

Carlton E. Morse Script Collection



**National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2004**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsrs/mbrsrs.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/2008647467>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsrs/eadmbrs.rs004002>

Prepared by Karen Fishman

Encoded by Marsha Maguire, 2008

Revised 2023-03

Collection Summary

Title: Carlton E. Morse Script Collection

Span Dates: 1939-1952

Creator: Morse, Carlton E., 1901-

Extent: 5 linear feet (15 boxes)

Language: Collection materials are in English

Location: Recorded Sound Research Center, National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2008647467>

Summary: Photocopies of sixty-four radio scripts written by Carlton E. Morse for the detective series *Adventures by Morse*, *I Love a Mystery*, and *I Love Adventure*.

Location: RPA 00195-RPA 00209

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Morse, Carlton E., 1901-1993.

Subjects

Detective and mystery radio programs--United States--Authorship.

Detective and mystery radio programs--United States.

Detectives--Drama.

Long, Doc (Fictitious character)

Packard, Jack (Fictitious character)

Yorke, Reggie (Fictitious character)

Titles

I love a mystery (Radio program)

Form/Genre

Detective and mystery radio programs.

Photocopies.

Radio scripts.

Provenance

The Carlton E. Morse Script Collection was registered and deposited for copyright at the Library of Congress in 1990 and 1991 by the Morse Family Trust. It is housed in the Recorded Sound Research Center in the National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Library of Congress.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

The collection was processed by Karen Fishman in February 2004.

Copyright Status

Restrictions may exist on copying, quoting, or publishing materials included in the collection. For additional information, contact a reference librarian in the Recorded Sound Research Center, National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, 20540-4690; (202) 707-7833.

Access and Restrictions

The Carlton E. Morse Script Collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [Container number, eg., Box 3], Carlton E. Morse Script Collection, National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Library of Congress.

Biographical Note

Carlton E. Morse (1901-1993) was born in Jennings, Louisiana, in 1901. He and his family moved to Oregon in 1906 following his parents' purchase of a fruit and dairy ranch. After some years, the family relocated to Sacramento, California. Morse attended the University of California at Berkeley but never graduated.

Morse's early career included working as a newspaper writer for the Sacramento Union, covering radio and police news. He wrote for several other newspapers before landing in 1928 at the San Francisco Bulletin. Due to a change in the paper's ownership, Morse left that job and became a writer for radio station KGO, writing radio musical shows, mystery dramas, and serials. His well-known radio serial, *One Man's Family*, debuted in 1932 and ran until 1959, becoming one of the longest-running American radio soap operas.

After retiring to Woodside, California, Morse wrote six novels. In 1984, his first wife of sixty years, Patricia De Ball, died. Carlton E. Morse died in 1993 at the age of 91, survived by his second wife, Millie and daughter, Noel.

Scope and Content Note

When *I Love a Mystery* debuted in 1939, Carlton E. Morse was quite well known as the writer, director, and producer of the popular radio serial *One Man's Family*. *One Man's Family* became one of the longest-running American radio soap operas, broadcasting 3,256 episodes from 1932 to 1959. *I Love a Mystery*, which Morse also wrote, directed, and produced, aired until 1952. Morse created other radio serials including *I Love Adventure*, *China Town Squad*, *Adventures by Morse*, *Family Skeleton*, and *His Honor, the Barber*.

The Carlton E. Morse Script Collection, spanning the years 1939 to 1952, consists of photocopies of radio scripts, a few with annotations. It includes four *Adventures by Morse* scripts, forty-seven *I Love a Mystery* scripts, and thirteen *I Love Adventure* scripts, for a total of sixty-four scripts in 105 folders.

Collection Arrangement

The collection is arranged in three series:

- Series 1: *Adventures by Morse* Scripts, 1944
- Series 2: *I Love a Mystery* Scripts, 1939-1944, 1949-1952
- Series 3: *I Love Adventure* Scripts, 1948

Each series is organized by episode title and then chronologically by year and by story number.

Description of Series

Container

Series

Series 1. Adventures by Morse Scripts, 1944

Adventures by Morse was a fifty-two-week run of mysteries written by Carlton E. Morse after his series I Love a Mystery was cancelled by NBC. It broadcast as a transcribed syndication from 1944 to 1945 in thirty-minute weekly episodes. The radio series was divided into major stories which ran for ten weeks followed by a three-week story line. The show recounted the adventures of Captain Bart Friday, a San Francisco detective, and his assistant, Skip Turner.

Elliott Lewis, David Ellis, and Russell Thorson alternately played the role of Captain Friday, while Jack Edwards played Skip Turner.

Series 2. I Love a Mystery Scripts, 1939-1944, 1949-1952

I Love a Mystery was the story of three adventurers, Jack Packard, Doc Long, and Reggie Yorke, who wandered the world solving cases for the A-1 Detective Agency. I Love a Mystery first aired on the NBC West Coast network as a daily fifteen-minute serial. In October 1939, Fleishmann's Yeast began sponsoring the program, which now was broadcast nationally. In 1940 it became a thirty-minute weekly program airing Monday evenings on NBC's Blue Network. In 1943 the show changed back to a fifteen-minute serial for CBS and was sponsored by Proctor and Gamble until 1944, when it left the air for five years. In 1949 I Love a Mystery was back on the Mutual network as a fifteen-minute serial, broadcasting weeknights from New York. It ran until 1952.

The cast included Michael Raffetto, Barton Yarborough, Walter Paterson, and Gloria Blondell as the lead performers during the West Coast run from 1939 to 1944. In New York, Jim Boles, Russell Thorson, Tony Randall, and Mercedes McCambride performed reruns of previous scripts from 1949 until 1952.

Series 3. I Love Adventure Scripts, 1948

I Love Adventure, also written and directed by Carlton Morse, continued the story of the characters Jack, Doc, and Reggie from I Love a Mystery. It was broadcast in thirteen episodes as a thirty-minute serial on ABC in 1948 on Sundays from April 25 to July 18. Actors Michael Raffetto and Barton Yarborough played their original roles as Jack and Doc, and Tom Collins played Reggie.

Container List

Container	Contents
	Series 1. Adventures by Morse Scripts, 1944
	6 folders
	RPA 00195 (box 1)
	Adventures by Morse was a fifty-two-week run of mysteries written by Carlton E. Morse after his series I Love a Mystery was cancelled by NBC. It broadcast as a transcribed syndication from 1944 to 1945 in thirty-minute weekly episodes. The radio series was divided into major stories which ran for ten weeks followed by a three-week story line. The show recounted the adventures of Captain Bart Friday, a San Francisco detective, and his assistant, Skip Turner.
	Elliott Lewis, David Ellis, and Russell Thorson alternately played the role of Captain Friday, while Jack Edwards played Skip Turner.
BOX 1 FOLDER 1	"You'll Be Dead in a Week," undated Also titled "You'll Be Dead in a Month."
BOX 1 FOLDER 2	"A Coffin for the Lady," undated
BOX 1 FOLDER 3	"The City of the Dead," episodes 1-5, 1930 September 26-October 24
BOX 1 FOLDER 4	"The City of the Dead," episodes 6-10, 1930 October 31-November 28
BOX 1 FOLDER 5	"Dead Men Prowl," episodes 1-5, 1931 October 28-November 25
BOX 1 FOLDER 6	"Dead Men Prowl," episodes 6-10 1931 December 2-December 30
	Series 2. I Love a Mystery Scripts, 1939-1944, 1949-1952
	4 linear feet
	RPA 00196-RPA 00209 (boxes 2-15)
	I Love a Mystery was the story of three adventurers, Jack Packard, Doc Long, and Reggie Yorke, who wandered the world solving cases for the A-1 Detective Agency. I Love a Mystery first aired on the NBC West Coast network as a daily fifteen-minute serial. In October 1939, Fleishmann's Yeast began sponsoring the program, which now was broadcast nationally. In 1940 it became a thirty-minute weekly program airing Monday evenings on NBC's Blue Network. In 1943 the show changed back to a fifteen-minute serial for CBS and was sponsored by Proctor and Gamble until 1944, when it left the air for five years. In 1949 I Love a Mystery was back on the Mutual network as a fifteen-minute serial, broadcasting weeknights from New York. It ran until 1952.
	The cast included Michael Raffetto, Barton Yarborough, Walter Paterson, and Gloria Blondell as the lead performers during the West Coast run from 1939 to 1944. In New York, Jim Boles, Russell Thorson, Tony Randall, and Mercedes McCambride performed reruns of previous scripts from 1949 until 1952.
BOX 2 FOLDER 1	"The Snake with the Diamond Eyes," chapters 1-6, 1940 April 4-May 9
BOX 2 FOLDER 2	"The Snake with the Diamond Eyes," chapters 7-13, 1940 May 9-June 27
BOX 2 FOLDER 3	"The Twenty Traitors of Timbuktu," episodes 196-207, 1943 December 17-1944 January 5
BOX 2 FOLDER 4	"The Twenty Traitors of Timbuktu," episodes 208-219, 1944 January 6-January 21
BOX 2 FOLDER 5	"The Twenty Traitors of Timbuktu," episodes 220-232, 1944 January 24-February 9
BOX 2 FOLDER 6	"The Twenty Traitors of Timbuktu," episodes 233-244, 1944 February 10-February 25
BOX 2 FOLDER 7	"You Can't Pin a Murder on Nevada," episodes 300-306, 1944 May 15-May 23
BOX 2 FOLDER 8	"You Can't Pin a Murder on Nevada," episodes 307-314, 1944 May 24-June 2

Series 2. I Love a Mystery Scripts, 1939-1944, 1949-1952

Container	Contents
BOX 3 FOLDER 1	"The Corpse in Compartment C, Car 76," episodes 315-319, 1944 June 5-June 9
BOX 3 FOLDER 2	"The Thing Wouldn't Die," episodes 320-328, 1944 June 12-June 23
BOX 3 FOLDER 3	"The Thing Wouldn't Die," episodes 329-338, 1944 June 26-July 7
BOX 3 FOLDER 4	"Portrait of a Murderess," episodes 428-437, 1944 November 10-November 23
BOX 3 FOLDER 5	"Portrait of a Murderess," episodes 438-447, 1944 November 24-December 7
BOX 3 FOLDER 6	"Bury Your Dead, Arizona," episode 1; episodes 235-240, 1949 November 21; 1939 December 12-December 19
BOX 3 FOLDER 7	"Bury Your Dead, Arizona," episodes 241-248, 1939 December 20-December 29
BOX 3 FOLDER 8	"The Million Dollar Curse," story number 4, episodes 1-7, 1949 December 12-December 20
BOX 3 FOLDER 9	"The Million Dollar Curse," story number 4, episodes 8-15, 1949 December 21-December 30
BOX 4 FOLDER 1	"The Temple of Vampires," story number 5, episodes 1-10, 1950 January 2-January 13
BOX 4 FOLDER 2	"The Temple of Vampires," story number 5, episodes 11-20, 1950 January 16-January 27
BOX 4 FOLDER 3	"The Battle of the Century," story number 6, episodes 1-9, 1950 January 30-February 9
BOX 4 FOLDER 4	"The Battle of the Century," story number 6, episodes 10-22, 1950 February 10-February 22
BOX 4 FOLDER 5	"The Tropics Don't Call It Murder," story number 7, episodes 1-8, 1950 February 23-March 6
BOX 4 FOLDER 6	"The Tropics Don't Call It Murder," story number 7, episodes 9-17, 1950 March 7-March 17
BOX 4 FOLDER 7	"The Tropics Don't Call It Murder," story number 7, episodes 18-26, 1950 March 20-March 30
BOX 5 FOLDER 1	"The Case of the Nevada Man Killer," story number 8, episodes 1-12, 1950 March 31-April 17
BOX 5 FOLDER 2	"The Case of the Nevada Man Killer," story number 8, episodes 13-25, 1950 April 18-May 4
BOX 5 FOLDER 3	"The Turn of the Wheel," story number 9, episodes 1-10, 1950 May 5-May 18
BOX 5 FOLDER 4	"The Turn of the Wheel," story number 9, episodes 11-20, 1950 May 19-June 1
BOX 5 FOLDER 5	"The Blue Phantom Murders," story number 10, episodes 1-7, 1950 June 2-June 12
BOX 5 FOLDER 6	"The Blue Phantom Murders," story number 10, episodes 8-15, 1950 June 13-June 22
BOX 6 FOLDER 1	"The Flight to Death," story number 12, episodes 1-7, 1950 July 30-August 8
BOX 6 FOLDER 2	"The Flight to Death," story number 12, episodes 8-15, 1950 August 9-August 18
BOX 6 FOLDER 3	"Murder in Turquoise Pass," story number 13, episodes 1-7, 1950 August 21-August 29
BOX 6 FOLDER 4	"Murder in Turquoise Pass," story number 13, episodes 8-15, 1950 August 30-September 8
BOX 6 FOLDER 5	"Whose Body Got Buried?" story number 14, episodes 1-7, 1950 September 11-September 19
BOX 6 FOLDER 6	"Whose Body Got Buried?" story number 14, episodes 8-15, 1950 September 20-September 29
BOX 6 FOLDER 7	"Escapade of the Desert Hag," story number 15, episode 1; episodes 92-97, 1950 October 2; 1939 May 23-May 30
BOX 6 FOLDER 8	"Escapade of the Desert Hag," story number 15, episodes 98-105, 1939 May 31-June 9
BOX 7 FOLDER 1	"Trouble at Sea," story number 17, episodes 1-6, 1950 November 13-November 20
BOX 7 FOLDER 2	"Trouble at Sea," story number 17, episodes 7-12, November 21-November 28
BOX 7 FOLDER 3	"Incident Concerning Death," story number 18, episodes 1-7, 1950 November 29-December 7
BOX 7 FOLDER 4	"Incident Concerning Death," story number 18, episodes 8-15, 1950 December 8-December 19
BOX 7 FOLDER 5	"The Case of the Roxy Mob," story number 19, episodes 1-7, 1950 December 20-December 28
BOX 7 FOLDER 6	"The Case of the Roxy Mob," story number 19, episodes 8-14, 1950 December 29-1951 January 8
BOX 7 FOLDER 7	"The Case of the Transplanted Castle," story number 20, episodes 1-9, 1951 January 9-January 19
BOX 7 FOLDER 8	"The Case of the Transplanted Castle," story number 20, episodes 10-18, 1951 January 22-February 1
BOX 8 FOLDER 1	"Murder on February Island," story number 21, episodes 1-9, 1951 February 2-February 14
BOX 8 FOLDER 2	"Murder on February Island," story number 21, episodes 10-18, 1951 February 15-February 27
BOX 8 FOLDER 3	"The Monster in the Mansion," story number 22, episodes 1-11, 1951 February 28-March 14
BOX 8 FOLDER 4	"The Monster in the Mansion," story number 22, episodes 12-23, 1951 March 15-March 30

Series 2. I Love a Mystery Scripts, 1939-1944, 1949-1952

Container	Contents
BOX 8 FOLDER 5	"Eight Kinds of Murder," story number 23, episodes 1-8, 1951 April 2-April 11
BOX 8 FOLDER 6	"Eight Kinds of Murder," story number 23, episodes 9-16, 1951 April 12-April 23
BOX 9 FOLDER 1	"Secret Passage to Death," story number 24, episodes 1-10, 1951 April 24-May 7
BOX 9 FOLDER 2	"Secret Passage to Death," story number 24, episodes 11-20, 1951 May 8-May 21
BOX 9 FOLDER 3	"Terror at Frozen Corpse Lodge," story number 25, episodes 1-9, 1951 May 22-June 1
BOX 9 FOLDER 4	"Terror at Frozen Corpse Lodge," story number 25, episodes 10-18, 1951 June 4-June 14
BOX 9 FOLDER 5	"The Pirate Loot of the Island of Skulls," story number 26, episodes 1-12, 1951 June 15-July 2
BOX 9 FOLDER 6	"The Pirate Loot of the Island of Skulls," story number 26, episodes 13-24, 1951 July 3-July 18
BOX 10 FOLDER 1	"Brooks Kidnapping," story number 27, episodes 1-7, 1951 July 19-July 27
BOX 10 FOLDER 2	"Brooks Kidnapping," story number 27, episodes 8-15, 1951 July 30-August 8
BOX 10 FOLDER 3	"Murder Hollywood Style," story number 28, episodes 1-7, 1951 August 9-August 17
BOX 10 FOLDER 4	"Murder Hollywood Style," story number 28, episodes 8-15, 1951 August 20-August 29
BOX 10 FOLDER 5	"The Gird in the Gilded Cage," story number 29, episodes 1-7, 1951 August 30-September 7
BOX 10 FOLDER 6	"The Gird in the Gilded Cage," story number 29, episodes 8-15, 1951 September 10-September 19
BOX 10 FOLDER 7	"Blood on the Cat," story number 30, episodes 1-10, 1951 September 20-October 3
BOX 10 FOLDER 8	"Blood on the Cat," story number 30, episodes 11-20, 1951 October 4-October 17
BOX 11 FOLDER 1	"The Case of the Terrified Comedian," story number 31, episodes 1-10, 1951 October 18-October 31
BOX 11 FOLDER 2	"The Case of the Terrified Comedian," story number 31, episodes 11-21, 1951 November 1-November 16
BOX 11 FOLDER 3	"The Killer of the Circle M," story number 32, episodes 1-10, 1951 November 19-November 30
BOX 11 FOLDER 4	"The Killer of the Circle M," story number 32, episodes 11-20, 1951 December 2-December 14
BOX 11 FOLDER 5	"Murder Is the Word for It," story number 33, episodes 1-7, 1951 December 17-December 25
BOX 11 FOLDER 6	"Murder Is the Word for It," story number 33, episodes 8-15, 1951 December 26-1952 January 4
BOX 12 FOLDER 1	"Stairway to the Sun," story number 34, episodes 1-10, 1952 January 7-January 18
BOX 12 FOLDER 2	"Stairway to the Sun," story number 34, episodes 11-20, 1952 January 21-February 1
BOX 12 FOLDER 3	"Stairway to the Sun," story number 34, episodes 21-30, 1952 February 4-February 15
BOX 12 FOLDER 4	"The Graves of Whamperjaw, Texas," story number 35, episodes 1-7, 1952 February 18-February 26
BOX 12 FOLDER 5	"The Graves of Whamperjaw, Texas," story number 35, episodes 8-15, 1952 February 27-March 7
BOX 12 FOLDER 6	"The Decapitation of Jefferson Monk," story number 36, episodes 1-12, 1952 March 10-March 23
BOX 12 FOLDER 7	"The Decapitation of Jefferson Monk," story number 36, episodes 13-25, 1952 March 26-April 11
BOX 13 FOLDER 1	"The Hermit of San Felipe, Atabapo," story number 38, episodes 1-10, 1952 May 19-May 30
BOX 13 FOLDER 2	"The Hermit of San Felipe, Atabapo," story number 38, episodes 11-20, 1952 June 2-June 13
BOX 13 FOLDER 3	"The Deadly Sin of Sir Richard Coyle," story number 39, episodes 1-7, 1952 June 16-June 24
BOX 13 FOLDER 4	"The Deadly Sin of Sir Richard Coyle," story number 39, episodes 8-15, 1952 June 25-July 4
BOX 13 FOLDER 5	"The Man Who Hated to Shave," story number 40, episodes 1-10, 1952 July 7-July 18
BOX 13 FOLDER 6	"The African Jungle Mystery," story number 41, episodes 1-10, 1952 July 14-August 1
BOX 13 FOLDER 7	"The African Jungle Mystery," story number 41, episodes 11-20, 1952 August 4-August 15
BOX 14 FOLDER 1	"The Cobra King Strikes Back," story number 42, episodes 1-10, 1952 September 1-September 12

Series 2. I Love a Mystery Scripts, 1939-1944, 1949-1952

Container	Contents
BOX 14 FOLDER 2	"The Cobra King Strikes Back," story number 42, episodes 11-20, 1952 September 15-September 26
BOX 14 FOLDER 3	"The Widow with the Amputation," story number 43, episodes 1-10, 1952 September 30-October 13
BOX 14 FOLDER 4	"The Widow with the Amputation," story number 43, episodes 11-20, 1952 October 14-October 27
BOX 14 FOLDER 5	"I Am a Destroyer of Women," story number 44, episodes 1-7, 1952 October 28-November 6
BOX 14 FOLDER 6	"I Am a Destroyer of Women," story number 44, episodes 8-15, 1952 November 10-November 19
BOX 15 FOLDER 1	"The Bride of the Werewolf," story number 45, episodes 1-7, 1952 November 20-November 28
BOX 15 FOLDER 2	"The Bride of the Werewolf," story number 45, episodes 8-15, 1952 December 1-December 10
BOX 15 FOLDER 3	"Find Elsa Holberg, Dead or Alive," story number 46, episodes 1-6, 1952 December 11-December 18
BOX 15 FOLDER 4	"Find Elsa Holberg, Dead or Alive," story number 46, episodes 7-12, 1952 December 19-December 26

Series 3. I Love Adventure Scripts, 1948

3 folders

RPA 00209 (box 15)

I Love Adventure, also written and directed by Carlton Morse, continued the story of the characters Jack, Doc, and Reggie from I Love a Mystery. It was broadcast in thirteen episodes as a thirty-minute serial on ABC in 1948 on Sundays from April 25 to July 18. Actors Michael Raffetto and Barton Yarborough played their original roles as Jack and Doc, and Tom Collins played Reggie.

BOX 15 FOLDER 5	1948 April 25-May 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none">"China Coast Incident," 1948 April 25, episode 1"Great Air Mail Robbery," 1948 May 2, incident 2"The Devil's Sanctuary," 1948 May 9, incident 3"The Pearl of Great Price," 1948 May 16, incident 4
BOX 15 FOLDER 6	1948 May 23-June 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none">"The Hundred Million Dollar Manhunt," 1948 May 23, incident 5"The Girl's Finishing School Kidnapping," 1948 May 30, incident 6"But Grandma, What Big Teeth You Have," 1948 June 6, incident 7"The Man with the Third Green Eye," 1948 June 13, incident 8"Girl in the Street," 1948 June 20, incident 9
BOX 15 FOLDER 7	1948 June 27-July 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none">"The Kwan-Moon Dagger," 1948 June 27, incident 10"The Assignment with a Displaced Person," 1948 July 4, incident 11"The Hearse on the Highway," 1948 July 11, incident 12"The Ambassador Ricardo Santos Affair," 1948 July 18, incident 13