



# DRAGNET

CHESTERFIELD #114      NBC #282      RELEASE DATE.....JANUARY 11, 1955

DIRECTOR.....JACK WEBB      SPONSOR....CHESTERFIELD CIGARETTES

WRITERS.....JOHN ROBINSON      AGENCY.....CUNNINGHAM-WALSH  
& EARL SCHLEY

MUSIC.....WALTER SCHUMANN      COMMERCIAL SUPERVISION.....  
PETE PETERSON

SCRIPT.....JEAN MILES      TECHNICAL ADVISORS.....

SOUND:.....BUD TOLLEFSON &      SGT. MARTY WYNN.....L.A.P.D.  
WAYNE KENWORTHY

ENGINEER.....RAOUL MURPHY      SGT. VANCE BRASHER.....L.A.P.D.

ANNCR #1.....GEORGE FENNEMAN      CAPT. JACK DONOHUE.....L.A.P.D.

ANNCR #2.....HAL GIBNEY, NBC

CASE....."THE BIG COMPLEX"

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

RECORDING: SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 1955 "A"

CAST AND SOUND: 11:00 - 1:30 PM

EDITING.....TBA

SCORING.....TBA

ORCHESTRA.....

ANNOUNCERS.....(COMMERCIAL)

BROADCAST: 6:00 - 6:30 PM - STUDIO "J" -- BY T.R.

*Agency Copy  
Cut a Trace*

C A S T

SERGEANT JOE FRIDAY.....JACK WEBB  
OFFICER FRANK SMITH.....BEN ALEXANDER  
BETTY WEBLE.....(DBL).....JOYCE MCCLOSKEY  
JANE RIDLEY.....VIRGINIA WEBB  
CAPTAIN POWERS.....HARRY BARTELL  
JERRY BECKLE.....BOB CROSSON  
HENRY BECKLE.....VIC PERRIN  
LINDA COTTERLY.....JOYCE MCCLOSKEY  
MABEL BECKLE.....(DBL).....VIRGINIA GREGG

DRAGNET RADIO

-1-

"THE BIG COMPLEX"

N.B.C. #282 CHESTERFIELD #114 (P.B. # )

FOR BROADCAST: JANUARY 11, 1955

1 MUSIC: SIGNATURE

2 FENN: (EASILY) <sup>6</sup> ~~Ladies~~ and gentlemen, the story you are about  
3 to hear is true. The names have been changed to protect  
4 the innocent.

5 MUSIC: DRUM ROLL UNDER

6 GIBNEY: Dragnet, brought to you by Chesterfield. This is the  
7 best - Chesterfield. And the time to change - today. *(circled)*

8 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR

9 FENN: You're a detective sergeant. You're assigned to Juvenile  
10 detail. In the past six weeks a junior high school  
11 has been broken into three times and extensive damage  
12 has been done by Vandalism. Your job...investigate.

13 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR:

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)

DRAGNET  
January 11, 1955

FIRST COMMERCIAL

- 1 MUSIC: HARP ARPEGGIO
- 2 FENNEMAN: (STEPPING ON LAST NOTE) Put a smile in your smoking! <sup>60</sup>
- 3 TRY CHESTERFIELD - today!
- 4 MUSIC: STING -- HIT AND TAKE UNDER
- 5 FENNEMAN: Instantly, you'll smile your approval of Chesterfield
- 6 smartness.
- 7 MUSIC: STING
- 8 FENNEMAN: The pack is clean, white ... keeps your Chesterfields
- 9 always fresh ... always tasty. <sup>115</sup>
- 10 MUSIC: STING -- HIT AND TAKE UNDER
- 11 FENNEMAN: Instantly, you'll smile your approval of Chesterfield
- 12 satisfaction.
- 13 MUSIC: STING OUT
- 14 FENNEMAN: In the whole wide world, no cigarette satisfies like
- 15 Chesterfield.
- 16 MUSIC: HARP ARPEGGIO
- 17 FENNEMAN: Put a smile in your smoking. TRY CHESTERFIELD - today!
- 18 MUSIC: CLOSE UP FULL <sup>134</sup>

1 MUSIC: THEME 140

2 GIBNEY: ~~Dragnet~~, the documented drama of an actual crime. For  
3 the next thirty minutes in cooperation with the Los  
4 Angeles Police Department, you will travel step by step  
5 on the side of the law through an actual case transcribed  
6 from official police files. From beginning to end...  
7 from crime to punishment...Dragnet is the story of your  
8 police force in action. 2\50

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

10 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK'S FOOTSTEPS IN SCHOOL CORRIDOR (ECHO)

11 JOE: It was Monday, March 9th. It was cold in Los Angeles.  
12 We were working the day watch out of Juvenile Detail.  
13 My partner's Frank Smith. The boss is Captain Powers. 2\11  
14 My name's Friday. We were on our way out from the office  
15 and it was 8:32 A.M. when we got to the Hillside Junior  
16 High School...(DOOR OPENS...OFFICE B.G. IN)..the Vice-  
17 Principle's office.

18 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK'S FOOTSTEPS INTO ROOM UP TO COUNTER:

19 BETTY: Good morning. May I help you?

20 JOE: Police officers. We'd like to see Miss Ridley.

21 BETTY: Oh yes. You've been here before, haven't you?

22 JOE: That's right.

23 BETTY: Uh huh. Miss Ridley is expecting you. You can go right  
24 in. 2\30

25 JOE AND FRANK AD LIB REPLIES:

26 SOUND: COUPLE STEPS TO DOOR. DOOR KNOCK

27 JANE: (OFF) Come in.

28 SOUND: DOOR OPEN & ENTER ROOM

29 JANE: (OFF) Good morning, officers. Come in, please, and sit  
30 down.

1 JOE: Thank you, Miss Ridley.

2 SOUND: FRANK CLOSES DOOR, THEN HE AND JOE TAKE COUPLE STEPS

3 OVER TO DESK. AND SIT DOWN UNDER FOLLOWING:

4 JANE: We seem to be getting more than our share of trouble.

5 JOE: Uh huh. What is it this time, Ma'am?

6 JANE: Same as before, little more serious. 2/45

7 JOE: The cafeteria?

8 JANE: Yes. Wait until you see the place. Just downright

9 vandalism. Food thrown all over. On the walls, the

10 floor.

11 JOE: Uh huh.

12 JANE: But they didn't stop there.

13 JOE: Ma'am?

14 JANE: The students' supply store was broken into. In fact, 3/10

15 that's where the entrance was made.

16 FRANK: Yeah.

17 JANE: Girl in charge says that a number of items are missing.

18 FRANK: What was taken?

19 JANE: Things the students use in school...notebooks, pencils...

20 fountain pens.

21 FRANK: Uh huh. 3/15

22 JANE: There were a lot of the transportation books taken, too.

23 JOE: Those the kind the kids use on the busses and streetcars?

24 JANE: That's right.

25 JOE: Well, they have serial numbers don't they?

26 JANE: Yes, we keep a record of them in the office.

1 JOE: You'll be able to give us a list of the numbers on the  
2 missing books?

3 JANE: Oh yes.

4 JOE: Fine. Now could we take a look at the store room?

5 JANE: Surely. It's right next to the office.

6 SOUND: THEY ALL RISE TO THEIR FEET AND WALK OVER TO DOOR

7 UNDER FOLLOWING:

8 JANE: I wasn't so sure the last time, but I am now. 3170

9 JOE: What d'ya mean?

10 SOUND: DOOR OPENS

11 JANE: About who's responsible for this.

12 SOUND: THEY ALL WALK INTO STORE ROOM

13 JOE: You've an idea who might have done it?

14 JANE: Well, I'm pretty sure it must be a student or a former  
15 student.

16 SOUND: FOOTSTEPS STOP.

17 FRANK: ~~Why~~ do you say that, Miss Ridley? 3145

18 JANE: Well, there's the window they entered.

19 JOE: Uh huh.

20 SOUND: JOE STEPS OVER TO WINDOW. LAST COUPLE OF STEPS ON

21 BROKEN GLASS

22 JANE: (OFF SLIGHTLY) Somebody must have known that this  
23 window opened into the store room.

24 JOE: (LOOKING AT WINDOW) Uh huh. Screen's torn...windows  
25 broken.

26 SOUND: JOE TAKES COUPLE STEPS OVER TO JANE AND FRANK UNDER

27 FOLLOWING

28 JOE: Do you have ~~somebody~~ special in mind who might have  
29 done this? 4100

1 JANE: No. Wouldn't be fair to cast suspicion on any boy...  
2 or girl without proof.

3 JOE: Have you had trouble with any students since we were  
4 here last?

5 JANE: Yes.

6 FRANK: What was wrong, ma'am? 4/15

7 JANE: During study periods. A group of five boys were causing  
8 minor disturbances.

9 FRANK: Uh huh.

10 JANE: But it's all been straightened out. I had a talk with  
11 the leader of the group. Found out he wanted to take  
12 part in school athletics. His parents didn't want him  
13 too. Afraid he might be injured. 4/15

14 JOE: Yeah.

15 JANE: So I call them in for a conference. We talked and they  
16 finally agreed to let the boy participate in school sports.

17 FRANK: Uh huh.

18 JANE: That's all there was to it. Haven't had any trouble since.

19 JOE: How about the other boys?

20 JANE: They weren't really bad. Without a leader they just  
21 settled down. I'm sure it wasn't any of them.

22 JOE: (LOOKING AROUND STORE ROOM) Can you tell us if anything  
23 has been moved in here? 4/15

24 JANE: No. This is just the way we found it.

25 FRANK: (GRUNTS) Wonder why they didn't mess this room up too?



1 JANE: I don't know. (BEAT) I've been teaching for twenty  
2 years, and I'm pretty sure of one thing. 5100  
3 FRANK: What's that, ma'am?  
4 JANE: Children do wrong, but not because they want to be tough  
5 or brave. Usually because they're afraid of something.  
6 JOE: Uh huh.  
7 JANE: Most of them are pretty frightened kids. They need help.  
8 JOE: I'll buy that.  
9 JANE: Problem is, what happens to them if they don't get it?  
10 JOE: They'll still be around.  
11 JANE: Yes?  
12 JOE: As frightened adults. 5125

(END SCENE 1)

13 JOE: In the cafeteria, we found conditions about the same as  
14 we had after the previous acts of vandalism. The 514  
15 refrigerator had been ransacked. Cartons of milk, along  
16 with containers of ice cream and frozen foods had been  
17 smashed against the walls and floor. Tables had been  
18 overturned and chairs had been thrown around. The floor  
19 was covered with broken glass. Frank put in a call to  
20 Latent prints and they sent a crew out to go over the  
21 store room and cafeteria. Miss Ridley told us that she 610  
22 had already notified School Security. Before we left  
23 she furnished us with a complete list of stolen articles  
24 and the serial numbers for the missing student  
25 transportation books. We returned to Georgia Street  
26 and met with Captain Powers.

6/15

1 POWERS: You're pretty sure it's juveniles?

2 JOE: Yeah. Kinda' stuff that was taken...the damage done  
3 sure points that way.

4 POWERS: Any help from Miss Ridley?

5 FRANK: Couldn't give us any names.

6 POWERS: No teacher-pupil problems.

7 JOE: Mentioned a minor case. Said it had been cleared up.

8 POWERS: Uh huh. This is the third time in six weeks for the  
school, isn't it?

9 JOE: ~~Yeah.~~ 6/30

10 POWERS: Kids don't usually travel very far for these deals...  
11 Good chance it's some of 'em from the school.

12 JOE: Way it looks--if they try to peddle the stuff to the other  
13 kids, we might be able to get a lead on 'em.

14 POWERS: Uh huh.

15 JOE: There's a hitch to that, though.

16 POWERS: What d'ya mean?

17 JOE: Miss Ridley said she was gonna make an announcement to  
18 the student body.

19 POWERS: Yeah? 6/45

20 JOE: Gonna tell 'em to be on the look out for the stolen  
21 articles.

22 POWERS: Yeah. If kids who took the stuff are in school, they  
23 might lay low for awhile.

24 JOE: That's right.

25 POWERS: How much was taken?

26 FRANK: About five hundred dollars worth of school supplies.

1 POWERS: (GRUNTS) Pretty good haul.

2 JOE: Yeah. to Page 9

3 FRANK: Whoever did it must have something against the cafeteria.

4 Place was a real mess.

5 POWERS: Yeah?

6 FRANK: Bad enough the first couple of times...Didn't leave

7 anything in the refrigerators this trip...Sure doesn't

8 make much sense.

9 POWERS: I don't know. Maybe it does.

10 JOE: Huh?

11 POWERS: Each time they hit the cafeteria. Right?

12 JOE: Yeah.

13 POWERS: And they didn't tear up the store room. 7/30

14 JOE: Threw a few pencil boxes around. That's about all.

15 POWERS: But every time food has been destroyed...

16 JOE: That's right.

17 POWERS: They got a reason for doing it.

18 FRANK: Yeah?

19 POWERS: Somebody that can't resist the urge to eat all the time.

20 Hate being fat. So without knowing why they do it...they

21 destroy food. 7/45

22 JOE: Uh huh. Makes sense.

23 POWERS: ~~Could~~ be part of it, anyhow. It's only theory, but it

24 might hold water.

25 JOE: Yeah, but we don't know if it's a gang we're after or

26 one person. Another thing. They've broken in three

27 times. Might have been by different kids.

POWERS: GOOD QUESTIONS. ALL OF 'EM.

JOE: YEAH.

POWERS: THAT'S WHY YOU GET PAID.

JOE: HUH?

POWERS: TO GET THE ANSWERS. 8/00

1 POWERS: Possible. What're you gonna do about it?  
2 JOE: If it's all right with you, Frank and I'd like to put a  
3 stakeout on the school. 7/80  
4 POWERS: All right. When?  
5 JOE: We know the janitors work into the early hours on  
6 Fridays.  
7 POWERS: Yeah.  
8 JOE: So it figures the school must be broken into sometime  
9 on Saturday or Sunday.  
10 POWERS: All right. When do you want to start?  
11 JOE: This coming week end.  
12 POWERS: Okay, I'll arrange a clearance for you with School Security.  
13 JOE: Right.  
14 ~~POWERS: Any more help you need, let me know.~~ BACK TO PAGE 8-LINES 7/15  
15 FRANK: Just thinking, Skipper. If Joe and me spend a couple  
16 week-ends in that school, I might need some.  
17 POWERS: Yeah.  
18 FRANK: Won't make much difference to Joe...but I'm gonna need  
19 more clearance.  
20 POWERS: How?  
21 FRANK: At home...with my wife.

(END SCENE II)

2/15  
1 JOE: We kept in contact with Miss Ridley during the rest of  
2 the week, but as far as she knew, none of the stolen  
3 articles showed up. Captain Powers talked with the  
4 School Security Section of the Board of Education and  
5 Frank and I staked out in the school on Saturday and  
6 Sunday. There was no disturbance. We went back the  
7 following week-end. Saturday passed without any trouble.  
8 Sunday, 7:34 P.M. we were sitting in the Vice-Principle's  
9 office. 8/13

(BEAT)

10 SOUND: WINDOW BREAKING OFF SOME DISTANCE

11 JOE: (SOTO) Frank.

12 FRANK: (SOTO) Yeah, I heard it.

13 JOE: Let's go.

14 FRANK: Yeah.

15 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK WALK DOWN CORRIDOR. THERMAL NOISE..AS THEY  
16 APPROACH CAFETERIA THEY HEAR THE NOISE OF MILK CARTONS  
17 AND ICE CREAM CONTAINERS BEING SMASHED AGAINST THE WALLS  
18 AND FLOORS. THEY GET TO JERRY. WE HEAR THE SOUND OF  
19 GLASS BREAKING.

20 JOE: (APPROACHING JERRY FROM BACK) All right son. Party's  
21 over. 8/45

22 JERRY: (TURNS AROUND IN FRIGHT) ...What?

23 SOUND: JERRY DROPS A TRAY OF GLASSES AND RUNS TOWARD WINDOW  
24 HE ENTERED: HIS HARD SOLED SHOES HEARD ON FLOOR WITH  
25 ECHO.

1 JOE: Grab him, Frank.

2 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK CHASE JERRY SHORT DISTANCE TO WINDOW, AND

3 JOE GRABS HIM AS HE TRIES TO GO THROUGH

4 JOE: Take it easy, boy...

5 JERRY: (STRUGGLING) Let me go....let me go.

6 JOE: Now take it easy...This isn't gonna help. Just hold

7 still. What's your name?

8 JERRY: (BEAT) Jerry.

9 JOE: Last name?

10 JERRY: Beckle.

11 JOE: You've ~~done~~ this before? 9/00

(PAUSE)

12 JOE: Beckle?

(PAUSE)

13 JOE: All right. Let's go.

14 JERRY: You gonna put me in jail?

15 SOUND: JERRY'S SHOES ON CORRIDOR (ECHO) AS THEY WALK

16 JOE: We'll see.

17 JERRY: (BEAT) I'm not afraid of you cops.

18 JOE: No reason you should be. Why'd you throw all this food

19 around.

20 JERRY: I don't know. 9/15

21 JOE: You haven't got a reason?

22 JERRY: No. You sure went to a lotta trouble to catch me.

23 JOE: Not too much.

24 JERRY: Huh?

25 JOE: You made it easy.

(END SCENE III)

1 JOE: Before leaving the school, Frank called School Security  
2 and notified them of the broken window and the damage  
3 done by Jerry Beckle. We drove back to Georgia Street to  
4 question the subject further. On the way down, he  
5 refused to say anything. At the office he told us he  
6 lived at 1206 Walnut Street. Frank went to check

7 Central Juvenile Index. 8:42 P.M.

8 JERRY: *That's all. I'm not going to tell you anymore.*  
9 JOE: Let's get one thing straight, son. You're in trouble.

10 We'd like to help you, but you've got to play ball with  
11 us. We'll level with you, but you've got to play it  
12 the same way. You understand?

13 JERRY: (BEAT) Yeah.

14 JOE: All right. Now, we can't do anything for you unless you  
15 want us to. Unless we know why you do these things it'll  
16 be pretty hard to find a way out. Is that clear?

17 JERRY: I guess so.

18 JOE: The only way we can find out is if you'll tell us the  
19 truth.

20 SOUND: FOOTSTEPS COMING ON:

21 FRANK: Joe.

22 JOE: Yeah.

23 FRANK: No previous record on him.

24 JOE: Uh huh. (TO JERRY) Are you ready to answer our questions  
25 now, son?

1&2 JERRY: (BEAT) Sure, but it won't do any good.

3 JOE: Why do you say that?

4 JERRY: You can't change my looks, can you?

5 JOE: No reason to do that. You look healthy to me.

6 JERRY: Sure...I'm healthy. I'm fat and ugly, too. That's why  
7 I had the trouble with Miss Ridley.

8 JOE: Well, suppose you tell us about it.

9 JERRY: She kicked me outta school.

10 FRANK: Why?

11 JERRY: Fighting.

12 FRANK: Who were you fighting with?

13 JERRY: Different guys.

14 FRANK: Why?

15 JERRY: They called me names.

16 JOE: Go ahead.

17 JERRY: It wasn't my fault. I can't help how I look.

18 JOE: You sure that's why you had fights?

19 JERRY: They wouldn't let me alone...Suppose you think I'm real  
20 good looking.

21 JOE: I told you we'd level with you. You're not handsome,

22 ~~but you're not ugly either.~~ Seems to me you're  
23 imagining a lot.

24 JERRY: Sure...I suppose they called me "Lard Barrel" and  
25 "Witch Man" because they imagined it too.



1 JOE: Maybe they got another reason.

2 JERRY: Like what?

3 JOE: To needle you. If you didn't let 'em know it bothered  
4 you, they probably wouldn't have kept it up. They  
5 called you names to get you into fights.

6 JERRY: That's what you say.

7 JOE: That's what we believe, Jerry. *MS*

8 JERRY: Well, ~~she~~ didn't have to kick me out of school.

9 FRANK: How many fights did you have?

10 JERRY: I don't know.

11 JOE: You must have some idea.

12 JERRY: Quite a few.

13 FRANK: Did Miss Ridley talk to you?

14 JERRY: Yeah.

15 FRANK: She gave you more'n one chance, didn't she?

16 JERRY: (BEAT) Yeah, but the kids kept after me. Wouldn't let  
17 me alone.

18 JOE: You don't like Miss Ridley, do you? *11/30*

19 JERRY: Why should I?

20 JOE: Is that why you broke into the school?

21 JERRY: Maybe.

22 JOE: How many times did you go in?

23 JERRY: (BEAT) Three.

24 JOE: Did you steal the things from the store room?

25 JERRY: Yeah.

1 JOE: Where are they?  
2 JERRY: Home.  
3 JOE: You live with your father and mother?  
4 JERRY: Yeah.  
5 JOE: Any brothers or sisters?  
6 JERRY: Two ~~brothers~~ and three sisters. *1195*  
7 JOE: When you had the trouble at Hilldale did Miss Ridley talk  
8 to your parents.  
9 JERRY: No.  
10 JOE: She didn't get in touch with 'em?  
11 JERRY: Sure, she tried but they didn't go in to see her.  
12 JOE: Any reason why they didn't?  
13 JERRY: No.....just didn't go, that's all.  
14 JOE: Well, I guess we'd better go ~~out~~ and talk to them this  
15 time. *12/00*  
16 JERRY: Why?  
17 JOE: Well, they'll have to know about this trouble you're in.  
18 Maybe if we talk to them, we can sorta' work this problem  
19 out together.  
20 JERRY: That won't do any good.  
21 JOE: No?  
22 JERRY: They think I'm <sup>FAT AND</sup> ugly, ~~too~~  
23 (END SCENE IV)

12/25

1 JOE: Jerry Beckle told us that he was now attending the Jansen  
 2 School, one of the two maintained in the city for  
 3 juveniles that have difficulty making adjustments in  
 4 normal school life. He also told us that on all three  
 5 occasions he had been alone when he broke into the  
 6 Hillside school. We drove out to his home, a small frame  
 7 house badly in need of repair. We met his father, Henry  
 8 Beckle and told him the reason for our visit.

9 HENRY: (TO HIS SON) So, you can't stay outta' trouble. First it's  
 10 fightin' and you get kicked outta' school. Now this mess.  
 11 What's the matter with you, anyhow.

12 JOE: <sup>JERRY!</sup> Excuse me, Mr. Beckle, but this kind of talk isn't gonna'  
 13 get us anywhere. Your son has a definite problem and he  
 14 needs help.

15 HENRY: Sure he's got a problem. He's no good. Never has been, and  
 16 never will be.

17 JOE: Frank you wanna' take the boy outside?

18 FRANK: Sure.....C'mon son.

19 SOUND: THEIR FOOTSTEPS FROM ROOM TO KITCHEN. DOOR CLOSSES OFF  
 20 SLIGHTLY:

21 HENRY: Now I suppose you're gonna' give me the answers.

~~22 JOE: No, but I'd say one would be more than you've got.~~

23 HENRY: You sound like you think it's my fault he got into this  
 24 trouble.

25 JOE: You mighta' helped keep him out of it.

26 HENRY: Sure, just follow him around all day and night. Slap his  
 27 wrist when he stepped outta' line.

13/15

- 1 JOE: You were asked to go over to his school when he had  
2 trouble before. Why didn't you go?
- 3 HENRY: I didn't have the time. I've got to worry about five  
4 other kids. They've got to eat.....Can't be taking time  
5 away from work just because one of 'em can't keep his  
6 nose clean.
- 7 JOE: What about your wife.
- 8 HENRY: Whatta mean?
- 9 JOE: Couldn't she have gone over to the school?
- 10 HENRY: (GRUNTS) Why don't you ask her. 13/30
- 11 JOE: Is she here now?
- 12 HENRY: Nope.....she's gone out. Probably at a movie. Says she has  
13 to have some fun, so she leaves me with the kids.
- 14 JOE: Is there any reason why she couldn't go and talk with Miss  
15 Ridley about Jerry?
- 16 HENRY: Yeah. She figured it was his own problem. Says he has to  
17 learn to fight his own battles.
- 18 JOE: That's fine when you know what you're fighting. Jerry  
19 doesn't. 13/45
- 20 HENRY: Nothin' the matter with him.
- 21 JOE: That's where you're wrong.....~~Tell me, something?~~
- 22 ~~HENRY: What?~~
- 23 ~~JOE: What do you think about his appearance?~~
- 24 ~~HENRY: What?~~
- 25 JOE: ~~The way he looks?~~

1 HENRY: You saw him. He's fat.  
2 JOE: Anything else?  
3 HENRY: Yeah. He's homely gotta say that myself.  
4 JOE: And you probably have.  
5 HENRY: What does that mean?  
6 JOE: Your son has an inferiority complex about his looks.  
7 HENRY: Big deal.  
8 JOE: That's one of the things wrong with him.  
9 HENRY: So what. He'll just have to get used to the fact he ain't  
10 pretty.  
11 JOE: Might be easier... if he had some help.  
12 HENRY: You want me to lie to him? Tell him could win a contest?  
13 JOE: You don't have to go overboard.  
14 HENRY: Are you tryin' to tell me he gets into trouble is because  
15 of the way he feels about his looks?  
16 JOE: Possible that's a good part of it.  
17 HENRY: He gonna have to go to jail? 14/00  
18 JOE: I'm afraid so.  
19 HENRY: (BEAT) Don't you put kids on probation sometimes? Let the  
20 parents look after 'em?  
21 JOE: Yeah, when they have parents.  
22 HENRY: Well couldn't you do that for Jerry?  
23 JOE: If you could show the authorities that you'd be responsible  
24 for him, might work out.

1 HENRY: I could do that.

2 JOE: There's something more you'd have to do.

3 HENRY: Huh?

4 JOE: Find time to talk to them.

5 (END SCENE V)

6 JOE: ~~We~~ took the subject along with the recovered stolen  
7 *A/B* property to Georgia Street. The next day, Miss Ridley came  
8 down and identified the articles as those taken from the  
9 school storeroom. She said that Jerry Beckle had been in  
10 numerous fights before he was dismissed ~~from~~ school  
11 During her investigation of the disorders, she  
12 *14/43* found that ~~Beckle~~ had provoked several of the fights. She  
13 went on to say that the subject had been a below average  
14 student, showing little interest in academic work. A  
15 petition was filed in Beckle's behalf with the Juvenile  
16 Court. The petition was sustained and he was placed on  
17 *15/00* probation with the Los Angeles County Probation Department,  
18 and allowed to remain in the custody of his parents. March  
19 31. 8:06 A.M.

20 SOUND: FOOTSTEPS COMING ON: OFFICE B.G.

21 FRANK: Just picked up some reports for yesterday.....Wanna' check  
22 'em over?

23 JOE: Yeah.

24 SOUND: RATTLE OF PAPERS AS FRANK HANDS THEM TO JOE:

1 JOE: Thanks.

2 SOUND: FRANK MOVES CHAIR AND SITS DOWN AT DESK: JOE READS

3 THROUGH REPORTS..

4 FRANK: Saw the Skipper on the way in.

5 JOE: Uh huh.

6 FRANK: Remember the Austin boy? 15115

7 JOE: (BEAT) Car theft.....wasn't it?

8 FRANK: Uh huh....violated his probation. Picked up again last

9 night.

10 JOE: (GRUNTS)

11 SOUND: JOE FLIPS REPORT PAPER:

12 (BEAT)

13 JOE: What was that kid's name on the Hillside School case....

14 heavy set boy?

15 FRANK: One that thought he was so ugly. 15130

16 JOE: Yeah - that's the one.

17 FRANK: Beckle, wasn't it?

18 JOE: Uh huh.

19 FRANK: What about, him?

20 JOE: Description on this report fits him, and listen to this.

21 Victim states the subject said to her, "Whattya' smilin'

22 for? Because I'm so ugly?"

23 FRANK: Might be.....What's the charge? 15145  
*Becky had this time*

24 JOE: / Attempted robbery and shooting.

25 (END SCENE VI)

26 (END ACT I)

27 GIBNEY: You are listening to Dragnet, the authentic story of your

28 16100 police force in action.

29 (COMMERCIAL INSERT)

DRAGNET

January 11, 1955

SECOND COMMERCIAL

- 1 MUSIC: HARP ARPEGGIO 16/105
- 2 GIRL: (NO BEAT) Put a smile in your smoking! Next time you  
3 buy cigarettes, stop ... Remember this.....
- 4 FENNEMAN: In the whole wide world, no cigarette satisfies like 16/115  
5 Chesterfield!
- 6 GIRL: Try Chesterfield - today ... Put a smile in your smoking!
- 7 FENNEMAN: Instantly, you'll smile your approval of Chesterfield  
8 smoothness. You want them mild - we make them mild!
- 9 GIRL: 11/30 Mild and mellow, with the smooth and refreshing taste  
10 of the right combination of the world's best tobaccos.
- 11 FENNEMAN: You'll smile your approval of Chesterfield quality ...  
12 highest quality. Today's Chesterfield is the best 16/145  
13 cigarette ever made ... and our factory doors are always  
14 open to prove it! Come in any time. We're installing  
15 the quality detective .... the newest - the most  
16 17/100 important discovery in cigarette making in over thirty  
17 years. The quality detective ... another reason why the  
18 Chesterfield you smoke today is highest in quality -  
19 low in nicotine ... Best for you!
- 20 MUSIC: HARP ARPEGGIO
- 21 GIRL: 17/15 (NO BEAT) Put a smile in your smoking. Next time you  
22 buy cigarettes, stop ... Remember this --
- 23 FENNEMAN: In the whole wide world, no cigarette satisfies like  
24 Chesterfield. 17/25
- 25 MUSIC: CLOSE UP FULL



17/30

1 JOE: The robbery and shooting had occurred the previous night  
 2 about 7:30 P.M. We checked with the Georgia Street  
 3 Receiving Hospital and found the victim Linda Cotterly,  
 4 had been treated for a minor flesh wound, in the leg. 17/1  
 5 She had been shot with a 22 calibre pistol. The hospital  
 6 report showed that she had been released and allowed to  
 7 return home. We contacted the officers working the case  
 8 and checked the reports that'd been filed. We asked if  
 9 we could talk to the victim. Frank and I drove out to the  
 10 address and were admitted by her sister. Linda Cotterly  
 11 was lying on a couch in the front room. We identified  
 12 ourselves and asked her if she would mind going over the  
 13 story for us. 18/00

14 LINDA: I told the other officers all about it.

15 JOE: Yes, ma'am. We saw the report, but we'd appreciate your  
16 telling us just what happened.

17 LINDA: Guess it won't do no harm. Suppose if more of you know  
18 about it, you'll have a better chance to catch the little  
19 stinker. 18/15

20 FRANK: Yes, ma'am.

21 LINDA: I shouldn't have said that.

22 FRANK: Ma'am?

23 LINDA: Little stinker....he was a big stinker.

24 FRANK: Uh huh.

25 LINDA: He could have killed me. Gives me cold chills thinkin'  
26 about it.

27 JOE: Yes ma'am.

28 LINDA: (TO FRANK) Wonder if you'd do something for me?

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1 FRANK: Surely. - What is it?  
2 LINDA: There's an afghan on the sewing machine in the dining room.  
3 Would you ~~get~~ it for me? 18/30  
4 SOUND: FRANK GETS TO FEET AND GOES TO DINING ROOM:  
5 FRANK: Surely.  
6 LINDA: Thank you.  
7 JOE: Wonder if you'd give us the story.  
8 LINDA: Sure. Well you know I was shot. In the leg. Right here  
9 (INDICATES)  
10 JOE: Uh huh.  
11 LINDA: At first I thought it was just some kid playin' a joke.  
12 SOUND: FRANK'S FOOTSTEPS COMING ON.  
13 FRANK: Here y'are ma'am.  
14 LINDA: Thank you Mr Smith.. ~~now~~ Would you just drape it over  
15 me....Gently..now. 18/45  
16 FRANK: (DRAPES AFGHAN OVER LINDA UNDER ABOVE.) Uh huh.  
17 LINDA: That's just fine. Thank you.  
18 FRANK: Yes ma'am.  
19 JOE: Now, you said you thought it was a joke when this boy  
20 tried to hold you up.  
21 LINDA: Yes...He was so young looking. Couldn't been more'n 15 or  
22 16.  
23 JOE: Uh huh.  
24 LINDA: And he was sorta' chubby. Didn't look mean at all. I  
25 guess I should have been scared. But I wasn't. I just  
26 smiled. 19/00  
27 JOE: Did he say anything when he approached you?  
28 LINDA: About it being a hold up you mean.  
29 JOE: Yes ma'am.

1 LINDA: No...came up to me. Had the gun in his hand.

2 JOE: That's when you smiled?

3 LINDA: That's right.

4 JOE: Then what happened?

5 LINDA: He got a real mad look on his face. Made him look tough.

6 FRANK: Is that when he spoke to you?

7 LINDA: How did you know?

8 FRANK: It was in the report. 19/15

9 LINDA: That's right, I'd forgotten. Well then I guess I can  
10 skip that part about what he said.

11 FRANK: We'd like to hear his exact words if you can remember 'em.

12 LINDA: He said, "Whatta' smilin' for? Because I'm so ugly"

13 JOE: Uh huh, now did you get a good look at him?

14 LINDA: (HESITANT) Yes and no. 19/30

15 JOE: Ma'am?

16 LINDA: Well I did see him, but I don't remember his face too well.  
17 I know he was young. Not too good lookin', but it's hard  
18 to say just what he did look like.

19 JOE: Do you think you'd know him if you saw him again?

20 LINDA: (HESITANT) I might. It was pretty dark. I'm not sure.

21 JOE: All right, what happened after he spoke to you.

22 LINDA: I said ~~no~~. Meaning I didn't think he was ugly. Then he  
23 told me to give him my purse. That's when it happened. 19/40

24 FRANK: Yeah.

1 LINDA: I got scared. Knew he wasn't foolin'. I screamed and  
2 started runnin'. Then I heard the noise.. Gunfire.

3 JOE: Go on.

4 LINDA: Then I felt a sting in my leg. When the bullet hit me. *20/00*  
5 I kept on runnin'. Went past a vacant lot, I kept  
6 screaming and then I saw a man across the street open his  
7 front door and look out.. I ran up to him. Told him I'd  
8 been shot and he called the police.

9 JOE: When you said this person was chubby, did you mean he was  
10 fat?

11 LINDA: Well he was kinda' big around the middle and his face was  
12 sorta' round like. *20/15*

13 JOE: How about his hair. Was it dark?

14 LINDA: Yeah.

15 JOE: Notice if it was straight or wavy?

16 LINDA: No...tell me.. You got an idea who the kid was?

17 JOE: We're not sure..

18 LINDA: Hah, well I know one thing.

19 FRANK: What's that.

20 LINDA: That kid should be <sup>taught a lesson.</sup> ~~looked up.~~

21 FRANK: (GRUNTS) *20/30*

22 LINDA: Only thing to do with 'em.. When they're that rotten. ~~Put~~  
23 ~~Slap 'em away.. Put 'em away~~ <sup>around a little,</sup> and forget about 'em.

24 JOE: That's not an answer. *the trouble here,*

25 LINDA: Huh?

26 JOE: ~~They're still there.~~ *That's what they did to this boy.*

... (END SCENE VII)

1 JOE: Frank and I went back to the office and checked the  
2 records on the petition and found that the subjects  
3 father, Henry Beckle was employed at a lumber yard. We  
4 drove down to the place and found him stacking lumber in  
5 the back lot. *20/45*

6 HENRY: What's on your mind, this time?

7 JOE: How's Jerry been getting along?

8 HENRY: All right I guess.

9 JOE: Attending school regularly? *21/00*

10 HENRY: Far as I know. Haven't had any bad reports.

11 FRANK: What's he been doing nights?

12 HENRY: Stays in the house. Goes out once in awhile. Never too  
13 late. Why?

14 JOE: Where was he Monday night?

15 HENRY: (BEAT) Home.

16 JOE: All night?

17 HENRY: Yeah.

18 JOE: How 'bout Tuesday?

19 HENRY: (BEAT) After supper he went out for awhile. Came in early.  
20 Whatta' tryin' to prove?

21 JOE: How has your son been acting lately? *21/15*

22 HENRY: Whatta' mean?

23 JOE: He had any trouble at school?

24 HENRY: I told you.....I haven't had any bad reports from 'em.

25 FRANK: How about at home?

1 HENRY: No trouble. We're tryin' to help him.  
2 JOE: Then as far as you know he's been in pretty good spirits?  
3 HENRY: You know he's no ball of fire, but he seems to be happy 21/30  
4 enough.  
5 JOE: Uh huh.  
6 HENRY: What is all this anyway?  
7 JOE: Checkin' something out.  
8 HENRY: Well the way you ask questions, it sounds like you think  
9 Jerry's in trouble again.  
10 JOE: We didn't say that.  
11 HENRY: You don't have too. I know what you're gettin' at and I  
12 don't like it.  
13 FRANK: No reason to get upset. 21/45  
14 HENRY: That right? Well, how would you feel? Jerry's been  
15 released to my custody. You're as much as tellin' me I  
16 haven't been doin' the right thing.  
17 JOE: If you're sure of that in you own mind you don't have  
18 anything to worry about do you?  
19 HENRY: I've done what I can, but I can't watch him all the time.  
20 What's he supposed to have done this time?  
21 JOE: We're not sure ~~sure~~ he's done anything. 22/00  
22 HENRY: You wouldn't be nosin' around if you didn't have some  
23 reason.  
24 FRANK: Somethin' we gotta check.

1 HENRY: All right, but if he got off on the wrong foot again,  
2 don't try to pin any tails on me. I've been doin' the  
3 right thing. But I don't mind tellin' you. I've never been  
4 too sure he would straighten out.

5 JOE: Is that right?

6 HENRY: Yeah, but I'm ~~doin'~~ what I can for him.

22/15

7 JOE: Uh huh.

8 HENRY: I feed him, put clothes on his back, and put a roof over  
9 his head. What more can I give him?

~~10 JOE: I can think of something.~~

~~11 HENRY: What's that?~~

~~12 JOE: Understanding.~~

~~13 HENRY: He's got that too.~~

14 JOE: You own a gun, Mr. Buckle?

15 HENRY: What?

16 JOE: Do you own a gun?

17 HENRY: Yeah, why?

18 JOE: What kind?

19 HENRY: 22 pistol.

20 (END SCENE VIII)

22/35  
 1 JOE: We drove over to the Jansen School and talked to the  
 2 principal. We explained our business and he sent for Jerry  
 3 Beckle. ~~After checking the attendance record,~~ He told us  
 4 that Beckle hadn't been in school all day. We drove out to  
 5 the boy's home, and met his Mother. She said he wasn't  
 6 there, but would probably be home about 5 o'clock. We went  
 7 back to the car and waited. At 4:30 P.M. Henry Beckle  
 8 returned from work. He drove into the yard and we met him  
 9 back at the door.

10 SOUND: OUTDOOR B.G.

11 HENRY: So you're here again. 23/00

12 JOE: That's right. Let's go in the house Beckle.

13 HENRY: (BEAT) (GRUNTS) If you want to.

14 SOUND: THEIR FOOTSTEPS ON COUPLE WOODEN STEPS, THEN ON PORCH.  
 15 OPEN SCREEN DOOR AND THEN BACK DOOR UNDER FOLLOWING:

16 HENRY: Wanna' tell me what this is about now?

17 JOE: We'd like to talk to Jerry first.

18 HENRY: If you want to see him, why didn't you go over to his  
 19 school?

20 FRANK: We did. He wasn't there today. 23/15

21 SOUND: THEY WALK INTO KITCHEN, DOORS CLOSE: B.G. CHANGE.

22 HENRY: (GRUNTS) Kid's up to his old tricks again.....

23 SOUND: FOOTSTEPS COMING ON AS MABEL BECKLE COMES INTO KITCHEN:

24 MABEL: Oh, they found you.

25 HENRY: This is my wife.



- 1 MABEL: We've met. What's the trouble?
- 2 HENRY: Jerry again. He wasn't in school today.
- 3 MABEL: Is that all?.....Wish you'd get outta' the kitchen so I  
4 could fix supper.
- 5 HENRY: Yeah...you guys wanna C'mon into the other room. *23/30*
- 6 SOUND: JOE, FRANK AND HENRY WALK INTO DINING ROOM.
- 7 JOE: While we're waiting for your son, wonder if you'd get the  
8 gun for us?
- 9 HENRY: ~~Sure I'd mind.~~ *I don't know why I should.*
- 10 JOE: You got no choice.
- 11 HENRY: (BEAT) It's in the closet.
- 12 JOE: You said before. Where is it? *23/45*
- 13 HENRY: Over there.
- 14 SOUND: JOE, FRANK AND HENRY WALK TO CLOSET: DOOR OPENS:
- 15 HENRY: It's in that box. The small flat one.
- 16 JOE: This one?
- 17 HENRY: Yeah.
- 18 SOUND: JOE TAKES A STEP AND REACHES UP AND TAKES DOWN BOX:
- 19 SOUND: JOE REMOVES COVER FROM BOX:
- 20 JOE: When's the last time you fired this? *24/00*
- 21 HENRY: I don't know. Been quite a while.
- 22 JOE: (HOLDS BOX AND SMELLS GUN BARREL) Frank, What you think?
- 23 FRANK: (TAKES BOX FROM JOE AND SMELLS BARREL) Smells like it  
24 was fired recently.
- 25 JOE: What time does Jerry usually get home, Beckle?
- 26 HENRY: We eat at 5:30. He'll be here by then.

24/15

1 FRANK: Uh huh.

2 HENRY: You don't have to worry about him not showin' up. He  
3 might skip school, but that fat, lazy slob won't miss a  
4 meal.

5 JOE: (GRUNT)

6 HENRY: Eats twice as much as the other kids. No wonder he looks  
7 like he does.....

8 SOUND: BACK DOOR SLAMS, MURMUR OF VOICES FROM KITCHEN:

9 JOE: Let's go Frank.

10 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK TAKE FAST STEPS TO KITCHEN:

11 JOE: Hello, Son.

12 JERRY: Hi. What do you want?

13 JOE: We're gonna' have to take you with us. 24/30

14 (BEAT)

15 MABEL: Can't he eat first?

16 HENRY: It won't hurt him any to miss a meal. Look at him.  
17 Looks like a fat toad. (BEAT) Why don't you say somethin'?

19 (BEAT)

20 JERRY: (ANGRY) All right, doesn't make any difference. You'd like  
21 to be rid of me anyway.

22 JOE: Take it easy son.

23 JERRY: You all want to hear it. All right I'll tell you.

24 JOE: Go on.

25 JERRY: I shot her.

26 (END SCENE X)

24/53

1 JOE: We took Jerry Beckle down to Georgia Street for further  
2 questioning. After his outbreak at his home he quieted  
3 down and refused to say anything more. We talked to him for  
4 an hour and he finally admitted the whole story.

5 FRANK: Why did you take the gun. 25/00

6 JERRY: To get some money, I guess.

7 JOE: Was that the only way you could get it?

8 JERRY: I don't know.

9 JOE: You could have gotten a job.

10 JERRY: I tried to.

11 FRANK: Yeah?

12 JERRY: Nobody wanted me. 25/15

13 FRANK: How many people did you ask for work?

14 JERRY: (BEAT) Just one place.

15 JOE: Then you gave up?

16 JERRY: That was enough. I knew I wouldn't get a job.

17 JOE: They tell you they wouldn't give you work, ~~because of your~~  
18 ~~size?~~

19 JERRY: Didn't have to. I knew. Just the way they looked at me.

20 JOE: Did you ever ask your father for money?

21 JERRY: Yeah. Never gave me any. Just read me off. 25/30

22 JOE: What did he say to you?

23 JERRY: What he always does. I'm fat and lazy. Not good for  
24 anythin' but to put my feet under the table and eat.

25/145

1 FRANK: So you decided to go out and rob somebody?  
 2 JERRY: (BEAT) Yeah.  
 3 FRANK: Why did you shoot at the woman?  
 4 JERRY: I'm not sure...  
 5 JOE: She didn't do you any harm did she?  
 6 JERRY: No. She made me mad. Laughed at me. Just like all the  
 7 rest.  
 8 JOE: She did, huh?  
 9 JERRY: Sure, because I'm a fat, ~~teed~~  
 10 JOE: ~~She~~ tell you that?  
 11 JERRY: No, but I could tell what she was thinkin'.  
 12 JOE: Uh huh.

26/100

~~13 JERRY: (BEAT) Suppose I'll have to go to jail this time.  
 14 JOE: We don't decide that.  
 15 JERRY: I've had one chance all ready. Guess I can't expect  
 16 any more.  
 17 JOE: Well, whatever happens, it won't help you unless you make  
 18 up your mind to something.  
 19 JERRY: What's that?  
 20 JOE: Court can only give you the chance to straighten up.  
 21 JERRY: Yeah.  
 22 JOE: The rest is up to you.  
 23 JERRY: I'll try mister. Honest. I don't wanna' go to jail.  
 24 If they give me another break. I'll try hard.  
 25 JOE: I hope so.~~

Jerry: People shouldn't laugh at somebody just because they're fat.  
 Joe: Yeah.  
 Jerry: They got no right to do that.  
 Joe: Maybe, but how much did you have?  
 Jerry: Huh?  
 Joe: When you shot her.

26/115

- 1 JERRY: (BEAT) It's a good thing I didn't kill that woman,  
2 isn't it.  
3 JOE: You're still in serious trouble.  
4 JERRY: I know.  
5 JOE: If they do give you another chance, you remember one thing.  
6 JERRY: What's that?  
7 JOE: You can't ride free all the time.  
8 MUSIC: SIGNATURE

- 1 FENN: (EASILY) The story you have just heard is true. The  
2 names were changed to protect the innocent.
- 3 GIBNEY: On July 14th, trial was held in Department 98, Superior  
4 Court of the State of California, in and for the County of  
5 Los Angeles. In a moment, the results of that trial.
- 6 FENN: Now, here is our star, Jack Webb.
- 7 WEBB: (COMMERCIAL INSERT)

26/30

DRAGNET  
January 11, 1955

CLOSING COMMERCIAL

26/36

1 FENNEMAN: Now, here is our star - Jack Webb.  
2 WEBB: Thank you, George Fenneman. Friends, the Chesterfield  
3 you light up today is the best cigarette ever made. And  
4 that's the best reason I can think of for you to change  
5 to Chesterfield. Give 'em a try and see if they don't  
6 put a smile in your smoking. Chesterfield .... regular  
7 or king-size.

26/50

TRIAL PAGE

27/00

1 GIBNEY: Jerome Howard Beckle was remanded to the Juvenile  
2 authorities and placed in a foster home where he was  
3 assured of 24 hour supervision. One of the conditions  
4 of his probation was that he receive psychiatric aid by  
5 a doctor appointed by the court.

27/12

End Page  
27/35

28/00



DRAGNET

January 11, 1955

L & M HITCH-HIKE

RECORDED JINGLE ..... L & M

28120

- 1 THIS IS IT ... L & M FILTERS
- 2 IT STANDS OUT FROM ALL THE REST
- 3 MIRACLE TIP
- 4 MUCH MORE FLAVOR
- 5 L & MS GOT EVERYTHING
- 6 IT'S THE BEST!
- 7 ANNCR: L & M stands out for effective filtration. Nothing
- 8 compares with L & M's pure, white miracle tip for
- 9 quality or effectiveness. Yes, L & Ms got everything!
- 10 It's America's best filter-tip cigarette!

28150