CHESTERFIELD, #84  NBC #252
DIRECTOR: . . . . . . . . . .JACK WEBB
WRITER: . . . . . . . . . .JOHN ROBINSON
MUSIC: . . . . . . . . . .WALTER SCHMIDT
SCRIPT: . . . . . . . . . .JEAN MILES
SOUND: . . . . . . . . . .BUD TOLLEFSON & WAYNE KEWSEY
ENGINEER: . . . . . . . . . .RAOUL MURPHY
ANNCR. #1: . . . .GEORGE FENNEMAN
ANNCR. #2: . . . .HAL GIBNEY, NBC
CASE: . . . . . . . . . ."THE BIG CAT"

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:
RECORDING SUNDAY: JUNE 12, 1954
CAST AND SOUND: 1:00-3:30 PM "C"
EDITING: T.B.A.
SCORING: T.B.A.
ORCHESTRA:
ANNOUNCERS: (COMMERCIAL)

RELEASE DATE: JUNE 15, 1954
SPONSOR: CHESTERFIELD CIGARETTES
AGENCY: CUNNINGHAM-WALSH
COMMERCIAL SUPERVISOR: PETE PETERSON
TECHNICAL ADVISORS:
SOT. MARTY WINN: L.A.P.D.
SOT. VANCE BRASHER: L.A.P.D.
CAPT. JOHN DONOHUE: L.A.P.D.

BROADCAST: 6:00 - 6:30 P.M. -- STUDIO J -- BY T.R.
"THE BIG CAT"

CAST

SERGEANT JOE FRIDAY ........................................... JACK WEBB
OFFICER FRANK SMITH .......................................... BEN ALEXANDER
CLARENCE HAVILL ................................................ CLIFF ARQUETTE
LILLIAN HAVILL .................................................. VIRGINIA GREGG
SIDNEY NORTON ................................................... VIC PERRIN
"THE BIG CAT"

FOR BROADCAST: JUNE 15, 1954

1 MUSIC: SIGNATURE

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

5 MUSIC: DRUM ROLL UNDER

6 GIBNEY: Dragnet is brought to you by Chesterfield, America's most popular two way cigarette. Chesterfield king-size at the new low price and Chesterfield regular.

9 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR:

10 FENN: (EASILY) You're a detective sergeant. You're assigned to Auto Theft Detail. You receive a report that a circus truck has been broken into. Several of the animals are missing. Some of them are dangerous. Your job...find 'em.

14 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR:

(FIRST COMMERCIAL INSERT)
First Cop RaRCia L

Most of you probably know the National Open Golf tournament starts this Thursday, June 17th. Here's the man who's out after his fifth win in this great golf event . . . . Ben Hogan.

Hogan: I'm a Chesterfield smoker and have been for 7 years. The reason's simple. Chesterfield is best for me. They're milder - and they taste great. Try them yourself.

Fenn: Here's beautiful Screen Star - Yvonne De Carlo.

Carlo: Chesterfield has been my cigarette for 4 years. They give me the taste I want - And the mildness I want - And they're so refreshing. When Chesterfield went King size - So did I. Try Chesterfields yourself.

Fenn: What a pair . . . . . Chesterfield King Size at the new low prices . . . . .

And Chesterfield regular.

America's most popular two way cigarette.
MUSIC: THEME

GINSEY: Dragnet, the documented drama of an actual crime. For the
next 30 minutes, you will travel step by step on the side
of the law through an actual case, transcribed from
official police files. From beginning to end ... from
crime to punishment ... Dragnet is the story of your
police force in action.

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

SOUND: JOE STEPS IN CORRIDOR. SLIGHT ECHO AND CORRIDOR B.G.

JOE: It was Monday, May 12th. It was cold in Los Angeles.
We were working the day watch out of Auto theft detail.
My partner's Frank Smith. The boss is Chief of Detectives,
Thad Brown. My name's Friday. I was on my way back from
Superior Court and it was 11:46 A.M. when I got to room 40
... (SOUND: DOOR OPEN) ... Auto Theft.

SOUND: JOE WALKS ON INTO THE ROOM. THE DOOR CLOSES BEHIND HIM.

SQUADROOM B.G.

FRANK: (OFF) Hi,...how'd it go?

SOUND: JOE WALKS TO FRANK...STOPS.

JOE: His lawyers got a continuance.

FRANK: How come?

JOE: I dunno. New evidence they want to introduce.

FRANK: What's the D.A. office say?

JOE: Nothin' they can say. Comes under the heading of due
process.

FRANK: Think you're gonna nail him?
1 JOE: Alex thinks so. Guy's admitted his guilt...now he's claimin' the confession is a lotta bunk. Says we got it out of him by force.

2 FRANK: Where now?

3 JOE: Prove he did it without the confession. Shouldn't be too hard. Got all the evidence...if we get the chance to lay it out for the jury.

4 FRANK: Uh huh. When do you go back?

5 JOE: He set it off for a week.

6 SOUND: He takes a couple of steps out Mike?

7 JOE: Anything come in?

8 FRANK: Not big.

9 SOUND: Phone ring. Joe takes a couple of steps and punches button. Lifts receiver.

10 JOE: (Into phone) Auto theft, Friday...Yes ma'am...that's right. Uh huh. Have you made a written report yet?

11 Uh huh...no ma'am you'll have to do that first. Yeah.

12 NO ma'am...I can't take it on the phone...You'll have to make a written report. That's right. What's your address?

13 Uh huh. Well we can send a car out to your house or you can go down to the Hollywood police station at Lillian Way and Fountain. The officer there can take care of you.

14 Uh huh...that's right. That's right. You're quite welcome...Lillian Way...that's a block off Cahuenga...no ma'am, toward the beach...west. That's right. All right...

15 Joe: g'bye.

16 SOUND: He hangs up the phone.
FRANK: Stolen one?

JOE: Yeah. They can't understand why we can't just start looking for the car. Never figure that if we stop somebody and they've got a right to the car...we've got our necks out a mile.

FRANK: Uh huh.

SOUND: UNDER ABOVE SPEECH, THE DOOR TO THE SQUADROOM HAS OPENED AND CLARENCE WALKS IN.

CLAR: (OFF, COUGHS) ...Excuse me.

JOE: (LOOKING) Yes sir...something we can do for you?

CLAR: Like to report something stolen.

JOE: All right sir...if you'll come on in, we can fill out a report.

CLAR: (AS HE FADES IN) Yeah...gotta fill out the report.

JOE: Sit down right here.

CLAR: (AS HE SITS) Sure get service around here.

JOE: (AS HE PICKS UP THE FORM) What kind of a car was it?

CLAR: Ain't no car.

JOE: What?

CLAR: No car stolen...stuff in the car...

JOE: All right...what was it?

CLAR: Wasn't really a car anyway...a truck. That's what they stole it from, a truck.

JOE: If you'll give us a description.
CIAR: Far as I know...they might not have stole it anyway.
Might just have opened it and let 'em all out.

JOE: The sooner we get this report filled out sir...the faster
we can start looking for the stolen merchandise.

CIAR: Yeah...shoulda thought of that myself. Shoulda.

JOE: All right sir...now what's your name.

CIAR: Clarence Havill......(SPELLING) .....H-A-V-I-I-L...no "R".
Most people put a "R" in it....Havill. Ain't.....It's
Havill.

JOE: (WRITING) Uh huh.....You're address?

CIAR: 9264 David Avenue...Los Angeles 34.....little house there.

JOE: Where'd the theft take place?

CIAR: Corner of Fountain and De Longpre. (Dee-Longpree) Right
on the corner there. Just south of the red zone on
Fountain.

JOE: Uh huh. What was taken?

CIAR: Y' see, I got this call....from one of the drivers who
work for my brother and me. Drives one of our trucks.
He called and said the machine had broke down.
Wanted me to bring another tractor over.

JOE: We can get to that later, Mr. Havill. What were the
stolen articles?

CIAR: Animals?

JOE: What?

CIAR: Animals from our carnival.

JOE: What kind of animals.

CIAR: Couple of monkeys...coati mundi....two racoons.

JOE: (WRITING) Uh huh. Anything else?

CIAR: Yeah...here comes the bad part. This is what I was
afraid of.
JOE: What's that?

CZAR: It's the reason I waited so long to report it. I thought maybe he'd turn up.

JOE: What is it, sir?

CLAR: A black panther.

(END SCENE 1)

JOE: We got a description of the animals and a local broadcast was gotten out on them immediately. 12:18 P.M. We continued to talk to Clarence Havill.

CLAR: Friday night...that's when it happened.

FRANK: What time was that?

CLAR: 'bout 7 oh five or 7 ten. Right after the fights went on. That's when the phone rang.

FRANK: Uh huh.

CLAR: I was kinda sore about being interrupted when the fights were on. Always watch 'em. Most of my friends know not to call then.

JOE: Yeah.

CLAR: Anyways, the phone rang. I got up and went over to answer it. It was Bert.

JOE: The driver?

CLAR: Yeah. Bert Newell. Said he'd had a breakdown at Fountain and DeLongpre. Asked me if I had a extra tractor. Happens I did.

JOE: Yeah.

CLAR: Bert asked me to bring it over. Said he wanted to use it to get the show to Nevada.
FRANK: You drove over then?

CIAR: Not right away.

FRANK: Sir?

CIAR: Well, it looked like the fight wasn't gonna last much longer and I wanted to see the finish of it. So I stuck around for another couple of rounds. After that, I left.

FRANK: Uh huh.

CIAR: Drove over and found Bert. Right on the corner. Just standing there...not tryin' to do nothin' about the breakdown. Just standin' there, smokin' a cigarette.

JOE: Yes sir.

CIAR: Well, you just bet I read him off. Told him that the least he coulda done was got out a wrench or somethin' and tried to find the trouble. Read him off good.

JOE: Uh huh.

CIAR: Didn't do no good. He's shiftless y'know. Real shiftless.

JOE: Yeah.

CIAR: You know Bert do you?

JOE: No sir.

CIAR: Shiftless. You know him and you'd know that.

JOE: You want to go on, please.

CIAR: Oh yeah...Well, we got the trailer unhitched and the tractor hooked up. Only took a couple of minutes. Got it done and Bert took off.

JOE: Where was he going?
1 CLAR: Over to Nevada. Gonna play a show there. Overton...
2          gonna play a show there.
3 JOE: Uh huh,
4 CLAR: Right by Lake Mead. Overton.
5 JOE: Yes sir. When'd you find out the animals were missing?
6 CLAR: When I got the wire from my brother. That's when I got
7          the first inklin'.
8 FRANK: When was that?
9 CLAR: Last night. Company phoned me about...oh I guess it was
10         about 8:30.
11 FRANK: Do you have the telegram?
12 CLAR: No...told you they phoned it.
13 JOE: What'd it say?
14 CLAR: Just that the animals were gone. From my brother. Said
15         that the animals weren't on the truck when it got to
16         Overton.
17 JOE: Uh huh.
18 CLAR: Told about how the locks on a couple of the cages were
19          broken. Smashed and the animals were gone.
20 FRANK: Is it possible that the cages might have been broken into
21          someplace other than Los Angeles?
22 CLAR: Might be yes...might be. Ain't likely.
23 FRANK: Why do you say that?
24 CLAR: Only reason I know of...cause it ain't likely. Not only
25          that...I got proof of it.
26 JOE: What d'ya mean?
Soon's I got the wire, I went down to Fountain and De Longpre. Went right there and looked around. Figured I might be able to find out somethin'. Took a big 4 cell flash and went down to the corner. I was right. That's where it happened. That's where they got away. Found the spoor y'know. Tracks. Found 'em all over the place. No...Reacons. Not only that...but I found something else. Yeah. Monkeys. Found 'em. Two. Phone pole. Right up to the top...just sittin' there shiverin'. They're kinda little y'know. Get cold real easy. We have 'em around the place...they wear little sweaters. Get chilly real easy. How 'bout the rest of the animals. You see any sign of them? No. I went over to a little store near there and got a head of lettuce. 17 cents. Took it back to the phone pole and showed it to Caesar and Solome. They love Lettuce. They're the monkeys? Yeah. Marmosets...White eared. Love lettuce.
They came down then?
Right down the pole. Slithered right for the lettuce.
They was scared stiff...bein' up there on the pole all night. Shoulda had their sweaters.

What about the other animals?
Not a sign of 'em. Just the spoor of the raccoons. Haven't got the slightest idea where they might have gone. No real problem though. Not them...

Easy to replace. Just go up in the Hollywood hills. Lots of 'em there. Run all over the place upsettin' garbage cans. Magine some of the people be glad to have me come up there and take 'em away. Raccoons aren't no problem.

What about the panther?

He's black.

He's a problem.

Yes sir. Can you give us a description of the animal?

Like the inside of a well. Jet black. Even blacker than that ink they're talkin' about.

'bout 7 feet long. Easy that.

Yeah.

That's countin' the tail. 7 feet.

Anything else about him we should know?
1 CLAR: No... just a plain black panther. Nothin' special.
2 FRANK: Is he dangerous?
3 CLAR: Not unless he meets somebody. Dante's got a temper.
4 JOE: That's the name of the animal... Dante?
5 CLAR: Yeah. Named him that cause he was blacker than the
6 pits of the inferno. Dante.
7 JOE: You're pretty sure he got out of the trunk when the
8 monkey's did?
9 CLAR: I ain't gonna give you no written guarantee but I'm sure
10 of it.
11 JOE: All right sir. We'll start lookin' for him right away.
12 CLAR: Sure hope you can find him. Big attraction for the show.
13 Draws the people right in.
14 JOE: Uh huh. About these broken locks on the cages... you
15 have any idea who might have done it?
16 CLAR: Might been anybody. Kids... just curious spectators...
17 anybody.
18 JOE: You have any enemies that might do a thing like this?
19 CLAR: Sure. Carnival business is rough. The Havill
20 Amalgamated combined Shows is comin' up fast. Lot of
21 people who don't want to see us cut in on their
22 territory.
23 FRANK: Where were these animals coming from?
24 CLAR: Winter quarters. The stand at Overton was gonna be our
25 first. Just startin' the season.
26 FRANK: Is there anything else you can tell us that'll make it
27 easier to find the panther?
CIAR: No...not a thing. Just be careful that's all. Don't
hurt him. He's really as gentle as a kitten when you
get to know him. Like a big overgrown cat. Gentle.

JOE: Uh huh. 9/30

CIAR: That's something Clyde didn't understand.

JOE: Who's that?

CIAR: My brother Clyde. He didn't like Dante. Didn't
understand him. That's what caused the trouble.

JOE: What?

CIAR: Last winter. Clyde came out to see the show. Tell me
about the bookings.

JOE: Uh huh.

CIAR: We discussed about how the best way to exhibit Dante
would be. Clyde got too close to the cage.

JOE: Yeah.

CIAR: Dante almost killed him. 9/30

(END SCENE 2)
All officers in the area where the panther had escaped were notified and additional men were called from Metropolitan Reserves to patrol the vicinity. The presence of the animal on city streets presented a very real menace to all citizens in the city. A team of detectives from Auto Theft Detail were dispatched to the corner of Fountain and DeLongpre to talk to the people who lived in the area. However, they were able to come up with no new information on the escaped panther. Frank and I talked to Chief of detectives, Thad Brown and with Captain Nelson. It was decided to start a block by block search for the missing cat. Authorities from the Griffith Park Zoo were consulted as to the possible hiding places of the animal. When the afternoon newspapers hit the streets, calls began to flood the complaint board asking for additional information on the panther. Local radio and television broadcasts carried stories about the escape and the number of the calls went up. Additional men had to be called to care for the switchboards. The search went on. Frank and I worked in the field along with other men from Auto Theft Detail and officers from Metro Division. Every possible hiding place in the vicinity of Fountain and DeLongpre was searched without turning up any new information on the cat. It was the opinion of authorities that the panther might try to hide in the brush of the Hollywood hills and the search moved to that vicinity. Tuesday, May 12th Frank and I got back to the office from the area. We'd been up all night looking for the animal.

SOUND: SQUADROOM B.G. JOE AND FRANK'S STEPS INTO SQUADROOM.
FRANK: You wanna check with the skipper?

JOE: Yeah... better call Chief Brown too.

SOUND: PHONE RINGS.

JOE: I'll get it.

SOUND: JOE WALKS TO THE PHONE. HE PUNCHES BUTTON AND PICKS UP THE RECEIVER.

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Auto Theft, Friday. Yes ma'am... that's right. No ma'am we haven't found it yet. No ma'am we don't. Uh huh. Yes... I can understand how you feel but we're doing everything we can. That's right...

Yes ma'am. All right... No... that's perfectly all right. Yes... Thank you. G'bye.

SOUND: JOE HANGS UP THE PHONE.

FRANK: Want to know if we've caught it yet huh?

JOE: Yeah.

FRANK: I'll check with Captain Nelson.

SOUND: FRANK STARTS TO WALK AWAY AND THE PHONE RINGS AGAIN.

JOE PICKS UP THE RECEIVER.

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Auto Theft, Friday... yeah that's right. No we haven't. Uh huh... No ma'am. I can't tell you that. What's the address? Uh huh. No you'll have to decide that yourself. That's right. I wish I could be of more help but I can't advise you on that...(SHE'S HUNG UP)... Hello... hello.

BEAT:

SOUND: HE HANGS UP THE PHONE.

JOE: Hung up. Anybody around who can bring in some coffee?
FRANK: I'll call Sol. He'll bring some over.

JOE: Good.

SOUND: FRANK WALKS TO THE PHONE AND PICKS IT UP, DIALS NINE

MU 8640.

JOE: (AS FRANK DIALS) Ask him to send over a sandwich too, huh?

FRANK: What d'ya want?

JOE: I don't care. Tell him to make sure the coffee's hot.

FRANK: Yeah.

SOUND: UNDER THE ABOVE, THE DOOR TO THE SQUADROOM OPENS AND

SIDNEY WALKS INTO THE SQUADROOM.

FRANK: (IN THE BACKGROUND) Orders a (COUPLE OF SANDWICHES AND
COFFEE)

JOE: (TO SIDNEY) Yes sir....

SIDNEY: (SIDNEY WALKS IN)

SIDNEY: I'd like to talk to the men who are working on the
Panther thing.

JOE: Uh huh.

SIDNEY: They told me up at the end of the hall I'd find 'em
here.

JOE: I'm sergeant Friday. Maybe I can help you.

SIDNEY: You workin' with the search party?

JOE: Yes sir. My partner and I've been out with 'em.

SIDNEY: They caught it yet?

JOE: No sir...not yet.

SIDNEY: They know where it is?

JOE: No sir.

SIDNEY: That's what I thought. I'm Sidney Norton. I live in
this town.

JOE: Yes sir.

SIDNEY: Gotta family...pay taxes.
JOE: Uh huh.
SIDNEY: I just want to ask one question.
JOE: Yeah.
SIDNEY: According to the papers, this... Havill or what ever his name is... he owns the panther... that right?
JOE: Name's Clarence Havill....
SIDNEY: But he owns the cat?
JOE: Yes sir.
SIDNEY: I want his address.
JOE: What?
SIDNEY: I want the number of his house. That's simple isn't it.
JOE: We're not allowed to give it out.
SIDNEY: Why not?
JOE: We just can't.
SIDNEY: I've got two kids... sergeant. One seven... boy... the other one's a five year old girl.
JOE: Uh huh.
SIDNEY: They both go to school. Least they're supposed to go to school. My wife's keeping them home today. Scared to death of that panther.
JOE: We're sorry about that Mr. Norton.
SIDNEY: That's not gonna do any good. I try to be a good citizen.
JOE: I'm sure you do.
SIDNEY: Pay my taxes on time... don't burn any trash after ten o'clock. Use hand signals when I drive. Try to obey all the laws. Even sometimes when they're not fair.
SIDNEY: Now, along comes this crackpot with a man-eating panther and lets it go on the streets. All I want is his address so I can go over there and punch him right in the nose. (BEAT) You gonna give it to me?

JOE: No sir.

SIDNEY: Who's your superior?

JOE: Captain Nelson.

SIDNEY: Where's he? I wanna talk to him.

JOE: He's in Chief Brown's office right now.

SIDNEY: Where's that?

JOE: End of the hall... office number 26.

SIDNEY: All right. I'll talk to him. I want that man's address and I want it now. Terrible thing for the law to allow a person to keep animals like that so they can get away and walk around killing anybody they meet. If you cops can't do anything about it, I can. You just bet I can.

JOE: You go out and cause Mr. Havill any trouble and you're liable for arrest.

SIDNEY: By what?

JOE: Any policeman he calls.

SIDNEY: You protect him but you don't give a hang about me and my family. That it?

JOE: No sir. You've both got rights of protection under the law. If Havill's done anything, we'll take care of it.
SIDNEY: When?
JOE: As soon as we find that panther.
SIDNEY: What am I supposed to do until then?
JOE: Go home.
SIDNEY: And sit there...just waiting for that animal to show up.
JOE: Yes sir.
SIDNEY: Pretty lousy way to run a city, if you ask me.
JOE: If you've got any ideas on how to catch the cat, we'd like to hear 'em. There are a couple of hundred policemen looking for it right now. They won't stop until it's found. You comin' around here, actin' like this isn't helping a bit. Now why don't you go home.
SIDNEY: I don't see where that's gonna help.
JOE: You aren't doin' much right now.
SIDNEY: I suppose you're right. (FEAT) You won't tell me where he lives huh?
JOE: No sir.
SIDNEY: I'll find out. I gotta lot of friends in town. I'll find out where he lives.
JOE: Don't cause any trouble, Mr. Norton.
SIDNEY: You threatening me?
JOE: No sir. Just telling you that if you cause any trouble for Mr. Havill, you'll be liable to prosecution.
SIDNEY: You'd do it wouldn't you. Arrest me instead of him that turned the beast loose.
JOE: The law holds for both of you.
SIDNEY: That's the way it looks to you.

JOE: There's no other way.

SIDNEY: Well, you may just be wrong. I been talkin' around.

There's a lot of people who feel like I do. A lot.

Enough, maybe to decide to do things our way.

JOE: Don't try it, Norton.

SIDNEY: It's too late Mister. You can't do anything about it.

We will. Me and my friends. We'll take care of it. It's

out of your hands. We'll take care of Havill ... take

care of him good.

JOE: Don't book it.

SIDNEY: Who's gonna stop us.

JOE: Any cop Havill calls.

(END SCENE 3)
JOE: Frank and I talked to Sidney Norton and finally convinced him that any action he might take would not help the situation. We sent him home and then we met with Captain Nelson and Chief Brown. The progress of the search was reviewed and it was decided to continue it in the Lake Hollywood area and in the upper Griffith Park hills. All days off had been cancelled and additional officers were joining in the hunt for the panther. After the meeting, Frank and I got some breakfast and then drove out to Clarence Havill's home. It was a large ranch house at the corner of Victory Boulevard and Monterey Avenue in the San Fernando Valley. We drove through the gate and parked the car. Clarence Havill was sitting on the large porch waiting for us. A small monkey was sitting on his shoulder.

SOUND: OUTDOOR E.G. JOE AND FRANK'S STEPS ON DIRT THEN TO WOOD OF THE PORCH.

CLAR: (LITTLE OFF, FADING IN) Hi ... come on up and sit down.

SOUND: JOE AND FRANK CLIMB A COUPLE OF WOODEN STEPS.

CLAR: (FADING ON) How's it goin' Mr. Friday ... Mr. Smith?

JOE: All right.

FRANK: Fine.

CLAR: Get you anything? Glass of Ginger beer maybe? Got some cold in the ice box.

JOE & FRANK: No...no thanks...etc.

CLAR: Heard from my brother this morning.

JOE: Yeah?

CLAR: In Nevada... Got a telegram. Company phoned it to me again.

Good news.
JOE: What's that?

CZAR: Beginning to look like it's all a mistake.

JOE: Sir?

CZAR: The whole thing ... looks like the animals didn't get away here in Los Angeles.

JOE: Why do you say that?

CZAR: This telegram from my brother ... says they found the coati mundi and one of the raccoons in Baker, California. Found 'em right alongside the road ... Tired and hungry. Guess they're sorry now they got out of the truck.

FRANK: How 'bout the panther ... any word on that?

CZAR: No ... not yet but Clyde set some men out to look for it. Sure Dante'll turn up.

JOE: How can we get in touch with your brother, Havill?

CZAR: Can't.

JOE: What?


JOE: How 'bout the driver ... can you give us his name and address?

CZAR: Part of it yeah.

JOE: Huh?


JOE: What about his address?

CZAR: Don't have it. Clyde fired him on the spot when he found out about the animals bein' gone. Drummed him out so to speak.
JOE: You didn't tell us that before.

CIAR: Didn't know it. Clyde just mentioned it this morning. Said him and Bert had a real Hey Rube about it. Big man. Bert. Weighs in about 210. Used to do some work in the ring...y'know..."25 dollar to anybody who can defeat this man"...Bert used to do that.

FRANK: This Newell...he ever been arrested?

CIAR: Y'mean in jail?

FRANK: Well, any arrest.

CIAR: I'm beginning to get what you fellas are drivin' at. You don't figureshiftless Bert had nothin' to do with Dante being gone?

JOE: Do you know if he's ever been arrested?

CIAR: Couple of times yeah. Clyde told me about it. Bert'd get in a fight with some of the local fellas where the carnival played. Clyde'd have to go down and bail him out. Nothin' serious though. Fights. Bert was too lazy to do anything else.

JOE: Uh huh.

CIAR: You think he might have stole Dente?

JOE: We don't know.

CIAR: Fe worth a lot of money to our competitors. Lot of money.

JOE: Can you give us the address of your winter quarters here in town.

CIAR: (AFTER BEAT) You really think he'd do a thing like that?

JOE: What?

CIAR: Old Bert. I don't hardly believe it.

JOE: Well, knock on it. Now if you'll tell us where your winter quarters are.
CLAR: Can't do that Mr. Friday.

JOE: Why not?

CLAR: Don't know 'em.

BEAT

JOE: You run a circus and you don't know where the animals are kept?

CLAR: Not really a circus...a carnival.

JOE: Yeah...what's the address?

CLAR: I don't know.

JOE: You haven't got any idea?

CLAR: Not the least.

JOE: And you can't tell us where to reach your brother?

CLAR: He's out lookin' for Dante.

JOE: That brings up a couple of more things.

CLAR: Yes?

JOE: We've checked the neighborhood around where you say the animals were taken. Nobody in the area saw them and yet from what you tell us...they were there for over 24 hours.

FRANK: Lotta things in your story that don't seem to check out.

BEAT

JOE: How 'bout it Havill, somethin' you're not tellin' us?

BEAT

JOE: Havill?

CLAR: Yeah.

BEAT
JIOE: Go ahead.

CLAR: We haven't got no regular winter quarters. Not regular set up. That's why I can't tell you were it is.

JOE: Uh huh.

CLAR: Ain't none.

JOE: Go ahead.

CLAR: Y'see...the Havill amalgimated Combined Shows is really a gypsy carnival.

JOE: What d'ya mean?

CLAR: We ain't got no big operation. Couple of mangy animals...we don't have a license to keep 'em in the city. Only quarters we've got are vacant lots. We set up and stay there until the neighbors start to complain and then we move on. Trucks for the show are registered in states where the fee is smallest. We got about every deal we could to keep the cost of operation down.

JOE: What about the panther?

CLAR: Dante?

JOE: Yeah.

CLAR: Only real attraction we got. Man killer. I told you about how he almost got Clyde. Gotta understand Dante or nothin' works with him.

JOE: That right?
CLAR: Sure. Like the time Dante was sick. Poor cat...just laid around. Wouldn't eat...wouldn't do nothin' but just lay around. I took care of him. Did it in this very house. Right here. Nursed him back to health. Dante and me get along. Buddies. We understand each other.

FRANK: You had him in the house with you?

CLAR: Sure. Locked him up in a closet. Most of the time though...I was right by his side takin' care of him...givin' him his medicine. Nursin' him back to health.

SOUND: UNDER THE ABOVE SPEECH THE PHONE FROM INSIDE THE HOUSE BEGINS TO RING.

CLAR: (GETTING UP FROM CHAIR) Excuse me a minute will you.....might be something about Dante.

JOE: Could be our office. We gave 'em this number.

CLAR: Yeah...just a minute.

SOUND: CLARENCE GOES INSIDE THE HOUSE. SCREEN DOOR OPEN AND SLAM.

CLAR: (OFF MIKE) Hello? ... Yeah this is the number ... huh? Yeah ... just a minute.

SOUND: CLARENCE PUTS DOWN THE PHONE AND WALKS TO THE DOOR.

CLAR: (OFF) It's for you, Mr. Friday. You're office.

SOUND: JOE AND FRANK START TO WALK INTO THE HOUSE.

JOE: Thanks, Havill.

SOUND: THEY GO THROUGH THE SCREEN DOOR.

FRANK: (AS HE ENTERS THE HOUSE) Thanks.
1 CLAR: No trouble. Like to do what I can.
2 SOUND: JOE HAS REACHED THE PHONE. PICKS UP THE RECEIVER.
3 JOE: (INTO THE PHONE) Friday...yes skipper. Uh huh...that's
4 right. Yeah. You wanna give me the address...yeah. It
5 checked out did it? Uh huh. Right. We'll get right over.
6 SOUND: HE HANGS UP THE PHONE.
7 JOE: Let's go, Frank.
8 CLAR: Good news?
9 JOE: We're not sure yet.
10 CLAR: Huh?
11 JOE: They found the panther.
12 (END SCENE 4)
13 (END ACT 1)

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

(MIDDLE COMMERCIAL INSERT)
Dragnet Radio
June 15, 1954

SECOND COMMERCIAL

1  FENN: Want a pair! (PAUSE)
2                     What a buy! (PAUSE)
3                     
4  King-size Chesterfield at the new low price and . . .
5  Chesterfield regular. The quality twins... both tested
6                     and approved by thirty years of scientific tobacco . . .
7                     
8                     research. Chesterfield research continues beyond that
9                     of any cigarette. You've heard of tea tasters and wine
10                    
11                    tasters. Well, now there are cigarette tasters - a group
12                    organized several years ago by the makers of Chesterfield.
13                    
14                    Smoking is their business and their expert opinion is
15                    your assurance that Chesterfield always gives you the
16                    taste you want, the mildness you want... a really
17                    refreshing smoke every time. Yes the Chesterfield you
18                    smoke today is the best cigarette ever made. What a
19                    pair... .Chesterfield regular and king-size. They satisfy
20                    millions.... They're best for you.
JOE: The address we'd gotten on the phone was in the Hollywood hills, just off Beachwood Drive. Frank and I drove down the Freeway and turned off at Gower, up Franklin to Beachwood and continued up to Ledgewood Drive. By the time we got there, other units had arrived and the immediate vicinity where the animal had been seen was surrounded. From one of the officers, we got the story. The panther had been seen by one of the civilians searching the area. The animal had run between two houses, and jumped through a window into a ground floor garage. We checked the house but found that the occupants were not there. Because of the danger of the panther's presence and the difficulty of taking it alive, it was decided to try to shoot it. The officers involved in the search were armed with large calibre weapons. Frank and I took two sawed off shotguns and approached the door leading to the garage.

SOUND: OUTDOOR B.G. STEPS ON CONCRETE.

FRANK: Who's covering the window?

JOE: Mack.

SOUND: THEY WALK FURTHER. FINALLY STOP.

JOE: I'll hit the door. Stand back and we'll try to see what's inside.

FRANK: Can't see anything from the window.

JOE: Yeah. He's probably behind the boxes at the rear.

FRANK: Yeah.

BEAT

JOE: All set?
1 SOUND: FRANK JUMPS THE SHOTGUN.
2 FRANK: Yeah.
3 SOUND: JOE TAKES A STEP AND KICKS THE DOOR OPEN.
4 BEAT
5 SOUND: COUPLE OF STEPS.
6 FRANK: See anything?
7 JOE: No.
8 SOUND: COUPLE MORE STEPS ONTO GARAGE FLOOR. STOP
9 FRANK: Back there...behind the cases. Looks like something there.
10 JOE: Yeah. You take that side.
11 FRANK: Right.
12 SOUND: FRANK MOVES OFF.
13 JOE: Take it easy.
14 FRANK: (LITTLE OFF) You don't have to spell it.
15 SOUND: JOE TAKES A COUPLE OF STEPS, THEN STOPS.
16 JOE: Frank...can you tip over the boxes from where you are?
17 FRANK: I think so.
18 JOE: Try it. It'll drive him out in the open.
19 FRANK: Right.
20 SOUND: AFTER BEAT...WE HEAR FRANK TRYING TO TIP OVER A PILE OF
21 BOXES. FINALLY IT TIPS AND CRASHES TO THE FLOOR.
22 BEAT
23 JOE: There he is.
24 FRANK: Yeah. Looks pretty mean.
25 SOUND: CAT MEOW.
JOE: Black tom cat.

(END SCENE 5)

JOE: The event was similar to several that had happened during the hunt for the black panther. During the twenty odd hours we'd been looking for the animal, there'd been several reports that seemed authentic enough to be checked out. All of them turned out to be false. By this time, there were over 300 officers engaged in the search. Frank and I went back to the office and put in a call to the telegraph company in an effort to try and find Clyde Havill. They checked through their files but were unable to find any record of the wires. We then put in a call to the California - Nevada border station in an attempt to get information.

SOUND: SQUADROOM B.G.

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Yeah...that's right, Havill Amalgamated Combined Shows. What? (SPELLING) H...harry...A...V, victor...I-L-L. Yeah...Havill. From what we've got...it should have come through Saturday the 13th...might have been Sunday the fourteenth. Uh huh. You pretty sure are you...? Yeah. Possible somebody else...yeah I understand. Uh huh. Okay..thanks...if anything turns up will you call me? Friday...yeah..extension 2507...Auto Theft. Right. Thanks again. G'bye.

SOUND: HE HANGS UP THE PHONE.

FRANK: How 'bout it? They got a record of the show going through?

JOE: They never heard of it.

(END SCENE 6)
JOE: We immediately put in a call to the authorities in Baker, California. We talked with members of the State Highway Patrol and from them obtained the information that there had been no stray animals captured in the vicinity during the past few days. The conversation with them lengthened the possibility that the story we'd gotten from Clarence Havill was a lie. We checked his house, but Havill wasn't there. From his neighbors, we obtained the name of his sister. 6:10 P.M. we drove out to the address, a two family stucco duplex. We rang the bell and waited.

SOUND: OUTDOOR NOISE. DOOR OPEN.

LIL: Yes?

JOE: Miss Havill?

LIL: That's right? What is it you want?

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

LIL & FRANK SAY HELLO TO EACH OTHER.

LIL: What is it you want?

JOE: Like to talk to you about your brother.

LIL: Clyde?

JOE: No ma'am...Clarence.

LIL: Mr. Friday...I've done what I can for him. If he's in trouble again...he's just gonna have to go it alone.

JOE: Might be better if we talked inside.

BEAT

LIL: C'mon in.
1 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK WALK INTO THE HOUSE. DOOR CLOSE AFTER THEM.
2 FRANK: (AS HE ENTERS THE HOUSE) Thanks.
3 LIL: What's he done this time?
4 JOE: Does your brother own a circus?
5 LIL: Is this a joke?
6 JOE: No ma'am... pretty serious. Does he?
7 LIL: Sure... a big one. Havills Amalgamated and Combined Shows.
8 Travels all over the country. Animals... concessions...
9 even got a man eating black panther.
10 JOE: That's one of the things we want to find out about.
11 LIL: Dante?
12 JOE: You know the animal?
13 LIL: All of Clarence's friends do. He talks about him all the time.
14 JOE: Do you know where the circus is?
16 LIL: Same place it's always been.
17 LIL: In Clarence's head. Never been any place else.
19 (END SCENE 7)
We continued to talk to Lillian Havill. From her we got the background of the story. She told us that her brother had been a press agent for one of the larger carnivals but that he'd been discharged several years before. Since that time he talked of very little else but the day when he'd be able to start his own show starring Dante...the man killing black panther. She went on to tell us that he spent most of his time in the hills of the San Fernando Valley trapping small animals preparing for the first tour of the carnival. We called the office and notified them. The search for the black panther was called off. 8:46 P.M. we left the duplex and drove out the freeway to the valley. When we got to Havill's he was sitting on the front porch reading, the monkey was still on his shoulder.

SOUND: OUTDOOR NIGHT NOISES. JOE AND FRANK'S STEPS ON GRAVEL.

(Off) Hi there...come back huh?

Yes sir.

(FADE IN) Found Dante yet? Sure hope you've come up with him. Hate to lose the main attraction.

UNDER THE ABOVE JOE AND FRANK HAVE CLIMBED THE PORCH.

Ain't had any word of him yet huh?

No.

He's a sly ono old Dante...Sly. He knows if you find him he'll go back in the cage. You just keep lookin' though.

He'll turn up.

The search has been called off, Havill.

Called off?

That's right.
CLAR: Y'mean, you've quit lookin'.
JOE: Uh huh.
CLAR: Y'can't do that. Y'can't. Dangerous animal like that lose in the city. All the people in dire danger. Can't call off the posse.
JOE: You want to tell us about it.
CLAR: What d'ya mean?
JOE: Why you did it.

SOUND: OFF MIKE THE PHONE RINGS.

CLAR: Don't know what you're talkin' about.
JOE: Why'd you make this story up?

SOUND: PHONE RINGS AGAIN.
FRANK: Aren't you gonna answer the phone?
CLAR: No reason. It's probably somebody sore about Dante.

PHONE'S BEEN GOIN' ALL DAY. I STOPPED PAYIN' ANY ATTENTION TO IT. JUST BEEN SITIN' HERE READIN'.
JOE: You want to get it, Frank?
FRANK: Yeah.
CLAR: Go ahead...answer it...tell 'em I moved out. Tell 'em anything but tell 'em to stop callin'.

SOUND: FRANK FADES OFF TO DOOR. SCREEN DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES.
FRANK: (OFF MIKE) LITTLE MUMBLE.

CLAR: Ever read this one?
JOE: Sir?
CLAR: This book...you ever read it?
JOE: No.
CLAR: Should... "Clown" by Emmet Kelly... great book. All about his life. I guess he's just about the best clown that ever was.

JOE: Uh huh.

CLAR: He's with the big one y'know.

JOE: That right.


SOUND: FRANK COMES OUT OF THE HOUSE, SCREEN DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE.

JOE: (TO FRANK) What was it?

FRANK: Crank. Callin' about the cat.

JOE: (GRUNTS)

CLAR: Told you. Been callin' all day. Y'd think I let Dante loose on purpose. All day.

JOE: All right Havill... why'd you do it?

CLAR: Huh?

JOE: Why'd you report the panther being gone?

CLAR: Cause he was... wanted to save all the people from the dire danger.

JOE: Why don't you come off it?

CLAR: Huh?

JOE: We've checked your story. It's a pack of lies.

CLAR: (STANDING UP) Now just a minute. Ain't no man that says I tell lies. No man.

JOE: You say you got two telegrams from your brother... that right?
1 CLAR: Yeah...from Clyde.
2 JOE: We checked with the telegraph company. They've got no record of any such messages.
3 BEAT
4 CLAR: It's a big company...they might have lost 'em.
5 JOE: They don't do that.
6 CLAR: Might have.
7 JOE: You told us the carnival truck went into Nevada...that right?
8 CLAR: Yeah.
9 JOE: We checked at the border...they don't know anything about the show?
10 CLAR: Lotta roads into Nevada. Maybe you called the wrong station.
11 JOE: We talked to the right one.
12 CLAR: Big truck...Red and yellow...Havill's Combined Amalgamated Shows.....lotter about (INDICATES) this big...on the side. Yellow letters. Got a picture of Dante on the side. Mean...you can almost count his teeth.
13 JOE: You told us the truck was registered in your name. D.M.V. has no record of 'em.
14 CLAR: Must be some mistake - gotta be wrong.
15 JOE: We talked to your sister. She tells us you don't have any kind of a show.
16 BEAT
17 CLAR: Lillian said that?
18 JOE: Yes sir.
TO FRANK) You hear her too?

FRANK: Yes sir.

CLAR: Lillian told you I didn't have no show. Lillian told you.

BEAT

JOE: You want to get a coat, Mr. Havill?

CLAR: You want a coat?

JOE: Little cold out tonight. Y'wanna get a coat?

CLAR: We goin' someplace?

JOE: Yes sir...we're gonna have to take you downtown.

CLAR: Why?

JOE: You've had half the city on a wild goose chase. Caused a lot of people to do a lot of work. Turns out there was no reason for it. We're trying to find out why you did it.

CLAR: Why?

JOE: Yeah.

CLAR: You ever wanted anything bad, sergeant?

JOE: What?

CLAR: Ever wanted something so bad you could almost taste it?

JOE: Pretty soon it don't come over like a dream anymore...

CLAR: It's real. Honest and true real. You ever wanted anything like that?

JOE: Go ahead.
CZAR: That's the way it was with Havill's Amalgimated Combined shows. That's the way it was. I was weaned on sawdust. Been around it all my life. The animals...the side shows...the alley. All of it. Been my whole life. When I left it...just seemed like I jumped into a big hole that didn't have no bottom. Wasn't anything to hang on to. Nothin' to tie down to. Y'know?

JOIE: Uh huh.

CLAR: Always I had in the back of my head that I could do it again. I was a good publicity man. Good'n. Used to pack the main. Never no trouble gettin' the people in when I was there. When I left I knew I'd be back. Knew it. With my own show. Havill's Amalgimated Combined Shows. The biggest in the world. I guess I just got so's I believed it too much. Lost the line between what's real and what I was dreamin'.

JOE: Uh huh.

CLAR: Knew it this morning when you were out here. Remembered and tried to stop you from goin' on with it. Tried and then there was that phone call where they'd found Dante. Didn't seem right to stop things then. Just didn't seem right.

JOIE: You wanna get your coat?

SOUND: CLARENCE STANDS UP

CLAR: Yeah. You gonna take me downtown in the police car?

JOE: That's right.

CLAR: Gonna use the siren?

JOE: No reason for it.
CZAR: Uh huh... suppose not. Used to have sirens when I'd come to a town. Me and the chief of police'd ride down the street. Siren goin'. Everybody knew I was in town. Big t' do. Everybody knew I was there. Things have changed.

JOE: Not much.

CZAR: Huh?

JOE: We know it too.

BEAT:

CZAR: I'll get my coat...

SOUND: CLARENCE WALKS TO THE SCREEN DOOR... OPEN AND SLAM CLOSED.

BEAT--

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

GIBNEY: On May 24th, a hearing was held in Department 92, Superior Court of the state of California, in and for the county of Los Angeles. In a moment, the results of that hearing.

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

WEBB: CLOSING COMMERCIAL INSERT
1 WEBB: To get the taste and mildness you want - a really refreshing smoke every time....I'd like you to try America's most popular two-way cigarette. Chesterfield King size....now at the new low price - or Chesterfield regular. They satisfy millions they'll satisfy you.
GIBNEY: Clarence Neal Havill was held over for a sanity hearing in Superior Court. On recommendation of the court, appropriate action was taken.
GIBNEY: You have just heard Dragnet - a series of authentic cases from official files. Technical advice comes from the Office of Chief of Police, W. H. Parker, Los Angeles Police Department. Technical advisors: Captain Jack Donohoe, Sgt. Marty Wynn, Sgt. Vance Brasher. Heard tonight were: Ben Alexander,


FENN: Watch an entirely different 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.

(L & M HITCH HIKE)
ANNCR: Thousands of big city dealers report L & M's their largest selling filter cigarette... The reason? Only L & M's have the miracle filter tip containing Alpha Cellulose for effective filtration... Much more flavor.... Much less nicotine. Buy L & M Filters.... The distinctive monogram cigarette. Save up to 4 cents a pack.... 40 cents a carton at the new low price.

L & M Filters - Light and mild.