



DRAGNET

CHESTERFIELD #70 NBC #238 RELEASE DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1954

DIRECTOR: JACK WEBB
WRITER: JOHN ROBINSON
MUSIC: WALTER SCHUMANN
SCRIPT: JEAN MILES
SOUND: BUD TOLLEFSON & WAYNE KINWORTHY
ENGINEER: RAOUL MURPHY
ANNCR. #1: GEORGE FENNEMAN
ANNCR. #2: HAL GIBNEY, NBC
CASE: "THE BIG CUP"
REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:
RECORDING: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1954
CAST AND SOUND: 2:30 - 5:00 P.M.
EDITING: T.B.A.
SCORING: MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1954
ORCHESTRA: 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
ANNOUNCERS: (COMMERCIAL)
BROADCAST: 6:00 - 6:30 PM
STUDIO J - BY T. R.

SPONSOR: CHESTERFIELD CIGARETTES
AGENCY: CUNNINGHAM-WALSH
COMMERCIAL SUPERVISOR: PETE PETERSON
TECHNICAL ADVISORS:
SGT. MARTY WINN: L.A.P.D.
SGT. VANCE BRASHER: L.A.P.D.
CAPT. JACK DONOHUE: L.A.P.D.

*Agencies
Cut a [unclear]
7420 [unclear]*

"THE BIG CUP"

C A S T

SGT. JOE FRIDAY. JACK WEBB
OFF. FRANK SMITH. BEN ALEXANDER
EARL BRUTTIG. VIC RODMAN
ARNOLD NORTON JACK KRUSCHEN
BARNEY LAWRENCE. HARLAN WARDE
MERIE HEWETT. HERB ELLIS

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 Liggett
7 and Myers, first major tobacco company to bring you a
8 complete line of quality cigarettes.

9 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR

10 FENN: (EASILY) You're a detective sergeant. You're assigned to
11 Homicide Detail. A howling dog causes a man to check his
12 neighbor's house. He finds the brutally beaten body of
13 an elderly woman. She's been killed by person or persons
14 unknown. Your job ... investigate.

15 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)

DRAGNET RADIO
March 9, 1954

FIRST COMMERCIAL: 52

1 FENN: Today, friends, you hear these three words everywhere.....
2 "Chesterfields for me". The Chesterfield you smoke today /
3 is the best cigarette ever made....best for you because
4 Chesterfield gives you proof of highest quality - low
5 nicotine. The taste you want - the mildness you want. 10
6 Chesterfield is best for you because it's tested and
7 approved by thirty years of scientific tobacco research.
8 Chesterfield is best for you because it has an established /
9 good record with smokers. Proven by test after test. Yes,
10 friends....the Chesterfield you smoke today is the best
11 cigarette ever made for the taste you want....the mildness
12 you want. Join the thousands now changing to Chesterfield.
13 Always say - "Chesterfield for me".

1 MUSIC: THEME

2 GIBNEY: Dragnet, the documented drama of an actual crime. For the
3 next thirty 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 ... Dragnet is the story of your
8 police force in action.

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

10 SOUND: JOE'S STEPS ON CONCRETE WALK. NIGHT OUTDOOR B.G. JOE
11 WALKS UP ON PORCH AND STOPS AT THE END OF THE FOLLOWING

12 JOE: It was Tuesday, June 10th. It was warm in Los Angeles.
13 We were working the night watch out of Homicide Detail.
14 My partner's Frank Smith. The boss is Captain Lohrman.
15 My name's Friday. I was on my way back from the alley and
16 it was 7:26 P.M. when I got to 9782 Greenoak Drive ...
17 (SOUND: DOOR OPEN) ... the front door.

18 SOUND: JOE ENTERS THE HOUSE. DOOR CLOSE BEHIND HIM. COUPLE OF
19 STEPS ON CARPET AND STOP.

20 FRANK: (LITTLE OFF) Find anything?

21 JOE: No. No sign of anybody out back. You call the crime lab?

22 FRANK: Yeah. Talked to Lee. He's on the way.

1 JOE: Good.

2 FRANK: Called Hollywood Division. They're gonna send out some
3 more men to ^{HELP} assist us.

4 JOE: Outside but it might come up with something.

5 SOUND: THEY WALK INTO THE KITCHEN.

6 FRANK: Whoever did it sure must have been wild, Joe. I don't
7 think I've ever seen a killing as brutal as this one.

8 JOE: Pretty rough.

9 FRANK: (LOOKING AT THE BODY) Must have hit her a couple of dozen
10 times. Look here.

11 SOUND: JOE TAKES A STEP AND HE AND FRANK STOOP DOWN TO LOOK AT
12 THE BODY.

13 FRANK: Her wrist watch is broken...Looks like she might have
14 raised her arms to try and stop some of the blows.

15 JOE: (LOOKING) Uh huh. Lemme see...the crystal is smashed up
16 pretty bad...looks like 3:04, huh?

17 FRANK: Yeah.

18 JOE: Must have been the time.

19 FRANK: From what the neighbor said that'd have to be this
20 afternoon.

21 JOE: Yeah. You find anything that looks like the murder weapon?

1 FRANK: Nothin' out in the open. Thought it'd be better if the
2 Crime Lab checked the place first.

3 JOE: Uh huh. How 'bout the other rooms, they as bad as the one
4 in front?

5 FRANK: Yeah. Stuff all scattered around. Drawers pulled out...
6 contents thrown all over. Whoever it was sure wanted us
7 to think it was robbery.

8 JOE: Yeah. Let's check the neighbor, huh?

9 FRANK: Uh huh. He's across the street. Said he wanted to go
10 home and take something to help him quiet down. Must have
11 been quite a shock on the old fella. 3/3

12 JOE: Yeah. You want to tell Bryan and Phillips where we'll be?

13 SOUND: UNDER ABOVE, THE TWO OF THEM HAVE MOVED TO THE DOOR AND
14 OPEN IT. OUTDOOR B.G. IN

15 FRANK: Yeah.

16 JOE: Phillips is out in back. I saw him when I came in.

17 FRANK: I'll talk to Bryan.

18 JOE: Ask 'em to let us know when Lee gets here, huh?

1 FRANK: (FADING OFF) Yeah.
2 SOUND: FRANK FADES OFF MIKE. JOE WALKS ACROSS THE STREET AND UP
3 A WALK, ONTO PORCH AND KNOCKS AT SCREEN DOOR.
4 EARL: (LITTLE OFF AND GETTING A LITTLE DRUNK) C'mon in.
5 SOUND: JOE OPENS THE SCREEN DOOR AND WALKS INTO THE ROOM. AS HE
6 DOES, WE HEAR EARL POUR HIMSELF ANOTHER DRINK.
7 JOE: Mr. Bruttig?
8 EARL: Yeah. Over here. Wanna turn the lights on? I was just
9 sittin' here havin' a drink tryin' to calm down a little.
10 JOE: Yes, sir.
11 SOUND: JOE LOOKS FOR THE LIGHTS.
12 EARL: Switch is there on the wall...sorta behind the what-not.
13 Y'have ta kinda feel around for it.
14 SOUND: JOE FINDS THE SWITCH AND TURNS IT ON.
15 JOE: I've got it.
16 EARL: Turned out the lights to help my head. Gotta awful
17 headache. You don't happen to have a couple of asperin on
18 you, do you?
19 JOE: No, sir, I don't.
20 EARL: Oh. Well, guess it dont mind much. (HE TAKES A BELT)
21 Guess this'll do it just as good.
22 JOE: Yes, sir. Wonder if you'd tell me just what happened here?

4/30

-6-

- 1 EARL: Glad to ~~to~~ Want to help all I can. Sure like to see you
2 get the guy what did this to Ethel.
- 3 JOE: Why do you think it was a man?
- 4 EARL: Huh?
- 5 JOE: You said "guy" ... What makes you think it was a man?
- 6 EARL: I didn't mean it like that...y'know...not special. But
7 come right down to it...almost gotta be a man. Can't
8 imagine no woman doin' a thing like that. Least no woman
9 I ever knew. Gotta be a man. (TAKES A DRINK)
- 10 SOUND: UNDER THE ABOVE SPEECH, FRANK HAS COME UP ON THE PORCH
11 AND KNOCKS LIGHTLY ON THE DOOR.
- 12 EARL: (UP) C'mon in...everybody come in. Might as well have a
13 convention, all the people comin' in. 5/100
- 14 JOE: It's my partner, Mr. Bruttig.
- 15 SOUND: FRANK ENTERS THE ROOM. SCREEN DOOR CLOSE BEHIND HIM.
- 16 EARL: Oh. 'Nother policeman, huh?
- 17 JOE: Yes, sir.
- 18 FRANK: (FADING IN) All set, Joe. They're gonna call us when the
19 Crime Lab's crew gets here.
- 20 JOE: Good.
- 21 FRANK: How are you, Mister Bruttig?

1 EARL: People all over the place. Never saw a crowd come up so
2 fast as when the sirens come in. Seemed like they was
3 attached to mushrooms. Just sprung up outta the ground.
4 (TO FRANK) I'm fine.

5 SOUND: HE STARTS TO POUR HIMSELF ANOTHER HEALTHY BELT.

6 JOE: Wonder if you'd mind waiting until after we asked you a
7 few questions, sir.

8 EARL: Y'mean before I have another drink?

9 JOE: Yes, sir.

10 EARL: Course. I'll wait, I mean. You don't have to worry
11 about me though, not old Earl Bruttig. I can hold my
12 liquor. You just bet! Old Earl is a regular tanker.
13 Don't ever show on old Earl.

14 JOE: Uh huh. Well, if you'd tell us about finding the body.

15 EARL: Well, I was out in the front...waterin' the lawn. Always do
16 it at the same time. Hot sun burns it up. if y'dont'
17 water, y'know.

18 JOE: Yes, sir.

19 EARL: Well, that's what I was doin. ... Waterin' the lawn.

20 BEAT

21 JOE: Yes, sir. You want to go on?

22 EARL: Sure you fellas don't want a little snort?

23 JOE &
FRANK: No, thanks.

1 EARL: (GRUNTS) Yeah. Well, all of a sudden I hear Nero makin'
2 a awful fuss.
3 JOE: ~~That's the dog?~~ *Who's that?*
4 EARL: Silly name. Little bitty old Peke, and she called it
5 Nero. Always seemed to me that if y'gonna call a dog
6 Nero, should be a big dog. Yeah...Nero's the dog.
7 JOE: What happened then?
8 EARL: Well, first off, I didn't pay much attention to it. Just
9 kept right on waterin' the lawn. Then old Nero kept it
10 up. Kept right on yellin' and howlin'. Finally, I
11 figured there must be somethin' wrong. So I turned off
12 the water and wandered over. Y'know...t'check up.
13 FRANK: About what time was this?
14 EARL: I thought it was funny, Ethel not comin' out and makin'
15 Nero shut up. (TO FRANK) 'Bout six o'clock.
16 JOE: Did you see anyone around the house when you went over?
17 EARL: Not a soul. No, sir. Nobody. So I went around back to
18 the patio, y'know.
19 JOE: Uh huh.
20 EARL: Wasn't nobody there either. Then I knocked at the door.
21 All this time, little old Nero is still raisin' old Ned.
22 Aint' stopped to breath hardly.

1 JOE: Yes, sir.

2 EARL: Well, when I knocked on the door. thing swung right open.
3 Wasn't locked y'know. So I called to Ethel. Called a
4 couple of times. Didn't get no answer. Couldn't see 130
5 nothin'. Door opens on a kinda little service porch.
6 Didn't see a thing.

7 JOE: Uh huh.

8 EARL: Then I went in. Walked right into the kitchen. There she
9 was. Lyin' on the floor. Stuff scattered all over. And
10 little Nero, sittin' right beside her, just goin' crazy.

11 FRANK: You called the police right away?

12 EARL: I run out of the house, over to my place and called the
13 operator. Dialed "0" and told 'em to send a policeman
14 right away. (TO FRANK) Yeah. Right away I called 'em.

15 JOE: Had ycu seen Mrs. Lawrence at all today?

16 EARL: Yeah. Saw her this noontime. She was out to get the
17 mail, and we said hello. Just as cheerful like.

18 FRANK: About what time was that?

19 EARL: Picked up the mail and went right back into the house.
20 Just like she didn't have no idea what was gonna happen.
21 (TO FRANK) 'bout 1:30. Mail comes then.

22 JOE: Did you see anyone around her house this afternoon?

1 EARL: Nobody. 'Course now....I was out in back most of the 8/30
2 afternoon. Out there workin' in the flowers, so I can't
3 right out say that there wasn't anybody over there.
4 JOE: Do you know where we can get in touch with Mr. Lawrence?
5 EARL: He works in a garage. Down on Pico, I think. I got the
6 name of the place around someplace. Used to take my car
7 down to him before him and Mrs. Lawrence got a divorce.
8 JOE: How long have they been divorced?
9 EARL: Been about three years, I guess. Not real sure about that.
10 FRANK: How do they get along now, d'you know? There any trouble
11 between them?
12 EARL: I guess there's some who'd say that he was right. I make
13 it a practice not to get involved in those things. 00
14 Religion, politics and marriage troubles...I don't get
15 meddled up in 'em. (TO FRANK) They fought all the time.
16 JOE: Has Mr. Lawrence been at his wife's house lately?
17 EARL: Not that I've seen. I guess they see each other, but I
18 understand from what Ethel said it was at the lawyers.
19 She used to try to tell me about it, but I just wouldn't
20 listen. Don't believe in it. Religion, politics and
21 marriage stuff.
22 JOE: Do you know what they had the disagreements about?

1 EARL: Alimony. They was always fightin' about alimony. *9/30*

2 JOE: ~~Did you ever hear Mr. Lawrence threaten his wife?~~ *what you talk about? I didn't hear anything.*

3 EARL: I'll tell you, mister...you better talk to Mr. Lawrence

4 about that. He's the one to set you right on it. I go

5 tellin' you and I'm liable to say somethin' wrong. You

6 better talk to him.

7 JOE: All right, sir. If you'll give us the address.

8 EARL: Sure, I'll take a look at my checkbooks and see if I can

9 find it. You talk to him. If he don't give you all the *105*

10 scoop, then maybe I can help you out a little.

11 JOE: All right, Mr. Bruttig.

12 EARL: You got any more questions you gotta ask me right now?

13 JOE: If you don't feel well, sir, we can talk to you later.

14 EARL: Ain't that I don't feel good, just that I'd like another

15 little snort. Y'know....kind pick me up a little.. Awful

16 thing. Just awful.

17 JOE: There may be some more things we'll want to check with you

18 tonight.

19 EARL: A little old snort ain't gonna do no harm.. One thing

20 everybody says is Old Earl can hold his liquor. Everybody

21 says that.

22 JOE: Uh huh.

23 EARL: Hardly a day goes by somebody don't say that.

1 JOE: Yes sir. If you'll get Mr. Lawrences' address for us.

2 EARL: Right away. Wonder how he's gonna take all this. All
3 them years of battlin'. Screamin' at each other. Now
4 they're over. He ain't gonna have no more trouble
5 because of her.

6 JOE: That's not quite right sir.

7 EARL: Huh?

8 JOE: He's liable to have a lot more.

(END SCENE 1)

1 JOE: Earl Bruttig looked through his desk and found a cancelled
2 check bearing the address of the garage where the victim's
3 husband was employed. While he was looking for the stub,
4 Frank and I interrogated him further on the relations
5 between Ethel Lawrence and her husband. He refused to
6 comment more than he had, explaining that if the answers
7 we got from the husband weren't adequate, we could come
8 back to see him. 6:48 P.M. We returned to the victim's
9 house and talked with Lieutenant Lee Jones. He told us
10 that the crew from the crime lab had been unable to find
11 the murder weapon but that they had been able to lift
12 several good fingerprints from the kitchen. He went on
13 to say that these had been checked with those of the
14 victim and were not the same. Little other physical
15 evidence was found in the house. However, an impression
16 of a shoe had been found in the soft earth at the side of
17 the house and a plaster cast had been made of it. We
18 asked Lieutenant Jones to take the fingerprints of the
19 neighbor who'd found the body and check them with the
20 impressions left in the victim's house. 9:46 P.M. the
21 coroner arrived, and removed the body and attached the
22 paper seal to the front door. Frank and I went back to
23 the office and checked the name of the victim and her
24 husband through the record bureau.

(MORE)

1 JOE: We found that Bernard Lawrence had been arrested four
(CONTD)
2 years previously on a wife beating charge but that he'd
3 been released when his wife refused to prosecute. We
4 checked the name of Earl Bruttig but found no record for
5 him. 10:54 P.M. We drove over to the garage where the
6 victim's husband was employed. The place was closed
7 but there was a card on the door giving an emergency
8 address. Frank and I drove out to the house, a low
9 rambling ranch style building. The garage owner,
10 Arnold Norton met us at the door.

11 SOUND: PRIZE FIGHT CROWD IN THE B.G. AS ON TELEVISION SET.

12 ARNOLD: Yeah?

13 JOE: Mr. Norton?

14 ARNOLD: That's right. What can I do for you?

15 JOE: Police officers, we'd like to talk to you.

16 ARNOLD: Yeah, I guess it's okay. Don't know what it's about,
17 but I guess it's okay. What d'ya want?

18 JOE: Might be better if we talked inside.

19 BEAT

20 ARNOLD: You mind if I see your identification?

21 JOE: No sir. Not at all. Here's my I.D. card. This is my
22 partner Frank Smith.....my name's Friday.

1 ARNOLD: (LOOKING AT THE CARD) Uh huh. Yeah. C'mon in.
2 ~~SOUND: JOE AND FRANK ENTER THE HOUSE DOOR CLOSE BEHIND THEM.~~
3 ARNOLD: Just a minute and I'll turn off the ~~light~~.
4 JOE: We don't like to bother you Mr. Norton. It shouldn't
5 take too long.
6 ARNOLD: Doesn't matter. Just a fight movie. I've seen it before.
7 ~~SOUND: HE WALKS TO THE T.V. SET AND TURNS IT DOWN.~~
8 ARNOLD: I get a kick outta just watchin' the ~~picture-sometimes...~~
9 ~~y-know-without-the-sound.~~
10 JOE: Uh-huh.
11 ARNOLD: Kinda funny sometimes.
12 ~~JOE: Yes sir...~~
13 ARNOLD: What is it you want to know?
14 JOE: You have an employee named Barnard Lawrence working for
15 you?
16 ARNOLD: Yeah. Barney's been with me for about 7 years. Why?
17 JOE: You have a home address for him?
18 ARNOLD: I suppose so. Can you tell me what this is all about?
19 JOE: It's a routine investigation. We'd like to talk to him.
20 ARNOLD: I'll write out the address.
21 JOE: Thank you.

1 FRANK: You ever hear anything about Lawrence and his wife having
2 any quarrels or disagreements?
3 ARNOLD: I'm not quite sure how I should answer that.
4 FRANK: Sir?
5 ARNOLD: I don't know why you're askin' the question? Little rough
6 to ask me to comment on the way Barney gets along with his
7 wife. I don't want to lay anything on him.
8 JOE: You've known him for quite a while haven't you?
9 ARNOLD: Yeah. I told you he's been with me for 7 years. Best
10 carburator man I've got.
11 JOE: You must have heard him discussing his home life one time
12 or another.
13 ARNOLD: I went through this same thing before y'know. Got myself
14 right in the middle before. I don't want it to happen
15 again.
16 JOE: I don't understand sir.

1 ARNOLD: When they got the divorce. All the time lawyers comin'
2 around askin' questions. Tryin' to get me to take sides.
3 I'm not gonna do it. If Barney's tryin' to bring the
4 thing up again, he should be the one to tell me...Not
5 have you fellas come around and do it. I'm not gonna get
6 in the middle again. I've known both of 'em for a long
7 time. Think a lot of 'em. Ethel and Barney and me have
8 been pretty close in the years. But I've had it. All the
9 questions about how much Barney makes....what were his
10 working hours....who did he see...did he run around with
11 any girls. I'm not gonna answer any more questions. 14/00

12 JOE: This isn't a civil matter, Mr. Norton.

13 ARNOLD: Nothin' to do with the divorce?

14 JOE: No, sir.

15 ARNOLD: I'm not gonna be called as a witness?

16 JOE: We can't say to that, sir.

17 ARNOLD: Uh huh. Way you fellas are goin' about this routine
18 thing makes me think that it's a lot more important than
19 just a traffic ticket or anything like that.

20 JOE: It is, sir.

21 FRANK: Did you see Lawrence today?

22 ARNOLD: Y'mean at the garage?

1 FRANK: Yes, sir.
2 ARNOLD: Yeah. He came to work at 8. Just like he always does.
3 JOE: He was there all day?
4 ARNOLD: Yeah. 8 to 5. That's what he works.
5 JOE: Does he have occasion to leave the garage during the day?
6 ARNOLD: I don't understand what you mean.
7 JOE: Well, does he have to leave to go and pick up parts,
8 anything like that?
9 JOE: Yeah, once in a while he does. We got a fella who does
10 that kinda thing, but when he's out on a call and Barney
11 needs something fast, he maybe runs down the street and
12 gets it.
13 JOE: Did he leave the garage this afternoon?
14 ARNOLD: Yeah. Had to go down and pick up some re-builts.
15 JOE: You know what time he left?
16 ARNOLD: Be hard to pin it down to an exact time, I don't much keep
17 tabs on Barney. He comes and goes as he pleases.
18 JOE: Pretty important that we get an idea of when he was gone.
19 ARNOLD: I can check it with the other boys in the shop. Should be
20 able to find out when he left. I know he got back about
21 4:30.

1 JOE: You pretty sure about that time, ~~are you?~~ ⁷ 15/00
2 ARNOLD: Yeah. He came back and did a job on a rush, and then he
3 took off at 5.
4 FRANK: How was he acting when he came back?
5 ARNOLD: What d'ya mean?
6 FRANK: Did he seem upset about anything?
7 ARNOLD: No. Not particular. Seemed pretty happy though. Kept
8 talkin' about what a beautiful day it was and how good he
9 felt.
10 JOE: Uh huh.
11 ARNOLD: Come right down to it, Barney was happier than he's been
12 in some time. Just seemd like all his troubles were gone.
13 JOE: I know how you feel about this Mr. Norton, but it's pretty
14 important. Did you ever hear Mr. Lawrence threaten his
15 wife?
16 ARNOLD: I'm gonna have to take your word for it's bein' important,
17 Mr. Friday. I've got no way of knowin'. But if you / 10
18 guys get me in the middle of anything, I'm gonna be pretty
19 sore about it.
20 JOE: Don't worry about that.
21 ARNOLD: Well, then, to answer your question, Barney and Ethel
22 didn't get along very well. I guess you knew that. The
23 divorce and all. Ethel accusing Barney of running around.
24 They had some pretty big arguments.

1 JOE: Uh huh.

2 ARNOLD: Barney was pretty mad at the judgment he got...the
3 alimony. He had to pay Ethel a hundred and fifty a month.
4 Made him pretty sore, but the judge said to pay it or go
5 to jail. And Ethel would just have soon seen him in ^{the} ~~the~~

6 ~~the~~

7 JOE: Yeah.

8 ARNOLD: Barney used to talk to me about it. We'd stop down the
9 street and have a beer when we closed up the shop. Barney
10 would say there was only two ways he could get out of the
11 alimony payments.

12 JOE: Uh huh.

13 ARNOLD: One was if Ethel got married again, and Barney always said
14 she was so mean that no sane man would have her.

15 JOE: What about the other?

16 ARNOLD: That was for her to die.

17 JOE: Yeah.

18 ARNOLD: I guess that was about the only threat he ever made so I
19 could hear it.

20 JOE: What's that?

21 ARNOLD: That he wouldn't mind helpin' her out.

22 (END SCENE 2)

1 JOE: 11:47 P.M. we drove over to the address we'd gotten for
2 ~~Barney~~ ^{Barney} Lawrence. It was a modern apartment building in
3 the Wilshire district. We rang the bell to his apartment
4 but got no answer. Frank and I talked to the manager
5 of the building and he let us into the suspect's
6 apartment. In a preliminary search of the place, we
7 found nothing to tie the man in with his wife's death.
8 However, from the clothes and other personal effects in
9 the place, we were reasonably sure that he'd return to the
10 apartment. The manager told us that Lawrence had come
11 home after work, changed his clothes and left, saying
12 he'd return later. We put in a call to the office and
13 told them where we were and made arrangements to be
14 relieved the next morning in the event the suspect hadn't
15 returned. Frank and I settled down in our car, which was
16 parked across the street from the apartment, to wait for
17 Lawrence. At 1:30, Frank went down to the corner and
18 called Fay to tell her he'd be late. He brought back a
19 carton of hot coffee and some sandwiches. The stakeout
20 continued. 2:30, still no sign of the suspect. 3:30...
21 4:00. At 5:30 A.M. The landlord came to the porch of the
22 apartment house and yelled at us, indicating he wanted to
23 tell us something. Frank went over to see him while I
24 stayed in the car. A couple of minutes later, Frank came
25 running back.
26 SOUND: OUTDOOR TRAFFIC. OFF MIKE CARS AND FRANK'S STEPS FADING IN.

1 FRANK: (WINDED) Joe? Joe.

2 JOE: Yeah.

3 FRANK: Manager just got a call from Lawrence.

4 JOE: What about?

17/30

5 FRANK: Lawrence wanted to make arrangements to have his stuff
6 packed and sent down to the depot.

7 JOE: Yeah.

8 FRANK: Said he's leavin' town.

9 (END SCENE 3)

10 (END ACT 1)

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

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)

DRAGNET RADIO
March 9, 1954

SECOND COMMERCIAL:

1 FENN: Meet Peter Lind Hayes and Mary Hoaly - America's favorite
2 husband and wife comedy team. They are typical of smokers
3 everywhere who are saying...."Chesterfields for me." Mary
4 says..... *8100*

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

8 FENN: Peter says....."Chesterfields for me, too".....

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

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

13 FENN: Yes - smoke America's most popular two-way cigarette....
14 regular and king-size Chesterfield. The best cigarette
15 ever made and best for you.

1 JOE: 5:42 AM. We called the business office and had
2 arrangements made to check the reservation lists on the
3 trains going to the east. We also set up stakeouts on the
4 depots and on the air line terminals in the event the
5 suspect changed his mind about taking the train. Two
6 officers came out and relieved us at the Apartment. The
7 manager of the apartment was instructed to notify the
8 officers on ~~stakeout~~ in the event he heard from Lawrence.
9 6:12 A.M. Frank and I drove back downtown. We went to the
10 business office and got out a local and an A.P.B. on the
11 suspect. We checked out of the office to go home, and
12 change our clothes, and at 8:46 A.M. met back in the
13 squadroom.

14 SOUND: SQUADROOM B.G. DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE AS FRANK WALKS IN.

15 FRANK: (FADING IN) You made it fast huh, Joe?

16 JOE: Yeah. Carton of coffee there if you want some.

17 FRANK: No thanks, I got something to eat on the way in.

18 JOE: Oh.

19 FRANK: Any word?

20 JOE: Not yet. Lawrence still hasn't showed up at the apartment
21 and there's nothing from the depot stakeouts.

22 FRANK: (STRETCHES) Like to get some sleep.

19/30

1 JOE: I'm with you.
2 FRANK: Fay sure is sore.
3 JOE: 'Bout last night?
4 FRANK: Yeah. She had it all planned how were were goin' to a
5 movie tonight. Always plans it on my day off.
6 JOE: Yeah.
7 FRANK: Y'know. We have dinner then go down to the neighborhood.
8 Kinda nice.....she looks forward to it.
9 JOE: Yeah...but what's that got to do with last night?
10 FRANK: First this is my day off.....right?
11 JOE: Yeah, that's what it says on the schedule.
12 FRANK: And I'm workin'.....right?
13 JOE: Yeah.
14 FRANK: I worked all last night too.....check?
15 JOE: Check.
16 FRANK: Gonna be no movie tonight.
17 BEAT
18 JOE: I lost you some place.
19 FRANK: I'm gonna sleep. Soon's I get home.....gonna climb right
20 into the shower,.....then into bed. Gonna sleep the clock
21 around.
22 JOE: Yeah..
23 FRANK: That's vaze.

1 JOE: Sure.

2 FRANK: She's sore. Wouldn't even fix me breakfast.

3 JOE: You want to get on with this stuff.

4 FRANK: Ate too fast....got heartburn.

5 JOE: Look, Frank....take a couple of those Pepto pals or
6 whatever it is and let's get on with this huh?

7 FRANK: Say....never thought of those. I think I got some
8 in the locker.

9 JOE: I'm glad.

10 FRANK: Last time I bought a big box of 'em. Think there's some
11 left.

12 SOUND: HE WALKS OVER TO HIS LOCKER AND OPENS IT. RUMMAGES AROUND
13 FOR THE PEPTO PALS.

14 JOE: ~~We gotta talk to the skipper this morning.~~

15 FRANK: He in yet?

16 JOE: Yeah....down at Chief Brown's office.

17 FRANK: You fill him in?

18 JOE: Yeah, a little bit. He goes along with us.

19 SOUND: ~~OFF MIKE FRANK FINDS THE PEPTO PALS AND CLOSES THE LOCKER~~
20 ~~DOOR. HE FADES IN ON FOLLOWING SPEECH.~~

21 FRANK: Thinks the husband fits in huh?

22

23

24

1 JOE: Yeah. All the way along the line.....
2 SOUND: FRANK SITS DOWN AT THE TABLE AND WE HEAR HIM SHOVING
3 PIECES OF PILLS AROUND.
4 BEAT
5 JOE: Frank?
6 FRANK: Yeah.
7 JOE: What're you doin'?
8 FRANK: I found the peptos.
9 JOE: Yeah.....but what are you doin'?
10 FRANK: Musta dropped them sometime. Broke all the little pills.
11 I'm tryin' to put one together. Have to be careful y'know.
12 Can't take too much. One pill.....that's all you're
13 supposed to take. One.
14 BEAT:
15 JOE: I don't understand it.
16 FRANK: What's that?
17 JOE: How you can come in here.....no sleep.....beef with Fay...
18 upset stomach and feel so good.
19 FRANK: Joe?
20 JOE: Yeah.
21 FRANK: It's a pose. I really don't.
22 JOE: You don't huh?

1 FRANK: No sir.....(TAKING UP A PILL) That oughta be about
2 right. (SWALLOWS) Old Pepto Pal.....Good for what ails
3 you. Potent Joe.....real potent.

4 JOE: You all through now?

5 FRANK: Soon's I scrape away the crumbs.

6 SOUND: FRANK WIPES HIS HAND OVER THE TABLE TO GET RID OF THE PEPTO
7 CRUMBS.

8 FRANK: I'm with you.

9 JOE: I wish I could be sure of that.

10 FRANK: Where to?

11 JOE: Let's check R. and I. I want to look at that arrest report
12 on Lawrence. See if any of his friends are listed. Might
13 be able to get a lead on him. Better put in a call and
14 find out if he made the call he was supposed to when he
15 was gone from work.

16 FRANK: Way it looks, he's still in town.

17 JOE: That doesn't do us a lot of good unless we know where he
18 is.

19 FRANK: We can go out and talk to the fella that found the body.
20 He might be able to come up with something.

21 JOE: Better put a stake on the garage where Lawrence worked
22 too. He might show up there.

1 FRANK: Right. I'll get Norton on the phone. Tell him to let
2 us know if he hears anything.

3 SOUND: FRANK WALKS TO THE PHONE AND PUNCHES THE BUTTON. DIALS
4 9 THEN STOPS.

5 FRANK: Whole thing looks pretty clean. All we gotta do is put
6 Lawrence at his wife's house this afternoon and we
7 got it made.

8 JOE: Only one trouble.

9 FRANK: Yeah.

10 JOE: We gotta find him before we can put him there.

(END SCENE 4)

1 JOE: After putting in the call to the garage where the suspect
2 was employed and arranging for a stake out on the place,
3 Frank and I checked the arrest record that had been made
4 out four years previously and obtained a list of his
5 friends, and relatives. We contacted each of them but
6 they could give us no information on Lawrence. That
7 morning, we met with Captain Lohrman and went over the
8 evidence with him. The fingerprints found at the scene
9 of the murder had been eliminated when they were compared
10 with those of the neighbor, EARL Bruttig. Other physical
11 evidence netted us nothing. The murder weapon had still
12 not been found. The only piece of evidence that we could
13 still use to attempt to identify the killer was the
14 plaster cast of the footprint found by the side of the
15 house. However, Lt. Jones said that it would be of little
16 use other than to identify the size of the shoe. It was
17 a size 10 with a leather sole and a leather heel. There
18 were no distinguishing marks on the impression. Two days
19 went by and we still hadn't found Lawrence. We talked to
20 the men he worked with but none of them could supply us
21 with information as to his possible where-a-bouts. We
22 checked the bars he was known to frequent without results.
23 Apparently, the suspect had disappeared with out a trace.
24 On Saturday, June 14th, three days after the murder, Frank
25 and I got back to the office after lunch.

26 SOUND: SQUADROOM B.G. STEPS IN

1 FRANK: Wanna check the book?
2 JOE: Yeah.
3 SOUND: JOE TAKES A COUPLE OF STEPS OFF MIKE AND STOPS. AS HE
4 DOES, THE DOOR OPENS AND STEPS FADE IN.
5 BARNEY: (FADING IN) Where can I find Joe Friday?
6 JOE: I'm him.
7 BARNEY: I'm Barney Lawrence.
8 JOE: ~~I recognized you from your picture.~~
9 ~~BARNEY: I got something to talk to you about.~~
10 ~~JOE: That makes it come out even.~~
11 ~~BARNEY: I came in to tell you to knock this routine off.~~
12 ~~JOE: What?~~
13 BARNEY: I want you to get off my back. Leave me alone.
14 JOE: You mind tellin' us where you've been for the past three
15 days?
16 BARNEY: That's none of your business. The only reason I'm here
17 now is that I wanna tell you to stop goin' around askin'
18 a lot of questions. Causin' me embarrassment.
19 JOE: What do you mean by that?

- 1 BARNEY: You know what I mean. I don't mind tellin' you that I'm
2 pretty sore about the things you've said behind my back.
3 You probably didn't think I'd find out about them. But I
4 did and I'm tellin' you to stop.
- 5 FRANK: (FADING IN) You oughta take it easy Lawrence.
- 6 BARNEY: You keep your nose out of this, cop. I'm talkin' to him.
7 I got a few things for you too before I leave.
- 8 FRANK: I don't think you're gonna leave. 22/30
- 9 BARNEY: What's that supposed to mean?
- 10 JOE: What it sounded like. You're under arrest.
- 11 BARNEY: For what?
- 12 JOE: Suspicion of murder.
- 13 BARNEY: You figured I killed Ethel?
- 14 JOE: You look awful good for it.
- 15 BARNEY: Then you better get a pair of glasses, cop. I'm walkin'
16 out of here and if you're smart, you won't try to stop me.
- 17 JOE: Don't try it Lawrence.
- 18 BEAT
- 19 SOUND: LAWRENCE STARTS FOR THE DOOR.

1 JOE: Lawrence.

BEAT

2 SOUND: JOE MOVES TO LAWRENCE AND STOPS HIM.

3 JOE: If you haven't done anything wrong, you've got nothing
4 to worry about. Now, come on back here.

5 BARNEY: Y'know something?

6 JOE: What's that?

7 BARNEY: I've always wanted to hit a cop.

8 SOUND: LAWRENCE SWINGS AT JOE. FIGHT. NOT TOO INVOLVED. JOE
9 HITS HIM A COUPLE OF TIMES AND LAWRENCE GOES DOWN.

10 JOE: (BREATHING HARD) C'mon Lawrence.....on your feet.

11 BARNEY: You keep your hands off me cop. You just keep your hands
12 off me.

13 SOUND: JOE PICKS UP A CHAIR AND SETS IT RIGHT.

14 JOE: Now sit down.

15 SOUND: LAWRENCE SLUPS INTO A CHAIR

16 JOE: ~~I'm gonna tell you something mister and you remember it.~~

17 ~~You think you can come in here and start tellin' me what~~

18 ~~you are and what you're not gonna do and you got another~~

19 ~~thing comin'.~~ We're investigating a murder. ~~That's~~

20 ~~what we're paid for.~~ Someone beat your wife to death.

21 We're trying to find the person who did it.

1 BARNEY: I didn't do it.

2 JOE: ~~Right now you look real good for it, and if your hands are~~
3 ~~so clean you're takin' a funny way to show it. Lookin'~~
4 ~~for you has cost the city a lot....both in money and man~~
5 ~~hours. Between you and me I personally don't care if~~
6 ~~you're the one who killed your wife or not. It doesn't~~
7 ~~make a lot of difference to me one way or the other.~~
8 ~~I'm paid to find the person who did and I'm gonna do that.~~
9 ~~You get the idea in your mind that you can walk in here and~~
10 ~~shove me or any policeman around and you're wrong. You~~
11 ~~might be a big man down at the garage or at the local~~
12 ~~bar but in here you're just a suspect. That's all. A~~
13 ~~man we want to talk to. Now you get any ideas that you're~~
14 ~~bigger than the people of this city and this department~~
15 ~~and you're building yourself more trouble than you're in~~
16 ~~already.~~

BEAT

17 JOE: Get on your feet.

18 SOUND: LAWRENCE DOES, AND JOE MOVES IN AND PUTS HANDCUFFS ON HIM.

19 JOE: Let's go.

20 BARNEY: Where you takin' me?

21 JOE: The main jail.

22 BARNEY: Do I get to call my lawyer?

1 JOE: We don't decide that. But if you talk to him...you tell
2 him something.

3 BARNEY: What?

4 JOE: No matter how this thing comes out he better be sure of
5 one thing.

6 BARNEY: Huh?

7 JOE: ~~That he's paid in advance.~~

(END SCENE 5)

1 JOE: The suspect was booked in at the main jail on suspicion
2 of murder. ~~Contrary to most opinion, there is no law~~
3 ~~which says a prisoner is allowed to make a phone call.~~
4 ~~This privilege is extended to most prisoners however~~
5 ~~by the watch commander at the jail.~~ Lawrence put in a
6 call to his lawyer and arrangements were made to have
7 him released on bond. Frank and I attempted to
8 interrogate him before he was booked but he refused to
9 answer any questions we put to him. The following morning
10 we met with him and with his lawyer. Again we ran into
11 the same stubborn silence. At 11:30 A.M. we met with
12 Captain Lohrman and Chief of Detectives Thad Brown. We
13 laid out the evidence we had for them. From all
14 appearances, we had the guilty man in custody but it
15 might be difficult to prove in a court of law. The one
16 thing we'd been unable to establish was Lawrence's
17 presence in the house at the time of the murder. It was
18 decided that without being able to prove this, we would
19 have trouble getting a complaint from the district
20 attorney's office. Frank and I started re-questioning the
21 neighbors. None of them could tell us any more than they
22 had.

(MORE)

1 JOE: We requested the man who'd found the body, Earl
 2 Bruttig. He came up with the additional information that
 3 there had been a crew of carpenters working on a house the
 4 day of the killing. The building was located next door
 5 to him, directly across the street from the place where
 6 the murder had been committed. We questioned the
 7 carpenters. None of them could tell us anything.
 8 However, there was one man who'd been working on the
 9 construction that we were unable to reach. It took us
 10 several days before we were able to find him home. On
 11 Wednesday, June 18th, we got to his house at 7:30 A.M.
 12 before he left for work. He asked us to talk to him in
 13 the kitchen of his home.

14 SOUND: COUPLE OF STEPS INTO THE KITCHEN

15 MERLE: I was just havin' breakfast. Fix you guys something
 16 to eat?
 17 JOE: No thanks, Mr. Hewett, we don't want to take up your time.
 18 MERLE: Don't worry about that. What's this about anyway?
 19 JOE: We understand that you were working at a job on
 20 Greenoak Drive on the tenth of June. That right?
 21 MERLE: Lemme think....yesh.....97 hundred block. Yeah....I
 22 was there. Why?

1 FRANK: You worked there all day did you?

2 MERLE: That's right. Left the place around 5:30. Say, this
3 about that woman that was murdered?

4 JOE: Yes sir.

5 MERLE: You got the fella who did it yet?

6 JOE: We think we know who he is.

7 SOUND: MERLE WALKS A LITTLE OFF.

8 MERLE: You guys like a cuppa coffee?

9 JOE: Yeah..we'll join you.

10 FRANK: Thanks.

11 SOUND: MERLE COMES BACK ON MIKE AND POURS THREE CUPS OF COFFEE.
12 WITH HOT WATER.

13 MERLE: Either of you use sugar?

14 JOE: No thanks.

15 FRANK: No.

16 MERLE: Don't see how you can drink coffee without it.

17 SOUND: HE TAKES THE SUGAR AND PUTS IT IN HIS COFFEE. STIRRING

18 MERLE: Always use two spoons myself.

19 FRANK: Uh huh.

20 SOUND: MERLE TAKES A DRINK OF THE COFFEE.

- 1 MERLE: ~~Good~~. Say....if you know who did the killing, how come
2 he isn't in jail.
- 3 JOE: We need a little more evidence before we can take him
4 to court.
- 5 MERLE: ~~That's~~ why you're talkin' to me huh?
- 6 JOE: Yeah. Couple of things you might be able to straighten
7 us out on.
- 8 MERLE: Why me?
- 9 JOE: We've talked to the other men in the crew. Seems like
10 you're the only one left.
- 11 MERLE: So it comes right back to me huh?
- 12 JOE: ~~Yeah.~~
- 13 ~~MERLE: I guess I knew it all the time. Crazy thing to do.~~
- 14 ~~JOE: What's that?~~
- 15 SOUND: MERLE TAKES ANOTHER DRINK OF COFFEE
- 16 ~~MERLE: Figure I could get away with it. Yeah, I'm in, I~~
17 ~~didn't mean to really kill her. Just robbery. That's it.~~
18 ~~Guess it's kinda hard to believe but it's the truth.~~
- 19 ~~JOE: You killed her?~~

1 MERLE: Sure. She came in while I was in the kitchen. Saw me
2 and asked what I was doin'. Wasn't much I could tell her.
3 She said she was gonna call the police. Have me thrown
4 in jail. I didn't want that. (TAKES ANOTHER DRINK OF
5 COFFEE) You can understand my way of thinkin' can't you?

6 JOE: Yeah. You want to get your coat.

7 MERLE: Sure....won't do any good though. You're not going to
8 get me downtown.

9 JOE: I wouldn't make book on it.

10 MERLE: Give you all the odds you want. Far as that goes, I won't
11 even get out of the house alive. (THE FIRST RAIN HITS)

12 JOE: What's the matter, Hewett?

13 MERLE: There was ~~poison~~ poison in the sugar. I've been ~~ready for days~~ ²⁶¹⁰ ~~ready for days~~ ^{expecting you.}

14 JOE: Frank....get an ambulance.

15 FRANK: Right.

16 SOUND: WE HEAR FRANK TAKE OFF FOR THE PHONE

17 JOE: What kind of poison, Hewett? What kind.

1 MERLE: ~~No go cop sorry. (PAIN HELPS) I'm not sure how you~~
2 ~~got to me...pretty clumsy I guess. First time I ever~~
3 ~~killed somebody. But~~ there's nothin' you can do now.
4 ~~Nothin' anybody can do. I know this is wrong. I know it~~
5 ~~good. I'm not tryin' to be a hero. That's why I'm doin~~
6 ~~it this way. because I'm a coward. That's the reason~~
7 I killed the old lady...^{I KILLED HEWETT} same reason I'm doin' it this
8 way. I've always been a coward. Never been able to do
9 anything right. ~~(HE DIES QUIETLY)~~

10 SOUND: THE BODY SLUMPS FORWARD AND FALLS SOFTLY TO THE FLOOR.

11 FRANK FADES IN

12 JOE: Hewett?.....Hewett.

13 FRANK: (FADING IN) Ambulance on the way Joe.

14 JOE: There's no hurry. help

15 FRANK: ~~(SEES THAT HEWETT IS DEAD) Yeah. Wild one isn't it Joe?~~

16 JOE: Uh huh.

17 FRANK: Never had it figured this way. Guess the husband didn't
18 have any part in it.

19 JOE: Doesn't look like it.

20 FRANK: Wonder what would have happened if Hewett had just kept
21 his mouth shut?

1 JOE: We'd have gotten to him sooner or later.

2 SOUND: IN THE B.G. WE HEAR THE SIREN OF THE AMBULANCE FADE IN

3 FRANK: I guess so. Thing I can't figure is that he didn't try
4 to get out of it. Run away.

5 JOE: Didn't he?

6 SOUND: THE AMBULANCE PULLS TO A STOP IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE WITH
7 BRAKE SCREECH

8 MUSIC: SIGNATURE

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

11 GIBNEY: On June 23 an inquest was held in offices of the Coroner
12 in and for the County of Los Angeles. In a moment the
13 results of that inquest.

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

15 WEBB: (COMMERCIAL INSERT)

DRAGNET RADIO
March 9, 1954

CLOSING COMMERCIAL:

1 FENN: Now, here is our star - Jack Webb. 27

2 WEBB: Thank you, George Fenneman. Earlier, George Fenneman told

3 you exactly why the Chesterfield you smoke today is the

4 best cigarette ever made.....And best for you. The rest is

5 up to you. Get a carton or two for yourself. Smoke them

6 and you'll say - as we do - it's Chesterfields for me.

TRIAL PAGE

1 GIBNEY: At the inquest it was ruled that the suspect, Merle
2 Patrick Hewett died of self administered poison and his
3 death was listed as a suicide. The victims husband,
4 Bernard Jerome Lawrence was released from custody.

DRAGNET RADIO

3/9/54

TIME MAGAZINE PLUG (REVISED)

FENNEMAN: Ladies and gentlemen ... We'd like to thank the
editors of TIME magazine for their cover story
of Jack Webb and Dragnet. That's TIME magazine ...
on your newsstands this Thursday.

7138

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
5 the office of Chief of Police, W. H. Parker, Los Angeles
6 Police Department. Technical advisors: Captain Jack
7 Donohoe, Sgt. Marty Wynn, Sgt. Vance Brasher. Heard
8 tonight were: Ben Alexander, Vince Baker

9 _____
10 Script by John Robinson. Music by Walter Schumann.

11 Hal Gibney speaking.

12 MUSIC: THEME UNDER.....CONTINUES

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

18 (FATIMA HITCH HIKE)

DRAGNET RADIO
March 9, 1954

L & M FILTERS

1 ANNCR: Filter tip smokers.....This is it!
2 L & M Filters....The one filter tip cigarette with plenty
3 of good taste - much more flavor - much less nicotine
4The right length for effective filtration. Only the
5 L & M Filter contains the miracle product - alpha
6 cellulose - purest material for filtering cigarette smoke.
7 Yes, this is it! As Ann Sheridan puts it - L & M Filters
8 are just what the doctor ordered. Buy L & M Filters - the
9 light and mild smoke!