

DRAGNET
MAY 31, 1955

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: VIBRA HARP 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: START SMOKING WITH A SMILE WITH CHESTERFIELD
(SING)
- 19 SMILING ALL THE WHILE WITH CHESTERFIELD
- 20 PUT A SMILE IN YOUR SMOKING - JUST GIVE 'EM A TRY
- 21 LIGHT UP A CHESTERFIELD!
- 22 WOODBLOCK: TRIPLET FIGURE
- 23 GROUP: THEY SATISFY!

DRAGNET
MAY 31, 1955

SECOND COMMERCIAL 12/115

1 FENN: Put a smile in your smoking! Next time you buy cigarettes
2 - Stop - Remember this - It's today's Biggest cigarette
3 news.

4 GIBNEY: Chesterfield is made the modern way - with Accu-Ray!

5 FENN: The Accu-Ray controller is the greatest improvement in
6 cigarette making in years. And it's a Chesterfield
7 exclusive. This amazing "Quality Detective"
8 electronically checks and controls the making of your
9 Chesterfield - Giving a uniformity and smoking quality
10 never possible before. So buy Chesterfield today! For
11 the first time you get a perfect smoke column from end
12 to end.

13 GIBNEY: A - perfect - smoke column - from end to end.

14 FENN: From the first puff to the last puff your Chesterfield
15 smokes smoother. From the first puff to the last puff
16 your Chesterfield smokes cooler.

17 GIBNEY: From the first puff to the last puff Chesterfield is best
18 for you.

19 FENN: Next time you buy cigarettes...Stop....Remember....

20 GIBNEY: Chesterfield is made the modern way - with Accu-Ray.

21 GROUP: PUT A SMILE IN YOUR SMOKING - JUST GIVE 'EM A TRY
(JINGLE)
22 LIGHT UP A CHESTERFIELD....

23 WOODBLOCK: TRIPLET FIGURE

24 THEY SATISFY.

DRAGNET
May 31, 1955

CLOSING

1 WEBB: Put a smile in your smoking. Buy Chesterfield.
2 It's the best cigarette ever made for my money.
3 Smooth - Satisfying - Mild and Mellow. Believe me--
4 In the whole wide world, no cigarette satisfies
5 like Chesterfield.

DRAGNET
MAY 31, 1955

HITCHHIKE L&M FILTERS

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

5 ANNCR: Yes, L & M'S got everything. The miracle tip is white --
6 pure white to give you the purest and best filter. And
7 you get a rich, good tasting, fully satisfying smoke
8 from L & M's highest quality tobaccos. Buy L & M-
9 America's best filter tip cigarette. It's sweeping
10 the country.

DRAGNET
MAY 31, 1955

Cross Plug

- 1 ANNCR: One man stands between death and 10 people on
- 2 Mr. Citizen next week. See Edward Binns star
- 3 in the true story "Terror on Jack Rabbit Hill".
- 4 Check your local TV listings for Mr. Citizen.

29/10

DRAGNET
MAY 31, 1955

1 FENN: Hear Dragnet next week, same time same station.

C A S T

SGT. JOE FRIDAY.....JACK WEBB
OFFICER FRANK SMITH.....BEN ALEXANDER
MARTHA DUNBETTER.....VIRGINIA GREGG
TINA MILLOT.....JUNE WHITLEY
RALPH PORTLONG.....JACK KRUSCHEN
VOICE.....HERB ELLIS
BESSIE MAXON.....HELEN KLEEB

DRAGNET - RADIO

-1-

"THE BIG SISTERS"

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
8 hear is true. The names have been changed to protect the
9 innocent.

10 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR:

11 FENN: (EASILY) You're a detective sergeant. You're assigned to
12 Burglary Detail. An elderly woman reports that a man has
13 stolen three hundred dollars from her apartment. She says
14 she saw him. Your job.....check it out..

15 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR:

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)

1 MUSIC: THEME:

2 GIBNEY: 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 case, transcribed from
6 official police files. From beginning to end....from crime
7 to punishment.....Dragnet is the story of your police
8 force in action.

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

10 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK WALK ALONG SIDEWALK....THEN UP TWO OR THREE

11 STEPS:

12 JOE: It was Thursday, May 19th. It was sunny in Los Angeles.
13 We were working the day watch out of Burglary Detail.
14 My partner's Frank Smith. The boss is Captain Barnard.
15 My name's Friday. We were on our way out from the office
16 and it was 3:47 PM when we got to a small apartment
17 house on the corner of Olympic and Sixth.....(SOUND:...
18 OPEN DOOR)....the Topeka Arms.

19 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK STEP INSIDE....DOOR CLOSES BEHIND THEM

20 STEPS STOP

21 FRANK: What was the lady's name again, Joe?

22 JOE: Dunbetter.....Martha Dunbetter.

23 FRANK: Let's see.....oh, yeah, here's her mailbox.....Number 8.

24 JOE: Must be upstairs.

25 FRANK: How do you figure that?

26 JOE: Only eight mail slots. Means eight apartments.

27 FRANK: Yeah?

28 JOE: Stands to reason Number 8 will be on the second floor,
29 doesn't it?

1 FRANK: Oh. Well, I suppose so.

2 SOUND: THEY TAKE A COUPLE OF STEPS....THEN MOUNT STAIRS...REACH

3 THE TOP AND WALK DOWN THE HALL UNDER.....

4 BEAT

5 FRANK: Wonder ³ who comes from Kansas?

6 JOE: Hmm?

7 FRANK: Didn't you notice the plaque out in front -- Topeka Arms?

8 JOE: Yeah.

9 FRANK: That's a city in Kansas, Joe -- Topeka, Kansas.

10 JOE: Sure.

11 FRANK: Well, somebody must've come from there -- the owner or
12 the builder -- why else would they give the place a name
13 like that?

14 JOE: I dunno.

15 FRANK: Stands to reason, doesn't it?

16 JOE: I guess so.

17 FRANK: You see you're not the only one who can do it.

18 JOE: Do what?

19 FRANK: Deduce.

20 JOE: Oh.

21 FRANK: That's what they call it -- the way you figured out

22 Number 8 is on the second floor. Deduction.

23 JOE: Uh-huh.

24 FRANK: I was just giving you another example....when I proved
25 that somebody connected with the building used to live
26 in Kansas.

27 JOE: Yeah.

1 FRANK: Deduction. Works all the time.
2 BEAT
3 FRANK: See.....right down there -- Number 8 -- just like you said.
4 JOE: Uh-huh.
5 FRANK: Never fails.
6 SOUND: COUPLE MORE STEPS.....THEN TO A STOP.....KNOCK ON DOOR.....
7 MARTHA: (THRU DOOR) Who's there?
8 JOE: Police officers, ma'am.
9 MARTHA: Oh, just a second. I'm coming. I'm coming.
10 SOUND: DOOR OPENS:
11 MARTHA: (AS THE DOOR OPENS) (SHE IS SEVENTY-NINE YEARS OLD) My
12 goodness, you certainly got back in -- oh, dear me, you
13 aren't the same ones, are you?
14 JOE: No, ma'am. This is Frank Smith. My name's Friday.
15 MARTHA: There were two other policemen here, just a little while
16 ago. Tsk.....Tsk.....it's a shame you didn't know. You
17 could have saved yourselves a trip.
18 FRANK: That's all right. We knew they'd be here.
19 MARTHA: You did?
20 FRANK: Yes, ma'am.
21 JOE: They're patrol car officers. They were in the
22 neighborhood so they answered your call.
23 MARTHA: Well, I just don't see why you had to bother yourselves,
24 too.
25 JOE: It's no bother, ma'am. All right if we come in?
26 MARTHA: Oh, my yes, please do.
27 SOUND: THEY MOVE INTO THE APARTMENT.....CLOSE DOOR BEHIND THEM.....

1 MARTHA: Just imagine.....all four of you trying to help me get
2 my money back. Certainly makes a body feel important.
3 JOE: Did the other officers say where they were going?
4 MARTHA: I'm not sure. I wasn't able to follow everything they
5 said.
6 JOE: Uh-huh.
7 MARTHA: Something about a canvas. Yes, I believe that was the
8 word.
9 JOE: They meant they were going to canvas the area for the
10 suspect.
11 MARTHA: Suspect?
12 JOE: The man who stole your money.
13 MARTHA: Oh, but I don't just suspect him, officer. I know he did
14 it. I saw him.
15 JOE: Yes, ma'am. You're Missus Martha Dunbetter. Is that right?
16 MARTHA: No -- not exactly.
17 JOE: Oh?
18 MARTHA: It's -- its Miss Dunbetter. I'm still single.
19 JOE: Uh-huh,
20 FRANK: Would you mind telling us just what happened this
21 afternoon, Miss Dunbetter?
22 MARTHA: Oh, no, I don't mind at all. It's still quite clear. 40
23 FRANK: Yes, ma'am.
24 MARTHA: You see when a person gets to be my age, well, sometimes
25 you aren't able to remember every little detail.
26 FRANK: Uh-huh.
27 MARTHA: But a thing like this -- it sort- a sticks out.

1 FRANK: Sure.

2 JOE: Go ahead please.

3 MARTHA: What was that, young man?

4 JOE: Go ahead -- about this afternoon.

5 MARTHA: Oh, well....now let's see, I fixed myself some lunch.

6 And then I rid up the dishes. It must have been about

7 one o'clock by the time I finished.

8 JOE: Yes, ma'am.

9 MARTHA: Afterwards I put on my hat and went down to the library.

10 It's only a couple of blocks from here -- the Grover

11 Cleveland branch.

12 JOE: Uh-huh.

13 MARTHA: I took back my books and checked out two fresh ones.

14 There isn't much of a selection -- it's a small branch.

15 JOE: I see.

16 MARTHA: Of course they're very nice to me. I've been going there

17 for quite a spell.

18 JOE: Sure.

19 MARTHA: And they'll order things from down-town if you ask them

20 to. But then you have to wait several days and I wanted

21 some reading matter for now.

22 JOE: (GRUNTS)

23 MARTHA: So I picked out two novels -- actually they're stories

24 I've read before -- but I'll enjoy them just the same and

25 I won't have to concentrate quite so much.

26 JOE: Yes, ma'am. What happened next?

1 MARTHA: I came home and there he was.
2 JOE: Ma'am?
3 MARTHA: That awful man.
4 JOE: Oh. Well, just where was he?
5 MARTHA: Here. In my apartment.
6 JOE: I meant which room.
7 MARTHA: Over there. The bedroom.
8 JOE: I see.
9 MARTHA: I guess he didn't hear me let myself in. I always try
10 to move around as quietly as possible. Even in the
11 afternoons -- people sometimes like to take a nap.
12 JOE: Uh-huh.
13 MARTHA: Not that you can do much napping in this building. Radios
14 blasting, television, victrola records. Why that girl
15 downstairs even has a dog. A dog in an apartment house --
16 it isn't fair to the animal let alone the other tenants.
17 JOE: (GRUNTS) You said this man was in your bedroom?
18 MARTHA: Yes, that's right. That's where he was. As soon as I
19 came in I heard him -- at least I heard somebody moving
20 around. At first I thought it was Mrs. Parker, the
21 manager. I know she sneaks into my apartment and noses
22 around. Of course she says she doesn't but I know better.
23 JOE: Uh-huh.

1 MARTHA: Well, I said to myself, I've got her red-handed this time.
2 So I marched into the bedroom all ready to give her a
3 piece of my mind.
4 JOE: (GRUNTS)
5 MARTHA: I was never so flabberghasted in my whole life. He was
6 standing in front of the dresser going through my
7 pocketbook.
8 JOE: I see.
9 MARTHA: My black patent-leather-- that's the one he was holding.
10 JOE: Uh-huh.
11 MARTHA: I didn't say anything -- not at first. I was too taken
12 aback. But I guess I must have made a noise. Anyway he
13 turned around -- all of a sudden. And when he looked at
14 me, my voice sort-a came up into my mouth. "What are you
15 doing here?" I asked him point-blank. "Just what do you
16 think you're doing?" He didn't answer. He only grinned
17 and went on going through my hand-bag. I suppose he
18 figured I was a harmless old lady and couldn't stop him.
19 FRANK: How much money was in the purse?
20 MARTHA: I'm not positive -- not to the penny. About three
21 hundred dollars.
22 FRANK: In cash?
23 MARTHA: Yes, sir. You see I've been saving dimes -- for the last
24 fifteen years.
25 FRANK: You mean this three hundred dollars was in dimes?

1 MARTHA: Goodness gracious, no. What I do is go through my change
2 every night and put all the dimes in my dime-bank. Then
3 when it's full I take it down to a real bank and change
4 the coins into bills. The dime bank holds twenty-five
5 dollars.
6 FRANK: I see.
7 MARTHA: You'd be surprised how much a person can save that way.
8 It mounts up.
9 FRANK: Yes, ma'am. Do you know the denominations of the bills?
10 MARTHA: I guess they were mostly tens. Maybe one or two bigger
11 ones. *6/30*
12 JOE: Why'd you keep that much cash on hand?
13 MARTHA: When you're my age you never know what's going to happen.
14 A person gets sick, has to go to a hospital. You need
15 cash at a time like that.
16 JOE: Uh-huh. Now what did this man do next, Miss Dunbetter?
17 MARTHA: Well, he found the money -- my three hundred dollars --
18 and stuffed it into his pockets. That's where I kept it
19 -- in my black patent-leather.
20 JOE: I see.
21 MARTHA: I told him if he didn't put it back I'd call the police.
22 That didn't seem to worry him a bit. "Afraid I won't be
23 able to stick around til they get here, Granny," that's
24 what he said to me. Then he just strolled out of the
25 apartment as big as life. I was too dumbfounded to do
26 anything about it.
27 JOE: I understand.

1 MARTHA: I heard him tramp down the stairs and then I heard the
2 front door slam. When I was sure he was out of the
3 building I managed to get my wits together and I dialed
4 Central.
5 JOE: Central?
6 MARTHA: The operator. She put me in touch with the police station
7 FRANK: Had you ever seen this man before, Miss Dunbetter? 7/50
8 MARTHA: No, I'm sure I never did.
9 FRANK: Could you tell us what he looked like?
10 MARTHA: I told the other officers.
11 FRANK: Yes, ma'am. We'd like to hear it too.
12 MARTHA: Well, he was a tall man.
13 JOE: How tall?
14 MARTHA: As big as you I'd say.
15 FRANK: What color hair?
16 MARTHA: Dark -- very dark.
17 FRANK: Eyes?
18 MARTHA: Dark eyes, too. Dark complected. Like he'd spent a lot
19 of time outdoors.
20 JOE: How was he dressed?
21 MARTHA: A shirt and pants and a jacket -- a light-colored
22 jacket -- I think it was green. 1/30
23 JOE: Did you notice any scars?
24 MARTHA: Yes, come to think of it, I did. Across his forehead.
25 A thin little ziggedy-zag.
26 FRANK: How old would you say he was?

1 MARTHA: Oh, he was young -- thirty-five -- maybe forty.
2 JOE: Do you know if anyone else saw him -- the other tenants?
3 MARTHA: I haven't talked to any of them -- I haven't left the
4 apartment since it happened.
5 JOE: You live alone, do you?
6 MARTHA: Oh, my no, my sister Bessie stays with me.
7 JOE: Where is she this afternoon?
8 MARTHA: She went out of town^{8/30} for a few days -- to visit her
9 grand-son and his family. They came down from Oxnard
10 this morning to get her.
11 JOE: I see.
12 MARTHA: Tomorrow's her birthday. She'll be eighty. I expect
13 they're going to have quite a celebration.
14 JOE: Yes, ma'am.
15 MARTHA: Of course they invited me along. But I didn't want to
16 intrude. After all it's Bessie's birthday. Not mine.
17 JOE: Sure.
18 MARTHA: When I turn eighty I don't suppose anybody will lift a
19 finger to give me a party. The way they're all carrying
20 on. You'd think it was such an accomplishment. They're
21 ~~even going to put her picture in the paper and write an~~
22 ~~article about her.~~
23 FRANK: Well, it's a pretty ripe old age.
24 MARTHA: I don't see what's so ripe about it. After all I'm
25 nearly seventy-nine myself. Oh, I know I don't look it.
26 Everybody thinks there's at least ten years between us.
27 And Bessie is failing.

1 JOE: Yes, ma'am. Just a couple more questions, Miss Dunbetter.
2 MARTHA: Certainly, young man, certainly.
3 JOE: What time was it when you got home from the library?
4 MARTHA: Two forty-five. Maybe a few minutes after. No later than
5 three though.
6 JOE: I see. How did he get into the apartment? Was the door
7 locked?
8 MARTHA: I thought it was. I always try to remember to lock it
9 whenever I go out. But sometimes I do forget. I guess I
10 did today.
11 JOE: Uh-huh. Do you think you'd recognize the burglar if you
12 saw him again?
13 MARTHA: I most assuredly would. There's nothing the matter with
14 my eyesight. ~~It's as good as it ever was.~~ My faculties
15 ~~aren't impaired~~ I'm happy to say.
16 JOE: ~~That's fine.~~ We'd like to take you down to the office
17 with us and show you some pictures.
18 MARTHA: Oh?
19 JOE: To see if you can identify him.
20 MARTHA: I couldn't go like this. I'll have to change my dress
21 first. Oh, I'm all right for walking around the
22 neighborhood but not for going downtown.
23 JOE: That's up to you, ma'am. Try not to touch anything in
24 the bedroom.
26 MARTHA: Why not?
26 JOE: We'll have a crew from the crime lab check for
27 fingerprints -- the pocketbook especially.
28 MARTHA: Oh. (LITTLE BEAT) Well, I'm sure you won't find any.
29 JOE: Ma'am?

1 MARTHA: He - he was wearing mittens -- uh, gloves.
2 JOE: Well, we'll check anyway.
3 FRANK: Say, Miss Dunbetter, while I think of it -- who came from
4 Kansas?
5 MARTHA: Kansas?
6 FRANK: It doesn't have anything to do with the case. I was
7 kind-a curious that's all.
8 MARTHA: I'm afraid I don't understand.
9 FRANK: Well, the name of this apartment is the Topeka Arms so I
10 figured somebody connected with it must have come from
11 Kansas.
12 MARTHA: Oh.
13 FRANK: You don't know who it was, do you?
14 MARTHA: Now let me think -- oh, yes, I remember -- that was old Mr.
15 Hendrickson's idea.
16 FRANK: You don't say.
17 MARTHA: Yes, he was the man who built this building -- that was --
18 goodness sake -- almost thirty-five years ago. My how time
19 flies. ~~I just can't believe I've lived here that long.~~
20 You see I was practically the first person to move in.
21 FRANK: Yes, ma'am. And this Mr. Hendrickson came from Kansas,
22 did he?
23 MARTHA: No. Minnesota -- Minneapolis, as I recollect.
24 FRANK: Oh.
25 MARTHA: But it was his idea just the same -- calling it the Topeka
26 Arms. On account of an article he read in the newspaper
27 while the building was going up. Remember him showing it
28 to me. Poor Mr. Hendrickson. Gall bladder.

1 FRANK: Ma'am?
2 MARTHA: That's what took him -- his gall bladder. Nineteen-thirty
3 six.
4 FRANK: Oh.
5 MARTHA: The building's never been kept up properly since.
6 FRANK: Well, what was his reason for calling it the Topeka Arms?
7 MARTHA: That newspaper write-up.
8 FRANK: Yes, ma'am.
9 MARTHA: It said there were more people in Southern California who
10 came from Kansas than from any other state.
11 FRANK: Uh-huh.
12 MARTHA: So Mr. Hendrickson figured the name Topeka would attract
13 a lot of tenants. Ridiculous nonsense. I said so at the
14 time. There hasn't been a single solitary one.
15 FRANK: Oh?
16 MARTHA: Thirty-five years. Not a soul from Kansas has ever lived
17 here.
18 (END SCENE 1)
19 JOE: 4:05 PM Frank and I put in a call to the Crime Lab. While
20 Miss Dunbetter changed her dress, we checked the other
21 apartments to see if anyone else had seen the burglar. On
22 the second floor only one tenant was in. Mrs. J.T. Blade,
23 Apartment 6, informed us that she had been out marketing
24 at the time of the crime and had just returned home. We
25 went down to the first floor and stopped at Apartment One.
26 SOUND: KNOCK ON DOOR

1 TINA: (THRU DOOR) Who is it?
2 JOE: Police officers.
3 TINA: Oh, for Pete's sake, come on in.
4 SOUND: DOOR OPENS DOG YAPS A LITTLE OFF
5 TINA: (OFF) And cut out the corney jokes, will you, George. I
6 -- say, who the heck are you?
7 JOE: Police officers.
8 SOUND: DOG BARKS AND RUNS UP TO JOE AND FRANK
9 TINA: (ON) Mickey! Get down, Mickey!! Get away from there!
10 SOUND: SHE GRABS THE DOG AND DRAGS HIM OFF
11 TINA: (FADING) I'll have to shut him in the bedroom or you'll
12 never get a minute's peace. He's just no good with
13 strangers. Now get in there!!
14 SOUND: DOG RUNS OFF...SHE SLAMS DOOR
15 BEAT
16 TINA: (FADING ON) Are you guys for real?
17 JOE: My name's Friday. This is my partner Frank Smith. Here's
18 the identification.
19 TINA: Oh. Looks like I goofed. I got such crazy friends.
20 They're always pulling gags.
21 JOE: Sure.
22 FRANK: Do you rent this apartment, ma'am?
23 TINA: That's a matter of opinion. The way the other tenants
24 check up on everything that goes on in here you'd think
25 they was paying the bills.
26 JOE: Have you been in all afternoon?

1 TINA: All day for that matter. Except for a couple of hours
2 this morning when I went down to the unemployment office
3 to file my claim.
4 JOE: I see.
5 TINA: I'm a model -- do a little actin' in pictures. Right now
6 I'm havin' a dry spell.
7 JOE: Uh-huh.
8 TINA: Tina Millet -- that's my professional name. You ever hear
9 of me?
10 JOE: Afraid not.
11 TINA: Lousy press agent. Gonna make me famous overnight. Ten
12 bucks a week I been payin' him for over six months now. If
13 I died he couldn't get me an obituary notice.
14 JOE: You're sure you've been here all afternoon?
15 TINA: Yeah -- why?
16 FRANK: Did you see anybody come into the building around three
17 o'clock?
18 TINA: Nope.
19 JOE: Hear anybody?
20 TINA: Fraid I ain't gonna be much use to you. I've got a late
21 date tonight so I was storin' up a little extra sleep-time.
22 Just woke up a few minutes ago.
23 JOE: Well, have you noticed any strangers hanging around this
24 neighborhood lately?
25 TINA: What kind of strangers?
26 JOE: How about a middle-aged man? Tall, dark hair -- scar on
27 his forehead?
28 TINA: If he's been around I haven't run into him.
29 FRANK: Do you usually keep your door locked?

1 TINA: Sure, when I'm out.

2 FRANK: Was it locked this afternoon?

3 TINA: You walked in, didn't you?

4 FRANK: Yes, ma'am.

5 TINA: What are you guys buildin' up to?

6 JOE: One of the tenants has reported a burglary.

7 TINA: In this apartment house?

8 JOE: That's right.

9 TINA: Holy smoke! It'd be just my luck at a time like this. No
10 where the heck's my pocketbook? I know I had it with me
11 this morning.....

12 JOE: That it over on the desk?

13 TINA: (FADING A LITTLE) Oh, yeah, yeah, thanks.

14 SOUND: OPEN PURSE A LITTLE OFF..RIFLE THROUGH IT...OPEN COIN PURSE

15 BEAT

16 TINA: (COUNTING BILLS) Five...ten...eleven...(RELIEVED SIGH)
17 Guess it's all here, what little there is. Looks like I
18 got a break for once. That's a switch.

19 JOE: Yes, ma'am. Well, sorry if we bothered you.

20 TINA: (FADING ON) Hey, wait a minute. You're holdin' out on me

21 JOE: How's that?

22 TINA: Who got taken?

23 JOE: Oh. Miss Dunbetter -- Apartment Eight.

24 TINA: Dunbetter?

25 JOE: Uh-huh.

1 TINA: Wouldn't you know it. One of the yak-yak girls. Morning,
2 noon and night, yak-yak-yak. They don't even stop for
3 punctuation marks.

4 JOE: Oh.

5 TINA: For the last six months that sister of hers has been
6 jawin' so much about her eightieth birthday, I'm beginnin'
7 to feel eighty myself. Now they'll have a new subject.
8 Brother, I'll hear about this burglary til it comes out of
9 my ears. You know something, Mister...

10 JOE: Hmm?

11 TINA: I'd be better off if he'd robbed me.

12 (END SCENE 2)

13 JOE: Frank and I checked the other three apartments on the
14 first floor. None of the tenants was at home. 4:16 PM
15 the patrol car officers who had answered the call
16 returned to the building. They reported that they had
17 been unable to find anyone answering the suspect's
18 description in the immediate vicinity. A few minutes
19 later Lee Jones and a crew from the crime lab arrived.
20 They began their investigation and we drove Miss
21 Dunbetter down to the city hall. We checked the oddity fil
22 and ran the suspect's description and MO through the
23 Staats office and they came up with seventeen possibles.
24 We pulled mug shots and showed them to Miss Dunbetter.
25 She was unable to make an identification. 6:13 PM Lee
26 Jones reported no useful fingerprints or other physical
27 evidence in the apartment. 6:46 PM we drove Miss
28 Dunbetter home and went off duty. The next day, May 20th,
29 11:17 A.M.

30 SOUND: TELEPHONE RINGS

1 JOE: I've got it.
2 SOUND: COUPLE OF STEPS...PICK UP PHONE
3 JOE: Burglary, Friday....Who?....Oh, sure, sure....Yeah....
4 when'd he come in?...Uh-huh.....I see....Oh?.....I
5 dunno, what's he look like?...Uh-huh.....Yeah, we'd like
6 to....okay....Thanks a lot.
7 SOUND: HANG UP TELEPHONE...COUPLE OF STEPS
8 JOE: That was Chub Stark.
9 FRANK: Who?
10 JOE: You know, Stark, bartender over at the Yellow Cat.
11 FRANK: Oh, yeah. What's he want?
12 JOE: A guy came into his place last night. He was carrying
13 a pretty big roll. Threw it around, bought drinks for
14 the house.
15 FRANK: Uh-huh.
16 JOE: Got kind-a loaded. Did some talkin' about how easy he'd
17 picked up the dough. He just walked in again this
18 morning.
19 FRANK: Sound like anything to you?
20 JOE: Chub says he's about six foot, black hair.
21 FRANK: Yeah?
22 JOE: Scar on his forehead.

(END SCENE 3)

(END PART 1)

1 JOE: Frank and I drove out to the Yellow Cat Bar on Figueroa.
2 Chub Stark, the bartender, pointed out a husky man
3 sitting in a corner booth. We went over to talk to him.
4 SOUND: STEPS...THEN TO A STOP
5 FRANK: Stand up.
6 RALPH: Huh?
7 JOE: We're police officers. Stand up.
8 RALPH: Okay, okay.
9 SOUND: FRANK GIVES RALPH A QUICK SEARCH
10 FRANK: You can sit down again.
11 SOUND: RALPH SITS...FRANK AND JOE SIT ACROSS FROM HIM
12 RALPH: Something eatin' you guys?
13 JOE: What's your name?
14 RALPH: Why?
15 JOE: Come on what is it?
16 RALPH: Portlong. Ralph Portlong. 14/150
17 JOE: Where do you live, Portlong?
18 RALPH: Hotel -- around the corner.
19 JOE: How long you been staying there?
20 RALPH: Since last night.
21 JOE: Before that?
22 RALPH: Back East. I just got in town yesterday.
23 JOE: Whereabouts back East?
24 RALPH: What kind of a roust is this?
25 JOE: Whereabouts?

1 RALPH: All over -- Chicago, Cleveland, all over.
2 FRANK: What kind of business you in?
3 RALPH: Unemployed.
4 JOE: You got any money?
5 RALPH: Some.
6 JOE: How much?
7 RALPH: I ain't no vag if that's what you're gettin' at.
8 JOE: How much?
9 RALPH: Hundred bucks. Maybe a hundred and fifty.
10 JOE: Where'd you get it?
11 RALPH: Borrowed it.
12 JOE: Who from?
13 RALPH: A pal.
14 JOE: In LA?
15 RALPH: Chicago.
16 JOE: What's his name?
17 RALPH: Johnson. Cliff Johnson. *14/13*
18 JOE: Address?
19 RALPH: I dunno, He moves around. Same as I do.
20 JOE: How you gonna pay him back if you don't know where he
21 lives?
22 RALPH: We'll bump into each other.
23 FRANK: When was it you got in town, Portlong?
24 RALPH: I told you -- yesterday.
25 FRANK: What time?
26 RALPH: Six o'clock -- somewhere in there.

1 FRANK: Yesterday morning?
2 RALPH: Last night.
3 JOE: You sure of that?
4 RALPH: Yeah.
5 JOE: How'd you come? Train?
6 RALPH: Car.
7 JOE: Your own car?
8 RALPH: Hitched a ride.
9 JOE: Just where were you yesterday afternoon?
10 RALPH: Ridin' into LA.
11 JOE: All afternoon?
12 RALPH: Yeah.
13 JOE: What was the driver's name?
14 RALPH: How should I know? I been hitchin' for the last week.
15 ¹⁵ ~~Must~~-a rode with twenty different guys.
16 JOE: You don't remember the one you were with yesterday?
17 RALPH: Huh-uh. (NO)
18 FRANK: You ever been arrested, Portlong?
19 RALPH: Nothin' serious.
20 FRANK: Tell us about it.
21 RALPH: Drunk, that's all.
22 FRANK: Where was this?
23 RALPH: Ohio. When I was a kid.
24 JOE: Anything else?
25 RALPH: Some speedin' tickets.

1 JOE: You ever been arrested in California?
2 RALPH: Never been in California.
3 JOE: First trip, uh?
4 RALPH: Yeah. And you ain't exactly makin' me feel welcome,
5 either.
6 FRANK: You know an apartment house called the Topeka Arms?
7 RALPH: Whereabouts?
8 FRANK: Sixth and Olympic.
9 RALPH: Where's that?
10 FRANK: In LA.
11 RALPH: Can't you get nothin' straight? I ain't never been here
12 before.
13 FRANK: Uh-huh.
14 RALPH: Now how about givin' me an answer -- why the roust?
15 JOE: Come on, let's go. *15/30*
16 RALPH: What for?
17 JOE: We'll show you the sights.
18 RALPH: For instance?
19 JOE: City Hall.
20 (END SCENE FOUR)

1 JOE: Frank and I took the suspect into custody for further
2 questioning. 12:16 PM we ran the name Ralph Portlong
3 through R&I. They had nothing on him. We put out an APB
4 with his description stating that he was in our custody.
5 The bulletin requested any information about the suspect
6 and was marked attention Chicago PD and Cleveland Police
7 Department. 2:18 PM we again interviewed Portlong. He
8 insisted he had not arrived in Los Angeles until six ¹⁶
9 o'clock the previous evening and refused to say anything
10 more. 4:06 PM we received replies to our APB on Portlong.
11 Chicago reported two convictions for Grand Theft auto
12 and Cleveland reported once conviction for Burglarly
13 second degree. We telephoned Miss Dunbetter and
14 arranged for her to attend a special show-up at the Main
15 Jail. 6:17 PM the show-up was completed and Frank and I
16 took the victim back to our office.

17 SOUND: DOOR OPENS...STEPS IN...CLOSE DOOR

18 FRANK: You're absolutely sure it isn't the same man?

19 MARTHA: My goodness gracious, I ought to know.

20 FRANK: Yes, ma'am. ^{10/30}

21 MARTHA: I don't see how you could have made such a mistake.

22 JOE: He fits your description -- even the scar.

23 MARTHA: But I told you it was a ziggedy-zag.

24 JOE: Uh-huh.

25 MARTHA: This man's scar is entirely different.

26 JOE: Oh.

- 1 MARTHA: And his hair is wrong too.
- 2 JOE: Is that so?
- 3 MARTHA: The other man had some grey in it. Right across here.
- 4 JOE: I thought you said he was fairly young.
- 5 MARTHA: A body doesn't have to be old to get grey. Why I've
6 been grey ever since I had my appendix out -- and I was
7 only thirty-four.
- 8 JOE: Yes, ma'am. We'll have you taken home now.
- 9 MARTHA: It really is a shame.
- 10 JOE: Ma'am?
- 11 MARTHA: That you arrested that poor fellow. Tsk, tsk, tsk...
12 when he hasn't done anything... 1700
- 13 SOUND: TELEPHONE RINGS...COUPLE OF STEPS...PICK UP PHONE.
- 14 JOE: Buglarly, Friday.....Yeah?.....Yeah, that's right...Oh?
15 When did you get it?.....I see....No not yet....Sure.
16 Will you notify 'em?.....Okay...
- 17 SOUND: HANGS UP PHONE
- 18 JOE: I guess we don't need to feel too sorry for Portlong.
- 19 FRANK: What do you mean, Joe?
- 20 JOE: Another answer on our APB.
- 21 FRANK: Oh?
- 22 JOE: You were right, Miss Dunbetter. He couldn't have been
23 your burglar.
- 24 MARTHA: I told you, didn't I?
- 25 JOE: He was in Needles yesterday afternoon. Hitched a ride.

1 FRANK: Yeah?

2 JOE: Slugged the driver.

3 (END SCENE 5)

4 JOE: Ralph Portlong was held pending arrival of authorities
5 from Needles. The investigation of the apartment house
6 burglary continued. Two more suspects were brought in
7 for questioning. Both men succeeded in establishing
8 alibis for the time of the crime. Monday, May 23rd, 1:48
9 PM. Frank and I were on our way back to the office from
10 lunch.

11 SOUND: STEPS ALONG CORRIDOR

12 FRANK: How was your pie?

13 JOE: Okay.

14 FRANK: Just okay?

15 JOE: It was all right.

16 FRANK: Lemon meringue, uh?

17 JOE: ~~Yeah.~~ 18/00

18 FRANK: Should-a had apple.

19 JOE: Uh-huh.

20 FRANK: I told you, Joe, stick with apple. You can't go wrong.

21 JOE: The lemon was fine.

22 FRANK: You didn't finish it.

23 JOE: I was full.

24 FRANK: Sure. Well, someday you'll learn.

25 JOE: Learn what?

26 FRANK: Apple pie's always safe. You can't louse it up. Even
27 a bad cook.

1 JOE: I get a little tired of it once in a while, that's all.
2 FRANK: No reason you should. You can switch it around so
3 many different ways.
4 JOE: Uh-huh.
5 FRANK: Cheese, a la mode, hot sauce. No reason to get tired
6 of apple, Joe.
7 JOE: Sure.
8 SOUND: OPEN DOOR...SQUADROOM B.G.
9 VOICE: (OFF) Hey, Joe.
10 JOE: Yeah?
11 SOUND: STEPS FADE IN
12 VOICE: Call for you, while you were out.
13 JOE: Oh? ¹⁸¹³⁰
14 VOICE: She wants you to call back. Here's the number.
15 SOUND: JOE TAKES SLIP OF PAPER
16 JOE: Thanks.
17 VOICE: (FADING) Sure.
18 JOE: (READING) Hmm. Bessie Maxon.
19 FRANK: Who's she?
20 JOE: I dunno.
21 SOUND: PICK UP PHONE...DIAL FOR OUTSIDE LINE...THEN DIAL NUMBER
22 BEAT

19/10

1 JOE: Mrs. Maxon?....This is the Police Department, Sergeant
 2 Friday....Yes, that's right....Yes, we were the ones who
 3 ...Yes, Ma'am.....I see.....Yes, I guess we can, is
 4 something wrong?...Oh.....You sure of that?...All
 5 right, right away.....Thanks for calling...bye.

6 SOUND: HANG UP PHONE

7 JOE: Miss Dunbetter's sister. She just got back from Oxnard.

8 FRANK: Yeah?

9 JOE: Says it never happened.

10 FRANK: Huh?

11 JOE: The burglary. Says her sister made it up.

12 (END SCENE 6)

13 JOE: Frank and I drove out to the Topeka Arms and went up to
 14 Apartment No. 8. It was 2:17 when we got there. 19/30

15 SOUND: COUPLE OF STEPS...THEN KNOCK ON DOOR...BEAT....REPEAT

16 KNOCK

17 FRANK: Somebody's comin'.

18 JOE: Yeah.

19 SOUND: DOOR IS OPENED

20 BESSIE: (SHE'S EIGHTY BUT NO FEET IN THE GRAVE) Well, what is
 21 it?

22 JOE: Mrs. Maxon?

23 BESSIE: That's right, that's right.

24 JOE: My name's Friday. I just spoke to you over the phone.

25 BESSIE: Oh, yes, yes, of course.

26 JOE: This is my partner Frank Smith.

1 BESSIE: Oh, how do you do. Please come inside.
2 FRANK: Yes, ma'am,
3 SOUND: THEY ENTER...CLOSE DOOR BEHIND THEM
4 BESSIE: I just don't know what to say. I suppose it is all my
5 fault for going out of town. I never should have left
6 Martha alone. I might have known she'd be up to
7 something.
8 FRANK: Are you absolutely sure about ^{20/00}this, Mrs. Maxon?
9 BESSIE: About what, about what?
10 FRANK: That there wasn't any burglarly?
11 BESSIE: Huh. Never in a million years.
12 JOE: Your sister gave us all the details.
13 BESSIE: Play-acting, that's all it was, play-acting. She's
14 done it all her life.
15 JOE: I see.
16 FRANK: You mean Miss Dunbetter isn't -- uh --
17 BESSIE: My sister is as sane as you are, if that's what you're
18 driving at.
19 JOE: Then why did she tell us that story?
20 BESSIE: I haven't the vaguest notion. She simply won't give
21 me any explanation.
22 JOE: Did she tell you about the burglary?
23 BESSIE: ~~Certainly not. Certainly not. She knows better than~~
24 ~~to hand me any of her cock-and-bull stories. I can see~~
25 ~~right through them.~~
26 JOE: ~~Who did tell you about it?~~

1 BESSIE: When I got home this morning everybody in the building
2 was discussing it. The news was in all the papers. Mr.
3 Parker saved the clippings for me.
4 JOE: Uh-huh. Well, just what is it that makes you so sure
5 your sister was lying?
6 BESSIE: In the first place Martha never had three hundred dollars
7 in her whole life.
8 JOE: I see.
9 BESSIE: ~~And in the second place~~ I If the story is true why won't
10 she face me? Why is she hiding?
11 JOE: Hiding?
12 BESSIE: The minute I told her I was going to call you, she
13 locked herself in the bathroom.
14 JOE: Oh.
15 BESSIE: She's been there for two hours now. She simply refuses
16 to come out.
17 JOE: Well, we want to talk to her if we can.
18 BESSIE: I'll try again. (FADING) The fact that you're here may
19 have some influence.
20 FRANK: Think we've been gettin' a run-around, Joe?
21 JOE: Sounds that way.
22 FRANK: Yeah.
23 SOUND: OFF...POUNDING ON DOOR...REPEAT UNDER SPEECH AT
24 APPROPRIATE INTERVALS
25 BESSIE: (OFF) Martha! Martha, you come out of there this
26 instant. (BEAT) Martha Dunbetter, do you hear me?
27 (BEAT) The policemen want to talk to you. (BEAT) Now
28 you come out!!! The police are here!!!

1 MARTHA: (OFF THROUGH DOOR) I won't! I won't ever come out!

2 BESSIE: I never heard of such childishness!!

3 BEAT

4 MARTHA: (FADING ON A LITTLE) You see I'm not able to do a thin,
5 with her.

6 JOE: Yes, ma'am.

7 MARTHA: (STILL OFF SOME) Maybe if you speak to her she'll come
8 to her senses.

9 JOE: Okay.

10 BESSIE: (FADING ON) My own sister, carrying on like this. I
11 don't know how I'll ever be able to hold my head up
12 again. It's scandalous!

13 BEAT

14 SOUND: KNOCK ON DOOR

15 JOE: Miss Dunbetter....This is Sergeant Friday, Miss Dunbett.
16 ...Will you please come out so we can talk to you....
17 (BEAT) Miss Dunbetter!

81 BEAT

91 SOUND: DOOR IS UNLOCKED...OPENED SLOWLY

20 BESSIE: Well, it's about time! What ever were you thinking of
21 Martha? What got into you??

22 MARTHA: I am not speaking to you, Bessie.

23 JOE: Let's go in the other room. Be easier to talk there.

24 MARTHA: Yes, sir.

25 BESSIE: Not speaking to me, uh? Well, two can play at that
26 game. And I assure you, I won't be the one who suffers.

27 BEAT

1 JOE: Do you want to sit down?
2 SOUND: THEY SIT
3 BEAT
4 JOE: All right, Miss Dunbetter, can we clear this thing up
5 now? Your sister says there wasn't any burglary.
6 MARTHA: And just how would she know? She wasn't here, was she?
7 BESSIE: I know because I know you. 22/100
8 MARTHA: Huh.
9 BESSIE: And I know you never had three hundred dollars to your
10 name.
11 MARTHA: I did too.
12 BESSIE: Where'd you get it, where'd you get it?
13 MARTHA: It's none of your business.
14 JOE: How about it, Miss Dunbetter, did you have three hundre
15 dollars?
16 BEAT
17 JOE: Well?
18 MARTHA: I never said it was exactly three hundred -- not to the
19 penny.
20 BESSIE: Three dollars would be more like it.
21 MARTHA: There happen to be a few things you don't know about,
22 ... including my savings.
23 BESSIE: A likely story. You never saved a penny in your life.
24 MARTHA: What about my dime bank?
25 BESSIE: I shook it just the other day.
26 MARTHA: I'll thank you to keep your hands off my property.
27 BESSIE: Savings indeed. If I didn't pay most of the expenses
28 around here you'd starve to death.

1 MARTHA: I managed quite well before you moved in on me, Bessie,
2 and I was perfectly happy living alone. As a matter
3 of fact, I preferred that arrangement.
4 BESSIE: Maybe you'd like to try it again.
5 MARTHA: Maybe I would. I'm sure I'd be money ahead.
6 BESSIE: Ha!
7 MARTHA: Don't you 'ha', me, Bessie Maxon. You ought to see
8 the way she eats. Gobble, gobble, gobble. She shovels
9 it down.
10 BESSIE: ~~Stuff~~ and nonsense. I don't have any more appetite than
11 a bird.
12 MARTHA: Birds don't nip the cooking sherry.
13 BESSIE: Martha Dunbetter! How can you say such a thing.
14 MARTHA: Because I know it's true. I marked the bottle.
15 BESSIE: Well, whatever I do, I don't fib to the police like
16 some people I could name.
17 BEAT
18 JOE: Well, Miss Dunbetter?
19 MARTHA: I may have exaggerated a speck.
20 JOE: Uh-huh.
21 MARTHA: I didn't mean to do any harm.
22 JOE: Did you know it's against the law to file a false
23 police report?
24 MARTHA: Against the law?
25 BESSIE: ~~There~~, you see! You're going to jail. I knew it would
26 happen. I knew that sooner or later you'd disgrace us
27 all.
28 JOE: Why'd you do it?
29 BEAT

1 JOE: You must have had a reason.
2 MARTHA: I won't tell you. Not in front of her I won't.
3 JOE: Oh. Would you mind waiting in the other room for a
4 couple of minutes, Mrs. Maxon?
5 BESSIE: I most certainly would.
6 JOE: We'd appreciate it, Ma'am.
7 SOUND SHE GETS UP
8 BESSIE: (FADING) Oh, very well. Very well. You'd think I was
9 the criminal around here.
10 BEAT)
11 SOUND: DOOR SLAMS OFF
12 (BEAT) *24/00*
13 JOE: All right, Miss Dunbetter. Go ahead.
14 MARTHA: It's very difficult to explain.
15 JOE: Uh huh.
16 MARTHA: You see it was all on account of her -- Bessie.
17 JOE: Go on.
18 MARTHA: It started when we were little girls. Just because she
19 was older she was always lording it over me. Mama and
20 Daddy always gave her everything first. Hand-me-downs.
21 That's all I got. Bessie's hand-me-downs.
22 JOE: (GRUNTS)

1 MARTHA: Then when we grew up I couldn't push myself very much.
2 She was just the opposite, the belle of the ball. She
3 had her pick of all the young gentlemen in town. The
4 only time they'd take me out was when Bessie was busy.
5 And don't think she didn't let me know that I was
6 second choice. The only reason she married Horace was
7 because he took a fancy to me. Well, I had my pride,
8 too. I wouldn't settle for her left-overs. That's why
9 I stayed single.

10 JOE: I see.

11 MARTHA: The least she could have done was name one of her little
12 girls after me. After all, I'am her only sister.

13 FRANK: You still haven't told us why you reported the burglary,
14 Miss Dunbetter.

15 MARTHA: I am telling you. 25/10

16 FRANK: Yes, ma'am.

17 MARTHA: It was on account of her birthday. That was the last
18 straw. She hasn't talked about anything else for months
19 and months. Just because she's eighty years old you'd
20 think she was the Queen of Rumania. Her picture in the
21 paper -- people making a fuss about her. Well, I made
22 up my mind that for once in my life someone was going to
23 make a fuss about me.

24 JOE: (GRUNTS)

1 MARTHA: And to tell you the truth, I'm not a bit sorry I did it.
2 I mean, I guess I should be sorry but I'm not. I
3 really enjoyed myself. All those questions you asked
4 me...like I was somebody. And my name was in the
5 newspapers, too. First time it ever happened. It's
6 kind of strange when you think about it. To live 79
7 years without ever seeing your name in print. But that
8 wasn't the best part.

9 JOE: Ma'am?

10 MARTHA: The best part was Bessie not being able to horn in and
11 take all the credit. Oh I knew you'd find me out
12 sooner or later, but I didn't care. I sure had the
13 laugh on her. All the time she was in Oxnard being
14 partied I was having a little party of my own.

15 JOE: You know you didn't need to put us through all this,
16 Miss Dunbetter. You're almost eighty yourself.

17 MARTHA: It's over a year away. When you're my age, you can't
18 be sure of anything.

19 JOE: Yes, ma'am.

20 MARTHA: Besides, even when I'm eighty Bessie'll still be ahead.

21 JOE: Ma'am?

22 MARTHA: She'll be going on ninety.

23 MUSIC: SIGNATURE

1 FENN: (EASILY) The story you have just heard is true. The
2 names have been changed to protect the innocent.
3 GIBNEY: On May 26th, a hearing was held in the office of Perry
4 Thomas, City Attorney. In a moment, the results of
5 that hearing.

TRIAL PAGE

1 GIBNEY: Due to the advanced age of Miss Martha Dunbetter and
2 because of her assurances that she would never repeat her
3 actions, no charges were filed against her.

END PAGE

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. Heard
8 tonight were: Ben Alexander, Script by Frank Burt....
9 Music by Walter Schumann...Hal Gibney speaking....
10 MUSIC: THEME UNDER....CONTINUES 28/00
11 FENN: Watch an entirely different Dragnet case history each
12 week on your local NBC Television Station. Please check
13 your newspapers for the day and time. (BEAT)
14 Chesterfield has brought you Dragnet, transcribed, from
15 Los Angeles.
16 (L & M HITCHHIKE)