THE BIG LITTLE JESUS

CAST

SGT* JOE FRIDAY* *s,evo*voeo*eo .-JACK WEBB

OFF FRANK SMITH . . . .

BEN ALEXANDER

FATHER ROJAS . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .HARRY BARTELL

MR. FLAVIN . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .RALPH MOODY

CAPTAIN BARNARD . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .WALTER SANDE

JOE HEFFERMAN . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .BILLY CHAPIN

CLERK . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .HERB VIORAN

CLAUDE STROUP . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .JIM GRIFFITH

PACO MENDOZA . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .JOE CARIOCA ., JR .

LG 0186546
Fenneman: Been checking over your Christmas list? Chances are you've found there are a lot of people you'd like to give "more than just a card." Well, here's an idea for you - Chesterfield Christmas cartons. Yes, for every smoker on your list - to those you'd like to give "more than just a card" make it Chesterfields. Look for the carton painted by the famous Saturday Evening Post cover artist, Stevan Dohanos, with the scene that captures the Christmas spirit - "Going Home for the Holidays." Your neighborhood dealer has them in regular and kingsize...and he's open right up to Christmas for your convenience. Remember, in the whole wide world no cigarette satisfies like Chesterfield. So for that Christmas morning smile of satisfaction, give Chesterfield - the "Home for the Holidays" gift carton.

See your dealer today.
MUSIC: DRAGNET SIGNATURE

FENN: (EASILY) Ladies and gentlemen, the story you are about to hear is true.

MUSIC: DRUM ROLL UNDER

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

MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR

FENN: (EASILY) You're a detective sergeant. You're assigned to Burglary Division. You get a call that an important piece of religious art has been stolen from the oldest church in Los Angeles. There is no lead to the identity of the thief. No apparent motive. Your job...get him.
MUSIC: THEMES

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

MUSIC: UP TO SEMI BUTTON AND FADE ON SUSTAINED CHORD

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

JOE: It was Wednesday, December 24th. It was cold in Los Angeles. We were working the day watch out of Burglary Division. My partner's Frank Smith. The boss is Captain Barnard. My name's Friday. I'd gone across the street to buy some stamps for some Christmas cards I was sending out, and it was 9:15 AM. when I got back to Room 45... (SOUND: DOOR OPEN)...Burglary. I sat down at a table in the squadroom and started addressing some cards. Frank came in carrying some packages.

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

B.G. CHANGES. HE TAKES A COUPLE OF STEPS AND SITS DOWN AT A TABLE. HE TAKES SEVERAL ENVELOPES OUT OF HIS POCKET AND PUTS THEM ON THE TABLE. AS HE DOES THIS, WE HEAR THE DOOR OPEN AND FRANK COMES IN. WE HEAR THE RUSTLE OF CHRISTMAS PAPER AS HE DOES SO.
FRANK: (LITTLE OFF) Hi, Joe.

SOUND: FRANK COMES ON MIKE AND DROPS SEVERAL PACKAGES ON THE

TABLE

FRANK: Working on your Christmas cards, huh?

JOE: Yeah.

FRANK: A little late, aren't you?

JOE: I was going to send 'em Monday...but we had that shake
cut.

FRANK: You oughtta get married, Joe.

JOE: Yeah?

FRANK: Only system. Faye does all this stuff for me. Laundry.

...mails cards...only system.

JOE: It might help.

FRANK: You got a big stack there.

JOE: I oughtta cut down the list. Look at this.

SOUND: HE LIFTS ENVELOPE

JOE: Upholstery shop.

FRANK: Yeah?

JOE: They send me a card every year. I never get anything

upholstered.

FRANK: Faye and I oughtta go over our list...cut off a few

names. (PAUSE) I brought in your present. Want to open

it now?

JOE: No, I'll wait.

FRANK: I always open a couple the day before.
JOE: Why?

FRANK: Puts you in the spirit ahead of time. I opened Phil's this morning.

JOE: Who's he?

FRANK: Faye's brother in Denver. He gave me a magazine. One of those funny ones.

JOE: Whatta ya mean...a comic book?

FRANK: (PEEVISHLY) No...one of those funny ones...You know.

JOE: No, I don't, Frank.

FRANK: Well, some of the pages have holes in 'em. You look through and there's a picture on the next page.

JOE: I've seen those on the newsstand.

FRANK: They have cloth pasted in.

JOE: Cloth?

FRANK: In the ads. If you want to buy a suit....they have a sample right there.

JOE: You mean you can feel it?

FRANK: Reach right out and feel it. There was one for two hundred dollars.

JOE: A suit?

FRANK: Sure. The cloth comes from Scotland.

JOE: What's it made out of...solid gold?

FRANK: No...they've got a special kind of goat over there.

JOE: Real smooth.

FRANK: Not a goat...a sheep.
Well, it's a special kind of sheep then. Because a suit costs two hundred dollars.

(SMILING) You gonna get one?

I told Faye. She said, "Wear the sample." (PAUSE)

Anything doing?

Fanning and Pryor were in on that market hold-up.

They come up with anything.

A pound of air....Nothing else.

I hope it stays quiet. I've got more shopping to do.

I finished.

What'd you get Anne?

A stationery set. Some paper and envelopes....leather binding.

(TO A SICK CHILD) Joe, you'll never learn.

What's the matter?

No woman wants a stationery set. Get her something personal.

It's got her initials on it.

No......no......you want something more sentimental....

romantic.

What'd you get Faye?

It's different in her case.

What'd you get Faye?

A sewing machine.

That's romantic.
FRANK: Well, it is in a way....

JOE: (CONTINUES) Why didn't you buy her a catcher's mit?

SOUND: THE TELEPHONE RINGS

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Burglary....Friday (A PAUSE) Yes?....Yes

this is the right department......(A LONGER PAUSE)...

We'll be down, Father. You can tell us about it there.

Goodbye.

SOUND: JOE HANGS UP RECEIVER. WE HEAR HIM GET UP FROM CHAIR

JOE: The Old Mission Church. They've had a theft.

FRANK: Collection money?

JOE: A statue of the Child Jesus.

END SCENE 1
Frank and I checked out of the office and rode over to the church at the corner of Sunset Boulevard and Main. The old Mission Plaza Church...founded in 1781...the year Los Angeles became a pueblo. The outside was typical early Spanish design complete with mission arches. It was made of adobe and painted white. They called it The Queen of the Angels. The padres from down in Mexico built it. The devout Mexicans in town still attended services there.

10:05 A.M. Frank and I crossed through the courtyard. It used to be the old stable but the Spanish Priest changed all that when it became a mission. Stone masons paved the stable floor and made it a courtyard. They planted grape vines, trees and flowers. A young priest crossed the courtyard to meet us. He had been sitting on a stone bench reading his morning prayers, as priests have done here for 172 years. We asked for Father Xavier Rojas, who had communicated with us. We were told he was inside. We entered a side door. The church seemed to glow with the hundreds of votive candles flickering on both sides of the altar and at the shrines throughout the church. It was empty except for a few people praying. Surrounding the main altar were several old oil paintings in gold frames. The air was heavy with the scent of Advent flowers. We found Father Rojas up near the sanctuary looking at the Nativity scene. He told us about the crib. It was a seventy-dollar duplication of the scene at Bethlehem. The parishioners had taken up a collection for it thirty-one years ago. It was put up every year on December 22nd and taken down after the Holy Season. It was beautiful.... except that one of the shepherds had lost an arm, a sheep was cracked...and the Infant Jesus was missing. Father Rojas led us into the sacristy.
ROJAS: I'm sorry to bother you men.
FRANK: It's all right, Father.
ROJAS: Especially now....the holiday season.
JOE: (SMILING) We cash our checks, Father. Wanna tell us what happened?
FRANK: Or what you think happened?
ROJAS: I discovered the statue was missing right after the six o'clock mass.
FRANK: Did you say the six?
ROJAS: Yes. I started over to the rectory and stopped by the crib.
JOE: Was the statue there before mass?
ROJAS: I don't know. But it was there last night.
JOE: How late is the church open?
ROJAS: All night.
JOE: You leave it wide open....so any thief can walk in?
ROJAS: (QUIETLY) Particularly thieves, Sergeant.
(BEAT)
JOE: You say it was there last night, Father....how late?
ROJAS: Ten or eleven o'clock. We had confessions.
FRANK: No one saw it after that?
ROJAS: One of the altar boys....he says it may have been there....he thinks it was.
JOE: Did he see it?
ROJAS: He's not sure.
1 JOE: What's his name?
2 ROJAS: Pardon me. Here's the schedule, over there. You'll
3 find the names for every mass.
4 SOUNI}: FRANK MOVES OFF MIKE AND STOPS
5 JOE: Was there a big crowd at the six o'clock mass, Father?
6 ROJAS: Not too many. Seven's the big one...people on their
7 way to work.
8 JOE: Did anyone stay after mass? Did you notice?
9 ROJAS: Not especially. I came back here, took off the vestments.
10 I suppose it was ten or fifteen minutes before I went
11 back in the church.
12 JOE: It was empty then?
13 ROJAS: No. People were coming in for the seven o'clock.
14 SOUNI}: UNDER ABOVE. FRANK HAS RETURNED AND REJOINED THEM.
15 FRANK: Are these the altar boys...James Courteen and Joseph
16 Heffernan?
17 ROJAS: That's right...Joe's the one who mentioned it might have
18 been there.
19 JOE: Did you check with the other priests, Father?
20 ROJAS: Before I called you. None of them knows anything about
21 it.
22 FRANK: Just for a check on the pawnshops...how much is the
23 statue worth?
24 ROJAS: In money?
25 JOE: That's the point in pawnshops, Father.
ROJAS: Only a few dollars. We could get a new one...but it
wouldn't be the same. We've had children in the parish...
...they've grown up and married. It's the only Jesus
they know.
FRANK: We understand.
ROJAS: ...and we've had children who died. It was the only
Jesus they knew. So many of the people who come here
are simple people. They wouldn't understand, Sergeant.
JOE: It would be like changing the evening star.
FRANK: We'll do our best, Father.
ROJAS: That's why it would mean so much to have it back for
the first mass on Christmas.
JOE: That's not very long, Father.
FRANK: (LOOKING AT HIS WATCH) Less than twenty-four hours.
JOE: If anything turns up here...you know where to get in
touch with us.
ROJAS: Yes. (SIGHS) It's sad, isn't it?
JOE: How's that?
ROJAS: In so short a time men learn to steal.
JOE: Yes, but consider us, Father.
ROJAS: Us?
JOE: If some of them didn't...you and I'd be out of work.
END SCENE 2
10:50 AM we notified pawnshop detail. Frank and I
checked out the two altar boys. The first one...James
Courneen...said he knew nothing bout the missing status.
The second one...Joseph Heffernan...was not at home.
His Father said he had a part-time job. He'd have him
get in touch with us after lunch. By 11:30 A.M. we'd
run out of book procedure...We had a man to find...our
only clue: He'd been to church. 11:33 A.M. We checked
the phone books for the names of religious stores in the
area. Two of them were closed. We tried the third.
When we got there, the only person in the store was an
elderly man, sitting by a table. In front of him was
a large, beautifully-carved chess set.

SOUND: DOOR OPENS. SMALL TINKLE BELL. JOE AND FRANK ENTER THE
STORE. DOOR CLOSES BEHIND THEM, WITH BELL. THE TWO
OFFICERS WALK INTO THE STORE AND STOP.

JOE: We're police officers. My name's Friday...This is my
partner, Frank Smith.

FRANK: &

FLAVIN: (EXCHANGE "HELLOs")

FLAVIN: Pleased to see you. Caught me in the middle of a big
chess match.
1 FRANK: Where's your partner?
2 FLAVIN: Up in San Jose. We've been playin' for years.
3 JOE: Same match?
4 FLAVIN: No. Just two or three months on this one. What I meant was, we been playin' different matches for years.
5 JOE: I see.
6 FLAVIN: You know...we do it through the mail. I send him a move, then he sends me one.
7 FRANK: Must keep you on your toes.
8 FLAVIN: Except during holidays. The mail gets all fiddles up.
9 JOE: That's no good.
10 JOE: I guess not.
11 FLAVIN: Slows things down and that's no good. I like to catch him off guard.
12 JOE: You Mister Flavin?
13 FLAVIN: How'd you know? We never met.
14 JOE: Your names on the window out front.
15 FRANK: Mister Flavin, we checked the other two religious stores in this neighborhood...they're closed.
16 FLAVIN: This is the best one anyway. Fifty percent European items.
17 JOE: We're checking the stores around the Mission Church.
18 FLAVIN: For what?
19 JOE: Statues of the Child Jesus. Do you have one we could look at?
FLAVIN: Sure.

SOUND: HE STANDS UP FROM TABLE AND HIS STEPS FADE. WE HEAR HIM STOP, THEN HE RETURNS.

JOE: No, a larger one.

FLAVIN: You don't want a larger one...unless for a church... that's where you want a larger one.

JOE: Could we see it please?

BEAT

SOUND: WE HEAR HIM FADE OFF AGAIN AND FADE BACK ON. HE PLACES HEAVY PIECE OF STATUARY ON COUNTER.

FLAVIN: It's not my due to butt in...but unless you live in a big place, this'll make your livin' room all skilfer.

JOE: Do most of the people who go to the Mission Church trade here?

FLAVIN: Good many of 'em. Especially the kids.

JOE: Why kids?

FLAVIN: More religious. Check on yourself...see if kids aren't more religious than you.

JOE: Might be so.

FLAVIN: That's what's wrong with the world. Oh, I don't mean you're wrong with it. Everybody.

JOE: Yes sir. Can we stick to the point, Mr. Flavin?

FLAVIN: Sure, a lot of people from the Mission Church come in here.

JOE: Do people ever come in and sell back a religious article?
1. FLAVIN: Like a prayer book or rosaries?
2. JOE: Yes.
3. FLAVIN: Second-hand, you mean?
4. JOE: Yes.
5. FLAVIN: Not since I ever been around. It's silly.
6. JOE: Why?
7. FRANK: Why?
8. FLAVIN: People don't have religious articles so they can get rid of 'em. They have 'em so they can have 'em.
9. FRANK: But if a man had a statue and wanted to sell it, he'd come to a place like this?
10. FLAVIN: Sure, but he wouldn't want to sell it.
11. JOE: He would if it was stolen.
12. FLAVIN: No, sir...if a man was to steal a statue...he'd be crazy or something like that. The only place he'd want to go is where crazy people are.
13. JOE: You may be right, Mr. Flavin.
14. FLAVIN: I don't know what you fellas are lookin' for...but if it's somebody who stole a statue...he's crazy and you won't find him. You won't find him as long as you live...
15. JOE: or in a million years.
16. FLAVIN: Well, that should cover it.
JOE: We checked religious stores as far out as Van Ness.
We asked the same questions. The owners gave us the
same answers, but none of them were as encouraging as
Mr. Flavin. Frank and I had lunch and reported back to
the office. It was 1:30 P.M. when we started into the
squad room. The captain was just coming out.

SOUND: JOE AND FRANK ENTER BURGLARY SQUADROOM. SQUADROOM B.G.

JOE & FRANK: Hi, Skipper....Hello, Captain.

BARN: I checked for you in the lunchroom.

JOE: We've been on that theft down at the Mission.

BARN: (A TRIPLE BRUSQUELY) We may get some action on the
Patterson case.

JOE: They locate him?

BARN: They think he's on the bus from Sacramento.

JOE: That means the police at Bakersfield.

BARN: (SHORTLY) We'll wait and see.

SOUND: BARNARD FADES OFF AND WE HEAR DOOR OPEN

HEFFER: (OFF) Are one of you fellows Sergeant Friday?

BARN: (OFF) He's in there, son.

HEFFER: (OFF) Thanks.

SOUND: HEFFERNAN FADES ON MIKE. STOPS"

HEFFER: Are one of you fellas Sergeant Friday?

FRANK: He is.

HEFFER: I'm Joe Heffernan. My father said you wanted to see me.

JOE: Oh, yeah. Sit down, son.

SOUND: THE BOY SITS DOWN
You didn't have to come in. A phone call would've worked.

My father said to get on over. He said any kid that uses phones is lazy.

We want to ask you about this morning.

You served six o'clock mass?

Yes, sir. I'm senior boy. So I get the six.

You're senior...and you take the early trick?

Yes, sir. That way, if you receive communion, you get to have breakfast sooner.

Father Rojas says you think the statue was there before mass.

I didn't look. But I have a feelin' it was there.

A feeling?

You know....how you have a feelin' about something, but you're not sure.

Did you stay around long after mass?

I put out the candles...hung up my surplice.

How long would that take?

About five minutes maybe.

Did any of the people at mass stay on?

Some of them always do. Especially ladies.

Oh?

Maybe they don't finish up on time. Or else they start new prayers.....I don't know.
FRANK: So when you left...there were still some women there?

HEFFER: No, sir...that was at first. After I went back to the
sacristy there was just this one man.

JOE: What man?

HEFFER: He comes to six o'clock all the time.

JOE: Do you know his name?

HEFFER: No, sir. But he works down on Olive. He's a painter.
Where they paint signs.

FRANK: Could you describe him?

HEFFER: What?

FRANK: Can you give us a description of the man. Tell us how
he looked?

HEFFER: Sort of medium....he was wearin' a suit that didn't
match...

JOE: Didn't match?

HEFFER: You know...different pants than coat.

FRANK: How about his age?

HEFFER: Oh, he was pretty old.

JOE: Take a guess.

HEFFER: About forty maybe. There's nothin' particular about
him.

JOE: Then why'd you notice him?

HEFFER: I've seen him before....and the bundle, I guess.

JOE: The bundle?
1 HEFFER: Out in front...I saw him when he was comin' out. He had this bundle...and then almost dropped it.
2 JOE: How large a bundle?
3 HEFFER: It's hard to say...
4 JOE: (INTERRUPTING, IMPATIENTLY) Come on, son...was it large or small...The size of the statue?
5 HEFFER: About that big. Yes, sir.
6 END SCENE 4
7 JOE: We located the sign shop. The suspect didn't work there any more, but we discovered his name was Claude Stroup. We found out where he lived. 2:25 P.M. we arrived there. It was a hotel for men. Mostly old men, mostly down-and-outers. It was called The Golden Dream.
8 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK WALK INTO HOTEL LOBBY, FOOTSTEPS ON THIN CARPET....FOOTSTEPS CONTINUE AND STOP
9 JOE: Police officers. We're looking for Claude Stroup.
10 CLERK: I hope Claude didn't get in any trouble.
11 JOE: So do we. Is he in?
12 CLERK: No. He's got Room 307. You can check if you like.
13 FRANK: We'll take your word.
14 JOE: Were you on this morning.
15 CLERK: Huh?
16 FRANK: Did you have the early shift?
CLERK: We don't have shifts. My uncle owns the place. I'm
the shift.

JOE: Did Stroup spend last night here?

CLERK: Yeah. Came in about eleven.

JOE: When did he leave this morning?

CLERK: Around six. Maybe before.

JOE: Did he come back after?

CLERK: Eight o'clock or so. Then left...Supposed to be back
at ten...then pulls this trick.

JOE: What trick?

CLERK: Our program. He knows the other fellas need him.

FRANK: Program?

CLERK: Here at the hotel. Every Christmas we have a program.
Put up a tree, and sing. They're mostly old fellas...
singin' like that makes 'em remember back when they were
kids. Then Jimmy Finn comes on.

JOE: Jimmy Finn?

CLERK: He shares number 409. His family once had a lot of
money, so he tells the fellas about it. Stories about
Christmas....how they had this big log and his
grandfather used to start it up...and after dinner
everybody turned over his place and there underneath
was a twenty-dollar gold piece. A brand new one.

JOE: When Stroup came in this morning...did he have a bundle?
1 CLERK: I didn't see him come in.
2 FRANK: You said you saw him.
3 CLERK: I saw him go out after. But not come in.
4 JOE: When was that?
5 CLERK: Right. If you want to look for a bundle... I could give you his key.
6 JOE: We don't have a warrant.
7 CLERK: It's all right... I know about police. It's all right with me.
8 JOE: It's not with us.
9 CLERK: I didn't mean that. I just meant it was all right with me.
10 VOCAL: OFF WE HEAR 3 MEN SINGING "GOOD KING WENCESLAUS" SLIGHTLY
11 OFF KEY.
12 JOE: They were 3 old men. We couldn't tell how much better they'd have been with Stroup singing the fourth part but somehow you didn't care. This was Christmas at the golden dream and it sounded fine.
13 CLERK: This is the last rehearsal. They got most of the songs down pat.
14 PRANK: Sounds pretty good.
15 CLERK: That's why it's a shame Claude isn't here. He's tenor and they need him to make it sound just right.
16 JOE: Does Mr. Stroup have a job?
17 CLERK: No, sir. He used to have jobs... but not so much lately.
18 JOE: Did he say where he was going?
1 CLERK: No. He should've. The fellas need him.
2 FRANK: Well, here's our card. When he comes in, will you call us?
3 CLERK: Sure. And not say anything to him?
4 JOE: That's right.
5 CLERK: I hope it's nothing serious for Claude. A fella's troubles oughtta be over.
6 FRANK: Troubles?
7 CLERK: Away back...it wouldn't count now.
8 JOE: Tell us anyway.
9 CLERK: I don't know much about it.
10 JOE: (SWIFTLY) As much as you know. Now o'mon.
11 CLERK: It was somethin' back where he used to live...he robbed somebody or something.
12 JOE: What else?
13 CLERK: That's all...It was a long time ago...away far back. But he forgot it all...the robbin' and everything.
14 JOE: No not quite.
15 CLERK: Huh?
16 JOE: He remembered it this morning.

END SCENE 5
JOE: We went back to the office and ran Stroup's name through R. & I. If he'd been booked anywhere, we had no record of it. At least not under that name; 4:15 P.M. Pawnshop Detail reported back. No object resembling the statue of the Child Jesus had been turned in 4:18 P.M.

SOUND: BURGLARY SQUADROOM B.G. DOOR OPENS, CAPTAIN BARNARD FADES

BARN: (OFF) Friday... Smith.

JOE: Yeah, Skipper?

BARN: I just got word, Patterson's on the Sacramento bus.

FRANK: I thought Bakersfield had it.

BARN: Uh-uh. (NO) They were supposed to confirm. They did.

Hop over to the station.

JOE: What about Fanning and Pryor?

BARN: They're still out.

JOE: They'll be back soon. When does the bus arrive?

BARN: Six o'clock.

JOE: There's plenty of time for them to make it.

BARN: There's more time for you.

FRANK: We're still on that theft.

BARN: Can't it wait?

JOE: No.

BARN: What is it? A ten...fifteen dollar statue?

JOE: When's the price determine a case?
I realize it's a church statue, but that doesn't give it priority.

It's important to them, Captain. Joe and I promised to get it back.

What have you got on it?

Nothing much.

Then why were you so big-hearted?

THE TELEPHONE RINGS. JOE PUNCHES BUTTON AND PICKS UP

(INTO PHONE) Burglary...Friday speaking.  (PAUSE)

When? (PAUSE) No...don't say anything.

Claude Stroup just walked into the hotel. He's our suspect, Captain.

Nobody's leaked to him?

No.

He'll keep. You can run him down tomorrow.

It'll be too late then.

They need it for the first mass in the morning. It's kind of a big thing for them.

I'm sorry. I can't juggle details around so you can get a statue back. If there's time later on, we'll do our best.

Yes, sir.

You better get over to the station.
JOE: Yes, sir. Would you call Father Rojas over at the Mission?

BARN: Why?

JOE: Tell him we're too busy to work on that statue.

FRANK: But we'll do it later...tomorrow...or when we get a chance.

BARN: Why can't you call him?

JOE: We better get over to the station.

FRANK: If Patterson's on that bus we don't want to miss him.

(BEAT)

BARN: All right. I'll call him.

(BEAT)

JOE: C'mon, Frank. Let's go.

FRANK: Right.

SOUND: THEY WALK TO DOOR AND OPEN IT. CORRIDOR BG. IN

BARN: (LITTLE OFF) Joe?

JOE: Yeah.

SOUND: BARNARD PAGES IN AND STOPS.

BARN: I can send Fanning and Pryor over. You might as well stay on that other thing.

JOE: (GENTLY) Whatever you say, Captain.

END SCENE 6

MIDDLE COMMERCIAL
SECOND COMMERCIAL:

FENNEMAN: Planning a change to king-size? King-size Chesterfield is America's best cigarette buy.

GIRL: Yes, king-size Chesterfield is America's best cigarette buy. In most places, you pay the same price per package for king-size Chesterfield as for all regular size cigarettes.

FENNEMAN: Of the three brands that have been leaders in this country for over 30 years, only Chesterfield is made in king-size, and only Chesterfield gives proof of highest quality...low nicotine...with the taste you want and the mildness you want. A refreshing smoke every time. Yes, king-size Chesterfield is America's best cigarette buy.

GIRL: Remember, in most places, you pay the same price per package for king-size Chesterfield as for all regular size cigarettes. You get the most for your money.

FENNEMAN: Each king-size Chesterfield gives you up to six more puffs per cigarette. One - two three - four - five - six more puffs per cigarette. That's 120 extra puffs per pack. Always remember this - in the whole wide world, no cigarette satisfies like Chesterfield.

LG 0186572
JOE: 4:43 P.M. We arrived at the Golden Dream Hotel. The Desk Clerk was right... Claude Stroup looked like a man who'd had his troubles at bargain rates.

FRANK: You Mr. Stroup?

STROUP: Yes, sir?

FRANK: We're police officers. We'd like to talk to you.

STROUP: I didn't do anything against the law... Honest, I didn't do anything against it....

JOE: You haven't been accused.

FRANK: Wanna take you downtown.

JOE: O'mon, we'd like to talk to you....

SOUND: JOE TAKES A STEP AND STROUP COMES IN FAST

STROUP: (COMIN IN FAST) No, sir...I'm not goin'... I'm not goin' anywhere and I'm not gonna talk to anybody.

JOE: You're half wrong already.

END SCENE 7

JOE: 5:15 P.M. We returned Stroup for interrogation. He kept his word. He refused to talk. 6:40 P.M. Frank called Faye...told her he'd be a little late. Stroup didn't move for a whole hour. He sat and stared but he didn't talk. 6:40 P.M. We got a final report from Pawnshop Detail; The shops were closed....there was no statue.

STROUP still hadn't talked.

SOUND: BURGLARY SQUADROOM B.G. LATE AT NIGHT. NOT TOO FRANTIC.

FRANK: Dark out;
JOE: Yeah...gets that way earlier every day.

(PAUSE)

SOUND: WE HEAR JOE WALK ACROSS THE ROOM TO STROUP AND STOP.

(BEAT)

JOE: Don't you ever want to go home, Stroup?

STROUP: If I was to talk...you wouldn't let me go.

JOE: That depends on what you'd say.

STROUP: I'd say it wrong...and I wouldn't get home.

JOE: You won't this way, either.

STROUP: I'd like to go...you can bet on that. (BEAT) This is the seventh year we had the program...and I never missed a one. Not a single one.

SOUND: FRANK JOINS JOE AND STROUP

FRANK: (PADING ON) Why don't you tell us what happened, Stroup.

STROUP: How would I know you'd let me go?

JOE: You wouldn't.

STROUP: (WEARILY) I might as well, anyway.

JOE: What happened...from Mass on?

STROUP: Well, there was Mass...I came out and started down toward the hotel.

JOE: Back up.
STROUP: (STUMBLING ON UNCOMPREHENSIVELY) I left my stuff at the hotel and then I picked up George's car. I didn't steal it. He said I could have it any time I wanted...only this time I didn't ask him. I took it and started out. I shoulda asked. But I just didn't. I went over to Grand Avenue for the Christmas bulbs...fellow over there sells 'em second-hand. It was comin' out of the lot that I did it.

JOE: Yes?

STROUP: The bumper must have caught the other car. It didn't leave too big a dent, but there was this long scratch. I got out and tried to wipe it with my handkerchief...you know, spit on it like...only it didn't do no good. I didn't think anybody saw. I don't know how you fellows found out about it.

BEAT

FRANK: I'll check auto records.

SOUND: FRANK OFF

JOE: Mr. Stroup, we didn't bring you down here to talk about that.

STROUP: You didn't?

JOE: No; There's a statue missing from the Church...a statue of the Child Jesus.

STROUP: You mean I took it?

JOE: You took a bundle out of Church.
STROUP: Yes, sir. That was my other pants... for the program tonight. I had a place sewed up and there was a button off. You can check. But I wouldn't take a statue.

JOE: I don't think you would either.

FRANK: He's clear at Auto Records.

STROUP: You mean it's all right?

JOE: Goodnight, Mr. Stroup.

(Beat)

SOUND: STRoup GETS UP, WALKS SLOWLY TO THE DOOR OF THE Corridor... AND OPENS IN. Corridor B.G. IN.

STROUP: (FROM DOOR) Goodnight... Merry Christmas.

SOUND: Door Closes. Corridor B.G. Out.... Joe slumps into chair.

FRANK: Where to?

JOE: We could stay and work on it tonight.

FRANK: It wouldn't do any good, Joe. We won't find it.

JOE: I don't think so.

FRANK: No point in kidding that priest... build his hopes up.

JOE: Yeah. We might as well tell him now.

SOUND: Joe STANDS UP AND TAKES A COUPLE OF STEPS AND STOPS... (Beat)

JOE: (ABSENTLY) Merry Christmas.

END SCENE 8
7:27 P.M. We found Father Rojas. Frank told him how it was...that we couldn't get the statue back by morning...but that we'd keep trying during the week.... He said he understood. We told him we had to get on.
ROJAS: (TO BOY) Por que?

(TEARFULLY) Vendre el Diablo para llevar Paquito?

ROJAS: No el Diablo. Jesus Amo a Paquito mucho.

JOE: We crossed over to the Sanctuary. With the help of Father Rojas, the small boy replaced the Infant Jesus in its right place...the crib in the Nativity Scene. Frank and I could have been wrong but the small plaster statues seemed to approve. Mary, Joseph, the Wise Men, Gaspar, Melchior, Balbizar, the old shepherd, the young shepherd, the peasant...they all seemed to approve.

ROJAS: Vuelve a tu casa, Paquito.
JOE: The priest told the boy to go home. He took hold of
his wagon and started the long walk out of the church.

(BEAT) There wasn't much we could say. There wasn't
much to say. We just stood there and watched him go.

Half way up the aisle, he turned and looked back.

Then he went on out.

SOUND: PACO TAKES WAGON OUT THROUGH DOORS. DOORS CLOSE BEHIND

FRANK: I don't understand how he got the wagon today. Don't

kids wait for Santa Claus anymore?

ROJAS: It is not from Santa Claus. The firemen fix the old
toys and give them to new children. Paquito's family...

they are poor.

JOE: (QUIETLY) Are they, Father?

MUSIC: THEME
FENN: The story you have just heard is true. The names were changed.
WEBB: Friends, it's not too late to get plenty of Chesterfield Christmas cartons for your friends. They're all wrapped and ready to give - cost so little - give so much pleasure. Perfect for your last minute shopping problems. You can get 'em at your dealers. He'll be open right up to Christmas. And speaking of your dealer - may I personally say to him... to all the one million three hundred thousand retail dealers... and the more than six thousand wholesale distributors —

Merry Christmas. Merry Christmas from the makers of Chesterfield and L & Ms, the Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company — and from all of us on Dragnet. Now — goodnight to all of you — and have a very happy holiday.
MUSIC: THEME

THEME: UNDER

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, ____________________________.

Script by ____________________________.


MUSIC: THEME UNDER...CONTINUES

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

(FATIMA HITCH HIKE)
HITCH-HIKE....L & M

1 ANNOR: This is it!
2 L & M is best - stands out from all the rest!
3 L & M stands out for flavor. The pure, white miracle tip draws easy. You enjoy all the taste. L & M stands out for effective filtration. L & M's got everything! It's America's best filter-tip cigarette. And for Christmas, this is it! L & M Filters in the distinctive holiday carton - the perfect gift for all the filter-tip smokers you know.

29/30