

"THE BIG T.V."

NBC 237

CHESTERFIELD #69

C A S T

SGT. JOE FRIDAY. JACK WEBB
OFF. FRANK SMITH. BEN ALEXANDER
BARBARA FLEISCHER. IRENE TEDROW
ERNEST LASNIK. HERB VIGRAN
PAULINE. CAROLINE JONES
GLADYS SHIPLEY. VIRGINIA GREGG

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FOR BROADCAST: MARCH 2, 1954

- 1 -

- 1 MUSIC: DRAGNET SIGNATURE
- 2 FENN: (EASILY) Ladies and gentlemen, the story you are about to
3 hear is true. The names have been changed to protect the
4 innocent.
- 5 MUSIC: DRUM ROLL UNDER
- 6 GIBNEY: Dragnet, is brought to you by Chesterfield, made by
7 Liggett and Myers, first major tobacco company to bring
8 you a complete line of quality cigarettes.
- 9 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR 34
- 10 FENN: (EASILY) You're a detective sergeant. You're assigned to
11 Missing Persons detail. You get a call that a young
12 mother and a nine month old baby have disappeared.
13 Routine investigation turn up the possibility of foul
14 play. Your job.....find them.
- 15 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR:

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)

DRAGNET RADIO
MARCH 2, 1954

FIRST COMMERCIAL

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1 **BENN:** Today, friends, you hear these three words everywhere... 1/00
2 "Chesterfields for me." The Chesterfield you smoke today
3 is the best cigarette ever made ... best for you because
4 Chesterfield gives you proof of highest quality - low
5 nicotine. The taste you want - the mildness you want. 1/15
6 Chesterfield is best for you because it's tested and
7 approved by thirty years of scientific tobacco research.
8 Chesterfield is best for you because it has an established
9 good record with smokers. Proven by test after test. 1/30
10 Yes, friends ... the Chesterfield you smoke today is the
11 best cigarette ever made for the taste you want ... the
12 mildness you want. Join the thousands now changing to
13 Chesterfield. Always say - "Chesterfields for me." 1/197

1 MUSIC: THEME

2 GIBNEY: Dragnet, the documented drama of an actual crime. For the
3 next thirty minutes, in cooperation with the Los Angeles
4 Police Department, you will travel step by step on the ^{2/101}
5 side of the law through an actual case transcribed from
6 official police files. From beginning to end....from
7 crime to punishment..... Dragnet is the story of your
8 police force in action.

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

10 SOUND: JOE'S AND FRANK'S STEPS IN APARTMENT CORRIDOR. NO ECHO

11 JOE: It was Tuesday, August 12th. It was warm in Los Angeles.
12 We were working the day watch out of Homicide Division,
13 Missing Persons Detail. My partner's Frank Smith. The
14 boss is Captain Lohrman. My name's Friday. We were on ^{2/30}
15 our way out from the office and it was 10:14 A.M. when we
16 got to 1865 Malabar Street...(SOUND: DOOR KNOCK) ...the
17 manager's apartment.

18 SOUND: OFF MIKE, IN THE MANAGER'S APARTMENT WE HEAR THE SOUND OF
19 A BABY CRYING.

20 JOE: Better try it again.

21 FRANK: Yeah.

22 SOUND: FRANK MOVES TO THE DOOR AND KNOCKS. THIS TIME, LOUDER.

23 BEAT

24 BARBARA: (OFF MIKE, YELLING) Just a minute....I'm movin' as fast
25 as I can.

26 SOUND: THE SOUND OF THE BABY CRYING GOES OFF MIKE BUT CONTINUES.

1 FRANK: Sounds like she's got trouble.
2 JOE: Yeah.
3 SOUND: THE DOOR OPENS
4 BARBARA: Yeah?
5 JOE: Mrs. Fleischer?
6 BARBARA: Yeah. What d'ya want?
7 JOE: Police officers. We'd like to talk to you.
8 SOUND: FROM THE NEXT ROOM, THE BABY TAKES OFF AGAIN.
9 BARB: C'mon in. I gotta take care of that kid.
10 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK ENTER THE ROOM
11 JOE)
FRANK) (TOGETHER) Thank you....thanks.
12 SOUND: THEY CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND THEM.
13 BARB: Sit down. I'll be right back.
14 SOUND: BARBARA FADES INTO NEXT ROOM, THE BABY CONTINUES TO CRY.
15 FRANK: Sounds like colic to me.
16 JOE: That right?
17 FRANK: Sure. Sounds like colic. Wonder if she's got a hot
18 water bottle. 3/50
19 JOE: What?
20 FRANK: Hot water bottle. Put it on the ^{kid's} ~~youngster's~~ stomach.
21 Makes him feel better.
22 JOE: Oh yeah.
23 FRANK: Both our kids had the colic. Wore out three hot water
24 bottles.
25 JOE: On two kids?
26 FRANK: Lost the stopper on one of 'em.

1 JOE: Yeah.

2 SOUND: UNDER THE ABOVE THE BABY HAS STOPPED CRYING AND BARBARA
3 SNEAKS BACK INTO THE ROOM. SHE CLOSES THE DOOR QUIETLY
4 BEHIND HER.

5 BARB: Baby's teething. Havin' a rough time.

6 FRANK: Oh.

7 JOE: This is my partner, Frank Smith. My name's Friday. We'd
8 like to ask you some questions about one of your tenants.

9 BARB: Oh? Which one?

10 FRANK: A Mrs. Shipley. We understand she had apartment 207.

11 BARB: Yeah. She did. What about her?

12 JOE: You know where we can get in touch with her?

13 BARB: Ain't got any idea.

14 FRANK: When'd you see her last?

15 BARB: Guess it must have been ... month ago.

16 JOE: Possible you might be able to give us an exact date? 3/30

17 BARB: If I coulda done that, I'd have told you right out. I
18 got nothin' to hide.

19 JOE: We didn't mean to say you did.

20 BARB: Sounded like it. Sounded a awful lot like it. I'm gonna
21 be honest with you.

22 JOE: Yes ma'am.

23 BARB: When Harriet first moved in here, we got along fine.
24 She was all the time wantin' me to tell her how to take
25 care of the baby, when it came.

1 FRANK: Yes ma'am.

2 BARB: Got along just fine. Used to have our little cuppa coffee
3 in the afternoon. Chummy. Then all of a sudden it all
4 got different.

5 JOE: How's that?

6 BARB: Just did. Her husband was overseas. In the Army, I guess
7 Harriet missed him pretty much. Anyways she was always
8 sayin' how she did. Wished he could be here when the baby
9 was born. Got terrible depressed. 400

10 JOE: Uh huh.

11 BARB: Moody. Y'know?

12 JOE: Yeah.

13 BARB: I did what I could to cheer her up. Used to go up there
14 and we'd sit and talk. Taught her how to knit. Gave
15 her some needles and yarn as a little present. I thought
16 maybe it'd give her somethin' to think about. Kinda take
17 her mind off her and her husband. (BEAT) Didn't do no good.

18 JOE: How long had her husband been away?

19 BARB: 4 months this time. He's over in Japan I think. Army.

20 JOE: Yeah.

21 BARB: Harriet used to go out once in a while. Go down to the
22 show. Seemed like just about every picture she saw made
23 her sadder. I guess that's why she did it. Just got so
24 sad she couldn't take it no more.

25 JOE: What's that?

1 BARB: Tried to kill herself. 4/30
2 FRANK: Mrs. Shipley?
3 BARB: Yeah. I got the kids in bed one night and went up there.
4 I hadn't heard nothin' from her that day, so I went up to
5 see how she was. Good thing I did too. Found her right
6 there in the livin' room. She'd cut her wrists. Right
7 away, I called for the doctor and all the ambulances and
8 police come runnin' around. Took her to the hospital.
9 Big deal. Guess I found her in time though. They
10 pulled her through.
11 JOE: Uh huh.
12 BARB: I walk up there and find her dyin'. (INDICATES) That far
13 from death's door. And when she comes home from the
14 hospital....what thanks d'ya think I get?
15 BEAT
16 JOE: Go ahead. 5/00
17 BARB: Nothin'. Not a single solitary word do I get. She's
18 mad. Says I shoulda left her alone. Let her done it.
19 Come in here when she got back and read me off in words
20 that I ain't used to hearin'.
21
22 JOE: Uh huh.
23 BARB: I got five kids, Mister. They take a lot of time, and I
24 ain't got enough to go runnin' around after nobody who
25 don't thank a person for savin' their life like that.
26 I called it quits right then. Right at that minute....
27 we were no longer friends.

1 JOE: When did she make the attempt on her life?
2 BARB: Last September. I don't remember the date. I think it
3 was the second...maybe the third week. I'm not sure
4 about what day it was. Any way...after I save her life,
5 she's mad at me. 5/30
6 JOE: She have any people here in Los Angeles, d'ya know?
7 BARB: I never heard her talk of none. She's got a sister. I
8 know that, but I don't know where she is. Don't think
9 Harriet ever said.
10 JOE: What'd she say to you when she left? Give you any idea
11 where she was goin'?
12 BARB: I didn't even see her. She didn't even come by and say
13 so long...goodbye...take a jump...nothin'. She just
14 left. One night she's here...next morning she's gone.
15 JOE: She get any mail while she was here?
16 BARB: Yeah. Once in a while she'd get a letter from her
17 husband. Then there was a couple of letters from San
18 Francisco. I don't know who they was from.
19 JOE: Uh huh. She take everything with her? All of her
20 personal things?
21 BARB: Nothin'. Left it all here. 'Course, it's not much,
22 but it's all here. E/OD
23 JOE: Where are the things?
24 BARB: Downstairs in the basement. I got it all put away in
25 case she ever comes back. Gonna cost her too. Storage
26 and for me to pack it. I told you...it isn't much. Some
27 dresses...few clothes for the baby...phonograph, couple
28 of records. That's about it. Y'can see 'em if you want.

1 FRANK: We'd like to take a look at them before we leave.
2 BARB: Sure thing. Can't let you take 'em though. I gotta
3 collect for the storage.
4 FRANK: Yes ma'am.
5 JOE: Mrs. Shipley have any close friends that you know of?
6 BARB: Not that I know. Course she might have had some down at
7 the Dreampalace.
8 JOE: What's that?
9 BARB: Where she worked. A dancehall downtown. She was a kinda
10 hostess there.
11 JOE: That's the name of the place? Dreampalace? 6/30
12 BARB: Yeah. She might have had some friends down there. None
13 of 'em ever came here though. Least if they did, I never
14 saw 'em.
15 JOE: Uh huh. Do you know of any reason she might have left in
16 such a hurry?
17 BARB: Not right off, -I can't think of one. There was somethin'
18 wrong with her though when she came back from the hospital.
19 Y'know when she had the baby. She was worried about
20 somethin'.
21 JOE: You know what it was?
22 BARB: No. All I know is that when she'd been home a couple of
23 days, she came down here and asked me to do some work on
24 the apartment. I told her if she wanted anything done,
25 she could do it herself after the way she talked to me.

1 JOE: What'd she want done?

2 BARB: Silliest thing I ever heard of. She didn't have anything
3 to steal.

4 JOE: Ma'am? 7/00

5 BARB: She wanted ~~all~~ the locks on the doors changed.

6 (END SCENE 1)

7 JOE: 10:46 A.M. In the company of the apartment manager,
8 Barbara Fleischer, Frank and I went down to the basement
9 and looked through the missing woman's effects. Other
10 than the phonograph, several cardboard boxes of used
11 baby clothes and cheap woman's dresses, we found nothing.
12 There were no snapshots or letters to aid us in
13 ascertaining where she might have gone. We asked Mrs.
14 Fleischer to notify us in the event that she heard from
15 the Shipley woman. We put in a call to Georgia Street
16 Receiving Hospital and verified the ~~story~~ about the 7/15
17 attempted suicide. 11:15 A.M. we checked the phonebook
18 for the address of the Dreampalace Dance Hall. It was on
19 the second floor of a large building at the corner of
20 Seventh and Margo Streets. On the front of the building
21 were several faded photographs of contest winners with
22 the cups they'd won, and the name of the proprietor,
23 Ernest Lasnik. We went upstairs. It was a large barnlike
24 room with crepe paper birds hanging over the lights. In
25 rear of the place, at one of the tables, we found Lasnik.
26 He was eating his lunch.

27 SOUND: THERE IS A SLIGHT ECHO ON ALL OF THE SOUNDS IN THE
28 FOLLOWING SCENE. 8/00

1 FRANK: Mr. Lasnik?
2 ERNEST: (WITH HIS MOUTH FULL OF FOOD) Yeah. What d'ya want?
3 FRANK: Like to ask you some questions. We're police officers.
4 My name's Smith, this is my partner, Sergeant Friday.
5 ERNEST: Hi....Won't shake hands.....got butter all over 'em. Sit
6 down.
7 SOUND: THEY DO.
8 ERNEST: Care for a sandwich?
9 JOE: No thanks.
10 ERNEST: Y'do...go right ahead...there's all the makin's. Bread....
11 butter...salami...pickles. Help yourself.
12 JOE: No thanks, Mr. Lasnik.
13 ERNEST: You don't mind if I go ahead. Gotta bunch of kids comin'
14 in at 3:30. Like to get the place cleaned up before then.
15 JOE: No, sir...go right ahead.
16 (PRODUCTION NOTE: FROM TIME TO TIME, ERNEST EATS THE SANDWICH AS
17 HE TALKS, WASHING IT DOWN WITH WATER)
18 ERNEST: What d'ya wanna see me about?
19 JOE: It's about one of your employees.
20 ERNEST: Yeah? Which one? 8/30
21 JOE: Girl named Harriet Shipley.
22 ERNEST: Oh yeah...I remember. She don't work here no more.
23 FRANK: You have any idea where she is?
24 ERNEST: Uh uh (NO) Ain't got the slightest. I ain't seen Nadine
25 in about maybe....6 months.
26 FRANK: No sir...you don't understand....We're inquiring about a
27 Harriet Shipley.

1 ERNEST: Yeah... I know. Told you, I ain't seen her in 6 months.
2 FRANK: What's this about Nadine?
3 ERNEST: Her club name. Y'see, lotsa the girls don't like to
4 use their real names. Case a fella wants to get chummy
5 away from here, it's easier if we don't know the girl's
6 real name. Harriet used Nadine. 9/00
7 JOE: I understand.
8 ERNEST: We got a bunch of 'em. When one of the girls leaves,
9 we put the name back in the hat. New girl picks it.
10 Had 14 Nadines since we opened.
11 JOE: Uh huh.
12 ERNEST: 27 Altheas.
13 JOE: Yes sir. Do you have any idea where the Shipley girl
14 is?
15 ERNEST: Nope. Might check with her husband. He might know.
16 JOE: We understood he was in the army.
17 ERNEST: That's right. He is. Overseas. He should know where
18 his wife is though. Ask him.
19 JOE: We'll probably do that sir, but we thought maybe we
20 could turn her up ourselves. There's been a missing
21 report filed on her.
22 ERNEST: Missin' huh? Who told it?
23 JOE: Sir?
24 ERNEST: Who told about her bein' missing?
25 FRANK: Report was filed by her mother-in-law.

9/30

-12-

1 ERNEST: Oh Well, I wish I could help you fellas out, I told
2 you, she was in here about 6 months ago. Said she
3 come in to just say hello. Had the baby with her. I
4 personally think she was tryin' to get a job. Course,
5 she didn't come right out and ask, but she kinda
6 hinted around that she'd think about comin' back.
7 FRANK: Uh huh.
8 ERNEST: Told me that she was tryin' to find some kinda work
9 to help make ends meet.
10 JOE: She have any close friends here?
11 ERNEST: No ... not that come to mind right off. Nadine was
12 kinda close .. y'know, she kept to herself. Good
13 dancer. Used to be busy all the time. Hardly every
14 had a sit out.
15 FRANK: Was there one girl she seemed to talk to more than the
16 others?
17 ERNEST: Nope. I told you, she wasn't close to nobody.
18 JOE: She ever mention any relatives to you?
19 ERNEST: No. I think she was all alone. I heard her talkin' to
20 one of the girls one time about a sister. Don't
21 remember too good. But it was about a sister.
22 JOE: Wonder if we could talk to the girl?
23 ERNEST: I dunno. She ain't here. Called her Alvina. I
24 can give you her real name if you want it. Might be
25 able to find her. Told me she had to go back East.
26 That's the reason she gave to quit.

1 ~~JOE:~~ ~~We'd like her address if you can give it to us.~~

2 ERNEST: Sure.

3 FRANK: The last time you saw the Shipley girl, did she say
4 anything about leaving town?

5 ERNEST: No. Wouldn't be suprised though.

6 JOE: Why do you say that?

7 ERNEST: Well, the poor kid was scared to death. Told me she
8 wanted to get away.

9 JOE: Do you know what she was frightened about?

10 ERNEST: Yeah. Cliff Bender. That's what she was afraid of.
11 Cliff.

12 JOE: Who's he?

13 ERNEST: Look, I'll tell you the whole thing. Be easier that
14 way. One favor I gotta ask though.

15 JOE: Yeah? 10/100

16 ERNEST: You won't tell Cliff I told you. He come up here, he
17 could tear the place apart easy. ~~He would too, if he~~
18 ~~knew I'd told on him.~~ You gotta promise me you won't
19 tell him.

20 JOE: Alright...go ahead.

21 ERNEST: Well, Nadine..or Harriet..she came to work for me about
22 a year and a half ago. Came in and told me she'd has
23 some experience in a dance place in the mid west. I
24 don't remember the name right off. Probably come to me.

25 JOE: Uh huh.

26 ERNEST: Well, I told her I'd try her..y'know sort of a
27 probation.

28 JOE: Yeah.

1 ERNEST: Worked out fine. End of the week, I put her on permanent.
2 She did real well. Lotta guys got to comin' in just to
3 dance with her. Wouldn't have nobody else. Just 10/3
4 Nadine....Harriet.
5 JOE: Uh huh.
6 ERNEST: That's how she met Cliff. He came in one night. Fell
7 for her and they started to go together. I told 'em I
8 didn't like the idea of the girls goin' out with the
9 customers. Not good business. Didn't make any
10 difference to them though. They kept right on seein'
11 each other.
12 JOE: That's this Bender fella huh?
13 ERNEST: Yeah. Anyway, one night this soldier come in. He was
14 took right away with Nadine. Asked her for a dance.
15 Kept buyin' tickets all night so's he could dance with
16 her. Came back the next night. Same thing. All night
17 long, he danced with Nadine. Made Cliff pretty sore, //0
18 but there wasn't anything he could do about it. She
19 wanted to be with the soldier. Wasn't too long before
20 she told me that they was gonna get married. Well, the
21 word got around about that and it really made Cliff
22 hacked. Real hacked.
23 JOE: Yeah.
24 ERNEST: Him and the soldier, Shipley...they had a fight
25 downstairs one night after we closed. Guess Cliff
26 waited for him and Nadine to come down. Anyways, it
27 was a real brawl. Cops 'n everything. Cliff really
28 cleaned up on the soldier. Didn't do any good though.
29 FRANK: What d'ya mean?

11/30

1 ERNEST: Nadine told Cliff to stay away from her. Keep far
2 away. Told him that her and the soldier were gonna get
3 married and that they were through. She meant Cliff and
4 her.
5 JOE: Yeah.
6 ERNEST: The soldier and Nadine got married couple of days later
7 and she quit her job.. Right after that, I heard he
8 went over seas and Cliff was around tryin' to break
9 things up. Didn't do no good though. Nadine loved
10 the soldier and she planned to stay with him.
11 JOE: Yeah.
12 ERNEST: I tried to talk to Cliff. Tell him to stay out of it.
13 Leave the girl alone.. But it didn't do any good. He
14 was sure hacked. Said that she was his girl..might take
15 some time but he'd get her for runnin' out on him. I
16 figure he told her that, too. That's what she was
17 afraid of. Don't blame her. Cliff told me that, I'd
18 believe him.
19 JOE: What's that?
20 ERNEST: That he was gonna kill her.
(END SCENE 2)

12/100

1 JOE: 12:26 P.M. After we'd gotten the names and addresses of the
2 employees of the Dream Palace who knew the missing girl,
3 Frank and I went back to the office. We had the names 121
4 checked through the record bureau but found that only one
5 of the 14 people on the list had arrest records. That one
6 was Cliff Bender, who'd been picked up on a charge of
7 suspicion of burglary. However, according to the
8 information on the report, he'd been released because of
9 lack of evidence. We checked the log about the fight
10 Lasnik had mentioned. We found that an F.I. Card had been
11 filed but no arrest had been made. We went over to room 45
12 and talked with Sgt. Eggenweiler and Sgt. Roubles, the
13 officers who'd handled the burglary case. They told us that
14 in their contacts with Bender, he was sullen and 13100
15 uncooperative. They told us that he had been seen in the
16 company of known criminals. They told us that in their
17 opinion, the man could be considered dangerous. We checked
18 his last known address but found that he had moved in July,
19 leaving no forwarding address. While Frank and I checked
20 out the rest of the missing girl's friends and
21 acquaintances, Sgt. Graham and ~~Off.~~ Cliff Bailey tried to
22 check on Bender. We talked to everybody on the list we'd
23 gotten from Ernest Lasnik, but none of them could give us
24 any idea where we might find the Shipley girl. Most of
25 them however, told us about the threat that Bender had made
26 against her life and expressed the opinion that he was
27 responsible for her disappearance. 13130

(MORE)

1 JOE: The next day, Wednesday, August 13th, Frank and I went
(CONT'D)
2 by communications and then checked back into the office.
3 SOUND: SQUADROOM B.G.
4 FRANK: I tell you that the mother in-law called again this
5 morning?
6 JOE: No.
7 FRANK: Wanted to know how we were doin'. What progress we been
8 able to make.
9 JOE: Yeah.
10 FRANK: I filled her in on what we found. I didn't tell her
11 about Bender. Just said that we thought we'd be able
12 to find the girl.
13 JOE: Uh huh.
14 FRANK: You talked to her when she made the original report,
15 didn't you Joe?
16 JOE: Yeah.
17 FRANK: What d'you think?
18 JOE: What d'ya mean?
20 FRANK: Isn't there something there that's a little off base to
21 you?
22 JOE: I don't know what you're tryin' to get at. 1710
23 FRANK: Well, it just seems to me that she doesn't care if we
24 find her daughter-in-law or not. All she cares about
25 is the ^{kid.} ~~youngster.~~
26 JOE: Yeah. I got that idea myself. Way she talked, it
27 doesn't seem that she and the girl got along too well.
28 FRANK: Just seems like there's something she isn't tellin' us.
29 I asked her this morning if she'd heard from her son. If
30 he knew anything about where his wife might be.
31 JOE: What'd she say?

1 FRANK: Told me she hasn't wanted to bother him, make him worry.
2 Wouldn't even give me his mailing address. Said she
3 didn't want him alarmed unless there was a reason.
4 JOE: Way I see it, his wife being gone is reason enough.
5 FRANK: I told her that. She said our job was just to find
6 the girl and the baby, that's all. 14/30
7 JOE: Cooperation like that isn't gonna make it any easier.
8 We can only do so much if she isn't gonna help.
9 FRANK: Doesn't make a lot of sense. Her filin' the report
10 and then holding out information.
11 JOE: Yeah. We better get over and talk to her again. See
12 if we can get the whole story. How 'bout Graham and
13 Bailey? Heard from them?
14 FRANK: Note in the book, they got a lead on Bender. Graham
15 said they were gonna run it down for us this morning.
16 JOE: Uh huh. What time you got?
17 FRANK: (LOOKING AT HIS WATCH) 9:43.
18 JOE: I wanna talk to the skipper. Make arrangements to put
19 a picture of the Shipley girl on Suspects Wanted this
20 afternoon. Might be able to turn something.
21 FRANK: Sure a lotta loose ends.
22 SOUND: PHONE RING 15/00
23 JOE: I'll get it.
24 SOUND: JOE WALKS TO THE PHONE AND PUNCHES THE BUTTON. HE LIFTS
25 THE RECEIVER.

1 JOE: (INTO PHONE) Missing Persons..Friday. Yeah, Graham.
2 Uh huh. Where? Yeah...what'd she say? Uh huh. Yeah..
3 that's about the same. Yeah. What?...yeah. You wanna
4 call the crime lab? Right. We'll meet you out there
5 right away.

6 SOUND: HE HANGS UP.

7 JOE: They found where Bender was living.

8 FRANK: What d'ya mean "was?"

9 JOE: He checked out last June. About the same time the
10 Shipley girl disappeared. Landlady hasn't seen him
11 since. Guys came up with somethin' else.

12 FRANK: Yeah.

13 JOE: Couple of shirts for a baby. 15/30

14 FRANK: Uh huh.

15 JOE: Bloodstains all over 'em.

(END SCENE 3)

1 JOE: 10:02 A.M. we got to the apartment where Bender had been
2 living. The crew from the crime lab were there and
3 were photographing the room and the clothing that had
4 been found. Sergeant Jay Allen told us that he'd have
5 to run a precipitate test on the stains before he could
6 tell whether or not they were of human origin. 10:45
7 A.M. They finished their investigation on the scene
8 and went back to central station to compile the results.
9 Frank called the office and a local and an A.P.B. were ^{16/10}
10 put out on Cliff Bender asking that he be picked up as
11 a possible suspect. We also had had his
12 card flagged in the record bureau. We talked to the
13 landlady of the apartment building and she told us that
14 Bender had left his apartment hurriedly on a night in
15 the middle of June. She was unable to tell us the
16 exact date but she did go on to say that she'd been
17 getting a check for the rent each month. We asked her
18 if she could show us either one of the checks or an
19 envelope it had come in. She explained that she had
20 thrown the envelopes away and cashed the checks. She
21 was unable to tell us where the checks had been mailed
22 from. She said that as far as she ~~knew~~, she'd never ^{16/30}
23 seen the Shipley girl in Bender's apartment. We asked
24 her to notify us immediately in the event that the
25 suspect returned. We put in a call to the bank where
26 the rent checks were cashed and asked that they be
27 checked for us. (MORE)

1 JOE: 1:30 P.M. Frank and I went over to the crime lab and
(CONT'D) talked to Jay Allen. He told us that the stains on the
2 baby clothes were human blood. He showed us the
3 photographs taken but there was nothing in them that
4 would give us a lead either to the girl's or Bender's
5 where-a-bouts. That afternoon, the picture of Harriet
6 Shipley was telecast over the police program. We got
7 several calls from citizens who said that they'd seen
8 the girl. We checked them all out. One of the callers,
9 a bus driver told us that he'd seen the girl and the
10 baby on his bus during the month of June, and that
11 she'd gotten off in San Diego. We alerted the police
12 in that city to look for her. Thursday morning, Frank
13 and I checked into the office.
14

15 SOUND: SQUADROOM B.G.

16 JOE: Wanna check the book? See if there's anything from
17 San Diego?

18 FRANK: Right.

19 SOUND: FRANK WALKS OFF MIKE. THE PHONE RINGS ON MIKE. JOE
20 PUNCHES THE BUTTON AND PICKS UP THE PHONE.

21 JOE: (INTO PHONE) Missing Person's...Friday. Yes that's
22 right. Yes we did. Uh huh. Where? You're sure?
23 Uh huh. Right away.

24 SOUND: PHONE HANG UP.

25 JOE: Get your coat.

26 FRANK: What've you got?

27 JOE: The Shipley girl...they've found her.

END SCENE 4

END ACT 1

1 GIBNEY: You are listening to Dragnet, the authentic story of
2 your police force in action.

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)

DRAGNET RADIO
March 2, 1954

SECOND COMMERCIAL 17/50

1 FENN: Me~~et~~ the Tom Harmons. You know Tom as an all American...
2 And now, a top sports announcer. Mrs. Harmon is the
3 motion picture and television star - Elyse Knox. They're
4 typical of people everywhere who are saying.....
5 "Chesterfields for me."

6 ELYSE;
(TAPE) I like regular size Chesterfields.....have for years.
7 They're best for me - at least, I think so because of
8 that Chesterfield quality. 18/15

9 TOM:
(TAPE) That's the way I feel about 'em, too. I've always smoked
10 Chesterfields. Now, I go for the king-size. Guess I like
11 a longer smoke. 19/15

12 FENN: So - whether you smoke regular size, like Elyse Knox....
13 or king-size, like Tom Harmon - enjoy America's most
14 popular two-way cigarette. "Chesterfields for me"....
15 you hear it everywhere. The Chesterfield you smoke today
16 is the best cigarette ever made - for the taste you want
17the mildness you want.....join the thousands now
18 changing to Chesterfield. 19/19

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16 is the best cigarette ever made - for the taste you want
17the mildness you want.....join the thousands now
18 changing to Chesterfield. 18/19

20/00

1 PAULINE: Sure. What d'ya want to know? Don't make no
2 difference now. You can go back and tell her that it's
3 too late. Way too late.
4 JOE: Tell who?
5 PAULINE: Mrs. Shipley. Harriet's mother-in-law. You go back
6 and tell her that she done it good. They ain't nothin'
7 left to do to Harriet. It's all been done. You tell
8 her that.
9 JOE: We don't work for Mrs. Shipley. We're trying to find
10 out what happened to your sister, and the baby.
11 PAULINE: Who asked you to find out in the first place? It was
12 her wasn't it? Wasn't she the one?
13 FRANK: She filed the report.
14 PAULINE: That's what I mean. Well, you go back and tell her
15 that there's nothin' more she can do to Harriet or
16 the baby or to big Jerry. Nothin' at all she can do.
17 (SHE STARTS TO CRY)
18 JOE: Where is the baby?
19 PAULINE: He's not here.
20 JOE: You know where he is?
21 PAULINE: Yes, but I ain't gonna tell you. I'm not gonna tell
22 anybody. I promised Harriet I wouldn't tell and I'm
23 gonna keep the promise.
24 JOE: Look, Mrs. Levin, we don't want to hurt your sister.
25 We're just trying to get the truth. Maybe you better
26 tell us what you know.
27 PAULINE: You ain't doin' this for old Mrs. Shipley.
28 JOE: No ma'am.

20/00

1 PAULINE: All right then. I'll tell you, but not for her. I
2 wouldn't give her the time of day. She's the one who
3 did it. The whole thing. You can a lay it right at
4 her feet.

5 JOE: You wanna tell us?

6 PAULINE: Since they got married she's been givin' the kids
7 trouble. Right from the first she heard about it.
8 Said that Harriet wasn't good enough for her son. ^{2/100}
9 Said Harriet was cheap. But it didn't make any
10 difference to the kids. They got married anyway.
11 They were in love so they got married.

12 JOE: Uh huh.

13 PAULINE: Soon's big Jerry went overseas. She started on
14 Harriet to get an annulment. All the time writin'
15 her letters tellin' her how cheap she was and that if
16 she really loved Jerry, she'd get an annulment. Then
17 she found out about the baby so she started sayin'
18 how they should get a divorce.

19 JOE: Does Harriet's husband know about this?

20 PAULINE: Sure he did. Knew it all along. He didn't like it.
21 Told his mother to stay out of their lives. Kept
22 tellin' her but it didn't do no good. None. Then ^{2/100}
23 Harriet got the wire. The one where it told that big
24 Jerry was dead. Almost killed her. I thought it
25 was going to. They was really in love. Isn't often
26 you see something like them two. Real love - - the
27 kind you live, not the kind y'talk about.

28 JOE: Uh huh.

1 PAULINE: One night right after she got the wire, she got a phone
2 call from San Francisco. From old Mrs. Shipley. She told
3 Harriet that she was going to court to take the baby away
4 from her. Said that she could prove that Harriet wasn't
5 a good mother and that she didn't deserve to have the baby.
6 JOE: Was ~~Harriet~~ living here at the time? 22\50
7 PAULINE: No. She'd come down every week-end but she wasn't livin'
8 here. There was a guy up in L.A. that was givin' her
9 trouble. Fella named Bender, I think. He was with her
10 when she tried to kill herself. He ran out so he wouldn't
11 get mixed up in it. He was always givin' Harriet trouble
12 so she left one night to get away from him and from old
13 Mrs. Shipley. She came here and said that she just
14 wanted to be left alone with her baby. That's not a lot
15 to ask is it? Is it? Just to be left alone?
16 JOE: No, ma'am.

1 PAULINE: It was for old Mrs. Shipley. She just wouldn't let
2 Harriet alone. Kept after her sayin' how she was gonna
3 take the baby away. How Harriet was an unfit mother.
4 That's why she came down here. To try and hide. Get
5 away from the old woman. Didn't do any good. She maybe
6 got away from her but she kept thinking that any day the
7 doorbell was gonna ring and there'd be the old bag with
8 the papers to take the baby away from her. Got on her
9 mind. Finally wasn't much else she was thinkin' about
10 but how to keep her baby. She went out walkin' one night.
11 Took the baby with her. Rained. Rained hard. I guess
12 the baby took cold, anyway, next day he came down with a
13 bad fever. Couple days later he was dead. Not even a
14 year old and he was dead. (SHE CRY)

15 BEAT

16 JOE: You want to go on?

1 PAULINE: Harriet sat around for a week. Didn't say anything.
2 Didn't do nothin' but just stare at the wall. Didn't
3 even cry. Just sat and looked at the wall. Then all of
4 a sudden she just fell apart. Wasn't anything that could
5 hold her. She said she was going up to San Francisco and
6 see her mother-in-law. I called the doctor. He said it
7 was a breakdown and said I should have her committed. I
8 signed the papers and that's where she is. I went up to
9 see her. She don't even know me, and I'm her sister. 23/30
10 She don't even know me. (CRY) So you just tell old Mrs.
11 Shipley how she did good. You just tell her what she
12 did, to my sister. Tell her how the baby's dead and she
13 finally got what she wanted cause now Harriet hasn't got
14 the baby. Nobody's got him. Nobody's got him. Nobody.
15 (SHE BREAKS DOWN AND SOBS)
16 BEAT
17 JOE: C'mon, Frank.
18 FRANK: Yeah.
19 SOUND: THEY WALK TO THE DOOR AND OPEN IT. WE CAN STILL HEAR
20 PAULINE IN THE BACKGROUND SOBBING. THE DOOR CLOSES AND
21 SHUTS OFF THE SOUND.
22 FRANK: Where to?
23 JOE: Better get back to town.
24 FRANK: Guess so.
25 JOE: So we can tell Mrs. Shipley. 24/30
(END SCENE 5)

1 JOE: ~~During the drive back to Los Angeles, Frank and I hardly~~
2 ~~spoke to each other. We were both occupied with the~~
3 ~~thoughts that were going through our minds.~~ We got back
4 ^{to Los Angeles} ~~in town~~ at 9:30 P.M. and went directly to the hotel where
5 Mrs. Shipley was staying. The desk clerk told us that
6 she'd left word that she wasn't to be disturbed, ~~but we~~
7 ~~told him that it was a matter of importance.~~ He called
8 the room and she asked that we come right up. We took
9 the elevator to the 7th floor and walked down the hall.
10 SOUND: STEPS ON CARPET. HOLD AND THEN STOP
11 JOE: I'll get it.
12 SOUND: JOE KNOCKS ON THE DOOR. BEAT AND THEN THE DOOR OPENS
13 GLADYS: Good evening Sergeant Friday....Officer Smith. Come in.
14 SOUND: THEY WALK INTO THE ROOM THE DOOR CLOSES BEHIND THEM.
15 GLADYS: I was just having a drink. May I fix you one?
16 JOE: No thanks. 24/30
17 GLADYS: How about you, Mr. Smith?
18 FRANK: No.
19 GLADYS: You don't mind if I go ahead?
20 JOE: Not at all.
21 GLADYS: Just sit down. I'll be right with you.
22 SOUND: UNDER THE FOLLOWING, SHE WALKS OFF MIKE AND FIXES A DRINK.
23 ICE IN GLASS...BOOZE AND SODA.
24 GLADYS: The desk clerk said it was important.
25 JOE: Yes, ma'am.

1 GLADYS: Have you found my daughter-in-law?
2 JOE: Yes, ma'am.
3 GLADYS: And the baby, where's he? Is he still with her?
4 JOE: No, ma'am, he's not.
5 GLADYS: Where is he?
6 JOE: Your daughter-in-law's pretty sick, Mrs. Shipley.
7 GLADYS: Oh?
8 JOE: Yes, ma'am. She's in the State Hospital at Camarillo.
9 GLADYS: Camarillo?
10 JOE: Yes ma'am.
11 GLADYS: That's a mental hospital isn't it? *2510*
12 JOE: That's right.
13 GLADYS: I'm sorry to hear about Harriet. But I knew she wasn't
14 very stable.
15 FRANK: Why didn't you tell us your son was dead, Mrs. Shipley?
16 BEAT
17 GLADYS: I didn't think it had any bearing on the thing. What
18 difference does it make?
19 JOE: You don't seem to be very interested in his wife?
20 BEAT

1 GLADYS: I'm going to be honest with you Sergeant, I'm not. Not in
2 the least interested, in what she does or where she is.
3 I never did feel that she was the right girl for my son.
4 Never. When the baby was born, I tried to go along with
5 it. Tried to be nice to her and she wouldn't have it.
6 She wouldn't even be friendly. She poisoned my son. 25/3
7 Turned him against me. She's a terrible woman. Just
8 terrible and whatever's happened to her is just exactly
9 what she's got coming. Naturally I'm sorry it's the way
10 it is, but there's nothing I can do. All I'm interested
11 in right now is my grandchild. I want him. And if I
12 have to go to court to get him then I'll do it that way.
13 JOE: That won't be necessary.
14 GLADYS: Where is he? I'd like to go and get him now that Jerry's
15 wife can't take care of him.
16 BEAT:
17 JOE: He's dead, *miam* 26/100
18 BEAT:
19 GLADYS: If this is some kind of a joke that you're making up to
20 help my daughter-in-law keep him it won't work.
21 JOE: It's no joke. It's the truth. He died in a hospital
22 in San Diego.
23 BEAT:

1 GLADYS: (BEGINNING TO BREAK) It's not right. ~~He was only a baby.~~
2 It's not right that he's dead. ~~It's not fair. I wanted~~
3 ~~to have him. Take care of him. Give him the things he~~
4 ~~should have and it's not right that he's taken away from~~
5 ~~me. It's not right.~~ She did this. Harriet. She did it
6 to get even with me. I know she did.

7 JOE: We're sorry, Mrs. Shipley.

8 GLADYS: (NOT HEARING) First my husband, then Jerry.....now the 26/30
9 baby. I haven't got anybody. I'm all by myself. There
10 isn't anybody in the world who cares. Nobody.

11 JOE: We're sorry Mrs. Shipley. I wish there was something
12 we could do.

13 GLADYS: No you're not. You're like the rest of 'em. ~~All I wanted~~
14 ~~was my grandson. That's all. Just my grandson. Now I~~
15 ~~haven't got anybody.~~ (SHE SOBS) It's Harriet. She's the
16 one. ~~Look what she did to me. Look what she did.~~ *Nobody else to consider in this mess, what*

17 JOE: *What about the baby?* ~~What'd you do to her? Let's go, Frank.~~ K...T

18 SOUND: THEY TURN AND LEAVE THE ROOM. DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE

19 MUSIC: SIGNATURE

20 FENN: (EASILY) The story you have just heard ~~is~~ true. The 27/100
21 names were changed to protect the innocent.

1 GIBNEY: On Thursday, August 14th, a meeting was held in the
2 Captain of Homicide's office, Los Angeles Police
3 Department. In a moment, the results of that meeting.
4 FENN: Now here is our star, Jack Webb.
5 WEBB: COMMERCIAL INSERT

DRAGNET RADIO

~~FEBRUARY 29, 1954~~

March 2,

CLOSING COMMERCIAL

27/17
FENNEMAN: Now, here is our star, Jack Webb.

WEBB: Thank you, George Fenneman. The Chesterfield you
smoke today is the best cigarette ever made and best
for you. That's a fact. And, to my way of thinking,
it's the very best reason for you to change to Chesterfield.
Buy them either way...regular or king-size... If you try
them, I think you'll say with all of us -- Chesterfields
for me.

27/51

TRIAL PAGE

1 GIBNEY: At the meeting held in Captain Lohrman's office, it was
2 decided that no criminal act had taken place and the
3 case was officially marked closed.

END PAGE

1 MUSIC: THEME

2 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, Herb Vignani

10

11 Caroline
12 Script by John Robinson. Music by Walter Schumann.
13 Hal Gibney speaking.

13 MUSIC: THEME UNDER....CONTINUES

14 FENN: Watch an entirely different Dragnet case history each
15 week on your local NBC Television station. Please check
16 your newspapers for the day and time. (BEAT)
17 Chesterfield has brought you Dragnet, transcribed, from
18 Los Angeles.
19 (FATIMA HITCH HIKE)

DRAGNET RADIO
March 2, 1954

L & M FILTERS

- 28/36
- 28/42
- 1 ANNOR: Filter tip smokers.....This is it!
- 2 L & M Filters.....The one filter tip cigarette with
- 3 plenty of good taste - much more flavor - much less
- 4 nicotine.....^{The right length for}~~and~~ effective filtration.
- 5 Only the L & M Filter contains the miracle product -
- 6 alpha cellulose - purest material for filtering
- 7 cigarette smoke.
- 8 Yes, this is it!
- 9 ^{1/100} As Positive Record puts it - L & M Filters
- 10 are just what the doctor ordered.
- 11 Buy L & M Filters - the light and mild smokes!
- 29/10

27/22
Hear Rocky Fortune following
John Cameron Sawyer on the
News on the WBE Radio Station