

1.

Erle Stanley Gardner's

The Case of the Restless Redhead

Original Airdate: January 21, 1957

Directed by William D. Russell

Teleplay by Russell S. Hughes

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests: Whitney Blake Evelyn Bagby
Ralph Clanton..... Mervyn Aldrich
Gloria Henry Helene Chaney
Vaughn TaylorMr. Boles
Jane BuchananMrs. Boles
Dick Rich Sgt. Holcomb
Grandon Rhodes.....Judge Kippen
Norman Leavitt..... Mr. Redfield
Helen MayonMary Thompson
Jack Gargan..... Court Clerk
Clark Howat..... Policeman
Lorraine Martin Drake's Operator

Evelyn Bagby comes home, tired, from work. She reaches for a cigarette and in the box, a revolver lies on top of the cigarettes. She is horrified and calls Perry's service, begging the switchboard operator to reach him, though it's late at night. She was just acquitted after being accused of stealing jewelry from film star Helene Cheney. Perry tells her to take the gun, check into a Hollywood hotel and come to his office in the morning. But when she does as ordered, a man follows her, wearing a pillowcase hood. He tries to force her off the road and in desperation, she pulls out the revolver and fires at the car, which swerves off. She makes a hysterical call to Perry.

It's 1:15 a.m. by the time a distraught Evelyn arrives at Perry's office. Perry interrupts Paul's card game to ask him to trace the gun. Perry goes to where Evelyn fired at the man and finds the police there, holding a crude hood made out of a pillowcase from the Villa España, Evelyn's apartment building. Tragg arrives shortly after Perry gets back.

Perry ditches Evelyn in the library and won't let Tragg talk to her. But it's not long before she and Tragg meet again--this time when he arrests Evelyn. Perry must solve the mystery about Helene Cheney before he can clear Evelyn of killing Harry Merrill.



Whitney Blake (Evelyn Bagby) played Dorothy Baxter on the comedy *Hazel* and was a regular on *The David Frost Revue* before retiring to raise a family. She now appears occasionally on TV and on stage (she's also a singer).

Sunset Canyon Road isn't a real street, but sort of a composite. There's Sunset Blvd., of course, which extends many miles from downtown Los Angeles to the Pacific Ocean. There are many canyon roads, including Malibu Canyon Road and Topanga Canyon Road, both not far from the ocean end of Sunset.

Note Perry's pastel phone--still a bit of a novelty at the time and his enormous '50s ceramic ashtray.

The entrance to the fictitious Brent Building where Perry has his office is actually just a facade on the studio backlot. Note that the entrance has a revolving door, common in Los Angeles buildings at the time, but there aren't

any on the Bank of California building (which was later used for establishing shots for Perry's office building), actually located at 555 Hope Street, next to the California Club and backing onto the street which deadends at the Los Angeles main library.

Helene is a star for Magnum Pictures, a fictitious film studio, which will be used again in the show (see episode #19, 'The Case of the Haunted Husband').

Perry drives a black '57 Ford Fairlane 500 Skyliner, the "first production car with a retractable steel top." Note the seam across the roof when Perry enters the car later. The forward section folded under the remaining roof, the trunk lifted and the whole contraption slid into the trunk. This slightly distorted the trunk from other '57 Fairlanes (it was boxier) and made it difficult if not impossible to use the trunk for luggage or anything else when the top was down. Ford buyers chose the regular ragtop convertible by a 4 to 1 margin over this new-fangled model.



Evelyn drives a '48 Ford Super Deluxe convertible.

The man in the hood and sheet has a '57 Ford Custom 4-door, the lowest-priced car offered by the Ford Motor Co.

The police squad cars are also '57 Ford Custom sedans.



You can see here that the trunk deck of the car is very boxy looking. This was to hide the retractable hardtop.



Most studios had various devices through the years to indicate outdoor shooting on the lot or backlot. Today, there is generally a guard and/or a flashing light on some kind of stanchion. Each soundstage, of course, has flashing lights over all the doors and the doors are generally locked when the cameras are actually rolling.



Full credits for opening episode

Producer Ben Brady
Produced by CBS TV in assn. with Paisano Productions
Executive Producer Gail Patrick Jackson
Story Editor Gene Wang
Production Supervisor J. Paul Popkin, Director of Photography Frank Redman, A.S.C.
Art Direction Lyle Wheeler [and] Lewis Creber
Assistant Director Art Marks
Editorial Supervisor Art Seid, A.C.E.
Film Editor Richard W. Farrell

Makeup Mel Berns
Wardrobe Supervision Dick James
Set Decoration Aalter M. Scott [and] Charles Q. Vassar
Properties Ray Thompson
Recorded by Alfred Bruzlin
Rerecording Mixer Harry M. Leonard
Script Supervisor Cosmo Genovese
A CBS Television Network Production
Filmed in Hollywood by TCF Productions, Inc.

2.

**Erle Stanley Gardner's
The Case of the Sleepwalker's Niece"**

Original Airdate: September 28, 1957

Directed by William D. Russell

Teleplay by Laurence Marks and Gene Wang

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests: John McNamara Peter Cole
Hillary Brooke..... Doris Cole
John Archer Frank Maddox
Nancy Hadley..... Edna Hammar
Darryl Hickman Steve Harris
Helen Mowery Lucille May
Thomas B. Henry..... Ralph Duncan
Harry Hickox Phillip Kendall
Kenneth MacDonald Judge
Tony Michaels..... Jackson
Clark Howat Policeman
Fred Graham Sheriff
Joey Ray Detective
Jack Harris..... Court Clerk

Poor old Peter Cole is a sleepwalker. Trouble is, he does it with a knife in his hand, and his wife Doris is sure he's going to murder her. Their divorce will be final in 24 hours.

Peter's business partner comes to see her and Frank Maddox knows Pete is taking her to the cleaners and suggests a scheme to get her \$100,000 free and clear. (They're also lovers.) Maddox announces to Pete that he plans to sell his share in Cole Enterprises. He wants Phil and Pete to buy his share of the company...for \$500,000. They insist the whole company is barely worth that. Maddox has an answer: no sale, no divorce. Perry meets with the principals and calls it extortion--but legal.

All parties concerned go to a ranch that night--to keep tabs on each other but come morning, Phil is dead.

Like the female lead in episode one, Hillary Brooke (Doris Cole) abandoned a promising acting career for marriage and family. She

was a regular on *The Abbott and Costello Show* and played Roberta Townsend on a '50s classic, *My Little Margie*.

Dwayne Hickman's (Steve Harris) first regular TV role was as Bob Cummings nephew Chuck MacDonald on *The Bob Cummings Show*, but is best-known for playing the title character on *The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis*. He and his brother Darryl both appeared in many films in the '40s and '50s but were typecast because of their ever-youthful looks and both moved into the production end of television in the '60s, making only occasional acting appearances.

Harry Hickox played the anvil salesman who blows the whistle on Robert Preston's Harold Hill in the musical film *The Music Man*.

Note that in this episode, Perry's got a legal assistant named Jackson. Jackson is actually an attorney in the Gardner books, who does the grunt work for Perry. A lawyer of Mason's caliber and reputation would certainly have had either another attorney or experienced paralegal in the office. Della couldn't do everything!



**3. Erle Stanley Gardner's
The Case of the Nervous Accomplice**

Original Airdate: October 5, 1957

Directed by William D. Russell

Teleplay by Stirling Silliphant

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests: Maggie Hayes Sybil Granger
Greta Thyssen.....Roxy Howard
William RoerickBruce Granger
Robert CornthwaiteHerbert Dean

Richard Hale..... George Lutts
James Gavin Jerome Keddie
Jean Howell.....Vinnie Dean
Claudia Bryar..... Ruth Marvel
Morris Ankrum Judge Hoyt
Tyler McVey..... Sam Elkins
Robert Bice..... Hurley
Norman Leavitt Alexander Redfield
George Eldredge Fenton Thompson
Gail Bonney Harriet
Sam Flint Mr. Rector
Jack Harris Court Clerk

Sybil Granger has a philandering husband who plays house in a model home with Roxy Howard. Sybil wants him back. The Sylvan Glade Development Co. announces it has discovered oil on the tract property, halted construction and hired Bruce Granger to develop the oil. Sybil wants to stop the oil development and by extension, her husband's excuse to spend time with Roxy. She hires Perry, who sabotages the board meeting and stops the oil exploration.

George Lutts figures out who's behind Mason's actions and meets Sybil in the hill above the model home and threatens her. Suddenly he's shot and falls dead. Sybil flees and goes to Perry. Her gun's gone from her glove compartment. Perry sets up a game plan to muddy the cab driver's memory. Sybil is charged with the murder. Lutts was shot from under two feet; Sybil insists it was from a distance. The cab driver does get confused and the hearing is dismissed.

Greta Thyssen (Roxy Howard) was the 'Pirate Girl' on the TV game show, *Treasure Hunt*. Robert Cornthwaite played John James Audubon on the horse opera *The Adventures of Jim Bowie*.

The model home is typical of those of the period, and the development is probably one in the hills around Los Angeles.

This episode is an early one using two Mason standby plays; he toys with a witness's memory by presenting plausible alternatives and he stages a demonstration in court that isn't what it seems to be (but then he never said it was anything more than it is, thus making the whole thing morally ethical).

4.
Erle Stanley Gardner's
The Case of the Drowning Duck

Original Airdate: October 12, 1957
Directed by William D. Russell
Teleplay by Al C. Ward

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Carol Kelly Lois Reed
Noland Leary Judge Meeham
Victor Sutherland Clyde Waters
Carolyn Craig Helen Waters
Don Beddoe George Norris
Paula Winslow Martha Norris
Gary Vinson Marv Adams
Garry Landers Donald Briggs
Olive Blakeney Mrs. Adams
Rusty Lane Chief Glass
Tom London Cabbie
Phillip Tonge Cortland
Joseph Forte Dr. Creel
Helen Hatch Secretary
Clifford Botelho Pedro

Perry and Paul must solve an 18-year-old murder case to keep Perry's client out of prison.

Donald Briggs tells Mrs. Adams she must pay \$5,000 for him to keep quiet about her son's father, a convicted murderer. Marv Adams is engaged to the daughter of a prominent citizen and their wedding plans won't survive the scandal. Clyde Waters asks Perry to go to Logan City where Judge Meeham gives him the trial transcript. He says justice was done. There was a

mysterious "Miss X" involved, whose name was never revealed. Meeham makes it clear he doesn't welcome his curiosity.

As he tries to leave town, Martha Norris sends word by the local cop that he wants to see Perry. She says the man Ben Devereaux killed was her first husband, David Latwell. She wants it left alone. At a barbecue on the Waters' dairy farm for their employees, chemistry major Marv wows the local kids with a drowning duck trick (he uses a chemical to take all the oil out of the duck's feathers). Paul and Perry go to see Briggs. A tired blonde at the motel tells them someone picked him up. They break and enter, find old newspaper clips and a funny odor...and Briggs' body, murdered by an interesting combination of chemicals.

Miss X is Lois Reed and she was supposed to marry Devereaux's partner, David Latwell, and they shared a desk, which is why her photo and letters were in the desk, supposed to be Devereaux's. Latwell was also married. Marv Adams' mother dies. Mrs. Norris was supposedly incapacitated with a sprained ankle when her husband was killed. But Perry unearths a photo of Mrs. Norris was standing at a stock auction that same night. Briggs figured this out too, and was blackmailing Mrs. Norris. She killed her husband over Ms. Reed and Briggs because of what he found out.

'Logan City' is a studio backlot, western street. Note the gloriously streamlined bus next to the taxicab, which looks like a 1941 Series C33 Chrysler Crown Imperial 8-passenger sedan. Many pre-war vehicles were still on the streets at the time, especially cabs, panel trucks, ambulances and police vehicles. Not everyone was seduced by fins or could afford the latest models. This was a generation who had experienced both the depression and a war. They didn't get rid of something that still ran easily.

5.
Erle Stanley Gardner's
The Case of the Sulky Girl

Original Airdate: October 19, 1957
Directed by Christian Nyby
Teleplay by Harold Swanton

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Olive Sturgis Fran Celane
William Schallert Graves
Lillian Bronson Clara
Robert Griffin Crinston
Brian Hutton Rod Gleason
Raymond Greenleaf Norton
Howard Wendell Judge Purley
Paul Bryar Sgt. Wilbur
Frank Wilcox Judge Markham
Bob Kline Officer Delaney
Larry Thor Police Surgeon
Jack Gargan Court Clerk
Dick Winslow Reporter

Fran Celane has a rip-roaring fight with her uncle Edward, then bursts into Perry's office and announces: "I'm being cheated out of a fortune." She wants him to break a \$1 million trust set up by her father, who died two years ago. The property was left to Edward Norton as absolute trustee. Edward is not only withholding the money, he's forbidden her to marry until she's 25 (she's now 23).

Five years ago, she ran off with a bellhop to Miami. Paul observes, "she's a very expensive delinquent." The boyfriend is Rodney Gleason, an artist. He's pragmatic and realistic. He's also the bellhop she ran away with. During that week five years ago, they got married. They've tried to stay apart, but failed. Now they can't wait--she's pregnant. Perry finds Uncle Edward as obstreperous as Fran does. Rod is outside the mansion as Arthur Crinston, Norton's attorney, arrives for a late appointment. Shortly thereafter, Norton calls the cops,

claiming his niece has threatened his life. The cops send a car. Crinston comes out and gets in the car with the judge who dropped him, listening to the fight. Norton yells about some papers. He sends Donald Graves (his secretary) with them to get it. As they pull around the circular driveway, Graves sees someone in Norton's office threatening him. They go back and find the man dead. And they catch Rod running from the house.

Note the rattan barstool in Rod's apartment. Rattan was not only inexpensive at the time, but very popular, as were all the tropical looks. Many people did their dens or rumpus rooms over into "Hawaii" rooms, with rattan, fishnets, tapa cloth and plastic leis.



Parker Center, shown as the location of Tragg's office, is still the L.A.P.D. headquarters. It was brand new when this episode was filmed. It was named after the chief of police when constructed.



Paul notes that Walter Winchell, famous New York gossip columnist, used to use the line "they're just good friends" when writing

about a new couple-about-town who were obviously anything but. The line was immortalized in Cole Porter's musical *Silk Stockings*, where Janis Paige--playing a film star--says it numerous times at a press conference about every man she's asked about, including Tolstoy.

Fran drives a white '57 Chrysler Imperial Crown convertible; the Judge a '57 black Lincoln Premiere Landau; and Paul, a '57 Thunderbird (license No. LTZ 413)



At the time, it hadn't been too many years since California (and other populous states) had switched to three letter/three number license plates. These were seen as the ideal solution, offering maximum combinations with the fewest possible offensive words which could come up (and which were eliminated from the sequences). In recent years California has had to switch to 7-letter/number plates.

Note the very plain courtroom. Evidently, the much more elaborate one had not yet been built. With ratings comes money and as the show became more popular, they could spend more money per episode.

The court proceedings here are a preliminary hearing. California law provides a defendant may be indicted by a preliminary hearing or by grand jury indictment. Those who watched the O. J. Simpson preliminary hearing will remember that a citizen's right to a speedy trial states that the state has sixty days

to begin court hearings. Unless requested, it usually takes much longer as the investigation is rarely completed at that point.

6. "Erle Stanley Gardner's The Case of the Silent Partner"

Original Airdate: October 26, 1957

Directed by Christian Nyby

Teleplay by Donald S. Sanford

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

- Peggy Maley..... Lola Florey
- Dan Seymour..... Harry Marlow
- Anne Barton..... Mildred Kimber
- Mark Roberts..... Bob Kimber
- Cyril Delevanti Tulloch
- Michael Emmet..... Sam Lynk
- Joe Abdullah..... Mack Fried
- Henry Hunter Dr. Rubin
- Dawn Richard..... Ginger Kay
- Jimmy McCallion Veteran Reporter



At Orchids Unlimited, owner Mildred Kimber admires Mr. Tulloch's new orchid when one Harry Marlow shows up. He's an obnoxious ex-con who doesn't talk, he threatens. He is determined to be her silent partner. He insults her husband, and she slaps him. Mildred collapses (she's been ill) and asks for a pill. Later, Marlow plays high stakes poker with Bob Kimber in Sam Lynk's

office at the Club Eldorado. He loses very big...\$37,000. His check is not accepted. He shows them 100 shares of Orchids Unlimited. He and Marlow scuffle and Lynk throws them out. Marlow asks Lynk for the stock, he says he'll need \$10,000 more in cash. Mildred nurses her drunk husband and finds out the stock is gone.



She calls Perry, desperation in her voice. He's swamped and makes an appointment for the next morning. Mildred goes to Lynk's office. He's not there. Lola Florey, Lynk's "hostess," follows her. Marlow made a deal with Lynk to fleece Bob in a crooked poker game. She'll give her one of Sam's marked decks. If she tells the story around, he's ruined. She can't do without two things--chocolates by Andre and Sam Lynk. Mildred asks her to tell Perry the story. Lola agrees. Lola leaves the club when someone delivers a box of chocolates by Andre. She eats one, goes out, and Tulloch watches her go to her car. She calls Perry, saying the candy is poisoned. She's fading fast.



He calls Tragg and when they get there, she's still alive...just barely. Perry and Della go to see Mildred, who's a wreck, but says everything's "solved." She's got a gun her mink coat pocket. She also says she never heard of Lola Florey.

Perry goes to Lynk's and the house has been trashed, the phone's off the hook, Lynk's dead and Mildred's prescription is on the floor.

Marlow says he's not surprised Mrs. Kimber questions his interest in orchids, but he's not the first large man to love orchids. Nero Wolfe was famous for it, though he was on the other side of the law.

Tragg has a package of Wonder bread in his bag of groceries. The brand and packaging were fairly new at the time, though it is now a pop culture cliché.

Note the box of prescription medicine Perry finds at Lynk's. Tablets usually came in these white slide-open cardboard boxes at the time. Bottles were only used for liquids. These boxes replaced folded paper, which was common earlier in the century.

This must be the only episode where Mason threatens Burger with a manslaughter charge.

As will become the norm, there is no trial (hiring 12 extras as jurors is expensive). The episode was shot almost entirely at night, another hallmark of the series. Night shooting

was more expensive and most shows and films shot day for night (shooting in daylight then 'stopping down' the camera to darken the picture), but the Mason show had a *noir* look which suited it, and night shooting allowed them to cheat on locations or the backlot—the sets didn't have to be so fancy or as complete.

7. Erle Stanley Gardner's The Case of the Angry Mourner

Original Airdate: November 2, 1957

Directed by William D. Russell

Teleplay by Francis Cockrell

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Sylvia Field Belle Adrian
James Westerfield..... Sheriff Elmore
Joan Weldon Marion Keats
Paul Fix..... District Attorney Hale
Dorothy Adams..... Betsy Burris
Malcolm Atterbury..... Sam Burris
Barbara Eden Carla Adrian
Peter Nelson..... Harvey Delano
Eve McVeagh Nora Fleming
Addison RichardsGeorge Lansing
Eric Sinclair..... Mark Cushing
Harry Tyler..... Court Clerk
William Boyett..... Motor Cop

Something funny's going on over at Mark Cushing's place. The neighbors hear a scream, a shot, breaking glass, then see Belle Adrian in the house with their binoculars. They call the sheriff. The next morning, Mrs. Adrian calls on Perry, who's on a fishing holiday. She's in desperate trouble. There's been a murder. Her daughter Carla had dinner with the victim. Perry says if Carla tells the truth, there should be no problem. But Mrs. Adrian says Cushing had a terrible reputation and she's worried about the notoriety. The sheriff arrives to see Mrs. Adrian. The thing is, it rained heavily after midnight, and the entire

night's events are revealed in the tracks in the neighborhood, including Belle Adrian's footprints from her house to Cushing's and back.

Belle Adrian heard a scream, went there and saw the body, then removed all traces of her daughter's presence in the house. Marion Keats was in love with Cushing, was insanely jealous and wanted to catch him red-handed, so she had his housekeeper call her when he had a date. She's the one who screamed, when she got there and found the body. The neighbor, Sam Burris, is the murderer. He took the gun from Carla's car earlier, waited until she left, shot Cushing, broke some glass, then went home and went to bed. Later, he woke his wife, telling her he heard a shot and breaking glass.

The establishing shot of the exterior and interior with log cabin walls and flagstone was common at the time for a well-appointed cabin at Big Bear or Arrowhead. Many summer cabins still had no electricity, but they were increasingly being upgraded and made more habitable.

The portable screen was a fixture of every home, either for slides or movies (these are 16 mm). The faux rustic furniture with wagon wheels, milk cans and steer horns was popular even in primary homes.

8.

**Erle Stanley Gardner's
The Case of the Crimson Kiss**

Original Airdate: November 9, 1957

Directed by Christian Nyby

Teleplay by Joel Murcott, Walter Doniger and Milton Geiger

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Jean Willes..... Anita Bonsal
Sue England..... Fay Allison
Douglas Dick..... Dane Grover

Gloria McGhee Shirley Tanner
John Holland Carver Clement
Connie Cezon.....Gertie
Joi Lansing Vera Payson
Douglas EvansDon Ralston
Frances Bavier Louise Marlow
John Harmon..... Lab Man
Frank Wilcox Judge Randolph
Howard Culver.....Dr. Hawley

The Mandrake Arms apartment building:

Dane Grover and Fay Allison are getting married in three days. Fay's roommate Anita is a little upset. She used to date Dane. Anita has a date with a married roué in the building, and she's home early. Fay's Aunt Louise arrives in the early hours to find both girls drugged and out cold. She calls Perry (at Clay's Bar and Grill, having his breakfast). He and Della send a doctor and hurry over. Fay would have died if Louise had come the next day as she'd planned. Perry knows it was no accident and searches the apartment. They find keys to two different apartments in the building. They go to #702, where they find the roué dead with a heavily lipsticked kiss mark on his forehead. "Someone bid him a fond, but unfriendly farewell." They leave as another couple arrive and beat on the door. Perry calls Aunt Louise from the lobby and tells her to get the girls in a sanitarium now. Phillip Walsh is the name on the mailbox, but the other couple IDs him as Carver Clement. Tragg is very suspicious. Fay Allison's clothing is in Carver's apartment.

Perry eventually realizes someone in Clement's apartment buzzed in the other couple just before Perry and Della got there, long after Fay and Anita were in a drugged sleep. The woman across the hall, who complained every time anyone knocked. Perry gets a lip print from her in court. They match. She loved him, he promised to get a divorce, then left her. She followed him, sublet

the apartment across the hall, then found out about Anita and Clement. Poisoned his drink. Charge dismissed.

Perry's unconventional move of grabbing Shirley Tanner and pressing her lips against a piece of paper to tie her to the murder would not only be illegal today, but highly risky in a litigious world. You can't get DNA from an uncooperative witness, let alone a lip print.



9.

**Erle Stanley Gardner's
The Case of the Vagabond Vixen**

Original Airdate: November 16, 1957

Directed by Christian Nyby

Teleplay by Al C. Ward

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Robert Ellenstein John Addison
Catherine McLeodLorraine Ferrell
Carol LeighVeronica Dale
Peggy Converse Myrtle Northrup
James AndersonPeter Handsell
Barbara PepperMrs. Dale
Paul Cavanaugh Edgar Ferrell
Robert Carson Sgt. Bent
Pierre Watkin..... Judge Keetley
Perry Ivins.....Print Man
Russell Trent Neff
Jack GarganCourt Clerk
Lee Miller Deputy Sheriff

It's an odd scene on a dark, seaside road. A man drops a woman off with instructions and drives away. Shortly, a Hollywood producer picks her up and then drives to a

house. He quells her jitters with the offer of a movie deal. Veronica Dale is impressed with the house, which he says his studio owns and uses for location shoots. Once they're inside, a series of bizarre events begins. Headlights, she hides then exits from the back, then she hears a gunshot. She runs down the road to a pay phone and tries to reach Peter Handsell. Another man sees her and she asks for a ride; he agrees. His registration says John Addison. Addison is also in the movies and hires Perry to get Veronica out of jail. She was arrested for vagrancy after he dropped her off. Perry is very sweet and she's very grateful, and he thinks she's headed home to Albuquerque. But Veronica starts work at Addison's studio the next day and her mother arrives in town, leaving \$100 for Perry, as a fee for his services. Perry hotfoots it to Addison's office; he hired her, and says Peter Handsell, a scandal magazine writer blackmails Addison to the tune of \$10,000. Perry is confronted with a lot of suspects but when "everybody with a selfish motive was ruled out, we had to look for someone with an unselfish one." It's Myrtle Northrup, she was trying to protect Addison. She posed as Veronica's mother so there would be no connection between the girl and Addison. Perry just might defend Myrtle...after all, Addison came at her with a poker.



Ferrell drives a 1957 Lincoln Premiere convertible coupe.

Below is a scene with Perry arriving at 'Fidelity Studios.' This is really the Desilu Cahuenga lot.



10.

Erle Stanley Gardner's

The Case of the Runaway Corpse

Original Airdate: November 23, 1957

Directed by Christian Nyby

Teleplay by Malvin Wald and Jack Jacobs

Producer Ben Brady

Executive Producer Gail Patrick Jackson

Associate Producer Sam White

Story Editor Gene Wang

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

June Dayton Myrna Devenport
 James Maloney Dr. Renault
 Sarah Selby Louise Ansel
 Adam Williams Jason Beckmeyer
 Rebecca Welles Rita Norge
 John Stephenson Ed Davenport
 Michael Fox Dr. Hoxie
 William Challee Mr. Medford
 Keith Alan Officer Boom
 Robin Morse Dr. Mitchell
 Martha Wentworth Motel Manager
 Jack Kenney Kelly
 Ed Jerome Judge

Jack Harris Court Clerk

The mortality rate in Myrna Davenport's family is shocking. First her cousin Charles dies, then her husband Ed has his sandwiches analyzed and finds arsenic in them. He accuses Myrna of trying to kill him and killing her cousin. He's put it all in a letter to be given to the police if he dies. He moves to a motel, where he's immediately falls deathly ill. Myrna's cousin Louise intercepts a call from a local doctor and takes Myrna and Ed's letter to Perry first. They then go to the motel, where Ed's dying words accuse Myrna of poisoning the candy in his suitcase. The doctor calls the police. Louise calls Perry sending him and Della to get the letter from Ed's real estate office. A stunning brunette arrives and peers in Davenport's office. She leaves when she sees Perry. Perry checks the books and finds a \$17,300 withdrawal today, the entry in a woman's hand. Then they get an anonymous call, saying "Unit 13, Desert Motel, Bakerstown." Perry sends Paul to investigate. Perry steams open the sealed envelope to find several blank pages. Then Tragg and the cops get to the motel and find Ed Davenport's body is gone. The cops storm Davenport's office, called by the brunette. The brunette, Ed's secretary Rita Norge, says the letter is in her desk. Then Myrna calls Perry to report the lively corpse of Ed Davenport.

Then someone finds Ed's body buried in a dump. Hamilton offers Perry a deal if Myrna pleads guilty but he isn't having any. In retaliation, Burger accuses Perry of tampering with evidence. Paul and Perry catch Rita Norge cleaning out Ed's office. There's evidence he's recently sold off all his investments. Perry goes to Tragg to sic him on Rita, but the tables are turned when Tragg brings out the receipt he gave her when she turned in the \$17,300 she withdrew the day of Ed's death. At trial, Perry exposes Dr. Renault

as an uncredentialed quack who conspired with Ed to stage his death. Beckmeyer found Renault for Ed Davenport. He also helped Ed juggle his wife's money into fraudulent bank accounts. He owns a house trailer. Under his relentless grilling, he admits killing Ed for being so cocky and framing his wife and for the money he siphoned out of Ed's bank accounts. Ed also killed uncle Charlie, so his wife could be an heiress, he could steal the money and then disappear. Davenport put the blank pages into the letter to convince the cops it had been tampered with.

Della suggests "invisible ink" when she and Perry find Ed's letter to the authorities filled with blank pages of paper. As every kid used to know, if you write a letter using lemon juice as ink--for this you need a fountain pen or quill pen--the words are invisible until the sheet of paper is passed over heat such as the flame of a candle or lighter, when the words suddenly appear.

San Fernando Road does exist--it runs from near downtown L.A. all the way across the San Fernando Valley. There was no Vista Motel on the street at the time. Bakerstown is a fictionalized version of Bakersfield a (then) largely agricultural community north of Los Angeles.

June Dayton (Myrna) played Mary Aldrich on The Aldrich Family, a popular TV series based on an even more popular radio comedy. Sarah Selby (who plays Myrna's cousin Louise) was a regular (as Miss Thomas) on Father Knows Best and she played Ma Smalley, who ran the boarding house in Gunsmoke's Dodge City.

This show's a car-lover's dream. It has:

- '57 Chevy (doc);
- '57 Pontiac Star Chief convertible coupe 2-tone (victim);
- '57 Cadillac Series Sixty-Two Sedan de Ville convertible (dark)(Perry);

- '57 white Buick Special convertible (Rita Norge);
- '57 black Buick Special sedan (Tragg)--Specials had 3 holes, Roadmasters and Centurys had four;
- '57 2-tone corvette convertible coupe (Paul).

11.

Erle Stanley Gardner's The Case of the Crooked Candle

Original Airdate: November 30, 1957

Directed by Christian Nyby

Teleplay by Robert Tallman

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Nancy Gates Martha Bradford
Whit Bissell..... Larry Sands
Doris Singleton . Rita [Wassell Bradford]
Robert Clarke Jack Harper
Francis McDonald Capt. Noble
Henry Corden Nikolides
Bruce Cowling Joe Bradford
Frank Wilcox Judge Newark
Helene Santley Receptionist
Hal Taggart Clerk

Two Mrs. Joseph Bradfords show up at the same Beverly Hills salon at the same time--one a blonde, one a brunette. They each have a house key for the same house at 741 N. Marquette Dr. Meanwhile, Joseph Bradford, land developer, talks to his associate, Jack Harper. He's heading for San Diego on business. One of the wives calls him and he's impatient but agrees to meet her at a coffee shop at 5:00. Harper is surprised; he knows Joe has no intention of keeping the date. That night, the blonde is at home when the brunette lets herself in with her own key and sneaks into the bedroom while the other Mrs. Bradford is investigating the noises and removes a gun from the dresser and leaves.



The brunette, Martha, goes to Perry. He calls Harper, who says Joe is in Skinner Hills. Perry and Martha go up there and are met by Nikolides, who says if Joe comes there, he'll shoot him. Larry Sands, Joe's surveyor. Joe bought this land and discovered oil. Nikolides will have to get his sheep out soon. Perry confronts Harper, who says he was told to say that. Joe's on the Mary Belle, his boat. Martha and Joe have been married a year and Harper's quite happy to hear they may not be legally married.



Perry and Della find the boat in the basin and Bradford's body on it. There's a crooked candle on a table, but it didn't burn crooked. Perry talks to Martha and the family homestead. Tragg takes her away. Paul learns Rita Bradford was divorced from Joe

some time ago in Mexico. As Paul's drooling over the photo, she comes to see Perry. She was on the Mary Belle last night, and saw her husband dead. But in a different position than the way Perry found him. She's staying at a motel. Perry wants Burger to release Martha, but the D.A.'s got a shoe of Martha's with blood on it. Larry and Harper meet on the boat, looking for clues. Harper tells Sands he was in love with Martha. Later, Sands confesses to the murder. Burger doesn't buy it.



Rita has no memory of being divorced or, in fact, of the last two years. She fought with Joe and got on a train to New York and remembers nothing until she found herself on Wilshire Blvd. Nikolides disappears and that night, Perry and Della go to the Mary Belle. They light a candle. At 2:30 am, the boat goes aground and lists heavily to starboard, tipping the candle and shifting a dummy they set up in the position Rita saw him. It is now in the position in which Perry found him. In court, Perry calls an old salt to testify. The Mary Belle was grounded at low tide, like always. The channel needs dredging. She was listing 18-20 degrees. Perry uses a model to illustrate what he and Della experienced on the boat. Sands claims to love Martha too. His

phony confession had one flaw. He mentioned the candle in the hurricane lamp, which was broken later and the candle was not mentioned in the press. He killed him because he loved Martha. He didn't realize she loved Harper.

The Two Mrs. Bradfords is a suspense thriller film starring Barbara Stanwyck.

The set for Bradford's office is the same one used for episode #14. Only the names on the doors have been changed.

This episode also has yet another pattern of lurid wallpaper inside someone's home. We're not seeing what is now considered '50s wallpaper yet in the show—these are the busy, darker patterns of the late '40s and early '50s.

The first Mrs. Bradford says the beauty shop is on Wilshire Blvd. In Beverly Hills. Wilshire does pass through Beverly Hills and there certainly could have been several beauty shops on the street, though it is more likely they would have been on one of the cross streets.

Sponsors for this episode were Sweetheart soap, Dutch cleanser, Trend, Beads O'Bleach.

The scene in the boat harbor is quite remarkable for TV. Not only did they shoot Hale and Burr actually going out in a dinghy, but boarding a sailboat and the whole thing is shot from several angles. Inside the boat, things are authentic too. Note the rails around the table holding the crooked candle. These keep things from sliding off the table when at sea.

Most drama shows that did exterior scenes arranged a tie-in with an automobile manufacturer, who supplied the cars for the principal characters on the series. *The Perry Mason Show* switched in this episode from General Motors cars to Ford products.

Perry drives a black '57 Ford Fairlane 500 Sunliner convertible. In 1957 fins were in. Chevrolet introduced a new body design for

the second year in a row (the big three automakers generally stuck to a style with slight modifications for several years), but Ford outsold Chevy in '57 with this simple but superbly designed streamlined car, available in 6-cylinder and V-8 models, with prices ranging from \$1879 to \$3408. Safety features introduced in '57 included a dished steering wheel, padded dashboards and seatbelts were available for \$9 extra. The reason you see more '57 Chevys today than '57 Fords were that Ford was slower than G.M. in introducing undercoat rustproofing and the '57 Fords were very prone to rust.

1957 was also the last year for some time with cars having only single headlights--which handled both regular and high-beam duties. In 1958 the industry switched to dual lights on each side, both were on when in the high-beam mode.



12. Erle Stanley Gardner's *The Case of the Negligent Nymph*

Original Airdate: December 7, 1957

Directed by Christian Nyby

Teleplay by Richard Grey

Producer Ben Brady

Executive Producer Gail Patrick Jackson

Associate Producer Sam White
Story Editor Gene Wang
Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman,
Collins, Cezon

Guests:

Joan BanksKaren Adler
David Lewis George Adler
James Griffith..... Arthur Dorian
Peggy Castle..... Sally Fenner
Nadja Posey..... Nina Santos
James NusserJudge
Forrest Lewis.....Dr. Murray
John Cliff Guard Hess
Robert Tafur.....Martinez
Troy Melton Patrolman
Irene Calvillo Waitress
Elvira CoronaDancer
Michael Kopcha..... Police Photographer

A beachcomber finds a note implicating George Alder in the death of his wealthy aunt Agatha. He blackmails him for \$50. Karen Adler is an alcoholic and a nuisance. Adler calls Sally, his secretary, to keep Karen out of his way. Karen's contemptuous of him. Sally's not impressed with George, and he accuses her of stealing \$10,000 from his aunt's accounts right before she died. Paul and Perry are coming in from a fishing trip. Sally breaks into George's office to look at the note the beachcomber brought, without noticing George's body on the floor. When she makes a noise, the guard and his doberman go into action. She goes into the ocean. Paul and Perry rescue her. She tells Perry the truth about what she was doing. The next day, Sally comes to Perry's office [looking adorable in Perry's turtleneck and pants, but her makeup is perfect!] and Perry tells her the bad news. Perry talks to Karen, who's "clinical" about George's shortcomings. The Alder's don't divorce. She says George killed Agatha.

Nina Santos was Agatha's companion and maid. Karen says Sally didn't do it. Perry and Paul talk to Nina. She says there was a terrible storm the night Agatha died. The note is too perfectly typed for those conditions. But Nina says "madame was too good a sailor to have such an accident." Perry figures Nina owns the restaurant. Tragg finds Sally, even though Della has her stashed, so Tragg hauls in Della too. Perry takes the blame and gets Della out of Burger's clutches, and uses the law to get out himself. Tragg brings in Dorian. He has the original note and Tragg has the typewriter on which it was typed--from Sally's apartment. Burger catches Karen in perjury trying to protect Sally. Perry forces her to confess to putting the note in the bottle. And to killing her husband.

We're back with the GM cars—shows didn't air in the same sequence they were shot. Paul drives a sporty Corvette

*Peggy Castle (Sally Fenner) played Lily Merrill on the western series *The Lawman* from 1959 to 1962. Joan Banks (Karen Alder) used her distinctive voice to become a veteran radio actress with dozens of credits on both drama shows and soap operas. She's probably best known for playing Susie's slightly bitchy friend Sylvia on *Private Secretary* from 1953-57.*

13.

**Erle Stanley Gardner's
The Case of the Moth-Eaten Mink**

Original Airdate: December 14, 1957

Directed by Ted Post

Teleplay by Laurence Marks and Ben Starr

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Douglas Kennedy Sgt. Jaffrey
Robert Osterloh Morey Allen
Kay Faylen..... Dixie Dayton
Than Wyenn..... Frank Hoxie

Roxanne Arlen.....Mae Nolan
Grandon RhodesJudge Lennox
Marc Krah George Fayette
Connie Cezon..... Gertie
Brian Hutton.....Parking Attendant
Jack Gargan Baliff
Lyn GuildDrake's Operator

A waitress is shot at, then run down in front of a restaurant where Perry and Della are dining. Anticipating the police's imminent visit, Morey, the owner, asks Perry and Della to take charge of the waitress' slightly moth-eaten mink. They agree, then Perry finds an Oregon pawn ticket hidden behind the label. He also questions Morey about a man (George Fayette) in the restaurant who was remarkably incurious during the police questioning of Morey. Perry calls Tragg to ask him to put Dixie under guard. Paul checks the pawn ticket, but his associate reports the cops were already there. She pawned two things, a diamond engagement ring and a Smith & Wesson police special. Then she disappears from the hospital. Fayette was arrested for bookmaking three years ago. Dixie's pawn ticket was for a gun used in the killing of a police officer a year ago. Perry is worried: "The lawyer doesn't live who could get an acquittal for anyone in possession of that gun." Tragg collects the mink.

Morey calls Mason in a panic; he's with Dixie in a hotel room. Perry gets there and the room's empty. There's a message in lipstick for help under a table, but Perry tells Paul it's a trap; it's too perfectly written. There's a further message referring to the phone book, a Mr. Granton, the address Fayette gave when he was picked up. Then Paul and Perry find Fayette's body in another room. Tragg finds them. Tragg and a cop, Jaffrey, lean on P&P, hard. Perry levels with Tragg, but Jaffrey gets more surly. Tragg wants Dixie and Morey real bad. They pick them up in the morning. Perry

finds Morey in the slammer. He says Dixie's engaged to his half-brother, who's the suspected cop killer. Perry defends them for the murder of Fayette. The hotel clerk id's the dead cop as a visitor to Fayette's room the night before he died. Jaffrey comes to Perry's office; Perry accuses him of killing the cop and Fayette. He also owns the hotel where Fayette was killed. Tragg shoots him in Perry's office.



The set for Morey's Restaurant is lavish by TV standards at the time. It's obviously a set built for a film.

Dixie Dayton is hit by a 1955 Chevrolet. The hospital she's taken to is L.A. County General, near downtown L.A.

Note the screaming '50s light fixture in Paul Drake's office which resembles a flying saucer (lots of things did in those days--Perry's wall sconces look like rockets). It was attached like a conventional ceiling fixture, the cord was wrapped with a woven silken thread and the metal double cone device just above the fixture itself contained reels. You could raise or lower the fixture by pulling on the knob attached to the bottom frosted plexiglass disk and the slack from the cord was automatically wound into the double cone.

Note than Paul and Perry have the same headboard on their beds; a cost saving.

Los Angeles already had its phone directories split into districts in 1957 and it was common for people to have books for several adjoining districts and hotels did too. Hotels commonly put their phone books in padded vinyl covers as they are in the scenes at the Keymont Hotel, though it wasn't usually done by places as sleazy as this one is.

14.

Erle Stanley Gardner's The Case of the Baited Hook

Original Airdate: December 21, 1957

Directed by Christian Nyby

Teleplay by Richard Grey

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Geraldine Wall..... Abigail E. Leeds
Willard Sage.....Robert Dawson
Judith Braun Carol Stanley
Alfred Hopson Richard Ellis
Mary Castle Enid Shaw
George Neise Albert Tydings
Connie Cezon.....Gertie
Peg WhitmanReceptionist
Lyle LatellOfficer
Frank MarloweJanitor
Maurice McEndreeOperative

Investment counselor Robert Dawson is livid. He accuses his partner, Albert Tydings, of embezzling \$80,000 from one of their client's trust accounts. To Dawson's fury, Tydings doesn't shake or sweat--he smirks. He's got a file of photostats that makes Dawson shut up fast. Then Tydings accuses the bookkeeper, Ellis, of stealing \$20,000 from the same account, that of Carol Stanley. Ellis, the original 98-pound weakling, is furious. Tydings' secretary doesn't like him either.



Carol Stanley calls to complain and Tydings makes an appointment to see her that night. She comes to the office and he's dead. At midnight, [note the clock turned conveniently toward the camera, not toward the room as it should be] Perry gets a call from a man asking for his help. He acts strangely when he gets to Perry's apartment, along with a heavily veiled woman. He gives Perry \$2,000 retainer and half a \$10,000 bill for a possible retainer. They both remain anonymous. He gives the other bill half to the woman. The next day, Abigail Leeds appears. She's a brash old broad who "gets what she wants." She rescued a child, Carol, from the Holocaust. Being single, she put the child in a home, which later sold the girl for \$1,000. It took her five years to find out where she was. She was happy with the Stanley family, and she saw no reason to disrupt their lives. They died and left Carol a trust fund "in six figures" with "that crook Tydings" as trustee.

As Abigail is no relative, Perry declines to act. She promises to bring Carol that afternoon. Paul finds out the \$10,000 bill was issued to Tydings. He and Paul go to his home. There is blood on the front step and a body in the closet. Carol and Mrs. Leeds come to Perry's office. He tells them Tydings is dead. Tragg shows up looking for Mrs. Leeds. He asks her if she threatened him. "If

I'd had a horse whip, I'd have thrashed him!." She flummoxes Tragg. Dawson's wrecked car is found by a lake, the gas pedal wired to the floor. Perry and Paul play reporters to check out the car and then break into Tydings' office with Della's help. "Comfortable? So's the city jail." Perry goes over the books. He finds an empty small caliber shell on the floor. Why was Tydings killed there and then taken to his home. Perry knows Enid Shaw, his secretary, had something going with Tydings. Tragg comes and Paul is delayed giving Perry the warning. He puts the shell back on the floor and takes Della out the window onto the fire escape. Paul shows Perry a photo of Dawson (the man who retained Perry) and says the cops have found bloodstains in Dawson's car. Paul's man finds Dawson and a woman in a motel. Perry and Paul find Dawson and Carol about to flee. Tragg is there too. Carol is charged with murder and Dawson as accessory. Dawson thought by moving the body, he'd give Carol an alibi.

Perry and Della check out the Leeds apartment (Della: "I suppose you have a court order for justifiable snooping"). They find baby photos and five years worth of cancelled checks to Ellis. He confronts him--he was with the home Carol was placed in. He wants Tydings' blackmail file. He collected the file and blackmailed Mrs. Leeds and then sold it to Tydings. Perry figures out Carol is Mrs. Leeds' daughter and is sure she killed Tydings. She proceeds to jail with spirit and elegance. Della takes care of Perry, who has a cold. "I'm a very handy girl to have around."

Note the continuity glitch in the opening scenes. Carol Stanley meets Tydings at his office at 8 p.m., but it's noon-bright outside. It still is after the murder when Carol's friend calls Perry, who's in his pajamas, robe, and asleep in his living room chair.

Clay's Grille address 1248 (no street).

Mrs. Leeds lives on Rossmore--an actual street which borders the Wilshire Country Club and goes through Hancock Park, a very, very nice area of Los Angeles and an enclave of old money and site of the official residence of the mayor of Los Angeles.

Perry--black '57 Cadillac Coupe de Ville convertible.



Robert Dawson--white '54 Pontiac Starchief Catalina 4-door sedan.

Carol Stanley--2-tone Pontiac Star Chief convertible (odd considering her wealth, that she didn't get the pricier, flashier Bonneville). You can see the car's elaborate tail fins later in the show.

15.

Erle Stanley Gardner's

The Case of the Fan Dancer's Horse

Original Airdate: December 28, 1957

Directed by William D. Russell

Teleplay by Stirling Silliphant

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Susan Cummings.....Lois Fenton
 Scott Elliott Arthur Sheldon
 Judy TylerCherie Chi-Chi
 Robert Bice..... Faulkner
 Minerva Urecal Landlady
 Hugh Sanders John Callender

Sydney SmithJudge Donahue
 John Brinkley..... Jasper Fenton
 Connie Cezon..... Gertie
 Rusty Westcoatt Sgt. Holcomb
 James Nolan Meeker
 Herbert C. Lytton Dr. Lambert

Perry and Della are on their way back to L.A. when they witness a hit-and-run accident near the entrance to John Callender's ranch. The driver of the damaged car is an old woman who speaks only Spanish. She seems unhurt and another driver stops and offers to take her to the hospital. Perry tries to return a package which has spilled out on the road, but the woman leaves without it. It contains the "complete wardrobe" of a fan dancer--an ostrich-feather fan and a pair of high heels.

Perry advertises the fan dancer's property in the classifieds and rancher John Callender answers the ad. He carries a note from Lois Fenton, aka Cherie Chi-Chi, authorizing him to pick up a racehorse. Perry says he has nothing that answers the property. Perry and Della check out Cherie Chi-Chi's act that night. She thought it was the horse but realizes it was the fans, her 'favorites.' She busses a flummoxed Perry.

He finds her later at a hotel with Arthur Sheldon, who told Gertie there is a 'real' Lois Fenton. He says she needs legal help and protection from Callender, her husband, who's blackmailing her. After a night when nearly everybody visited Callender, Perry and Paul then find Callender's body with a knife in the back.

One of the Mason-isms is in this episode. As in a number of shows, Perry orders Della to check a client into a motel, sometimes under their own name (so that Lt. Tragg can't claim Perry was hiding a suspect or witness even though the motel is way out of town), other times under a fictitious name.

Perry mentions Jackson, but he's not in the episode.

Madison 5-1190 is the police phone number. Madison was a real downtown exchange.

Paul's operative uses the transom over the motel room door and a periscope to watch the hall. Transoms were common for cross ventilation before air conditioning. Cardboard periscopes were common in Europe—used by children to watch parades.

'Vine St. Records' is actually Wallachs Music City at Sunset and Vine.

Perry mentions Tehachapi Woman's prison and San Quentin, both actual correctional facilities.

16.

Erle Stanley Gardner's

The Case of the Demure Defendant

Original Airdate: January 4, 1958

Directed by Laslo Benedek

Teleplay by Ben Brady and Richard Grey

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Christine White..... Nadine
Clem Bevans..... Capt. Hugo
Fay Baker..... Marion Newburn
Walter Coy Lester Newburn
Barry Atwater Dr. Denair
Sherwood Price..... John Locke
Alexander Campbell..... Wellman
Moris Ankrum..... Judge
Connie Cezon Gertie
Maurice Manson..... Dr. Granvy
Steven Geray Korbell

Nadine Marshall is afraid to tell her uncle Martin she's engaged to chemist John Locke and with good reason: when he hears about it, he shows her something that strikes terror in her heart. At the lab, she asks John if they aren't rushing things. When he's not looking,

she steals some cyanide and puts it in a saccharine bottle. At home, she fixes uncle Martin his hot chocolate. He has some horrid, greedy relatives with him. He says he's cutting Nadine out of his will. He's leaving his estate to the Hartford Medical Foundation. Marian and Lester are stunned. Marian fixes his chocolate, with some saccharine from Nadine's bottle. That night, uncle Martin dies from the cocoa. Nadine tells all to a psychiatrist, to whom she confesses under truth serum. She went to the lake and threw in the saccharine bottle. He goes to Perry, who tells him he's got to go to the police. Perry plays the tape for Nadine, who's horrified. A nosy nurse calls Tragg. Perry retrieves the bottle from the lake. He has it analyzed. Nadine disappears from the hospital and Tragg gets the bottle from the chemist. Psychiatrist: "I'm glad I'm not in your shoes." Perry: "Now that you mention it, Bob, they do pinch a little." The bottle contains pure saccharine. Tragg is confused. Tragg also has the tape of Nadine's confession.

Tragg sends divers back to the lake and they find another bottle, this time with cyanide. Perry's in trouble. He finds John and tells him they've got to see Nadine. The cops arrive and Della tells John he and Nadine better get married so he can't testify against her. He escapes. An old codger who lives with Nadine and Martin, Capt. Hugo, tells Perry Nadine didn't do it. He told Lester that Nadine did it. Perry confronts Hugo again. He accuses him. He took the cyanide out of her purse when John called him that night when he noticed it missing.

This episode is filled with terrific cars and we learn the L.A.P.D. black-and-whites are '57 Chevys. In the 1960s, the department switched to Chrysler products for its squad cars, and stayed with them for years. They have recently switched back to Chevys.

When Perry talks to Nadine about her fears she has a "bad seed," he refers to the 1956 film, *The Bad Seed*, which was a sensation at the time, with Patty McCormack as the child who has inherited evil.

17.

"Erle Stanley Gardner's

The Case of the Sun Bather's Diary

Original Airdate: January 11, 1958

Directed by Ted Post

Teleplay by Gene Wang

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Susan Morrow Arlene Dowling
Carl Betz..... Dr. Chandler
Gertrude Michael..... Helen Rucker
Peter Leeds Bill Emory
Ralph Moody George L. Ballard
Connie Cezon..... Gertie
Kenneth MacDonald..... Judge
Paul Brinegar..... Tom Sackett
Walter Reed Detective Myers
Nesdon Booth..... Mr. Hartsel
Jon Locke Sam Elliott
John Pickard..... Sergeant Neil

It hasn't been a good year for Arlene Dowling. Ten months ago, her father was convicted of embezzling \$400,000 from his bank, and now, while sun bathing *al fresco*, her house trailer is stolen from under her nose. It contains her diary--the record of her ten-month investigation into her father's wrongful conviction. She goes to Perry, who agrees to search for it for \$1,500 and she immediately agrees. He tells her if she's lying he will "throw her to the wolves without compunction."

He advertises for the trailer and gets results. It's in a used trailer lot and Perry is confounded when Arlene peels off \$2,500 to pay for it, no questions asked. Her father's friend, George Ballard, is bankrolling her. He's

also the other man with a key to the armored truck. Perry locates the driver, Bill Emory, who is out of work and bitter. Arlene pays off Perry with a \$1000 and a \$500 bill, which gets his curiosity up. Perry is in trouble over the cash, though he circumvents the grand jury.

Later, he talks to George about the robbery and George tells him one serial number he remembers. He is very friendly and cordial, but Perry's suspicious. He looks at the money from Arlene, sees the number George mentioned, and rolls it in a window shade. Meanwhile, the cops have the place staked out, see Arlene sneak in the back, see the window shade roll down. They go in and find George dead with a knife in the back.

To at least one generation, Carl Betz will always be Dr. Alex Stone, loving husband and father on The Donna Reed Show. He also starred in (and won an Emmy for) Judd for the Defense.

Make sure you watch the wrap-up scene between Perry and Della. Without spoiling the plot for the viewer, let's just say that Perry does something unexpected and Della's so impressed with his beneficence, she kisses him, rather more enthusiastically than needed. Then there's a rather suggestive exchange between them which is interrupted by Burger.

Perry's office phone number MAdison 5-1190, again a real downtown exchange.

18.

Erle Stanley Gardner's The Case of the Cautious Coquette

Original Airdate: January 18, 1958

Directed by Laslo Benedek

Teleplay by Leo Townsend and Gene Wang

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Virginia GreggSheila Cromwell
Donald Randolph Stephen Argyle
Kipp Hamilton..... Elaine Barton

Harry Jackson Harry Pitkin
Chester Stratton Bates
Sid Clute Frederick Arms
James Seay..... Ross Hollister
Sydney Smith Judge Osborn
K. L. Smith..... Joe Raymond
Brett Halsey..... Robert Finchley
Ed Hinton..... Sheriff Mark Daley
Stephen Ellsworth Sgt. Kenny
Ralph Sanford Pat
Jeanne Bates Western Union Clerk
Paul Hahn..... Sgt. Davis
Weaver Levy Jimmy
Jack Gargan..... Court Clerk

Model Elaine Barton is walking a delicate line between her estranged husband, who's trying to blackmail her, and her wealthy fiancé, who is impatient to get married. Perry's investigating a hit and run in which a client was injured and gets an anonymous note enclosing Elaine's apartment key and the information that she witnessed the accident.

Harry Pitkin is a class A jerk. He's not only leaning on Elaine (and didn't get the divorce when he said he would), he's up to his neck in other problems.

Meanwhile, Perry's trying to find the car that hit his Robert Finchly, his client, and after using the key to find Elaine, who knows nothing about all this, tracks down Pitkin's boss, Stephen Argyle, who seems to have a solid alibi. Then Hollister disappears and Elaine is arrested for killing Pitkin.

Watch when Perry checks the license plate on Stephen Argyle's car. The "plate" is obviously cardboard and you can see the real metal plate behind it. Most studios have a variety of fictitious cardboard license plates available for filming, but they're not usually used in insert shots like this or affixed over a real metal plate. Just a tiny post-production

error in a show that was usually very carefully crafted.

Insert shots--close-ups of a hand holding a letter, a hand adding knockout drops to a drink or any other detail--are done by the post-production staff of a show. They are filmed without the stars present, after the rest of the episode has been filmed. So if you see a closeup of Perry holding something, it's generally not his hand. The people in post also add music, sound effects and the opticals (dissolves, cuts, special effects).



Virginia Gregg (Ross Hollister's colleague Sheila) had an illustrious career as a top-level character actress, a singer and a voice-over actress on radio, television and cartoons. She was a regular on the radio show, Gunsmoke and made her TV debut on the subsequent TV version, appearing in eight episodes. She appears in many episodes of Perry Mason, Dragnet and Ben Casey. She appeared in more than a dozen TV-movies.

There is no Broadmoor Country Club in the Los Angeles area.

Argyle's car is a white '55 Cadillac Series 62 sedan. Note the rear fender skirts--a common accessory at the time. The only Cadillac that didn't have them was the Eldorado.

19.

**Erle Stanley Gardner's
The Case of the Haunted Husband
Original Airdate: January 25, 1958**

Directed by Lewis Allen

Teleplay by Gene Wang

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Karen SteeleDoris Stephanak
Grant Richards.....Jerry Heywood
Patricia Hardy..... Claire Olger
Fredd Wayne Tanner
Helen Westcott..... Marcia Greeley
John Hubbard.....Michael Greeley
Harlan Warde..... Harold Hanley
Herb Vigran Charlie (Bartender)
Sydney SmithJudge
Jack Gargan..... Court Clerk

Claire Olger is on her way to L.A. when her money and bus tickets are stolen, so she hitchhikes the rest of the way. The tuxedoed man who picks her up is drinking and they hit a truck, killing the driver. The trouble is, the drunk leaves the scene and no one believes Claire did not steal the car and cause the accident.

Doris Stephanak, a friend of Claire's, convinces Perry to take the case. The car's owner is Magnum Pictures' film producer, Jerry Heywood, who's a bit of a mystery man. He insists his car was stolen. But Perry's convinced that Heywood knows the man who was driving--after all, what thief steals cars wearing a tuxedo? Heywood has problems enough; he's got a script deadline, he has no insurance, and a secretary/valet who is planning to blackmail Heywood. By the way, Heywood does know who was driving--Michael Greeley--the husband of his lover, Marsha Greeley, and the publicist for Magnum Pictures.

But no sooner has Perry bailed out Claire and stashed her in a motel, when another body turns up...in Claire's motel room.

When Doris calls Perry with the information about Jerry Heywood's car having a 5,000-mile checkup, it's important to remember that most people at the time were careful about auto servicing because warranties could be voided and a car's resale value diminished if servicing wasn't done on schedule. Also, cars needed more lubrication and adjustment than they do now and the required service schedule maintained these.

Karen Steele (Doris Stephanak) appeared in a number of films, including *Marty*, *The Rise and Fall of Legs Diamond*, and *Ride Lonesome*. Grant Richards (Jerry Heywood) starred in an early TV series, *Doorway to Danger*, as Doug Carter, number one agent of a top-secret government agency, whose dangerous assignments took him all over the world.

**20. Erle Stanley Gardner's
The Case of the Lonely Heiress**

Original Airdate: February 1, 1958

Directed by Laslo Benedek

Written by Donald S. Sanford

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Robert H. Harris Edmund Lacey
Anna NavarroDelores Coterro
L. Q. JonesCharles Barnaby
Kathleen Crowley Marilyn Clark
Richard Crane George Moore
Betty Lou Gerson Agnes Sims
Gail Kobe..... Margo
Robert Williams Lt. Kramer
Frank WilcoxJudge
Robert McQueeney Dr. L. J. Palmer

Is that Paul reading the rag, *Lonely Hearts Calling*? Yes, because its publisher is desperate. A personal ad placed by an heiress has drawn hundreds of replies. The letters are picked up every day by a young man who gets violent whenever the publisher,

Edmund Lacey tries to follow her. He goes to Paul to try and find the heiress because the postal authorities think the ad is fake. Paul begins by composing an irresistible letter, signing it 'Charles B. Barnaby.' And Paul's letter is the first one Marilyn Clark responds to. She invites him to her apartment. But Lacey is fast: he's intercepted her reply and sends his own man in as Barnaby and he's convincing. He calls Paul to cancel the job. But Charlie Bailey, *nee* Barnaby, has a girlfriend, who's very jealous. Charlie and Lacey discuss the split and the size of the eventual spoils, which they estimate to be \$75,000 or more. Charlie lands his fish. They marry and Delores explodes, interrupting the happy couple's champagne toast and Marilyn flees. It's part of their usual scam, but this time, after Delores hits him, he falls and Charlie is dead. She's distraught, but Tragg tells her he was poisoned.

Marilyn's step-brother comes to Perry's office and asks him to represent her. In a mountain cabin, Marilyn tells Perry why she did it. Her sister Helen advertised in a lonely hearts magazine, fell in love with Charlie, got taken for \$16,000 and got pregnant. She was out to trap him with her money. Perry traps Delores on the stand into admitting she killed him because he actually intended to marry Marilyn and go to Rio.

There were many magazines like *Lonely Hearts Calling* at the time. The fact that Lacey also publishes something called *Tattle* fits, too. There were even more sleazy tabloid magazines then, usually published by the same publishers. Sleaze always sells.

**21.
Erle Stanley Gardner's
The Case of the Green-Eyed Sister**

Original Airdate: February 8, 1958

Directed by Christian Nyby

Teleplay by Richard Grey

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Connie CezonGertie
Virginia VincentHarriet Bain
Dan Riss..... Arthur West
Robin Hughes Addison Doyle
Tina CarverSylvia Bain
Carl Benton Reid.....Ned Bain
James BellJ. J. Stanley
Morris Ankrum.....Judge
Dennis King, Jr..... Dr. Hanover
Alan GiffordDr. Fisher
Charles TannenNight Clerk
Leonard Bell Taxi Driver
Jack Gargan Court Clerk

Harriet Bain is living the dream of every plain girl--she's engaged to a wealthy socialite writer. But the dream is about to turn into a nightmare. Her father Ned gets a call from J.J. Stanley. A private dick has discovered they're the ones who robbed the Texas National Bank ten years ago. The detective, Arthur West, then tries to extort money from Harriet. Her fiancée, Addison Doyle would drop her if he hears of the scandal. She pleads with Della to let her see Perry, who's about to leave for London. Della talks Perry into staying. Paul says West is a shady character and Perry sends him to find Stanley, and Della to get a magnet. He and Harriet go to West's and listen to the tape, which Perry cleverly demagnetizes. It's suddenly blank. He figures West will go to his master tape, which should show splices. Harriet's father says it's a fraud, and he wants to fight it. He says he's in oil and J.J. backed him in a wildcat strike and he struck oil. He paid J.J. all he owned him, but he hit the bottle some time ago. He gives Perry a free hand to finish off West. Harriet's step-sister, the beautiful Sylvia, is very flirty with Addison. Then Harriet sees her ill father sneak out of the house late

at night. He finds J.J. and says he's going to take care of West. Paul tracks down J.J. too, across the hall from Wes. Perry and Della go to see West and find Harriet in West's apartment with J.J.'s body. West appears later and "discovers the body." The body's cold.

Bain has another heart attack. The original tape is under his pillow. Tragg gets it. He arrests Harriet--her fingerprints are all over the icepick that killed J.J. It's Perry's sharpness that discovers that J.J.'s body was in his deep freeze. Harriet couldn't have lifted it and it changes the time of death. West is arrested. Addison's true colors emerge and he dumps her and goes to the bus locker where he's got West's payoff money stashed. He killed J.J. for the money. Sylvia was only trying to break his hold on Harriet, since she knew he was slime. But Harriet gets a complete makeover and she has a seat on the plane to Europe with Perry. Bain did embezzle the money from the bank.

The frosted glass front door to Stanley's seedy hotel is the same set door used in Morey's Café in episode #13.



22.

**Erle Stanley Gardner's
The Case of the Fugitive Nurse**

Original Airdate: February 15, 1958

Directed by Laslo Benedek

Teleplay by Al C. Ward and Gene Wang

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Shepherd Strudwick Dr. Morris
Bethel Leslie Janet Morris
Dabbs Greer.....Dave Kirby
Maxine Cooper Gladys Strome
Jeanette Nolan Mrs. Kirby
Woodrow Chambliss Phil Reese
Helen Brown Mrs. Strome
Anthony LettierArthur Strome
Arthur HansonLt. Brewer
Larry Blake Smith
George Davis Frederick
Sydney Mason Detective Raslston
Lee Roberts Detective Ron Jacks
Gil FryeMarshall
Joey Ray..... Workman
Jack Kenney..... Detective
Owen Cunningham..... Judge
Jack W. Harris..... Court Clerk
Janet Morris and a couple of cops catch

David Kirby burglarizing her husband's apartment of \$92,000. But Dr. Charles Morris isn't a bit grateful: now his *pied-a-terre* (and his affair with his nurse) are in the open and the IRS wants to know where he got that kind of cash. Mrs. Morris admits her blunder to Perry; she doesn't want a divorce and she wants Perry to defend him if he's in trouble. Charles is supposed to go to Salt Lake City on Friday for a medical convention. Morris calls Kirby (his old war buddy), asking him to come to L.A. Janet comes to the airport to see Charles off--he's flying his own plane. She gives him coffee and tells him she's going to give him a divorce. He doesn't believe her. Later, Charles crashes the plane. There's morphine sulfate in the body and in the thermos. Tragg advises Mrs. M to call a lawyer. Morris had an insurance policy with \$125,000 to his wife and

\$50,000 to his nurse, Gladys Strome. The \$92,000 is missing. Mrs. Kirby is a penny-pinching shrew, who runs Kirby's, a drive-in restaurant in Loganville. Kirby is a drunk. He's now missing. She goes looking for him in L.A. and Burger and Tragg get their hooks into her. She refuses to let them implicate her husband. Perry's suspicious when Gladys doesn't come home from her vacation when Morris is killed. Paul and his men scour the crash site, finding Kirby's good luck medallion made of platinum his wife gave him. It was Kirby who died in the plane. Burger tries to pin it on Janet Morris, hypothesizing it was impossible for her to know it wasn't him in the plane. But Perry works away at Mrs. Kirby. She's gotten \$15,000 from her husband's insurance policies, and wonders why such a tightwad bought such an expensive medallion. The morphine sulfate was in a whiskey bottle.

One of the cops notes that the money is "about ten years pay" to a cop, which would make a policeman's salary at the time around \$9,200 annually.

Mrs. Kirby sells burgers and fries for 35 cents, fine for a policeman's salary.

23.

Erle Stanley Gardner's The Case of the One-Eyed Witness

Original Airdate: February 22, 1958

Directed by Christian Nyby

Teleplay by Robert C. Dennis

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Angie Dickinson Marian Fargo
Louis Van Rooten..... Samuel Carlin
Dorothy Green..... Diana Maynard
Paul Picerni..... Charles Gallagher
Eve Miller Nora Kelly
Peter Adams Arthur Fargo
Vincent G. Perry..... Judge
Richard Benedict..... Steve Daniels

Jan Arvin Pierre
Sam Gilman George Danvers
Jean Del Val Waiter
Ralph Montgomery Bus Clerk
Jack W. Harris..... Court Clerk
Ray Kellogg Detective
John Sands Charter Pilot
Doris Wiss..... Suzie
Shirley Buchanan Phone Operator

Marian Fargo is at the bus station when someone finds her. She has already paid blackmailer Samuel G. Carlin \$10,000. He wants another ten grand and he'll leave her alone. She doesn't trust him.

Her husband Arthur is worried when she comes home, since he thought she was on her way to Harristown. She tells Arthur the truth. She'll pay and get the file on her brother Charles Gallagher. He's very understanding.

Marian, desperate, appeals to Perry to help her. She asks him to deliver the envelope of money to Carlin and pick up the file. They go to the house and Carlin acts bewildered. He says he knows nothing about any of it. Perry starts the car and leaves. Carlin has Marian's husband Arthur hidden in the house. They debate who's the biggest thief and Fargo plans to relieve his wife of all her funds so he can run away with the proverbial floozy. But Perry didn't leave, he's watching the house. A woman in a raincoat arrives and goes in. Paul is there, and they are stunned when an explosion bursts from Carlin's window, starting a fire. Carlin's body is brought out, with a bullet in his head.

Paul traces Marian and he and Paul go to her house. Arthur Fargo is dead in the entry hall with a note from Marian in his hand. Perry sends Paul after the bus to Harristown. Paul is waiting for her when the bus arrives and so are the cops.



Diana Maynard approaches Paul and offers to help, as she sat next to Marian. Paul gets her statement, which gives Marian an alibi. But several other people claim Marian didn't get on until Wayne City. Gallagher comes to Perry's office. He's a convicted felon, and he realizes Marian was protecting him. He escaped from prison, made a fortune, caught TB, retired in Harristown. It was this information about which Carlin threatened to release. He offers to turn himself in. Della says he shouldn't. She doesn't want Perry to see him. He splits. He proves Diana is lying. She has eye trouble, wears a patch, and Perry proves she can see better with one eye than two. She's Fargo's floozy, and she killed Fargo. She reveals Samuel Carlin in court (in disguise) who "dreamed up this stunt."

When Paul's date complains when he stops to make a phone call, he says "We never sleep," which was the motto of the famous Pinkerton Detective Agency.

Paul mentions Marian could have chartered a plane. This is often discussed in TV shows of the period, and charter services must have been reasonable.

24.

The Case of the Deadly Double

Original Airdate: March 1, 1958

Directed by Andrew V. McLaglen

Teleplay by Sam Neuman

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Constance FordHelen Reed
 Denver Pyle.....Robert Crane
 Carole MatthewsCora Dunbar
 Paul Langton.....Harry Vance
 Murray Hamilton.....Johnny Hale
 Abraham Sofaer..... Dr. Maitland
 Louise Truax Sarah
 Carleton G. YoungDavid Reed
 Pierre WatkinJudge
 Frank Jenks Cab Driver
 Clark Howat..... Sergeant Grant
 Carlyle Mitchell..... Dr. Desmond
 George E. Stone George
 Peter Opp.....Johnson
 Josef ElmanTony
 Kellogg Junge, Jr.Tommy Reed

This is an early show dealing with multiple personality disorder. Helen Reed is in a custody battle with her husband for her son. But she's having nightmares and strange things happen to her. Then David Reed is murdered with Helen's brother's gun. Helen and Robert Crane come to Perry to try and unravel the confusing story. Helen's alter ego, a floozy named Joyce Martel, causes no end of trouble, including killing Helen's husband. A fur stole provides the clue for Perry, since Helen is allergic to it, but Joyce is not. It turns out Joyce's boyfriend, Johnny Hale, killed Reed after seeing Joyce/Helen with him, thinking she was two-timing him. Helen's doctor believes he can cure her.

25.

**Erle Stanley Gardner's
The Case of the Empty Tin**

Original Airdate: March 8, 1958
 Directed by Andrew V. McLaglen
 Teleplay by Seeleg Lester

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Toni Gerry Doris Hocksley

Warren Stevens Alan Neil
 Olive Deering..... Rebecca Gentry
 Benson Fong..... Gow Loong
 Mary ShippMiriam Hocksley
 Anthony Jochim..... Elston Carr
 Frank Wilcox.....Judge
 Otto Waldis..... John Lowell
 Bert Holland..... Dr. Morton



An intriguing ad in a San Francisco paper catches the eye of Doris Hocksley. An attorney, Elston Carr, seeks the daughter of a man who lived in China. An estate of \$2 million is involved. In Los Angeles, Doris presents her bonafides to Alan Neil, attorney Carr's nephew. She doesn't remember her father well. She has no photos, but she did get a package from China some years ago--a book and a note written on the back of a picture. He treats her as though she's a fraud. He says there are two pieces of evidence which would prove her claim, she has neither. He makes her an offer, he'll help her if she'll cut him in for half. She goes to Perry. Elston is a crotchety old man in a wheelchair. Legally, there is no Hocksley estate. The money's his. He, Hocksley and John Lowell were partners in Asia for 25 years, making a fortune in gun running. John Lowell turned Judas when the Korean War began and

turned them in. His manservant also seeks Lowell. He wants Perry to work for him. Perry refuses. There's a Miriam Hocksley, who's also a claimant. He goes to see her, and she's got the story down pat. She thinks she's got the book and picture, being sent from her house in Palm Beach. She's got plenty of money, but wants the estate if she's entitled to it. Rebecca Gentry calls that night and is hysterical. Elston has been shot and she's got someone trapped in the house. He tells her to call Tragg. It's Doris and she clutches a book. There's a big safe, containing only an empty tin. The book Doris clutches contains a photo of two men. The bible fits the tin exactly.

Doris is divorced, with a low-paying job and a daughter with polio. Doris says Elston asked her to come to the house. He was dead when she got there. Mr. Lowell brought the bible and photo down to her from San Francisco. She says the photo he brought was the same picture she received, but she threw it away years ago. How did he get it? In court, Perry pries open the false bottom of the tin box and finds a duplicate of the photo Doris got from Lowell. The proofs the claimant was to bring were the bible, cut to fit in the box and the photo, which would match the one in the box. Miriam calls Perry with the news she killed Neil. She loved him and is going to kill herself. Miriam has a 60-40 chance and didn't know whether she was Adam's daughter or not. Perry, Tragg and Burger go to the Carr house and confront Rebecca and Carr's valet. She killed both Carr and Neil, and tried to kill Miriam. She confesses when she learns Miriam is still alive. Rebecca loved Neil. Carr caught her at the safe. Paul observes: "What some women will do for a man is just plain murder."

Carr's home is extremely elaborate, with many Oriental artifacts. This again was probably a set done for a film. Though each

wall was a 'flat,' and the room could be disassembled and stored, dressing the set would have taken more time than a busy TV show had.



Carr's safe is used in a number of episodes including this season's 'TCOT Baited Hook.'

The missing heiress plot was quite common in fiction, TV and films, possibly due to the hundreds of thousands of people displaced by WW II.

Perry's gone Oriental too, with a nice paper lantern in his apartment, a tonsu chest in the hall and a couple of Chinese tables.



26.

**Erle Stanley Gardner's
The Case of the Half-Wakened Wife**

Original Airdate: March 15, 1958

Directed by Anton M. Leader

Written by Stanley Niss

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Phyllis Avery..... Marion Shelby
Stewart Bradley..... Frank Lawton
Barbara Lawrence..... Ellen Waring
Claude Akins..... Phillip Dix
Jonathan Hole..... Arthur Williams
Tom Palmer..... Scott Shelby
Jason Johnson..... Judge Ellsworth
Howard Petrie..... Ben Parker
Peter Hansen..... Howard Black
Paul E. Burns..... Richy
Frederick Draper..... Ted Young

Scott Shelby is a real jerk. He makes snide insinuations about his wife and the hired handyman, Frank Lawton. But Shelby doesn't know Lawton is a war pal of Perry's. Bad luck dogs his footsteps, and Perry goes to the lake to help him out. Before he gets there, though, Shelby concocts a frame which is meant to get Lawton out of the way, but ends up getting Shelby killed. The unexplained clues give circumstantial evidence a whole new meaning. Lawton is even surprised to see Perry. He didn't even send the telegram. Lawton insists there isn't--and never has been--anything between him and Mrs. Shelby. However, he keeps a stream-of-consciousness diary which ruminates on Shelby's awfulness and Marion's long-suffering sweetness. Shelby's body hasn't yet been found, and Perry doesn't think he's dead. He was a "flim-flam" artist and was having a fling with Ellen Waring. Perry solves the case by delving deep into the photos of an amateur photographer, who was hired to spirit Shelby away that night. He accuses Marion

Shelby. He took an infrared photo of her that night which clinches his story. She's on the dock with her husband's body. Poor Frank packs up and leaves, looking for luck somewhere else.

27.

The Case of the Desperate Daughter

Original Airdate: March 22, 1958

Directed by Arthur Hiller

Teleplay by Gene Wang

Story by Donald S. Sanford

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Gigi Perreau.....Doris Bannister
Robert F. Simon..... Edward Bannister
Osa Massen..... Lisa Bannister
Werner Klemperer..... Stefan Riker
Don Durant..... Gary Marshall
Pierre Watkin..... Judge
Wendell Holmes..... Dr. Forbes
Robert B. Williams..... Det. Quincey
Gere Craft..... Helene
Ivan Bonar..... Det. Marlowe
Paul Genge..... Det. Davis
Patricia Mowry..... Waitress
Jack Gargan..... Court Clerk

Gary Marshall is an employee at Bannister Farms, always on the lookout for a fast buck. When he meets Stefan Riker, an East German who's looking for Mrs. Bannister, he knows he's hit pay dirt. He tries to threaten her, then make a pass. Riker comes to the house and says he's Lisa Bannister's cousin. But when Lisa comes in, she's upset. When her step-daughter Doris finds her about to take pills to kill herself, Lisa confesses she's in the country illegally. Her passport was forged. She believes Stefan is here to take her back. Doris says not to worry, she'll think of something. She goes to Riker's hotel room and makes a pass at him. Three months later, Bannister

throws Riker off his ranch, and an amnesiac Doris turns up at Perry's office, battered and bewildered. Bannister sees her picture in the paper and calls Perry. Bannister asks Perry to handle things, as he's crippled. He tells Perry she's been seeing Stefan Riker, who has a house near where she was found. Tragg is already at Riker's house, where he's very dead. There are odd prints outside a window, probably from a ladder.

The cops think Doris did it, Perry thinks (and Paul proves) she was in a car accident. Gary is busy covering his butt and Paul thinks Doris is using Perry as a patsy. By taking surreptitious prints of Bannister and his canes, Perry proves the prints outside Riker's window were him, not a ladder. He forces him to admit killing Riker and tried to incriminate his wife. He thought they were lovers. Doris was willing to go to the gas chamber to protect Lisa's secret.

28.
Erle Stanley Gardner's
The Case of the Daring Decoy

Original Airdate: March 29, 1958
 Directed by Anton M. Leader
 Teleplay by Seeleg Lester

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins
Guests:

H. M. Wynant Daniel Conway
 Marie Windsor..... Linda Griffith
 Jack WestonFred Calvert
 Jacqueline Scott Amelia Armitage
 John Mack BrownWarner Griffith
 Natalie Norwick Mavis
 Grandon R. RhodesJudge
 Pamela DuncanRose Calvert
 Louise LorimerMiss Eastman
 Donald Foster..... H. B. Varnell
 Jack Gargan..... Court Clerk

There's more than a little industrial espionage going on at Dan Conway's land exploration company. He catches Rose Calvert going through his desk and immediately suspects she's allied with his business foe, Warner Griffith. Later, he misses the confidential report she stole.

Amelia Armitage, a large stockholder, confronts Conway, demanding to know what he's doing to counter Warner Griffith. Then he gets a call from another woman who offers vital information to fight Griffith. She tells him to meet her in a hotel room. He goes, only to find the dead body of Rose Calvert. He gets out but not before picking up the gun from the floor. He goes to Perry, who's not pleased he took the gun, a Smith & Wesson which belongs to the company. The voice on the phone was Warner Griffith's wife.



Perry ditches Conway in a motel and goes to see Linda Griffith. He traps her into admitting she made the calls, but says she'll deny it. She's divorcing her husband. He's fooling around with Rose Calvert. Perry goes to Rose's apartment and finds a letter from her estranged husband. He heads there and sees Fred Calvert. They've been separated seven months.

Amelia Armitage comes to see Perry. She's concerned about Conway. She even tries to give him an alibi but Perry won't let her. Perry shatters Rose's husband Fred on the stand and he confesses to killing her. Conway and Miss Armitage look like they'll have a relationship beyond that of company president and stockholder.

The intersection of Wilton and La Brea is mentioned in dialogue. Both are real streets, but run parallel. This 'mistake' is common in television, where using real addresses or intersections is avoided for legal reasons.

Rose Calvert lives at the 'Serrano Arms' apartment. Serrano is a real street, and it has many pre-War apartment buildings on it.

29.
Erle Stanley Gardner's
The Case of the Hesitant Hostess

Original Airdate: April 5, 1958
 Directed by Christian Nyby
 Teleplay by Al C. Ward

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins
Guests:

Keren Sharpe Inez Kaylor
 Fred Sherman Albert Sanders
 June Vincent..... Martha Rayburn
 Les Tremayne Fred Archer
 Ned Wever Joe Gibbs
 Betty Utey Kim Lane
 Robin Raymond..... Secretary
 Gil Frye Det. Ralph Faulkner
 Jacqueline Holt Christine
 Michael Mason Larry Coles
 Fay Roope Judge
 George Cisar Mr. Wickett
 Robert Karnes Det. Purvis
 Paul Serra Court Stenographer
 John Alvin..... Sam Walsh

Danceland Ballroom's bouncer tosses out the local drunk, Albert Sanders. But he's not

the problem owner Fred Archer has on his mind. Kim Lane is blackmailing him.

Inez Kaylor isn't all that unhappy with her job as a hostess--there are occasional "overseas modeling assignments." But Kim Lane says this is her last night. Her boss, Martha Rayburn says there's nothing between Kim and Archer. He's a married man. He's also been held up.

The next day, the cops find Archer's wallet in a trash can outside Sanders' broken-down trailer. Perry defends him *pro bono*. Eight years ago, Sanders' wife and child were killed in an auto accident, Perry says he can't keep on blaming himself. He's never seen Archer before. Archer says Martha was with him, she IDs Sanders. She says she was ill and he took her home. But Paul digs up Inez in Las Vegas, who says Martha fired her at the Ballroom two hours after the robbery. But before Perry can put her on the stand, she splits. Tragg finds Kim Lane's body and her jewelry under Sanders' trailer. Perry and Della search Inez's Vegas apartment. In the mail, a postcard to Kim Lane from a modeling agency about an assignment.

An older man enters the apartment with a key and catches Perry. He pulls a gun, takes the postcard and leaves. Back in L. A., Della goes to the agency for an interview. There's a lot of South and Central American jobs. Della passes muster except for her "husband." The ad specified "unnattached" models. The boss is the man who came to Inez's apartment in Las Vegas. They realize all the models carry the same handbag. Martha Rayburn has one too. On the stand, she insists the purse was custom made for her. Kim had one. Later, Paul manages to borrow Kim's bag. It has a large mirror, which Perry pries loose. There's traces of white powder under it. He sends Della on a shopping trip.



On the stand the next day, Perry shows a purse to Martha Rayburn. The powder is under the mirror. He says it's heroin and he urges the D. A. to investigate them for smuggling narcotics. Perry accuses her and Archer of killing Kim Lane. It was Kim in the car with Archer. She was already dead at the time of the robbery. She insists he found her dead. He was just disposing of her body. Perry calls Joe Gibbs, the boss of the modeling agency. He sent her hostesses on modeling assignments and they unknowingly brought back the heroin. But he incriminates himself on the stand about the \$5,000 payoff from Archer. He killed her for that money.

30.
Erle Stanley Gardner's
The Case of the Screaming Woman

Original Airdate: April 26, 1958

Directed by Andrew V. McLaglen

Teleplay by Dick Stenger and Gene Wang

Television Story Adapted by.....Dick Stenger

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Ruta Lee..... Connie Cooper

Berry Kroeger Eugene Jarech

Josephine Hutchinson..... Leona Walsh

Arthur Shields..... Dr. George Barnes

Marian Seldes..... Mary K. Davis
Philip Ober..... Ralph Davis
Karin Booth..... Susan Marshall
Don Gardner..... Bob Schroeder
Morris Ankrum Judge Cameron
Phil Arnold Apartment Manager
Richard Ryan..... Mr. Hill
Jeanne Bates Miss Clay
Marian Collier Attendant
Jack Gargan Court Clerk

Newspaper columnist Mary K. Davis has told her husband and her readers she's having a baby but she's not pregnant. So she rifles Dr. Barnes' desk, steals his patient book and holds it for ransom--for a baby. Dr. Barnes is a baby broker with principles and he won't give Ms. Davis one. Ms. Davis' husband is with the State Dept. and will divorce her if there's no baby. Her secretary Connie Cooper is the one who told the doctor what kind of woman Ms. Davis was, and now she threatens to reveal a horrid secret about Connie's fiance's mother.

Connie and Bob go to see Ms. Davis' lawyer. He says he'll handle it. Nurse Walsh goes to Perry to try and get the book back. She says she's already tried to break in. Mary K. meets her lawyer for lunch but not before mailing the book off. Then Mary K. Davis is killed and Leona Walsh confesses.

Perry uses some very shady methods to get the book out of the mail and goes to see Connie. Jarech comes to see Perry and wants the book. He figures out how Perry got it. He wants to blackmail the names in it. He'll go to Burger if Perry doesn't give it to him. Perry craftily gives Dr. Barnes a chance to burn the book. Della is subpoenaed to produce the book. Perry gets her off the hook with technicalities. Burger fusses and fumes, but fails to move the judge. Perry hires an actress to record a phony impersonation of Ms. Davis on her dictation machine, which Tragg happily

snatches *sans* warrant. Burger plays the phony cylinder in court and Connie breaks down. She killed her because she was about to expose the truth about Bob's mother--a serial killer. Everyone feels sorry for Connie and Tragg says Burger is considering second degree.

The dictation machine uses heavy wax cylinders, which were soon replaced by flexible "belts," such as the ones used by the Dallas police to record the police radio traffic during the Kennedy assassination.



There probably were small sanitariums and hospitals on the beach at the time, but no more. The establishing shot is Malibu, one of the few southern California neighborhoods where homes are actually on the beach, close to the water. Every small beach cottage in that shot is gone, replaced by lot line to lot line mansions.

31.
Erle Stanley Gardner's
The Case of the Fiery Fingers

Original Airdate: May 3, 1958
 Directed by Arthur Marks
 Teleplay by Laurence Marks
Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins
Guests:

Mary La Roche Vicky Braxton
 Edward Norris..... George Gordon
 Lenore Shanewise... Nora Mae Quincey
 Susan DornLouise Gordon
 Fay Spain Charlotte Lynch
 Robert Burton.....Dr. D. W. Fremont
 Charles Lane.....Dr. Williams
 Sydney SmithJudge
 Connie Cezon.....Gertie
 Charles Davis.....Dr. J. Meecham
 Gilbert Frye..... Detective
 Jack Gargan..... Court Clerk

Perry accepts thirty bucks (in singles) to defend nurse Nora Mae Quincey for murder. Nora Mae is a private duty nurse for invalid Louise Gordon. Louise overheard George on the phone and they fought, and Louise tumbled down the stairs. After a long hospital stay, she comes home but refuses to see him. She tells her companion Vicky Braxton George has stolen her jewelry. She's also cutting him out of her will.

George realizes Nora Mae has the jewelry, which she uses in a pitiful fantasy life. She's sure the philandering George Gordon is planning to kill Louise and goes to Perry. He gives him the medicine to be analyzed. She pays Perry \$5.00 for the consultation (including tea). Della notes she was wearing a fortune in diamonds: "I thought her fingers were on fire."

Nora Mae goes home to find George in her room with Louise's jewelry. She always intended to put them back as Louise wasn't using them. He forces her to give Louise one of the tablets. She drops the remaining three in a pitcher of milk. Vicky awakens to the sound of Louise gasping for breath on the intercom. The doctor pronounces Louise dead. Tragg finds the jewels in Nora Mae's room. The pills only contained a sedative, but the milk pitcher contained arsenic. Nora Mae

says she didn't even give Louise the milk with the tablets in it, she poured it down the sink and brought her a fresh batch.

Perry discovers that it isn't the despicable George, but companion/cousin Vicky Braxton, who did Louise in. She tried to frame George. She was only left her usual salary of \$350 a month, but as Louise's only living relative, if George had been convicted of her murder, Vicky would have gotten it all. Louise always flaunted her money to Vicky, ever the poor relative. Nora Mae gives Perry another \$25.00 for his services. He says it was exactly the sum he had in mind.



The set for the Gordon home is extensive, including a two-story staircase with chandelier.

32.
Erle Stanley Gardner's
The Case of the Substitute Face

Original Airdate: May 10, 1958
 Directed by William D. Russell
 Teleplay by Francis Cockrell
Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins
Guests:
 Lurene Tuttle Anna Houser
 Maureen Cassidy..... Laura Houser
 Joan Tabor Evelyn Whiting
 Ralph Dumke.....Roland Carter
 Theodore Newton..... Carl Houser
 Maurice Wells.....Andrew Dale
 Frank Wilcox Judge Romley

Gavin Gordon..... Capt. Walters
 Donald LawtonDaniel James
 Noel DraytonPurser
 Stanley Farrar Accountant
 William Quinn.....Christopher Walsh
 Bobbie CollentineMarta Lawrence

Perry and Della are on a romantic ship sailing to L. A. from British Columbia after a contested will case. The decks are loaded with interesting people and Perry has to redirect Della's attention from them to the moon on the water.



He does his best to avoid other people's problems, but Anna Houser finally nabs him to confess her husband Carl embezzled \$100,000 from the S&L where he was an accountant. He told her he won a sweepstakes but she doesn't believe him. She's got the money in a money belt. She wants Perry to negotiate a return of the remaining money.

Paul checks with Houser's bank and the manager immediately suspects him of theft. But the books balance to the penny. Back on the ship, the captain announces "man overboard." Perry checks with Anna, and notices the photo of Anna and her daughter Laura is gone, a photo of Carl substituted in its place. The captain comes and tells her Carl was washed overboard. They found his gun.

When Anna is arrested for her husband's murder, Perry represents her. But Houser may not be dead and the money may be tied to a trial a year ago in Chicago.



In the opening, we see the exterior of a very modern building, and yet inside, the counter is littered with fountain pens sitting in ink. These pens were around a long time, as people liked them and ball points were still new enough that many people didn't carry a pen with them.

Note that Houser has the cash in a file cabinet marked 'M.' For money?

According to the life ring, the ship everyone's on is the Westminster out of Liverpool—unlikely that it would be in the Pacific. Even on around-the-world cruises, ships don't usually go from British Columbia to Los Angeles. Perry tries to use the ship's British origins to delay the trial, but fails.

Once the man overboard call is made, the ship is suddenly in rough seas (the camera rolls from side to side but the people don't), with a heavy wind. And when the captain says Mr. Houser might have been 'washed overboard' that scenario is extremely unlikely on a large liner in coastal waters.

State National Savings and Loan is a name the show has used several times.

When Paul plays informant to Burger, he says Evelyn Whiting and her patient went to a house in 'the Palisades.' He refers to Pacific Palisades, an upscale community overlooking the Pacific ocean.

33.

Erle Stanley Gardner's The Case of the Long-Legged Models

Original Airdate: May 17, 1958

Directed by Anton M. Leader

Teleplay by Seeleg Lester

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Peggy McCayStephanie Falkner
 Alix Talton..... Eva Elliott
 Joe De Santis George Castle
 Lyle TalbotMichael Garvin Sr.
 William Swan..... Michael Garvin Jr.
 Russell Thorson Glen Falkner
 Frank Wilcox Judge
 Ann McCrea Margo Garvin
 Ray Walker..... Salesman
 Jack Harris Court Clerk
 Billy Snyder..... Stickman
 Joey Ray..... Policeman
 Carol Anderson Model

Vegas motel owner Glen Falkner loses it all at the crap table. He writes an apology to his daughter Stephanie. George Castle watched him lose and has a promissory note for \$8,000. He'll take the motel, which is a prime site for a new casino. Falkner says over my dead body, so Castle shoots him, then offers daughter Stephanie a deal for the land. She doesn't want to sell. She'll get him the \$8,000.

Stephanie is getting good advice from investment maven Michael Garvin, Sr. Castle has something on Garvin's secretary and he calls in a favor. Garvin meets Stephanie the next day at Perry's office. He says the \$600/front foot Garvin offered her is half what the land is worth. He thinks Castle killed Glen. Garvin plans to meet Castle gun to gun and Perry tries to dissuade him. Perry finds Castle, who increases the offer for the motel. Perry says he wants \$225,000. Castle says

that's \$1500 a front foot, and \$1000 is the going rate. He finally goes \$1200. Perry says that's not acceptable. He goes to \$1300. Perry forces him to \$1500. Then George Castle is dead and Perry catches Stephanie [and Tragg nearly does] leaving his apartment. Garvin Sr. hires Perry to take care of Stephanie. He gave his gun to Stephanie. One shot's been fired, but she says she didn't fire it.

Stephanie's apartment building is one of the classic ones in Hollywood.



It wasn't necessary for the show to go to Vegas to shoot this episode. All studios had a number of slot machines, roulette wheels and crap tables to dummy up a room. The main difference is the casinos in Vegas are huge and this one clearly is not.

Della and Paul refer to a shop called Julie's in Vegas which carries outrageously expensive women's clothes (Della says 'if you're a smart shopper, you might be able to pick up a cotton frock for about 200 dollars'). Each hotel at the time had such a shop—a trend that eventually spread to hotels everywhere. As is mentioned in the episode, it was a good place for male gamblers to make their female companions (rarely wives) happy while they spent hours at the tables. Also, both exclusive shops and high end department stores at the time used models to display merchandise, rather than putting it on a hanger on a rack.

Perry does one of his many tricks to do with duplicate guns.

Perry drives a black 1958 Ford Skyliner, but Junior tries to sell him a '58 T-Bird, saying 'it's a real bomb.' Odd that he'd have a new car on his used car lot.



34.

Erle Stanley Gardner's The Case of the Gilded Lily

Original Airdate: May 24, 1958

Directed by Andrew V. McLaglen

Teleplay by Richard Grey and Gene Wang

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Peggy Knudsen	Sheila Bowers
Barbara Baxley	Enid Griffin
Mari Aldon	Anne Brent
Grant Withers	Stewart Brent
Richard Erdman	Arthur Binney
Wally Brown	Harry Mitchell
Fay Roope	Judge Kyle
Alan Dexter	Dr. Cortley
Carleton Young	Dr. Parsons
Jack Gargan	Court Clerk
Cy Malis	Garage Attendant
Max Wagner	Janitor

Perry's office landlord, Charles Stewart Brent, marries in Vegas and two women who

work for him have different reactions. One's mildly amazed, the other tries to kill herself. Sheila calls a doctor and Enid survives. Enid thinks her kindly widowed boss was "trapped" and vows to keep on trying to get him herself.



First thing the next day, an Arthur Binney arrives at the office and shows Brent a dummy scandal magazine with an expose on the brand new Mrs. Brent, who has a record--she pawned her jewelry and reported it stolen. He'd like \$30,000. Enid listens in on the intercom. Brent goes to Paul and reveals he's only known his wife two weeks.

Brent has a wedding reception the next night. Anne Brent tried hard to make friends with Enid. Paul checks on Anne's record; she was convicted in Seattle six years ago and served a year in prison. Binney calls and orders Brent to a motel in the valley for the payoff. He arrives with the money and a gun, Binney coshes him, removes the cash and when Brent regains consciousness, he finds his gun wrapped in a towel in the bathroom and Binney dead in an adjacent room with one of Anne's earrings in his hand. He pockets the earring and the motel manager walks in. Brent confesses to Tragg. En route to headquarters, he hides the towel and earring in the seat of the cop car.

Note the chenille bedspreads on Enid and Sheila's beds. Back in fashion today, they were popular and inexpensive at the time.

Binney tells Brent to drive out Ventura Blvd. To Angeles. Ventura is real, Angelus is not. Note the old round screen TV in the motel. A motel of that type would have been unlikely to have any TV in the rooms, not even old ones.

35.

Erle Stanley Gardner's

The Case of the Lazy Lover

Original Airdate: May 31, 1958

Directed by William D. Russell

Teleplay by Francis Cockrell

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Harry Townes.....Bob Fleetwood
Frances Helm.....Bernice Archer
James BellP.E. Overbrook
Yvonne Craig Patricia Faxon
Neil Hamilton.....Bertrand Allred
Ann Lee..... Lucille Allred
Kenneth R. MacDonald.....Judge
Len Hendry.....Officer

Perry gets a check for \$2500 in the mail with little explanation. Patricia Faxon asks her stepfather Bertrand Allred to move his car because she clipped the hedge coming into the estate. He goes out to do it and finds his business associate, Bob Fleetwood, dead on the driveway.

The check Perry got is from the Allreds, a retainer to represent Lucille Allred or her daughter Patricia Faxon, if needed. Lucille's married to a wealthy mining man. Perry goes to see Patricia. She confesses she might have hit Fleetwood. But he came to and didn't know who he was. Lucille and Bertie took him away someplace; she doesn't know where. She doesn't want them to cover up for her.

Lucille is divorcing Bertie and her fortune is not community property. Bertie's a little upset. Paul and Perry try to find Mrs. Allred, but she's gone from her motel room. Bertie tells them she ran off with Fleetwood. Then she's back at home. She doesn't know where Fleetwood is. She said he just left and took her car. Then Tragg arrives. "Are you Mrs. Allred's lawyer, Perry, or are you just acting as an emcee?" Her car was found wrecked at the bottom of a canyon and Fleetwood was dead in it. The car was in neutral. Fleetwood and Mrs. Allred left the motel together and she returned on foot. Then Tragg gets a call. The dead man was Bertie, not Fleetwood.



One of the great Della/Perry exchanges begins this episode: Perry: "Just this bare, naked check?" Della: "Just that bare, naked 2,500 clams." Perry: "Della, when its over a thousand, you don't refer to them as clams, they become dollars."

And later: Perry to Della, "How would you like to married for a couple of hours to a fairly nice looking man about 40 years old?" Unfortunately for Della, he doesn't mean himself.

When Perry asks Della to run across the crime scene, she is wearing a type of shoe popular at the time—Spring-o-Lators. They

were open-toed sandal high heels with no back straps. The shoe was held on the foot by a wide elastic band which was about 4" long in the insole. These shoes are not made for running in soft ground, and Della is right to be miffed.

Mountain View is a real northern California community.

Paul says Miss Archer lives in an apartment 'out on Laurel.' Laurel Avenue is a real street in West Hollywood, the continuation of Laurel Canyon Blvd.

Allred drives a 1957 Buick Century.



36.

Erle Stanley Gardner's

The Case of the Prodigal Parent

Original Airdate: June 7, 1958

Directed by Arthur Marks

Teleplay by Seeleg Lester and Gene Wang

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Virginia Field.....Irene Collaro
Herbert RudleyGeorge Durrell
Fay Wray Ethel Harrison
Andra Martin Lorraine Stevens
John Hoyt Joseph Harrison
Terry Becker.....Philip Larkin
Morris Ankrum Judge
Nancy Kulp Sarah Winslow

Chet Statton Mr. Alcorn
 Michael Fox..... Dr. Samuel Anders
 Richard Bull.....Court Reporter
 Dean CaseyDet. Sanchez
 Leo Needham Officer Norton

Lorraine Stevens is a walking testimony about the pitfalls of office romances. One of her bosses, George Durrell, is a gentleman. Philip Larkin is not and he is still trying to rekindle a past romance, but she's having none of it. Another worker interrupts his blackmail threats.



Lorraine goes to pick up something for her bosses, but the jewelry shop has no record of the order. She calls Durrell's house, only to be hit with the hysterics of his wheelchair-bound and very jealous wife. She tries Larkin, but though the phone is answered, no one's there. He's dead.

Tragg finds out the Larkin business is a twisted mass of jealousy, ex-stepfathers and deceit. Larkin's mother, Mrs. Harrison, hires Perry after her ex-husband is arrested.

Harrison's prints were all over the gun case. He admits to Perry he was there but Philip was already dead. Lorraine tells Perry of her strange interval at the jewelers and he says she's the only one with a perfect alibi.

Burger watches a 16mm film found in Larkin's closet and passes the word he's got a perfect case. Mrs. Harrison has gone missing and Burger thinks Perry's got her stashed--he doesn't. Even Paul can't find her. Burger's big evidence is a home movie of Ethel and Joe Harrison in the garden. It's a loving scene, of him giving her a string of pearls. Larkin enters frame and yells at Harrison, who decks him. Burger's smug as hell.

Another classic Perry Mason tradition is at the end of this episode. Della asks 'Which one of you handsome gentlemen is going to take me to lunch?' which evokes some joking by-play between the guys. Many of the episodes end with Perry and Paul taking Della out for a meal, usually steaks and martinis.

37.
Erle Stanley Gardner's The Case of the Black-Eyed Blonde

Original Airdate: June 14, 1958

Directed by Roger Kay

Teleplay by Gene Wang

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins
Guests:

Whitney Blake Diana Reynolds
 Irene Hervey.....Helen Bartlett
 R. G. Armstrong Matthew Bartlett
 Ludwig Stossel Otto Kessler
 Jan Merlin..... Tony Davis
 Phyllis Coates..... Norma Carter
 Judith Ames Marian Shaw
 Grandon Rhodes.....Judge
 Francis De Sales..... Dr. Rose
 Jack Lomas.....Sgt. Brewster
 Frank SullyCop
 Joe DominguezCarlos Figueroa
 Casey Peters..... Bobby Carter

Everyone wants a piece of Matthew Bartlett's money. His new wife Helen has a greedy, egotistical son, Tony Davis, and

somebody's just written a letter about a grandson Bartlett didn't know about. The letter is intercepted by Diana Reynolds, Bartlett's secretary. Tony goes to see the child and his mother and then plants his mother's jewelry in her room and they fire her. She goes to Perry. Unfortunately, the letter's gone. He confronts Bartlett, who believes him. He found out about his grandson five months ago. He hired detectives to check and they reported his mother, Norma, is doing a wonderful job raising the boy. He was estranged from his son, who was then killed. Bartlett wants his grandson.

Tragg arrives with the announcement that Diana was murdered last night with Bartlett's gun at Norma Carter's house. But it's not Diana who's dead--it's her roommate Marian Shaw. Marian was a good friend of Norma's. Marian and Diana fought because Marian was seeing Tony and Diana thought he was a swine.

Norma Carter's house seems to be in farm country, but in fact, there were many rural areas near Los Angeles in 1958. The style and area around this location look like the Aladena/Monrovia/Sierra Madre area, where there was still considerable citrus acreage and some farms.

Women at the time often had diaries and took great pains to conceal them. Diaries were sold in a wide variety of styles, from plastic ones in pink for teenagers to hand-tooled, Moroccan leather. All had a strap with a small lock and key, which was rather futile as the strap could be easily cut. The one in this episode looks to be leatherette.

38.
Erle Stanley Gardner's The Case of the Terrified Typist
 Original Airdate: June 21, 1958

Directed by Andrew V. McLaglen
Teleplay by Robert C. Dennis, Phillip
Macdonald, Ben Brady

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

Alan Marshall James Kincaid
..... alias Duane Jefferson
Joanna Moore Patricia Taylor
Joan Elan Mrs. Lumis
Connie Cezon Gertie
Jack Raine George Baxter
Kenneth R. MacDonald. Judge [Hartley]
Harald Dyrenforth Henrich
Hank Patterson Jack Gilly
Jack Gargan Court Clerk
Frankie Darro Elevator Operator
Red Morgan Muscleman
Steve Carruthers Duane Jefferson

This is the case Perry really loses.

A woman in harlequin glasses uses stolen keys to get inside the South African Diamond Co. office. She ransacks the place, then she pretends to be a typist, but one of the employees figures out she's up to no good and tries to call security. She coshes him and escapes into the stairwell. She comes out a floor below and hurries from office to office. The doors are locked.

She bursts into Perry's office where Gertie assumes she's been sent by a temp agency to help Della. She says she is and begins work. While the police scour the building, she's innocently pounding out Perry's correspondence. Paul comes in with the news of the excitement, and Della realizes what's happened. But she's gone. Perry goes up to the burgled company and meets Walter Lumis. He's got other worries. Partner George Baxter brought their diamonds in from South Africa today, but they missed him at the airport. He's the one who caught the woman, called the cops, and now he's missing.

Then a man in a 2-tone Olds dumps Baxter's body in the ocean, with a cement tied to his ankle. He's witnessed by an old fisherman, Jack Gilly, who IDs Duane Jefferson, who hires Perry. He insists he was out to dinner with "a certain lady" all evening. Paul finds the terrified typist (thanks to Della's keen eye for high fashion label clothes) and she's Mrs. Ralph Taylor, wife of a senator. Perry and Paul take the harlequin glasses to the Taylor estate and confront her. She tells a lengthy story about meeting an Air Force captain named Duane Jefferson, long before she met the senator. She tried to reclaim some letters and cartoons she sent him. She broke into his office to get them back.

Paul goes to Jefferson's apartment and looks around. He finds Mrs. Taylor. They also find two identical photos of Jefferson in a nightclub, except there's a different woman in each print. One of them is Mrs. Taylor. In court, Jefferson still refuses to ID the lady who is his alibi. Perry introduces Patricia Taylor's name and Burger erupts, but Jefferson admits to knowing her, but not that she's the one he was with. Burger's not impressed with his chivalry.

Perry calls Mrs. Taylor. She says she was with him for 15 minutes (it is never explained why Mrs. Taylor met the phony Jefferson at the nightclub), long enough to tell him she "despised the ground he walks on." Burger introduces the letters. Jefferson said he'd return the letters and cartoons in person. He blackmailed her. The jury returns and finds Jefferson guilty! The media clusters around a grinning Burger.



Paul can't find the other woman in the nightclub photos, but remembers seeing her at the South African Diamond Co. She must be Mrs. Lumis. They go to Lumis' house. The elegant Mrs. Lumis is the woman and confesses to being with him that night. Lumis is angry--they were partners with Jefferson and were about to leave for Mexico. She sends him on alone. Lumis picks up his hostage--the real Duane Jefferson--who's tied up in his shed. But Paul is there and nabs the assembled company. Perry's demands a new trial as the entire trial took place without the presence of the real Duane Jefferson. The defendant is James Kincaid, who conspired with Lumis to bilk the company of half a million.

Crawford Jewelry is a tenant of Brent Bldg. Also the South African Diamond Co.--Suite 1012.

We see an elevator operator in the Brent Building. There is one in the books, but they began so much earlier, when operators were common. Note the fan-shaped vertical file on top of the file cabinets. It's been used as a prop in a dozen episodes this season.

Walter Lumis calls the thief 'our young lady Raffles.' He refers to *Raffles*, the classic story of a nobleman who is a master criminal by

night. The 1899 novel and play *Raffles* were so popular, they were filmed several times, and the plot has been used dozens more. The 1930 film starring Ronald Colman is probably the best version.



The lavish formal gardens where Perry and Paul confront Mrs. Taylor were probably a park or botanical garden.

The Lumis home is one of the first of the homes of the wealthy we've seen on the show that is decorated in a more modern style. .

**39. Erle Stanley Gardner's
The Case of the Rolling Bones**

Original Airdate: June 28, 1958

Directed by Roger Kay

Written by Gene Wang

Regulars: Burr, Hale, Hopper, Talman, Collins

Guests:

- Joan Camden.....Donna Knox
- Mary Anderson.....Arlene Scott
- Edgar Stehli.....Daniel Reed
- Arthur Space Willard Scott
- King Calder Maury Lewis
- Kitty Kelly..... Millie Foster
- Simon Scott..... George Metcalf
- Richard Gaines Judge Treadwell
- Sid Tomack..... Victor Kowalski
- Morris Ankrum.....Judge Morrissey
- Richard Aherne Dr. Norris
- Alan LeeDave Kemp

- William RemickHerbert Walker
- James Nolan Attendant
- Ted Stanhope..... Court Clerk
- Olan Soulé..... Teller
- Lee Miller..... State Trooper

Daniel Reed has been "railroaded" into a sanitarium by his nephew, Willard Scott, and his greedy, social-climbing wife Arlene. Reed's fiancée, the earthy Millie Foster, hires Perry to extricate him. Perry runs across Maury Lewis, who pretends to be a friend of Reed's, but is really blackmailing him.



Perry exposes the quack doctor and the court moves to the sanitarium to find Reed has escaped by bonking the guard with a bar of soap wrapped in a sock and posing as a laundry man. The judge orders the commitment overturned. But later, Reed calls Millie from a room with Maury Lewis' dead body in it.

One of the blackmail partners squeals on Donna Knox, Lewis' girl. Tragg finds her first and is there when she blames Perry for letting Reed out. Millie calls Perry from Reno-- Reed's with her. Perry and Paul go up there and Reed admits he was being blackmailed. Thirty years ago in Fairbanks, Reed was partners with Monty Sewell. They struck it rich with a gold mine. Sewell wanted it all. One night he pretended to be asleep when Sewell tried to shoot him. He killed him and buried

the body. He used Sewell's name when he left and married Millie. She walked out when he wouldn't go to the authorities. Lewis bought Sewell's old shack and found the body. Tragg walks in.

He makes a phony call to Della to bollix up Burger, claiming that Maury Lewis was really Sewell. Though he just made it up, it proves to be true! Reed finally admits it. He thought he really did kill Sewell, until Lewis and Donna Knox showed up three months ago and began blackmailing him. Perry wrenches a confession from Willard Scott, who killed Lewis only to frame Reed after the commitment failed. He wanted control of Reed's money in order to get away from his domineering, nagging wife.

Perry wears a light-colored suit (left) in court—one of the few times he isn't wearing a dark suit when in front of the bar.



Donna Knox is photographed (above) with the stripes from a venetian blind across the room. This technique—seen to great effect in the film *Casablanca*—can indicate a character is in a kind of prison.