DRAGNET

CHESTERFIELD # 128, NBC #296
DIRECTOR: JACK WEBB
WRITER: JOHN ROBINSON
MUSIC: WALTER SCHUMANN
SCRIPT: JEAN MILES
SOUND: BUD TOLLEFSON & WAYNE KENWORTHY
ENGINEER: RAOUl MURPHY
ANNCR #1: GEORGE FENNEGAN
ANNCR #2: HAL GINNEY, NBC
REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:
RECORDING: SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1955 "A"
CAST AND SOUND: 2:30PM - 5:00 PM.
EDITING: T.B.A.
SCORING: T.B.A.
ORCHESTRA: 
ANNOUNCERS: (COMMERCIAL)
BROADCAST: 7:00 - 7:30 P.M. - STUDIO "J" -- BY T.R.

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

RELEASE DATE: APRIL 19, 1955
CASE: "THE BIG DEAL"

SPORTS

DRAGNET

ANNCR #2: HAL GINNEY, NBC

CASE: "THE BIG DEAL"

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:
RECORDING: SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1955 "A"
CAST AND SOUND: 2:30PM - 5:00 PM.
EDITING: T.B.A.
SCORING: T.B.A.
ORCHESTRA: 
ANNOUNCERS: (COMMERCIAL)
BROADCAST: 7:00 - 7:30 P.M. - STUDIO "J" -- BY T.R.

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

RELEASE DATE: APRIL 19, 1955
CASE: "THE BIG DEAL"

SPORTS

DRAGNET

ANNCR #2: HAL GINNEY, NBC

CASE: "THE BIG DEAL"

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:
RECORDING: SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1955 "A"
CAST AND SOUND: 2:30PM - 5:00 PM.
EDITING: T.B.A.
SCORING: T.B.A.
ORCHESTRA: 
ANNOUNCERS: (COMMERCIAL)
BROADCAST: 7:00 - 7:30 P.M. - STUDIO "J" -- BY T.R.

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

RELEASE DATE: APRIL 19, 1955
CASE: "THE BIG DEAL"

SPORTS

DRAGNET

ANNCR #2: HAL GINNEY, NBC

CASE: "THE BIG DEAL"

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:
RECORDING: SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1955 "A"
CAST AND SOUND: 2:30PM - 5:00 PM.
EDITING: T.B.A.
SCORING: T.B.A.
ORCHESTRA: 
ANNOUNCERS: (COMMERCIAL)
BROADCAST: 7:00 - 7:30 P.M. - STUDIO "J" -- BY T.R.

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

RELEASE DATE: APRIL 19, 1955
CASE: "THE BIG DEAL"

SPORTS

DRAGNET

ANNCR #2: HAL GINNEY, NBC

CASE: "THE BIG DEAL"

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:
RECORDING: SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1955 "A"
CAST AND SOUND: 2:30PM - 5:00 PM.
EDITING: T.B.A.
SCORING: T.B.A.
ORCHESTRA: 
ANNOUNCERS: (COMMERCIAL)
BROADCAST: 7:00 - 7:30 P.M. - STUDIO "J" -- BY T.R.

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

RELEASE DATE: APRIL 19, 1955
CASE: "THE BIG DEAL"

SPORTS

DRAGNET

ANNCR #2: HAL GINNEY, NBC

CASE: "THE BIG DEAL"

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:
RECORDING: SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1955 "A"
CAST AND SOUND: 2:30PM - 5:00 PM.
EDITING: T.B.A.
SCORING: T.B.A.
ORCHESTRA: 
ANNOUNCERS: (COMMERCIAL)
BROADCAST: 7:00 - 7:30 P.M. - STUDIO "J" -- BY T.R.

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

RELEASE DATE: APRIL 19, 1955
CASE: "THE BIG DEAL"

SPORTS

DRAGNET

ANNCR #2: HAL GINNEY, NBC

CASE: "THE BIG DEAL"

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:
RECORDING: SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1955 "A"
CAST AND SOUND: 2:30PM - 5:00 PM.
EDITING: T.B.A.
SCORING: T.B.A.
ORCHESTRA: 
ANNOUNCERS: (COMMERCIAL)
BROADCAST: 7:00 - 7:30 P.M. - STUDIO "J" -- BY T.R.

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

RELEASE DATE: APRIL 19, 1955
CASE: "THE BIG DEAL"

SPORTS

DRAGNET

ANNCR #2: HAL GINNEY, NBC

CASE: "THE BIG DEAL"

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:
RECORDING: SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1955 "A"
CAST AND SOUND: 2:30PM - 5:00 PM.
EDITING: T.B.A.
SCORING: T.B.A.
ORCHESTRA: 
ANNOUNCERS: (COMMERCIAL)
BROADCAST: 7:00 - 7:30 P.M. - STUDIO "J" -- BY T.R.
"THE BIG DEAL"

CAST

SERGEANT JOE FRIDAY .................. JACK WEBB
OFFICER FRANK SMITH .................. BEN ALEXANDER
WHITEY .................................. VIC PERRIN
TOPS .................................... BARNEY PHILLIPS
JOEL PENNET ............................ HERB ELLIS
TAB ....................................... VIC ROHMAN
HARRY LAFWILL ......................... JACK KRUSSCHEN
DRAGNET - RADIO
"THE BIG DEAL"
N.B.C. # CHESTERFIELD # (V.B.)
FOR BROADCAST: APRIL 12, 1955

1 FENN: (COLD) Chesterfield brings you Dragnet.

2 MUSIC: HARP AND UP

3 GIRL: Put a Smile in your smoking.

4 GIBNEY Buy Chesterfield. So smooth ... so satisfying ...

5 chesterfield.

6 MUSIC: SIGNATURE

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

8 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR:

9 FENN: (EASILY) You're a detective sergeant. You're assigned
to Auto-Theft Detail. The recovery rate of stolen
automobiles in your city has dropped far below normal
Evidence points to an organized gang of car thieves.
Your job ... break it up.

10 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR:

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)
DRAGNET RADIO
4-19-55

FIRST COMMERCIAL
1 MUSIC: HARP UP AND OUT
2 GIRL: Put a smile in your smoking!
3 FENN: Next time you buy cigarettes...Stop...Remember this
4 ...In the whole wide world, no cigarette satisfies like
5 Chesterfield.
6 GIRL: Put a smile in your smoking!
7 MUSIC: VIBRAPHARP STINGS
8 FENN: Instantly, you'll smile your approval of Chesterfield
9 smoothness.
10 GIRL: So smooth...so satisfying!
11 MUSIC: STINGS OUT
12 FENN: You want them mild. We make them mild! Mild and mellow
13 with the smooth and refreshing taste of the right
14 combination of the world's best tobaccos. So next time
15 you buy cigarettes...
16 GROUP: (SHOUT) Stop!
17 WOODBLOCK-TRIPLET FIGURE
18 GROUP: (SING) START SMILING WITH A SMILE WITH CHESTERFIELD
19 SMILING ALL THE WHILE WITH CHESTERFIELD
20 PUT A SMILE IN YOUR SMOKING - JUST GIVE 'EM A
21 TRY
22 LIGHT UP A CHESTERFIELD!
23 WOODBLOCK-TRIPLET FIGURE
24 GROUP THEY SATISFY...
1 MUSIC: THEME
2 DRAGNET: Dragnet, the documented drama of an actual crime. For
3 the next 30 minutes, in cooperation with the Los Angeles
4 Police Department, you will travel step by step on the
5 side of the law through an actual crime, transcribed
6 from official police files, From beginning to end ...
7 from crime to punishment ... Dragnet is the story of
8 your police force in action.
9 MUSIC: UP TO SEMI BUTTON AND FADE ON SUSTAINED CHORD.
10 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK'S STEPS ON CARPETED SURFACE.
11 JOE: It was Tuesday, June 14th. It was hot in Los Angeles.
12 We were working the day watch out of Auto-Theft Detail.
13 My partner's Frank Smith. The boss is Captian Nelson.
14 My name's Friday. We were on our way out from the Office
15 and it was 11:27 A.M. when we got to 2564 Dewey Avenue ...
16 (SOUND: DOOR KNOCK) ... apartment 3-G.
17 FRANK: (AFTER BEAT) Wanna get it again?
18 JOE: Yeah.
19 SOUND: JOE MOVES TO THE DOOR AND KNOCKS AGAIN.
20 BEAT
21 WHITEY: (OFF, BEHIND THE DOOR): Just a minute.
22 BEAT
23 SOUND: FROM BEHIND THE DOOR, WE HEAR FOOTSTEPS FADE ON MIKE.
24 THEN THE DOOR OPENS.
25 WHITEY: Yeah? (HE SEES JOE AND FRANK) Oh, hi, Joe...Frank.
26 FRANK: How are you Whitey?
27 JOE: Hi.
WHITEY: C'mon in.

SOUND: HE STEPS BACK AND JOE AND FRANK ENTER THE APARTMENT.

JOE & FRANK: (AS THEY ENTER) Thanks...etc.

WHITEY: C'mon out to the kitchen.

SOUND THEY WALK THROUGH THE LIVING ROOM AND OUT ONTO HARD SURFACE OF THE KITCHEN FLOOR.

WHITEY (AS THEY GO) Washin' out some socks. You don't care if I finish up do you?

JOE: No...go ahead.

WHITEY: Got up this morning and figured I better get it done. Haven't got a clean pair to my name.

JOE: Uh huh.

WHITEY: Drag a chair and sit down.

JOE & FRANK: Yeah. 

SOUND: THEY PULL UP CHAIRS AND SIT DOWN. UNDER THE REST OF THE SCENE, WE HEAR WHITEY WASHING OUT SOCKS IN THE SINK.

WHITEY: What did you wanna see me about?

JOE: Couple of questions.

WHITEY: I'm not in the fire, am I?

JOE: Not with us.

WHITEY: Uh huh. Couldn't remember anything...y'never know.

JOE: Yeah.

WHITEY: What is it?

JOE: You still workin' at the garage?
WHITEY: Night shift. Check in at four. This got somethin' to do with my job?

JOE: Might have.

WHITEY: (TURNING TO FACE THEM) Look fellas, you know the history. I'm not gonna try and hand you a lot of slush. But I'm clean. Half a dozen guys'll tell you that. I haven't got off the line since the last time I was tagged.

JOE: You're in no trouble Whitey. We figured maybe you could give us a hand.

WHITEY: There's a switch.

FRANK: Huh? :1/2:

WHITEY: Me givin' you some help. Usually works out the other way.

SOUND: HE WRINGS OUT A SOCK

WHITEY: What're you lookin' for?

JOE: Lotta cars goin' someplace, Whitey. We're tryin' to find out where, and who's drivin' them.

FRANK: Thought maybe you mighta heard a rumble.

WHITEY: Always somethin' goin' around.

JOE: Y'got anything?

WHITEY: Won't do me any good if it goes outside.

JOE: We won't open the door.

WHITEY: There's supposed to be three of 'em.

JOE: What d'ya know about 'em?

WHITEY: Two men and a woman. The two fellas are supposed to be pretty heavy.
FRANK: Any name's?
WHITEY: No. They're playin' it pretty close. Even the rumble's not solid.
JOE: Uh huh.
WHITEY: Couple of days ago, I talked to a guy down at the garage. He was tellin' me about the operation. Said it was big.
JOE: He know the people?
WHITEY: Enough to be in the same bar. He told me he tried to get a piece of the action, but they're not cuttin' any of it.
JOE: Can we talk to this guy?
WHITEY: I can't stop you...but I can't give you a hand either.
JOE: What d'ya mean?
WHITEY: Can't tell you where to find him.
FRANK: He around the garage much?
JOE: What's he do for a living?
WHITEY: Drives.
JOE: Ruh?
WHITEY: Stock car races.
JOE: Uh huh. He got a name?
WHITEY: Call him Tops. Don't know the rest.
JOE: He know what he's talking about?
WHITEY: I think so. He likes to yak but he sounded straight on this.
JOE: He give you any details on the operation?
WHITEY: I didn't ask a lot. I figure the less I know about deals like this... the less I can get in trouble.
JOE: Yeah.

SOUND: WHITEY TAKES A SOCK FROM THE WATER AND HOLDS IT UP.

WHITEY: Look at that.

JOE: What?

WHITEY: Way that sock is worn. Argyle. Good ones. Cost me five bucks. Look at that hole in the heel. Right in the middle of the two colors. How d'ya mend a sock like that?

FRANK: Huh?

WHITEY: How d'ya sew it up. Use one color and it louses up the argyle part. Use the color of the argyle and it'll go into the foot part. Sock people oughta figure some way around it.

FRANK: Uh huh.

WHITEY: Might as well throw 'em away.

SOUND: HE THROWS THE SOCK BACK INTO THE WATER

JOE: Any word on what they're doin' with the cars?

WHITEY: I didn't hear it. They turnin' up?

JOE: Not where we can find 'em.

WHITEY: Smart.

JOE: They local people?

WHITEY: I dunno. I don't think so. Can't tell you why... Just don't think they're from L.A.

JOE: Uh huh.

WHITEY: They scorin' pretty good?

JOE: Yeah. Last two weeks, we figure they've taken a half dozen cars.

WHITEY: How do you lay it on them?
JOE: Way they're workin'. M.O. points to the same gang.

WHITEY: What's the pattern?

JOE: Cars are taken in the early morning hours from in front of the owner's house.

WHITEY: Jumper wires?

JOE: Yeah. All late models. They won't touch anything that isn't fully equipped.

WHITEY: Any special make?

JOE: No. Long as the car has a radio and heater...white side walls...they want it.

WHITEY: And they're not turnin' up, huh?

JOE: No.

WHITEY: Maybe they're gettin' em out of the country.

JOE: Doesn't figure. We've had the border checked. San Diego's workin' on it. Two of the jobs, we had the broadcast out within a half hour after the car was taken. Couldn't turn anything. Just seemed to disappear.

WHITEY: They must have a big parking lot.

JOE: Yeah. You said the two men were heavy.

WHITEY: That's right.

JOE: How'd you come up with that?

WHITEY: The guy who told me the story, y'know, Tops?

JOE: Yeah.

WHITEY: When he laid the rumble out...he said he talked with one of the fellas at a bar.

JOE: Uh huh.
Told the guy he'd like a piece of the action. 'Bout that time, the roof fell in.

What ya mean?

Guy got real rough. Said there wasn't gonna be any split. The action was gonna stay in the same corner.

Uh huh.

Showed Tops a gun. Said if anything about the operation got out, he'd use it. Way Tops put it...he wasn't kidding.

You get any kind of a description of the men?

No.

This Tops fella, he tell you where the bar was?

Uh uh (NO)

Okay, Whitey. If you hear from him again, will you let us know?

Sure. Call you at the office?

Yeah. (YES)

Wish I coulda given you more. I'll nose around...see if I can pick up anything.

Appreciate it. Don't go cut on a limb, though.

Y'don't have to worry about that. I'm not gonna line myself up for any trouble I don't need.

JOE AND FRANK STAND UP

We'll check you later then, huh?

Yeah. Hope I'll have something for you in the next couple of days.

If you do it I'll put you way ahead.
WHITNEY: Huh?

JOE: We've been on it two weeks.

WHITNEY: Yeah.

JOE: We haven't even got a place to start.

(End Scene 1)

JOE: On Saturday, May 27th, the first theft had been reported. The victim said he'd parked his car in front of his house and returned an hour later to find it gone. An immediate local and A.P.B. had been gotten out but the vehicle wasn't found. Three days later, on May 30th, there was another theft. Same M.O. In spite of all our precautions, the thefts continued. To date, seven automobiles had been taken and none of them had been recovered. All possible sources of information had been checked without result. Outlets for stolen cars had been kept under 24-hour surveillance without netting any new information.

The state's office had made runs on each theft and on the general M.O. When the list they returned to us was checked, we were no closer to the thieves. Pressure from the victims and their insurance companies began to build, but there apparently wasn't anything we could do to stop the operation. Frank and I went back to the office and ran the name and description of the man known as "Tops" through the moniker file. There was no record of such a person. Two more days passed. Another car was stolen. People in the immediate vicinity were questioned, but none of them had seen the thief. Saturday, June 18th, 11:40 AM.

SOUND: SQUADROOM B.G. PHONE RING.
FRANK: I'll get it.

SOUND: COUPLE OF STEPS AND THEN THE PHONE IS PICKED UP.

FRANK: (INTO PHONE) Auto-Theft, Smith talking. Yeah...Uh huh. Can you hold him? Right...we'll be right over. Yeah.

SOUND: HE HANGS UP THE PHONE

FRANK: Get your coat.

JOE: Huh?

FRANK: That was Whitey...callin' from the garage.

JOE: What's he got?

FRANK: That fella...Tops?

JOE: Yeah.

FRANK: He just walked in.

(END SCENE 2)

JOE: Frank and I left the city hall and drove over to the garage where our informant worked. He pointed out an elderly man in the rear of the place. We identified ourselves and asked him to step into the office.

SOUND: OFF MIKE, WE HEAR THE SOUNDS OF THE GARAGE, HAMMERING, MOTORS TURNING OVER ETC.

TOPS: What d'ya wanna see me about?

JOE: Couple of questions.

TOPS: I ain't done anything. No reason for you to roust me around.

FRANK: You're not bein' rousted.

TOPS: Sure looks like it from here.

JOE: Sit down.

TOPS: I'd rather stand up if it's all the same to you.

JOE: Suit yourself. Cigarette?
TOPS: (AFTER BEAT) Yeah.
SOUND: JOE GIVES HIM A CIGARETTE, TAKES ONE HIMSELF.
JOE: Frank?
FRANK: Yeah, thanks. Here's a light.
SOUND: FRANK STRIKES A MATCH.
JOE: (EXHALING) What's your real name, Tops?
TOPS: Henry Grayson.
JOE: What do you do for a living?
TOPS: When I can get a car, I race. (c/o)
FRANK: Stock car?
TOPS: Yeah.
FRANK: Where?
TOPS: Around...different tracks.
JOE: You live here in L.A.?
TOPS: Most of the time. Come back when I'm not workin'.
JOE: Uh huh. You got a job now?
TOPS: No. Figure to go back east next week. Think I can line somethin' up. You maybe got a lotta time to kill...I haven't. Why don't you tell me what this is all about so I can get out of here?
JOE: You ever been arrested?
TOPS: Huh?
JOE: Ever been in jail?
TOPS: Yeah.
FRANK: What charge?
TOPS: They didn't make it stick.
1 JOE: What were you arrested for?
2 BEAT
3 TOPS: Grand theft.
4 JOE: Auto or money?
5 TOPS: Auto.
6 JOE: Do any time?
7 TOPS: I told you, they didn't make it stick.
8 JOE: Where'd this happen?
9 TOPS: Idaho.
10 JOE: That's your only arrest?
11 TOPS: Couple times for vag.
12 JOE: They hold you?
13 TOPS: No. Gave me a floater.
14 JOE: Uh huh.
15 TOPS: C'mon...you guys are after somethin'. What is it?
16 JOE: You know anything about a gang of car thieves that've been workin' in town?
17 TOPS: What?
18 JOE: Stolen cars?
19 TOPS: No. Why should I have anything on it?
20 JOE: We heard you did.
21 TOPS: From where?
22 JOE: We heard it.
23 FRANK: Is it true?
24 BEAT
1 TOPS: Lousey Whitey...he told you didn't he?
2 JOE: Not important where we got the information. We're
3 tryin' to find out if it's true.
4 TOPS: Then you'll have to look someplace else. I got
5 nothin' for you.
6 BEAT
7 FRANK: Where'd you get the nickname Tops?
8 TOPS: Huh? (0/0)
9 FRANK: Funny name. How'd you get it?
10 TOPS: When I was a kid, I had real blonde hair. Almost
11 white. Other kids called me cotton top. Shortened
12 it down.
13 FRANK: Uh huh. Y'like drivin' for a living?
14 TOPS: It's all right. Better than workin'.
15 JOE: You do pretty good at it?
16 TOPS: Huh?
17 JOE: Is there any money in drivin'?
18 TOPS: Depends. Sometimes a good month, then a couple bad
19 ones. Depends.
20 JOE: How do you do?
21 TOPS: I'm not starvin'.
22 JOE: Uh huh.
23 BEAT
24 TOPS: What a'ya wanna know about the stolen cars?
25 JOE: What can you tell us?
26 TOPS: Not much.
27 JOE: We'll take it.
I got to talkin' with a guy one night. Subject came up.

We kicked it around. Turned out he had a deal goin' for him.

Friend of yours?

Never saw him before.

Go ahead.

That's it. He had this deal workin'. I don't know any more.

Why don't you do your self a favor?

Huh?

If you're not mixed up in this thing... why're you holdin' out?

I'm not. I'm givin' you what I know. Maybe it isn't the guy's life story, but it's all I got.

From the beginning. Tell us.

What?

Everything this fella said.

You got nothin' to hold me on. Far as I'm concerned it's okay if you do pull me in. Couple days on the city. Save me rent and food bills.

All right... let's go.

If I had any information, I'd give it to you. No reason for me to hold out.

Uh huh.

I never saw the guy before. Haven't laid eyes on him since.
Then what're you standin' in front of him for?
Huh?
Makes you look like the patsy for the piece. Anybody
takes a beef it's gonna be you.
For what, sittin' in a bar and listening to some
drunk?
It's more than that and you know it.
I can't tell you.
Why?
These guys too heavy for you?
That why you won't go with us? You're scared?
If you gotta tie it down...that's the reason.
They won't get near you.
You can guarantee it?
That's right.
Okay, I'll go. What d'ya want to know?
The whole story.
Isn't much to tell. I was in this bar one night.
Two fellas came in. They were both kinds gassed.
Uh huh.
Set down next to me. Started to talk.
To you?
No. But they were right next to me. I could hear what they were sayin'.

Uh huh. Go ahead.

They were talkin' about this deal. How it was all set up. First off, I didn't know what it was all about, then I heard one of 'em mention somethin' about cars.

Yeah.

It's like sayin' something about a new kinda camera around a photographer. Soon's I heard the word "cars", I started to listen good.

Uh huh.

They were havin' a beef about somethin'. One of 'em wanted to start unloadin' right away. The other guy said they should wait for a while. Dump 'em all at once.

Yeah.

Well, they stood there and talked like that for a while. Then one of 'em noticed me listening. Yeah.

He leaned over and said somethin' to the other guy. Next thing I knew, I was surrounded. One of 'em on each side. Leanin' on me.

Uh huh.

I didn't want any trouble. I could see these two guys had a pocket full of it. I went along with 'em.

What happened?

They asked me if I liked what I heard.
JOE: Uh huh.
TOPS: I told 'em I didn't hear anything. Said I had very bad ears.
JOE: Yeah.
TOPS: They didn't believe it. Said they wanted to talk to me outside the bar.
JOE: Uh huh.
TOPS: I figured if they got me out there, I'd end up with somethin' broken, so I didn't go. They tried to push me around, but the bartender came over and they moved away.
FRANK: What happened then?
TOPS: Came back. Told me if I said anything to anybody about what they were sayin', they'd get me. One of 'em had a gun. He kinda pulled his coat back and I could see it in his belt.
JOE: Uh huh.
TOPS: They weren't kiddin'. Word that I talked to you gets back to them and I'm as good as dead.
JOE: Don't worry about it.
FRANK: Did you try and cut yourself in on the deal?
TOPS: No.
JOE: We heard you did.
TOPS: Not true. I told Whitey that but it never happened.
JOE: Why'd you tell him it did?
TOPS: I dunno. Tryin' to be a big man I guess.
JOE: Yeah.
FRANK: These two fellas hang around the bar?
1 TOPS: Huh?
2 FRANK: Have you seen the two men around the bar before?
3 TOPS: No. First time.
4 JOE: Any of the other people in the place seem to know 'em?
5 TOPS: Uh uh (NO)
6 JOE: They leave the place before you did?
7 TOPS: Yeah. Finished up their drinks and walked out.
8 JOE: They have a car?
9 TOPS: If they did, I didn't see it. I stayed where I was.
10 JOE: Figured maybe they were waitin' for me. Didn't leave the
11 place until just before two.
12 JOE: Think you'd know 'em again if you saw 'em?
13 TOPS: Sure of it.
14 JOE: We'd like you to come downtown and look through some
15 pictures.
16 TOPS: I don't like to be a finger.
17 JOE: You haven't got much choice.
18 TOPS: I suppose not. All right, let's go.
19 SOUND: THE THREE OF THEM START FOR THE DOOR.
20 TOPS: Don't forget......you guys said you'd take care of me.
21 JOE: We will.
22 TOPS: Those fellas find out I'm on your side and they'll try to
23 kill me. Nothin's gonna stop 'em.
24 JOE: There're two things that will.
25 TOPS: Huh?
26 JOE: Us.
27 (END SCENE 3)
JOE: We took Henry Grayson back to the City Hall and had him check the mugg books. He was unable to identify the suspects. We ran his name through the record section and found that he had no arrests in the state of California. At his own request, he was returned to his home. Local broadcasts and A.P.B. were put out carrying the description of the two male suspects. A week passed without result.

Monday, June 27th.

SOUND: SQUADROOM B.G. PHONE RINGS.

JOE: I'll get it.

SOUND: COUPLE OF STEPS AND THEN PHONE PICK UP

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Auto-Theft, Friday. Yes sir....that's right. Uh huh. When was that? Yes sir. No...we can't take one over the phone. Uh huh. Well, I'm sorry too. That's right. You live in Hollywood? Uh huh. Well, if you'll go down to the police station on Wilcox Avenue, they'll take it for you....1358....Between Sunset and Santa Monica. That's right. Yes sir....g'night.

SOUND: HE HANGS UP THE PHONE

FRANK: (LITTLE OFF) Car theft?

JOE: Bicycle. Fella says his kid left it in front of the house. Came back and it was gone.

SOUND: UNDER THE ABOVE, THE DOOR TO THE SQUADROOM HAS OPENED AND JOEL HAS WALKED INTO THE ROOM

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

JOEL: I'd like to talk to somebody about a stolen car.

JOE: You want to sit down? We'll take the information.
JOEL: Yes sir.

SOUND: **HE PULLS UP A CHAIR AND SITS DOWN**

JOEL: (AS HE SITS) Thank you.

JOE: All right sir, what can we do for you?

JOEL: You're a policeman?

JOE: That's right. This is Frank Smith. My name's Friday.

JOEL: How d'ya do. I'm Joel Pennet.

JOE: What did you want to see us about, Mr. Pennet?

JOEL: I think I bought a stolen car.

JOE: Why do you think it's stolen?

JOEL: Just the way it was handled. Whole thing's got something funny about it.

FRANK: Where is the car?

JOEL: Got it parked outside. On the other street...over there.

JOE: Uh huh. You have the license number?

JOEL: Yeah.

JOE: Y'want it?

JOEL: Yes sir. We can check it for you.

JOEL: (REACHING INTO HIS POCKET) Got it written down here.

JOEL: (HE LOOKS THROUGH HIS POCKETS) All the information. Pink slip too. Got it all here someplace. (HE FINDS IT) Yeah...here it is.

SOUND: **HE HANDS THE PAPERS TO JOE**

JOE: Thank you.
FRANK: I'll check it.
JOE: Okay.

SOUND: FRANK GETS UP AND WALKS OUT OF THE ROOM. WE HEAR CORRIDOR NOISES AS THE DOOR OPENS AND Closes

JOEL: Hate to put you to all this trouble.
JOE: It's all right.
JOEL: Feel silly if it turns out okay.
JOE: Why do you think the car's stolen?
JOEL: Well, I own this little place up near Lancaster. Kinda bar and a couple of cabins for tourists.
JOE: Uh huh.
JOEL: We're out of town a ways...don't do a lot of business. Enough to make a pretty good living but it's all hard work.
JOE: Yes sir.
JOEL: Day before yesterday....Saturday.
JOE: Yeah.
JOEL: He came into the place. Had somethin' to eat. We got to talkin'. Y'know...nothin' important.
JOE: Uh huh.
JOEL: Told me he was on his way back east to find a job. Talked about how he was havin' a lot of trouble. Lost his job and all.
JOE: Yeah.
JOEL: Had this new car. Parked right outside. Said he just bought it. Asked me if I knew anybody who'd buy it.
JOE: Y'mean he wanted to sell the car?
1 JOEL: Yeah. Said he just got it and he needed the money to get to wherever he was goin'. Told me he paid cash for it and wanted to get some money out of it.

2 JOE: Uh huh.

3 JOEL: Said he didn't want to take a loss but he didn't have the price of gas for it.

4 JOE: Yeah.

5 JOEL: So he wanted to sell it.

BEAT

6 JOE: Go ahead.

7 JOEL: I asked him how much he wanted. Quoted a figure a couple hundred dollars under wholesale. Seemed like a good deal so I bought it.

8 JOE: Yeah.

9 JOEL: Been other guys come in and want to sell things. I learned the hard way so I asked him if he could prove he really owned the car. That he didn't steal it himself.

10 JOE: Uh huh.

11 JOEL: I didn't say it like that you understand. If the deal was honest, I didn't want to scare him off.

12 JOE: Yes sir.

13 JOEL: He showed me the pink slip and told me where he bought the car. Place called Brompton Auto Service, in Hollywood.

14 JOEL: Did you contact them?

15 JOE: Yeah. Put a call right through.
JOE: What did they say?

JOEL: Went through a big thrash about it. I talked to a couple of secretaries before I got to the sales manager. He checked the records and said the car had been purchased from them. Gave me the man's name and all.

JOE: Uh huh.

JOEL: Nothin' about the deal then to make me think there was anything wrong. Pink slip... the car people.

JOE: Yeah.

JOEL: I bought it. Gave the man a check. We drove into town and I dropped him off at the bus terminal. He said he'd cash the check Monday. Today.

JOE: Yes sir.

JOEL: Happened I had to come into town this morning. Checked at the bank and they told me the check had cleared. Said it was cashed first thing they opened the doors. I got worried about it and decided I better talk to you.

SOUND: UNDER THE ABOVE, THE DOOR HAS OPENED AND FRANK ENTERS THE ROOM

JOE: Yes sir. (HE TURNS TO FRANK) How'd you do?

FRANK: It's stolen alright.

JOEL: I had a feeling.

JOE: Anything on it?

FRANK: No. I checked the report.

JOE: Yeah.

FRANK: It's the bunch we're after.

(END SCENE 4) (END ACT 1)

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)
DRAGNET
April 19, 1955

SECOND COMMERCIAL
1 GROUP: START!
2 WOODBLOCK: TRIPLET FIGURE
3 GROUP: START SMOKING WITH A SMILE WITH CHESTERFIELD
4 SMILING ALL THE WHILE WITH CHESTERFIELD
5 PUT A SMILE IN YOUR SMOKING - JUST GIVE 'EM A TRY
6 LIGHT UP A CHESTERFIELD!
7 WOODBLOCK: TRIPLET FIGURE
8 GROUP: THEY SATISFY!
9 MUSIC: VIBRAHARP STINGS
10 FENN: Instantly, you'll smile your approval of Chesterfield
11 quality...highest quality at no extra cost to you.
12 MUSIC: STINGS OUT
13 FENN: Today's Chesterfield is the best cigarette ever made -
14 and our factory doors are always open to prove it.
15 MUSIC: STING
16 FENN: Come in any time and see the quality detective ... the
17 newest - the most important discovery in cigarette
18 making in over thirty years. The quality detective -
19 another reason why the Chesterfield you smoke today
20 is highest in quality ....
21 MUSIC: STING
22 FENN: Low in nicotine....
23 MUSIC: STING
24 FENN: Best for you!
25 GIRL: Put a smile in your smoking!
26 FENN: Next time you buy cigarettes...Stop...Remember this --
27 In the whole wide world, no cigarette satisfies like
28 Chesterfield.
JOE: While the victim, Joel Pennet, looked through the mugg
books, Frank and I went over to the bank and picked up the
check the suspect had cashed. The name on the pink slip
had been run through R. and I, but there was no record on
it. The check was handed over to Larry Sloan in
handwriting. The pink slip was sent to the crime lab
where it was found to be a forgery. We checked the phone
book for a listing on the Brompton Auto Service but found
none. The victim had made a note of the phone number and
from it we were able to obtain the address where the
telephone was installed. It was a large office building
on Seventh Street. Frank and I went over to see the
superintendent.

SOUND: STEPS ON HARD SURFACE OF THE HALL, . . . SLIGHT ECHO IN B.G.

TAD: Yeah...this is where they were. 926.

JOE: When'd they move out?

TAD: Sometime over the weekend. Not sure of the day. I'm off
on Saturday and Sunday.

JOE: Uh huh.

TAD: Don't hardly ever come down to the building on my day off.

JOE: Yes sir.

FRANK: How long were they in the office?

TAD: Couple weeks. Said they wanted the place for a month.

FRANK: Paid for it in advance. Told me if things worked out...

TAD: they'd take a lease.

FRANK: Yes sir.
TAD: Guess things didn't work out.
JOE: Did they leave any forwarding address?
TAD: No, they didn't.
JOE: What can you tell us about them?
TAD: Not much. I only talked to 'em a couple of times. Seemed nice enough.
JOE: Did they tell you what kind of a business they were in?
TAD: No. Said they were tryin' to get a new product started. Told me most of their work would be over the phone.
JOE: Did they pay for the office by check or cash?
TAD: Cash. Said they didn't have their checks printed up yet.
FRANK: They use a name of any kind?
TAD: Don't think I understand you.
FRANK: Did they call each other by name?
TAD: Yeah. Did when they were lookin' over the office.
JOE: You remember 'em?
TAD: Lemme think a minute...Way it comes to me...One of 'em was called Tom....other one was named...Ralph.
JOE: No last names?
TAD: No...didn't hear them.
FRANK: What about the woman?
TAD: Called her Lerner. Remember that when they introduced her. Nicki Lerner.
JOE: Has the office been cleaned since they left?
TAD: No, it hasn't.
JOE: All right sir. We'd like to have some men from our office go over the place.
TAD: Sure. Glad to help any way I can.
JOE: Thank you. Can you come downtown and look at some pictures for us?
TAD: Of the criminals?
JOE: Of some possible suspects.
TAD: See if I can pick 'em out huh?
JOE: Yes sir.
TAD: Bet I will. Wait here and I'll get my coat. Go right with you.
JOE: All right.
TAD: Second thought... y'better wait in the lobby. We can go right out the door. Be faster.
JOE: That'll be fine.
TAD: Let's go.
SOUND: THEY START TO WALK DOWN THE HALL.
TAD: Can't hardly wait to get home and tell my wife what's happened.
JOE: Uh huh.
TAD: She's all the time after me because I never have nothin' interesting to tell her at night.
JOE: Yes sir.
TAD: Gonna be different this time. Give her a story that'll really make her mouth hang open. Sure gonna be a doozier.
JOE: Yeah.
TAD: You guys could do me a favor though.
JOE: What's that?
TAD: Could you drive me home after I look at the pictures?
JOE: We'll see you get there.
TAD: Like it to be in a black and white car if you can
swing it.
JOE: All right sir.
TAD: Make the story more excitin'. Y'know....hard hitting.
JOE: Uh huh.
TAD: Somethin' else if I come home in a black and white
police car.
JOE: What's that?
TAD: My wife'll believe me.

(END SCENE 5)

JOE: We took the superintendent down to the city hall but
he failed to identify the suspects. The crime lab
crew went over the office they had used but were
unable to find any useful information. Another week
passed. During that time, we had reports that four
of the stolen cars had been sold. The circumstances in
each case were the same. In each instance, we
checked out the address the suspects had used as a
front without result. Tuesday, July 5th, Frank and
I checked into the office.

SOUND: SQUADROOM B.G.
FRANK: Not the same, Joe.

JOE: Huh?

FRANK: Not the same. It's all changed.

JOE: It has.

FRANK: Sure. Don't make any difference how y'try...it just doesn't come off.

JOE: You want to tell me what you're talkin' about?

FRANK: The forth, Joe. The forth.

JOE: The forth.

FRANK: Yeah. Remember how when we were kids...they had firecrackers...those torpedos y'threw against buildings...stuff like that?

JOE: Yeah.

FRANK: No more. All they got now is sparklers. Sparklers and fountain things.

JOE: That right?

FRANK: Yeah. They're nice...look real pretty...but it's not the same.

JOE: GRUNTS

FRANK: I remember gettin' up on the morning of the forth. Used to see who the first kid was to get a can in the air. Contest like.

JOE: What?

FRANK: Get a can in the air. Y'know...y'put a firecracker under a can and then light it. Real contest on our street to see who could be the first one on the morning of the forth. (BEAT) Didn't you ever do that?
JOE: Yeah.
FRANK: We sure did. Never forget. (HE REMEMBERS) Not the same now.
JOE: Lot safer.
FRANK: Yeah... but not the same.
SOUND: PHONE RINGS
JOE: I'll get it.
SOUND: JOE WALKS TO THE PHONE AND PICKS UP THE RECEIVER
JOE: (INTO THE PHONE) Auto-Theft, Friday. Yeah...Uh huh...
sure...might be. Worth checkin'. Sure. Be right over.
SOUND: HE HANGS UP THE PHONE
JOE: Mott over in forgery.
FRANK: Yeah.
JOE: Just picked up a printer. Been cashin' checks.
FRANK: Uh huh.
JOE: Checked his plant. Found something we might be able to use.
FRANK: What?
JOE: 65 pink slips.
(END SCENE 6)
We went over to room 29 and met with Sergeant Hal Mott. He told us that he and his partner had picked up a suspect on suspicion of forgery. When they searched the man's home, they found a printing plant where the suspect had been making up phony checks. They'd also found master plates for automobile pink slips and a quantity of the slips themselves. Under questioning, the suspect admitted the forgeries but denied any knowledge of the automobile registrations. Frank and I took him to the interrogation room.

Your true name is Harry Larwill, that right?

Yeah.

You want to tell us about the pink slips?

I don't know anything about'em.

You printed'em, didn't you?

I guess so.

Don't you know?

I printed'em.

What were you gonna do with'em?

I did it for kicks. Nothin' more.

For practice.

Yeah.

You think a story like that'll stand in court?

I copped out to the forgery rap. Isn't that enough for you guys?
1 JOE: We want to know about the pinks.
2 HARRY: I already told you.
3 (BEAT)
4 JOE: How many counts did they get you on?
5 HARRY: I dunno....ten or twelve.
6 JOE: Then you know you're not gonna do that standin' on your
7 head,
8 HARRY: Huh?
9 JOE: You'll stand one to fourteen on each count.
10 FRANK: Lotte time if they run consecutively.
11 (BEAT)
12 JOE: C'mon...why'd you print the slips?
13 HARRY: What happens to me if I tell you? /50
14 JOE: What d'ya mean?
15 HARRY: Make it any easier on me?
16 JOE: We don't decide that.
17 HARRY: But you'll see the judge knows, huh?
18 JOE: We'll put it down.
19 (BEAT)
20 JOE: Now, how 'bout the story.
21 HARRY: I made 'em up for Tom and Ralph.
22 JOE: Who're they?
23 HARRY: Couple of guys I know. They came to me with a deal.
24 Said if I'd make 'em a hundred slips, they'd give me
25 1000 dollars. I needed the money. So I did the job.
JOE: Yeah.

HARRY: After I made 'em, Ralph said they only could use 45 of 'em. We had a beef. He gave me 5 hundred, I gave him the pinks.

JOE: You know where we can pick up your friends?


FRANK: The girl there too?

HARRY: Who d'ya mean?

FRANK: Understand her name's Nicki.

HARRY: Oh yeah...that's Ralph's wife. Guess she should be around.

JOE: When'd you see 'em last?

HARRY: Yesterday. Ralph called in the morning. Told me they were interested in the rest of the pinks. Wanted to know if we could make a deal.

JOE: What'd you tell him?

HARRY: That we could. I'm supposed to meet him this afternoon.

JOE: Where?

HARRY: Drugstore on Sunset. He told me the three of 'em were gonna leave town.

JOE: Okay.

HARRY: You gonna pick 'em up?

JOE: That's right.

HARRY: Guess they had a good thing goin' for 'em. Sure were rakin' in the dough.

JOE: Uh huh.

HARRY: Ralph told me about it. Said they were coinin' money.

Kinda hate to see it broken up.
1 JOE: You do.
2 HARRY: Sure. Good deal like that. The good ones are
3 hard to come by these days. Takes a lot of time to
4 set one up.
5 JOE: Uh huh.
6 HARRY: Break this one up and they'll have to sit down and
7 figure another way to make a buck. Kinda hurts to
8 think about it.
9 JOE: It does, huh?
10 HARRY: Yech. Good deal like that shot...really hurts me.
11 JOE: Think what it's gonna do to them.
12 MUSIC: SIGNATURE

13 FENN: (EASILY) The story you have just heard is true.
14 The names were changed to protect the innocent.
15 GIBNEY: On November 10th, trial was held in Department 89,
16 Superior Court of the State of California in and for
17 the County of Los Angeles. In a moment, the results
18 of that trial.
19 FENN: Now, here is our star, Jack Webb.
20 WEBB: COMMERCIAL INSERT.
DRAGNET
April 19, 1955

CLOSING

1 WEBB: I know Chesterfield will do for you what they always
2 do for me -- Put a smile in your smoking. It's the
3 best cigarette made for my money. Smooth - satisfying
4 mild and mellow. In the whole wide world, no cigarette
5 satisfies like Chesterfield. Try 'em - they'll satisfy
6 you.
GIBNEY: Ralph Norwood Prescott, Thomas Dean Bolton and Nicki Lerner Prescott were tried and convicted of Grand Theft Auto, 5 counts and received punishment as prescribed by law. Grand theft auto is punishable by imprisonment for a period of from one to ten years in the state penitentiary.
No. 1
Most all of us know the rules of safe driving: obey traffic signs and signals, avoid speeding, stay off the road after drinking, keep to the right of the center line. Accidents happen when we disobey the rules.... Statistics show childish impulses to "show off" or let off steam causes us to break the rules. Remember, careless driving is "kid stuff" and careless driving kills.

No. 2
Careless driving is "kid stuff" Most automobile accidents happen when we forget to act our age and drive carefully. Letting off steam, defying authority, "showing off" risks a driver's life as well as the lives of other people. In your car ... act your age ... the life you save may be your own.

No. 3
Most automobile accidents happen when we forget to act our age and drive carefully. "Showing off" risks a driver's life as well as the lives of other people. Act your age ... the life you save may be your own.
1 MUSIC: THEME
2 MUSIC: THEME UNDER
3 GIBNEY: You have just heard Dragnet -- a series of authentic
4 cases from official files. Technical advice comes from
5 the Office of Chief of Police, W. H. Parker, Los Angeles
6 Police Department. Technical advisors: Captain Jack
7 Donohoe, Sgt. Marty Wynn, Sgt. Vance Brasher.
8 Heard tonight were: Ben Alexander,
9
10 Script by John Robinson... Music by Walter Schumann...
11 Hal Gibney speaking...
12 MUSIC: THEME UNDER.... CONTINUES
13 FEIN: Watch an entirely different Dragnet case history each
14 week on your local NBC Television Station. Please check
15 your newspapers for the day and time. (BEAT)
16 Chesterfield has brought you Dragnet, transcribed, from
17 Los Angeles.
18 (L & M' HITCH HIKE)
L & M HITCHHIKE

1 JINGLE: THIS IS IT....
2 L & M FILTERS ... IT STANDS OUT
3 FROM ALL THE REST ... MIRACLE TIP
4 MUCH MORE FLAVOR ... L & M'S GOT EVERYTHING
5 IT'S THE BEST

EDWARDS: This is Allyn Edwards speaking, and I hope you
6 will be with us when L & M Filters bring you a
7 new form of dramatic TV journalism -- Mr. Citizen.
8 I'm the host - but you are the star. It's your
9 program because it's the true story of you,
10 or your neighbor, at a time of crisis - emergency -
11 or inspiration.
12 Next week - next month - next year -- Mr. Citizen
13 may be you. So watch for Mr. Citizen. Check your
14 local TV listings for time and station.