Pamela Telford, followed us. When we
3 got back into the front room, she started to cry.
4 SOUND: DRIPPING OF WATER THROUGH THE ROOF INTO TIN CANS. SOUND OF
5 RAIN, OFF.
6 PAMELA: CRYING.
7 JOE: Where is she, honey?
8 BEAT:
9 JOE: C'mon Pam...it isn't as bad as all that. Here....
10 SOUND: PAMELA BLOWS HER NOSE.
11 JOE: Now, where's your mother, honey?
12 PAMELA: (SNIFFING) She's out looking for a job. 9/00
13 IRENE: Kinda late for that isn't it?
14 PAMELA: I dunno. That's what she's doin though...~~out~~ looking for
15 a job.
16 JOE: That Martin and Carol in the other room?
~~17 PAMELA: Yeah, my brother and sister.~~
~~18 IRENE: Where's your other brother, Steve?~~
~~19 PAMELA: Down at the garage.~~
~~20 JOE: What?~~
~~21 PAMELA: The garage. Down the street...couple of blocks over.~~
~~22 He's down there.~~
~~23 IRENE: When'd your mother leave?~~
~~24 PAMELA: (SNIFFS) What?~~
~~25 IRENE: Your mother...when'd she go out to look for work?~~

1 ~~PAMELA: Just this morning. She was here this morning.~~
2 JOE: Why'd you tell us she was here tonight?
3 PAMELA: Cause I didn't know what you wanted. I thought you were
4 trying to arrest her.
5 JOE: Why'd you think a thing like that?
6 PAMELA: Because that's what she said.
7 JOE: Your mother?
8 PAMELA: Yes...she told us that policemen arrested people. She
9 told us about it...how you did it once to her.
10 IRENE: Your mother's been arrested?
11 PAMELA: Yes.
12 JOE: You know why?
13 PAMELA: Cause she was.
14 JOE: No honey, I mean, why was she arrested?
15 PAMELA: She got sick. She got sick and they put her in jail.
16 JOE: Uh huh.
17 PAMELA: That's why I told you she was asleep. I thought that
18 you'd go away and leave us alone.
19 IRENE: Sure cold in here. Do you have any heat in the house,
20 Pamela?
21 PAMELA: There's a heater in the bedroom.
22 IRENE: (TO JOE) I'll turn it on.
23 PAMELA: It doesn't work.
24 IRENE: Huh?
25 PAMELA: The heater doesn't work. Marty was playing one day and
26 he broke the little rods in it. It doesn't work any more.

9/30

1 IRENE: We should be able to get some heat out of it.
2 PAMELA: No you won't. There isn't any gas. They turned it off.
3 JOE: I think maybe you kids better come downtown with us, huh?
4 PAMELA: Why?
5 JOE: It'll be warm there. Be a lot more comfortable. 10/00
6 PAMELA: We can't go. We gotta wait here.
7 JOE: It's alright, Pam, we'll leave word for your mother where
8 you are.
9 PAMELA: We still can't go. We gotta be here when she comes home.
10 She'll be pretty mad if we aren't here. We gotta stay.
11 JOE: We'll explain it to her. (TO IRENE) Irene?

~~12 IRENE: Yeah.
13 JOE: You wanna call the crime lab...have 'em come out and get
14 some pictures of the place?
15 IRENE: Right.
16 SOUND: IRENE LEAVES AND WE HEAR THE DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE. RAIN UP
17 WITH DOOR OPEN.
18 JOE: You want to get your brother and sister ready?
19 PAMELA: We're not goin'.
20 JOE: I'm sorry, honey, but there's not much you can do about
21 it.~~

22 SOUND: DOOR KNOCK OFF MIKE.
23 JOE: Maybe that's your mother now?
24 PAMELA: No...it's Steve. I'll let him in.
25 SOUND: JOE AND PAMELA WALK INTO THE KITCHEN. DOOR UNLOCK AND OPEN
26 RAIN UP.

1 STEVE: COMING IN) Who're you?
2 PAMELA: He's a policeman.
3 SOUND: DOOR CLOSE. STEVE WALKS INTO THE KITCHEN..
4 STEVE: What d'ya want? There's nothin' wrong here. Nothin'
5 for you to come buttin' in for.
6 JOE: We want to see your mother.
7 STEVE: She hasn't done anything. Why don't you cops leave her
8 alone. Stop hounding her. All the time you're after her.
9 Never leave her alone. Why don't you leave her alone?
10 PAMELA: You bring something to eat Steve?
11 STEVE: Mister?
12 JOE: What's that son?
13 STEVE: You better get outta here. And don't call me son.
14 JOE: What's the matter, Steve? Why're you actin' like this?
15 STEVE: "Cause I don't like cops, that's why. You've got no right
16 to come in here like this. No right at all. We ain't done
17 nothin' wrong. We're not botherin' nobody. We're not
18 causin' any trouble. Now leave us alone.
19 PAMELA: They're lookin' for Ma, Steve.
20 STEVE: I figured that. She's not here. Now get out of here.
21 SOUND: THE FRONT DOOR OPENS OFF AND IRENE COMES IN.
22 IRENE: Crime lab is on the way, Joe. (SHE SEES STEVE) Hi...
23 you're Steve aren't you?
24 STEVE: You a cop too?
25 IRENE: I'm a policewoman yes.

1 STEVE: I just told your friend here to get out. You can put the
2 same thing on.

3 IRENE: Kinda rough for a little guy, aren't you?

4 STEVE: That's none of your business. I know my rights. I know
5 'em good.

6 JOE: Look Steve, we're not after you. We don't want to cause
7 any trouble. We got a call tellin' us that you kids were
8 havin' it a little rough. We just want to help. We're
9 gonna take you downtown, give you a good meal. Just until
10 we can talk to your mother. That's all. Just until we
11 can talk to her.

12 BEAT

13 STEVE: Then you're gonna bring us back?

14 JOE: We'll see.

15 STEVE: How 'bout Marty and Carol, you takin' them too?

16 JOE: Yeah.

17 STEVE: You gonna give them somethin' to eat?

18 JOE: That's right.

19 BEAT

20 STEVE: Okay. We'll go with you. Just for tonight though.

21 That's all...just for tonight. Y'understand?

22 JOE: Yeah.

23 STEVE: And another thing.

24 JOE: What's that?

25 STEVE: We're payin' our own way. I've got money. Anything you
26 give us, we're gonna pay for.

1 JOE: You don't have to do that.

2 STEVE: I'm going to. We don't need charity. We're gettin along
3 all right. Everybody has a little rough luck now and
4 then. Everybody. Mom tries. She really does. She's
5 been lookin' for a job for a long time. 11/100

6 JOE: Uh huh.

7 STEVE: She's always tryin' to do her best. Just seems that
8 things don't work out so good for her. ~~She's all the~~
9 ~~time lookin' for work. Doesn't even have time to keep~~
10 ~~the house real clean like she'd like to.~~

11 IRENE: Your mother say when she'd be back?

12 STEVE: Why you wanna ask that?

13 IRENE: Just like to know, that's all. How 'bout an answer?

14 PAMELA: Nothin' wrong with that, Steve.

15 STEVE: There's always something wrong when a cop asks you a
16 question. They don't ask 'em unless they're tryin to
17 trap you.

18 JOE: That's not true son.

19 STEVE: You don't have to lie to me. You think that just because
20 I'm a kid I don't know about these things. You think I'm
21 just a little kid. You're wrong. There's nothin' wrong
22 here. Nothin' at all.

23 JOE: Alright, Steve, you want to help the others get ready to
24 leave.

25 STEVE: I'm not sure we can go.

1 JOE: Afraid you're gonna have to son.
2 STEVE: I told you about callin' me son before. My name's Steve.
3 JOE: Alright Steve.
4 STEVE: We'll go with you. We'll go just for tonight. But the
5 only reason is that I want Marty and Carol and Pamela to
6 have something hot to eat. There's somethin' wrong with
7 the stove, so's we can't cook on it. That's the only
8 reason we're goin'. Just because there's something wrong
9 with the stove.
10 PAMELA: The gas is turned off.
11 STEVE: No it isn't. It just don't work. But whatever we eat..
12 whatever we get...we're gonna pay for. I've got the
13 money. 11/30
14 JOE: I told you that isn't necessary.
15 STEVE: It is, too. We're not takin' any charity. We've never
16 taken any and we're not goin' to start now. Anything
17 that's done for us, is gonna be paid for.
18 JOE: That's right, Steve.
19 STEVE: Huh?
20 JOE: It'll be paid for.
21 (END SCENE 2)

1 JOE: 8:56 P.M. Men from the crime lab arrived and photographed
2 the entire house. the pictures were to be held for
3 evidence. A search of the house showed that there was
4 no food for the children. In a cardboard box in the ^{12/60}
5 bedroom, under a pile of toilet articles, we found a
6 photograph of a man and a woman taken at what appeared
7 to be a beach photographers. ~~Frank~~ and I checked through
8 the rest of the house but found nothing that would indicate
9 where the mother of the four Telford children had gone.
10 The youngsters were taken to juvenile hall, bathed, given
11 clean clothes, and fed. At first, Steve Telford refused
12 to eat anything until he was assured that his two sisters
13 and brother were being given the same kind of food. After
14 the boy had finished eating, Irene and I talked to him.
15 His previous uncooperative attitude had changed and he
16 seemed anxious to help us find his mother. ^{12/30}
17 STEVE: This is the longest ~~she's~~ ever been gone. I'm beginning
18 to think that there might be something wrong.
19 JOE: When'd you see her last, Steve?
20 STEVE: This is Friday isn't it?
21 IRENE: Yeah...February 8th.
22 STEVE: Uh huh...it was last Tuesday then.
23 JOE: Y'mean this week?

1 STEVE: No..a week ago. A week ago Tuesday.
2 JOE: What'd she say when she left?
3 STEVE: Just like always. She said she wasn't feeling very good
4 and she was goin' out and try to look for work.
5 IRENE: What kind of work does she do?
6 STEVE: She's a waitress. A good one too.
7 JOE: Uh huh.
8 STEVE: That's the trouble I guess. That she's so good. 13/30
9 IRENE: What d'ya mean?
19 STEVE: Well, there are only a couple of places that Mom says are
20 any good. Y'know...where she'd want to work.
21 JOE: I don't think I understand, Steve.
22 STEVE: Well, Mom always said that she wasn't just a hash slinger.
23 That's what she called it. She said that she was a
24 waitress and that she wouldn't go to work just anyplace.
25 JOE: Uh huh. Where'd she work last?
26 STEVE: Big place out in Beverly Hills. I forget the name right
27 now. But when she got the job...before she went to work,
28 Mom took us out there. We didn't go right in but we
29 stood in front and looked at it. Big place. Real nice.
30 Y'know..all kinda glass in front. And you could see the
31 people inside havin' a good time. We didn't go in but
32 we could see it good. 13/30
33 JOE: How long did your mother work there?

1 STEVE: Well, she had some trouble, and she had to quit.
2 IRENE: What d'ya mean, trouble?
3 STEVE: She got sick, and the man who was her boss got mad at her
4 and I guess he said a lot of things that Mom didn't like.
5 So Mom told him that he couldn't talk to her like that and
6 then she quit.
7 JOE: You're mother ever tell you what was wrong with her?
8 BEAT
9 JOE Steve?
10 STEVE: No...she didn't.
11 IRENE: She see a doctor about it?
12 BEAT
13 STEVE: Y'might as well know it. You're gonna find out anyway.
14 JOE: What's that son?
15 STEVE: Mom drank a lot. Sometimes she'd drink too much and she'd
16 get sick. That's what was wrong.
17 JOE: Where's your father, Steve?
18 STEVE: He died before Carol was born. Right before.
19 JOE: Uh huh. I want to take a look at a picture son. Look at
20 it and tell us if you know who the man in it is.
21 STEVE: Alright.
22 SOUND: JOE HANDS HIM SMALL PICTURE IN A CHEAP TIN FRAME.
23 BEAT
24 STEVE: That's Mom.
25 JOE: Uh huh.
26 BEAT

1 IRENE: You know who the man is?
2 STEVE: No...I don't think I ever saw him before. 14/30
3 JOE: Your mother have any men friends?
4 STEVE: ~~No~~...I don't think so. Least she never told me about 'em.
5 She always said that the kids were enough for her. That
6 we were all that mattered. She used to say that when
7 she got a steady job...we were all gonna live good. She
8 used to tell us how one day the phone would ring and all
9 of our troubles would be over. Just like that. One day
10 we'd have a little trouble and the next, everything was
11 gonna be alright.
12 JOE: Yeah.
13 STEVE: She really believed it too. Just all of a sudden...the
14 phone was gonna ring and all our troubles would be over.
15 IRENE: Uh huh.
16 STEVE: I didn't know how to..
17 JOE: What's that ~~that~~ Steve? 15/00
18 STEVE: That they turned the phone off.
19(END SCENE 3)

1 JOE: We had the name Rowena Telford checked through R. and I.
2 and found that the boy's story was true. The woman had
3 been arrested once on a charge of 4127-A L.A.M.C. being
4 drunk in a public place. Irene put in a call to the
5 waitress' union and asked them to check and see if the
6 woman was working anyplace in town. They came back with
7 the information that the last job she'd held had been six
8 months before, and that she'd been fired for ^{15/30}
9 insubordination and being drunk. We showed the picture
10 found at the Telford home around the department in the
11 hopes that one of the officers might recognize the
12 background. None of them did. The next morning, we had
13 several copies made and began a search of the bars along
14 Fifth street. We'd ask each bartender if he'd ever seen the
15 woman or the man. In the first four places we checked, we
16 got "yes" answers to the query about the woman, but none
17 of the people we talk to could tell us anything about the
18 man in the picture. Two more days passed without results.
19 In the meantime, a warrant had been issued ordering the ^{16/100}
20 arrest of Rowena Telford charging her with child neglect. A
21 local and an A.P.B. were gotten out on her. On the third
22 day after we'd started our search for the missing woman, we
23 talked with a bartender who was able to give us the name of
24 the man in the picture. He described the man as a fry cook
25 in one of the smaller restaurants on Fifth Street. We
26 checked the restaurant but found that he'd been fired on
27 Monday, the 28th of January. A check of his home address
28 gave us no indication where he might be. Irene and I went
29 back to the office and checked the name through R. and I.
30 SOUND: SQUADROOM B.G....DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE

16/30

- 1 IRENE: (FADING IN) Joe?
- 2 JOE: Yeah. Come up with anything?
- 3 IRENE: Checked the name. He's registered as an ex-convict.
- 4 JOE: Uh huh. Where'd he fall?
- 5 IRENE: Back in Pennsylvania. Did time for A.D.W.
- 6 JOE: We better talk to him.
- 7 IRENE: Right now, he looks awful good.
- 8 JOE: Why do you say that?
- 9 IRENE: What he was arrested for.
- 10 JOE: Yeah.
- 11 IRENE: He tried to beat a woman to death.

(END SCENE 4)

(END ACT 1)

GIBNEY: You are listening to Dragnet, the authentic story of your police force in action.

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)

16/58

17/44

DRAGNET RADIO
JAN. 26, 1954

SECOND COMMERCIAL

16/58

1 FENNEMAN: Meet Peter Lind Hayes and Mary Healy - America's
2 favorite husband and wife comedy team. They are
3 typical of smokers everywhere who are saying -
4 "Chesterfields for me." Mary says. 17/15
5 MARY: I've smoked regular size Chesterfield for about
6 seven years. Guess that ought to prove how I feel
7 about Chesterfield's taste and mildness.
8 FENNEMAN: Peter says - "Chesterfields for me, too"..... 17/30
9 PETER: Far as I'm concerned king is the only size....and
10 like Mary says. Chesterfield is the only cigarette
11 MARY: Either way you like them. I'll bet you'll find
12 Chesterfield is best for you.
13 FENNEMAN: Yes - smoke America's most popular two-way cigarette
14regular and king-size Chesterfield. The best
15 cigarette ever made and best for you. 17/44

1 JOE: An immediate search was started for the man in the picture
2 with Rowena Telford. From friends of his we found that we
3 might be able to locate him in a hamburger stand at the
4 beach in Santa Monica. Tuesday, February 12th,
5 Policewoman Irene Gardner and I drove down to the beach
6 city.

7 SOUND: BOARDWALK B.G. STEPS ON CONCRETE. RAIN IN B.G.

8 IRENE: Should be it up there, huh?

9 JOE: Yeah.

10 SOUND: STEPS HOLD FOR A WHILE. THEN WE HEAR DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE.

11 JOE: AS HE OPENS THE DOOR) Go ahead.

12 IRENE: Thanks.

13 SOUND: THEY WALK INTO THE RESTAURANT. AS THEY DO, WE HEAR THE

14 SOUND OF HAMBURGERS FRYING. DOOR CLOSE AND B.G. OUT.

15 IRENE: Warm in here.

16 JOE: Yeah.

17 SOUND: THEY WALK TO THE COUNTER. STOP.

18 WILLIS: (LITTLE OFF) Yeah?

19 JOE: Like to see Willis Thatcher.

20 WILLIS: What for?

21 IRENE: Police officers. You're Thatcher aren't you?

22 WILLIS: Yeah. What d'ya want with me?

23 JOE: Couple of questions we'd like to ask .

24 WILLIS: Sure. I got nothin' to hide. No reason to give you any
25 trouble. What d'ya want to know?

1 JOE: You know a woman named Rowena Telford?
2 BEAT
3 WILLIS: Why d'ya ask that?
4 JOE: It's a simple question, Thatcher. You can give us the
5 same kind of answer.
6 BEAT
7 JOE: How 'bout it?
8 WILLIS: Yeah. I know her. Why? What's she done now?
9 JOE: When'd you see her last?
10 WILLIS: I don't know, couple of weeks ago.
11 JOE: Narrow that down huh?
12 WILLIS: Why? Listen...anything she did...I had no part of.
13 IRENE: We understand you were pretty friendly with her.
14 WILLIS: That's not true. Sure...maybe I had a couple of dates
15 with her. Not more than a couple. That's it. Isn't
16 anybody in the world could put up with her for more than
17 that.
18 JOE: Why d'ya say that?
19 WILLIS: You ever know her?
20 JOE: No.
21 WILLIS: (TO IRENE) You?
22 IRENE: No. I never met her.
23 WILLIS: That's how come you can ask that kinda question then. If
24 you knew her...if you spent any time with her...you had to
25 know what I mean.
26 JOE: Yeah... well tell us.

18/30

19/50

1 WILLIS: She's a lush. A real lush. All the time boozin' it up.
2 Wasn't so bad that she got loaded but she was real loud
3 when she was tanked up. Real loud.
4 JOE: That right.
5 WILLIS: Sure...check around. Ask her freinds. Talk to 'em.
6 They'll all tell you the same story. Every one of 'em.
7 First off she'd have a couple of drinks...next thing
8 you know, any fella with her'd be tryin' to get out of a
9 place without gettin' his head knocked off. She was
10 always startin' trouble. Sit down...order a drink and
11 the next thing you knew, some guy was askin' you outside.
12 I ain't built to go outside too often. I get hurt bad
13 when I fight. 19/30
14 JOE: Yeah. She have any other boy friends?
15 WILLIS: You don't listen very good do you?
16 JOE: What?
17 WILLIS: I told you. Isn't anybody around here'd have much to do
18 with her. Far as I know hthere wasn't nobody who went
19 with her.
20 IRENE: How'd she seem the last time you saw her? Wednesday,
21 the 30th of January, wasn't it?
22 BEAT
23 WILLIS: Nice try lady. I don't know when it was I saw her last.
24 I told you...couple of weeks ago. I can't name you a date
25 JOE: How'd she feel when you did see her?
26 WILLIS: Alright. She had a little hangover....she always had one
27 of those.

1 JOE: She seemed depressed about anything?
2 WILLIS: Not that she talked about.
3 JOE: Uh huh. She say anything about leaving town?
4 WILLIS: Not to me. Listen...how 'bout givin' me a break and tellin'
5 me what this is all about? What're you after Rowena for?
6 JOE: Few questions we want to ask her.
7 WILLIS: If I hear anything about her, I'll let you know.
8 JOE: Where you living now?
9 WILLIS: Got a room up in Santa Monica.
10 JOE: How come you didn't let the registration office know about
11 it?
12 WILLIS: Just slipped my mind I guess. Y'know how it is...you get
13 busy doin' something and you forget. That's all...I just
14 forgot.
15 JOE: We'd like to take a look at your room.
16 WILLIS: For what? You better come right out and tell me what this
17 is all about. You're not just out here to play footsie.
18 What're you lookin' for?
19 JOE: These fights you told us about, you ever have any arguments
20 with Mrs. Telford?
21 WILLIS: I don't think that's any of your business.
22 JOE: We're writin' it down that it is. How 'bout an answer.
23 WILLIS: We had a couple of beefs. I told you...y'couldn't go
24 around with her and not have little trouble.
25 IRENE: You ever hit her?

20/00

1 WILLIS: We're back to that huh?
2 IRENE: What d'ya mean?
3 WILLIS: You know the record. The time I did . You figure maybe
4 I did smething, to Rowena. Isn't that it? You think I
5 hurt her.
6 JOE: We're askin' you.
7 WILLIS: Well, you're way off the road. I ain't gonna try to con
8 you. Sure, I maybe had a lotta reasons to want to belt
9 her. I used to think a lot of Rowena. A awful lot. But
10 that's all over. All I wanted her to do was to leave me
11 alone. Stay away from me. (BEAT) I didn't ever hit her.
12 I didn't hurt her...no matter what you think. *20/30*
13 JOE: ~~Alright.~~
14 WILLIS: You gotta believe that. Guess it sounds kinda funny....
15 I ain't tryin' to fool anybody. I'm ready to admit it.
16 I'm a bum.
17 JOE: (GRUNTS)
18 WILLIS: But she didn't have to keep tellin' me. Not all the time.
19 I knew it.
20 JOE: Yeah.
21 WILLIS: No body likes to be called a Bum.
22 JOE: Uh huh.
23 WILLIS: Even if you know it's true.

(END SCENE 5)

1 JOE: 1:47 P.M. We drove the suspect over to his rooming house
2 and checked the premises. We found nothing that would
3 definitely tie him in with the disappearance of the
4 Telford woman. After leaving his room, we took him
5 downtown where he was held for further investigation on a
6 charge of suspicion of murder. We checked communications
7 but found that there'd been no word on the missing woman.
8 Her name and description had been checked through the
9 files in Missing Persons without results. 3:40 P.M. Frank
10 came by the office and said that the trial he was
11 attending was dragging on and that it would be a couple
12 more days before he'd be back on duty. A petition was
13 filed on behalf of the children, charging violation of
14 section 273A-P.C., unfit home, asking that they be made
15 wards of the Juvenile court. Police woman Irene Gardner
16 put in a call to the next door neighbor of the missing
17 mother and found that there'd been no trace of her since
18 we'd removed the children. 5:12 P.M. We finished up the
19 log for the day and were leaving the office.

20 SOUND: SQUADROOM B.G. PHONE RING

21 JOE: I'll take it.

22 SOUND: HE WALKS TO THE PHONE...PUNCHES BUTTON AND LIFTS RECEIVER.

1 JOE: (INTO PHONE) Juvenile...Friday. Yeah..that's right.
2 Uh huh. What was that address again? Yeah. Uh huh. Yes
3 sir...we'll be right there.

4 SOUND: HE HANGS UP THE PHONE.

5 IRENE: What've you got?

6 JOE: Bar over on east sixth...

7 IRENE: Yeah.

8 JOE: Rowena Telford just walked in.

9 (END SCENE 6)

10 JOE: The bartender was one of those we'd questioned when we'd
11 first started our investigation. At the time, he knew
12 the Telford woman but said that he hadn't seen her for
13 several weeks. On the phone he'd told me that she'd just
14 walked into his bar. Irene Gardner and I left the office
15 and drove over to the east Sixth Street address but the
16 woman had just left. We had her description, and a
17 description of the clothes she was wearing, put out to
18 all cars in the area, but she was not picked up. Miss
19 Gardner and I went back to the office to put out a
20 supplementary bulletin on the woman. At 8:14 P.M. We got
21 a call from the woman who'd made the original complaint,
22 Mrs. Crystal Eggers. She told us that the Telford woman
23 had just walked into her own home. Irene and I left the
24 office and drove out to the house on Vallejo Street.

25 SOUND: STEPS ON SIDEWALK. UP PORCH AND STOP.

1 IRENE: Light on...she must still be home.
2 JOE: Yeah.
3 SOUND: DOOR KNOCK.
4 BEAT
5 ROWENA: (OFF...INSIDE THE HOUSE) Who is it?
6 JOE: Police officers...like to talk to you.
7 ROWENA: (OFF) Just a minute.
8 SOUND: AFTER A BEAT, WE HEAR THE DOOR UNLOCKED AND OPENED.
9 ROWENA: (A LITTLE DRUNK) 'Bout time you got here. You got 'em
10 yet?
11 JOE: Ma'am?
12 ROWENA: You got the little brats? They all run off. All of 'em.
13 I get my hands on 'em and they're gonna get what for.
14 (SHE LOOKS FOR THE KIDS) Where are they?
15 JOE: They're downtown, Mrs. Telford.
16 ROWENA: Whyn'cha bring 'em home. This is where they belong. When
17 I get my hands on 'em....oh what I'm gonna give that
18 little Steve.
19 JOE: You mind if we come in?
20 ROWENA: No...come right ahead.
21 SOUND: THE TWO OFFICERS WALK INTO THE HOUSE.
22 ROWENA: (AS THEY ENTER) You gotta kinda excuse the way the house
23 looks. I been away for a couple of days. You can see how
24 the kids can mess the place up.
25 JOE: Yes ma'am. I'm sergeant Friday...this is Miss Gardner.
26 ROWENA: How do. Would you like to sit down?
27 IRENE: No that's alright.

1 JOE: You mind telling us where you've been, Mrs. Telford?
2 ROWENA: Just a little trip. For my nerves y'know. I'm awful
3 nervous.
4 IRENE: Did you just walk off and leave the children by themselves?
5 ROWENA: Well...don't put it that way. Stevie's good with the
6 kids. He can take care of 'em. How come you didn't bring
7 'em back?
8 JOE: They're being held in Juvenile Hall, Mrs. Telford.
9 ROWENA: For what?
10 JOE: When we found 'em, they were suffering from malnutrition.
11 This place...it's not fit for youngsters.
12 BEAT
13 ROWENA: So you just took 'em out and put 'em in a home. That the
14 way it is?
15 JOE: Yes ma'am.
16 BEAT
17 ROWENA: Well, you've got your nerve. You really have.
18 IRENE: What?
19 ROWENA: You comin' in here and breakin' up a home like this. You
20 oughta be ashamed of yourself.
21 JOE: We've got a warrant for your arrest.
22 ROWENA: Me?
23 JOE: Yes ma'am.

24/00

1 ROWENA: Now you listen to me cop. You've got no right to come
2 in here and break up my home. I know all about you
3 cops. All about you. Pussyfootin' around...tryin'
4 to make everybody think you're so good. Well, it won't
5 work with me. I know. I've been around. I know you
6 for what you are. And I tell you this.

7 JOE: What's that?

8 ROWENA: You better get those kids back here fast. You hear me?
9 You get 'em back here fast, cause if you don't I'm
10 gonna sue you..and her..and the city for every dime
11 it's got. I'll take this to any court in the country
12 I have to...but I'm gonna get my kids back.

24/30

13 BEAT

14 ROWENA: (TO IRENE) You'll understand. You're a woman. I had
15 to go away. For my nerves. I left the kids okay. I
16 gave Steve enough money to take care of everything.
17 It's not the first time he's done it. I don't know
18 what I'd do without him. You can understand it can't
19 you. You know. They're my babies. My own babies.
20 I never meant 'em no harm. Never. I love 'em. With
21 a mother's kinda love. You know what I mean don't you?

22 IRENE: I think we'd better be going.

23 BEAT

1 ROWENA: You're like all the rest. ~~You think you're so smug~~
2 ~~so self righteous~~. Well, you ain't. You ain't half
3 as good as you think you are. You want it plain.
4 Real plain so's you can understand it? You stink.
5 That's what. All of you stink.

6 JOE: Where've you been for the last two weeks?

7 ROWENA: Most terrible thing that ever happened to me. To
8 anybody. He told me he loved me. Said we was gonna
9 get married. I thought it'd be nice for the kids.
10 That's what I thought. For the kids. We was gonna
11 drive down to Mexico and get married. ~~All nice.~~ 25/00

12 JOE: Uh huh.

13 ROWENA: Everything was goin' nice. I gave Stevie a couple of
14 dollars, told him to take care of things. Then we left
15 Drove all the way to San Diego without stoppin'. Then
16 we had some lunch. On the way to get married. We had
17 a couple of drinks. Just to make the food taste better.
18 That's all. Then all of a sudden I got sick again.
19 And he walked out on me. Left me right there in the
20 bar. All by myself. All the promises he made to me.
21 All the things we was gonna have. ~~All of it...~~ just a 25/30
22 lot of lies. Soon's I got a little sick...we just had
23 a couple of drinks. He walked out on me. Left me right
24 there. All by myself, y'know.

25 JOE: Yeah.

26/30
1 ROWENA: All by myself. I didn't have no money. No way to
2 get back. What was I gonna do? I believed him. I
3 really thought he was gonna marry me. I believed all
4 he said how things were gonna be better. I believed
5 it all. Dirtiest trick I ever heard of, walkin' out
6 on a girl like that. Dirtiest I ever heard.

7 JOE: I got one to beat it

8 ROWENA: Huh?

9 JOE: ~~Your children tell it~~ *the one you pulled on your*

10 MUSIC: SIGNATURE

children.

26/30

1 FENN: (EASILY) The story you have just heard is true. The
2 names were changed to protect the innocent.
3 GIBNEY: On June 4th, trial was held in Department 97, Superior
4 Court of the state of California, in and for the
5 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

26/45

27/20

Trial

27/28

- 27/45 -

DRAGNET RADIO

26/45

CLOSING COMMERCIAL - NO. 1

- 1 FENN: Now, here is our star, Jack Webb.
- 2 WEBB: Thank you, George Fenneman. Friends, we've tried to set a Dragnet standard.....Putting it in just a few words, we're out to make each program the kind of entertainment you want. Believe me, we're going to keep working real hard at it. You know, the people who make Chesterfields feel the same way about their cigarette. To sell a product you have to make it good and keep it good. And the latest reports from our research lab shows Chesterfield is highest in quality.....highest in quality.....low in nicotine. Smoke America's most popular two-way cigarette. Chesterfield - regular or king-size.....they're milder...they're satisfyingthey're best for me. Best for you.

27/00

27/20

TRIAL PAGE
2/2/54

27178

Roxana Esther Telford was tried and convicted of violation of Section 273A-P.C., endangering the life and safety of a minor, which is punishable by imprisonment in the County Jail for a period of not more than one year. The four Telford children were made wards of the Juvenile Court and were placed in foster homes.

27145

END PAGE

1 MUSIC: THEME

2 THEME UNDER

27/58

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

9 _____ Script

10 by John Robinson. Music; by Walter Schumann. Hal
11 Gibney speaking.

12 MUSIC: THEME UNDER...CONTINUES

28/23

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

18 (FATIMA HITCH HIKE)

28/35

28/37 → 29/16
file to 30

L & M FILTER--(HITCH-HIKE)
DRAGNET 2/9/54

ANNCR: Filter tip smokers ... This is it!

L & M Filters ... The one filter tip cigarette with
plenty of good taste - much more flavor - much less
nicotine ... And effective filtration.

Only the L & M Filter contains the miracle product -
alpha cellulose - absolutely pure - non-mineral -
harmless to health.

Yes, this is it! As Ann Sheridan puts it ...

L & M Filters are just what the doctor ordered

Buy L & M Filters ... the light and mild smoke!

