

Mr. Brian Morgan  
7304 Ashley Glen Road  
Annandale, VA 22003

12/8/00

Dear Brian,

I am very sorry to hear of Harv's passing but I do thank you for letting me know. Of all the media people I met during the years I lectured and did talk show on the JFK and King assassination I think Harv was the one most like me and the one who I liked best as a person. Save for one of my trips west I spent a night with him each trip. I think after doing his show.

Last time I saw him he was with KGO<sup>TV</sup> and he took me to a fancy luncheon he was covering when the Democratic candidate for Senator whose name began with a C was speaking. I never got out west after that so until he visited you and then came here I'd not seen him.

Please excuse my typing. It can't be any better. And I've no idea where in this town I can get another typewriter ribbon.

Harv and I had this kind of relations- when he lost his voice or had a cold or anything that might be too much for that limitation at that time, his producer, Judy, would phone me and ask me to do the show that night. And I did it by phone, with Harv saving his voice for the essentials, like commercials. He was in that studio in the fancy Palace Hotel, if I have the name right, and I was sitting on the cellar steps of a home I was building in rural Maryland, about six feet from a wood stove in winter.

I think that something improper on the first of his shows I did led to our liking of each other. He was then on KCBS, with studios in that hotel. A young man called in and started to red-bait me. Harv wanted to cut him off but I insisted that he continue. I was pretty sure he was an FBI informer. He was spouting off what he had no way of knowing, what was years before he was born. And by the time he had run his course and chickened out I had torn him to pieces on fact. Later, when, if Harv did not tell you, I had sued the government under the Freedom of Information act for withheld JFK and King assassination records. getting about a third of a million formerly withheld pages, I got the proof that stinker was a symbol FBI informer. Symbol meaning official and on the payroll.

After that show we went to the hotel restaurant or coffee show and talked for much of the rest of the night. Until pretty late, anyway.

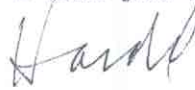
I'm very glad he made that one stop here. I knew he had gone to ABC but I'd not heard from him for so long I wondered where he was and what he was doing. He was much thinner when he was here than when I knew him and I wondered if that was from the gulf war.

If you are ever near here, please stop off.

I'm now 87 and have survived many illnesses. One that is wearing me out is kidney failure. It is treated by dialysis and that has me away from home from 5:15 in the morning on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays until about 11.

If you share Harv's interest in the Civil War, this is one of the richest areas. Some of the more important ~~xxxxx~~<sup>m</sup> battles, of which there were many around here, are little known. We ~~evn~~<sup>d</sup> have what is becoming quite popular, a museum of Civil War medicine. If you will, our phone is 301/473-8186.

I share your sorrow, sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

## **Press Release**

December 3, 2000

### **BROADCAST JOURNALIST HARV MORGAN DIES AT 73**

Thomas Harvey Morgan of Austin, Texas, died Thursday, November 16 at the Arizona Heart Hospital, Phoenix, Arizona, from complications after surgery to repair an aortic aneurysm. Known as Harv Morgan, he had a long and distinguished career in radio broadcasting from the 1950s through the 1980s. In recent years, he had returned to acting, performing in local theater in Austin and in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

Morgan was born in West Palm Beach, Florida, in 1927. He was one of six children of Arthur Vance Morgan and Jennie Wofford Cheatham. Morgan served in the Merchant Marine from 1945-46 and in the Army from 1946-49 and 1950-53. In between these Army service periods, he was a sports announcer for WIRK, West Palm Beach.

In 1952, Morgan married Pauline B. Remeli of New York City and they had a son Brian in 1954. Their marriage ended in divorce in 1966. Morgan graduated from Hunter College, New York City, in 1956, with a degree in English. In the late 1950s, he served as program and news director at WHMS, Charleston, West Virginia, and at WMNI, Columbus, Ohio. In 1961, Morgan hosted a morning show on WCAO, Baltimore, Maryland, achieving first place in the ratings.

From 1961-66, Morgan hosted top-rated programs on KYW (later WKYC), Cleveland, Ohio. Shows such as "Program PM" and "Contact" on radio and "Open Circuit" on television attracted listeners from all over northern Ohio. As one of the pioneers of talk radio, Morgan's programs were controversial and popular. In an era of low technology, his format allowed moderator, guest, and listener to exchange ideas on UFOs, the Kennedy assassination, racial issues, sex, extremism, etc.

In late 1966, Morgan moved to California and found great success with KCBS and KGO in San Francisco. At KCBS, he continued the "Contact" program through 1968. During the 1970s, Morgan was a news anchor and investigative reporter for KGO. In December 1979 and January 1980, he covered the Hostage Crisis in Iran broadcasting to four different ABC-owned stations from Tehran.

In the 1970s, he was an Assistant Professor of broadcast journalism at San Francisco State University.

After returning from Iran, he found that he had contracted a rare illness during his assignment. Once fully recovered, he visited friends in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, and was enchanted by this small, historic city and decided to make his home there. Through the 1980s and early 1990s, he became involved with the San Miguel Players Workshop and appeared in numerous stage productions. He met and married fellow actor Karen A. Ray in 1984.

In 1994, Morgan relocated to Austin's Westlake section, continued in the theater, and appeared in movies, music videos, and short films. After his divorce in 1996, he traveled and enjoyed good times with his many actor friends. Morgan was an authority on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War and loved to go camping with his dogs.

Morgan was a member of The American Legion and Disabled American Veterans.

Surviving Morgan are his sons, Brian H., of Annandale, Virginia, and Michael A., of San Rafael, California, and a sister, Virginia, of Fayetteville, Arkansas. Family members request that in lieu of flowers a memorial gift be made to the Austin Circle of Theaters, 823 Congress Ave. #5, Austin, Texas 78701. Morgan was cremated in Phoenix and will be buried in northern Virginia.

SOURCE: Brian Morgan, 703-876-5713 (H), 703-397-9312 (W)

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