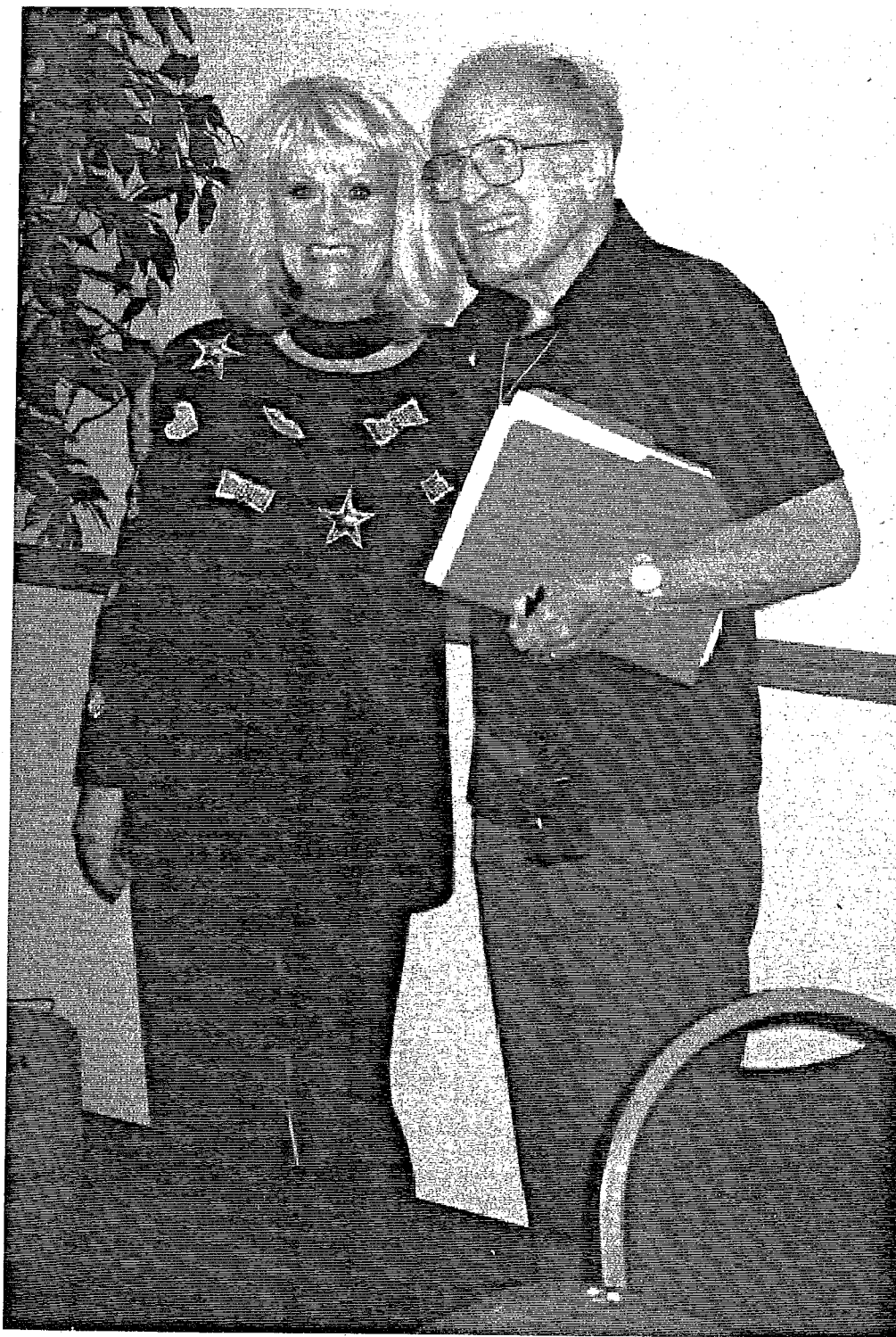


SPACE:1999 Convention XII -- Post Convention Report



*Miss Grace Lee Whitney*

*Mr. Barry Morse*

# **SPACECON XII**

## ***A Space:1999 Convention***

Held the Weekend of September 13-14, 1997 in Portland, Oregon

### ***Barry Morse Talks***

#### ***The Post Convention Report***

#### **With Special Guests**

**BARRY MORSE**

**GRACE LEE WHITNEY**

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Special thanks to all who contributed: Mr. Barry Morse, Miss Grace Lee Whitney, Anthony Wynn, Robert E. Wood, Janet Schill, Jenny Lobb, Aaron Carlson, Mark Eidemiller, and Terry S. Bowers.

Photographs courtesy Aaron Carlson, Robert E. Wood, Terry S. Bowers, and Melody Tamar Saunders.  
Photograph scanning courtesy Lew Place. Photographs of Barry Morse in-performance are from rehearsal at Actors Cabaret of Eugene, in Eugene, Oregon on September 16, 1997.

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## *Barry Morse Talks*

### SPACE:1999 Convention XII

September 13, 1997 - PORTLAND, OREGON: Spacecon XII seems to be a rousing success.

Since I live here in town, I thought I'd drop off the first descriptions on how the convention is going. Having not attended yesterday, nor able to attend tomorrow, I can only comment on the events of this pre-Breakaway day, Saturday.

Wow.

To begin: I got to Day's Inn in downtown Portland sometime between 9:30 and 10:00 am. I asked where the Spacecon was, and was directed to the Pacific meeting room. I registered myself at the table, met Terry Bowers, got a button, and moved inside. The dealers were still setting things up at the back of the room, but there were chairs already set up, and a stage platform for Barry and Grace for later. At one side of the room was a series of ice water pitchers and glasses, which was very nice.

It was a small attendance, and so was quite informal. I was able to meet with some of the people on the list (some with SPACE:1999 tee shirts - Mark I - with the old list address). It was good to connect faces with e-mail names, even if I may not remember them in five minutes. We mingled about, talked about various things, and then came together for the introduction and beginning of the auction. We had had a chance to view the various items beforehand, and there was some heated bidding. It took a little longer than was intended, but several hundred dollars were collected, and that's only for half of the material.

I spotted Grace Lee Whitney through the door, but she didn't come in at first - she was hungry and so went to get something to eat. Barry Morse came in during the auction and joined in, delighting us with stories and anecdotes, and chatter with the audience. It was marvelous!

One of the highlights was the auctioning of the two Sybil Danning SPACE:1999 ADVENTURE videos.

Miss Danning wore a (revealing) outfit of silver, similar to what Angelique Pettyjohn wore in the Star Trek episode "The Gamesters of Triskeleon." She carried her "weapon," and her introduction gave new meaning to "deep space." But I tell you, it was hilarious, and we were all rolling with laughter at the stupid and silly lines she introduced them with (Aaron Carlson had the intro on his site a few months ago). However, they also became one of the hot sellers of the auction.

Barry watched the opening of the second video, then commented on "that poor dear." It was excellent.

Grace Lee Whitney came in during the auctioning, which closed down soon after (to be concluded tomorrow), and we moved on to the showing of the OUTER LIMITS episode "Controlled Experiment." Both Barry and Grace admitted sheepishly that they couldn't remember the episode - having done so many performances, and asked if they could hold on their comments until after the showing.

So we all watched the episode. The loudest laughter I heard came from Grace herself, as she saw herself and her performance for the first time in some thirty-plus years. It was an excellent episode, and a good experience. Then Barry and Grace came up and commented on it, including some behind-the-scenes anecdotes.

If you've seen the episode, which is on video, pay close attention to the scene towards the beginning when someone enters Carroll O'Connor's shop, while Barry is hiding and making observations to his superiors. You will notice that, in describing the visitor's head, he notes "ears flat, lying against the head, no appreciable points, no antenna of any kind." NO POINTS??? We all noticed this, and commented that this was an extremely unusual detail to observe. Noting that this was filmed in 1963, several years before Spock was conceived, we can only wonder if maybe it had an influence on Gene Roddenberry in his creation of the famous Vulcan.

Also, it was brought out that "Controlled Experiment" was intended as a possible series pilot, with the two characters going from place to place, examining and commenting on human behavior. It was not picked up as a pilot, but the theme came back around in the form of the series MY FAVORITE MARTIAN with Bill Bixby and Ray Walston, also during that time.

Anyhow, back to the events.

We had a good time talking, then Barry had to go to the theater to prepare for Merely Players. Grace brought out a bunch of photos and a pile of pens for autographing. Included in the pictures was a shot of her cheek-to-cheek with Victor Buono (as King Tut), taken from the original Batman series, and a racy little B&W photo which someone commented was used for a vitamin bottle (huh?).

Anyhow, we kinda scattered after that, some getting autographs and pictures, and others checking out the dealer's tables (mostly Star Trek items, but a few Space items - I got a couple of MBA patches). A few of us got hungry, so wandered into the neighborhood and stopped at a deli for a bite. Others watched "A Matter of Life and Death" back in the convention room. Still others went up to their rooms to nap. Overall, we just relaxed and got to know one another. Very casual.

A few of us started congregating in the lobby, talking, when Barry came out of the lounge. He stopped to talk with us, and showed us the pictures he had taken of Sydney (what a sweetheart!). He told us that this was the first time he'd ever done Merely Players without her being in the audience, and the first time in four years he had even done the play. So this was an honor.

I really loved the fact that, this being a small scale convention, we had the opportunity to just stop and chat with Barry and Grace, and that they weren't speeding off here or there. I ran into Grace in the lounge and she asked me if I had had dinner - that's quite a bit from a major star like her.

And Barry, well... During the auction, he moved off the stage platform, and took pictures of US to take back to Sydney! And while we were waiting to head over to the theater, he let us take pictures with him, and we just had a good old time. And then, after the performance of Merely Players (an EXCELLENT performance, by the way), he called us all in and took a few group shots. This was very special!!

I even was able to give Barry a hug to pass on to Sydney. He commented, "Well, I'll be doing a lot of that."

Through the rain we walked as a group the several blocks to the World Trade Center, walking from WTC-1 (where I used to work, by the way) to WTC-2 via a transparent triangular sky bridge connecting the two buildings at the second level. This sky bridge, as well as the World Trade Center design itself, has a particular futuristic sci-fi appearance, and makes you feel like you're walking through a space station or such. We waited for the play to begin in a little balcony area overlooking the lower floor area of the WTC-2, and continued to mingle about. Grace was there also, which impressed me. I also found out that one should not approach her with brownies - she loves them.

Then we went in for Merely Players. It's a one-man show, of course - although Barry's always in touch with the audience - combining singing, video, and drama. And, yes, I have to admit there were a few touching moments where I got misty, especially when he sang a song to Sydney (and you could see it was touching him, too - he deeply loves that woman). And, needless to say, he got a standing ovation.

On stage, he openly commended Tony Wynn and the Space:1999 Alliance for their parts in this event. He also mentioned the 50th anniversary of a couple - mentioned by name - in the audience.

Afterward, some of us helped take down the set (not much, since it was mostly just assorted props on the stage), and then got together for the group photos. It was fun to stand on the stage where it had all happened. A few of us - myself included - broke into spontaneous acting or dancing. Good acoustics.

In conclusion. It's a time I will not forget quickly. And I am very grateful to meet several of the people from this mailing list - and recruiting at least one new one.

Oh, yes, by the way - BOOMER....WHERE WERE YOU???? The elusive Mr. Boomershine said he would be there, yet we missed him. <shrug> Pity. Maybe another time.

That's it for this dispatch from the convention. I am sure more details

will come in as the other list members return home.

Later.  
Mark Eidemiller  
Portland, Oregon

\*\*\*\*\*

Leaving the Windy city of Chicago, Jim and I arrived late Friday night to Portland Oregon. We checked in and went to bed for Jim was coming down with a cold. Early Saturday we woke and went down stairs to see who was about. On the way down I noticed someone wearing a Victor Bergman T-shirt. Having gone to the first six Spacecons many years ago I looked to see if I might remember a face. I looked around and I thought to myself could that be Rosie Badgett? It was! I hadn't seen her in over 15 years. I waited to greet her off the crowded elevator when I heard "Is that Janet Schill?" We hugged and embraced! From behind the desk I heard "Hi Janet, I'm Terry Bowers!" Wow, we hugged though we had never met before, we have been e-mailing each other for over half a year and felt like we know each other. They weren't quite set up yet so I said I'd go get the OLA button's Barry (white sleeve #143) designed and I made to give to our OLA family to recognize them! On the way upstairs I turned the corner and there was Mr. Barry Morse! I said "Hello". I told him we had met back in 1982. He expressed how excited he was about our weekend. He was caring clothes for his performance for that night's play Merely Players. Tony (StarParty) popped up and started to escort him out when he turned and said that we'd catch up later. It was so informal and he's such a kind gentleman, I knew we were off to a great weekend!

Back in a flash, I plopped down the buttons on the registration table and promptly met Jenny (a lurker - wearing John Flemming's T- shirt), Mark (the chaplain), Aaron (sound center) and Barry (white sleeve #143). It was so strange to know everyone from the list, yet never had seen or heard them speak in person. My impressions were way off from the people I met! I would have never imagined Barry (white sleeve) having a Canadian/Alabama accent! It was great! Mark's wife couldn't make it so he brought a small tape recorder for all of us to send our hello's!

We all piled into the dealers/con room and looked at all the neat stuff. Though only a few dealer's one actually had some 1999 stuff. (Hi Paul) In the background played Barry Gray's 1999 music of course. The OLA group moved to the Auction goods table. We all drooled and talked about various 1999 related topics. We were now joined by James David! He show us his compilation of 1999 music he put onto a CD that was going to be auctioned off! It was a great CD!!!!

We all sat down as introductions were made by Terry Bowers and Sandra Sprecker. It wasn't soon after Barry Morse and Grace Lee Whitney joined us. They then started the OUTER LIMITS episode which stared both Barry and Grace. After the video was shown it was a hoot to watch both of them review their involvement with the show. Interesting side note, Barry mentioned that both Carroll O'Conner and his character from this episode ("Controlled

Experiment") were supposed to have turned into a spin off series about 2 aliens reviewing human behavior. But, "My favorite Martian" halted any further plans. (bummer - he said it could have been fascinating!) Barry was off to prepare for the play. Mark, Aaron, Barry(#143) Jim and myself went in search of food. On our return from stuffing our face, Jim went and napped and the OLA group watched the end of "Mater of Life and Death" and had fun talking face to face and not having to wait for e-mail reply!

Before we knew it, it was show time. We all met in the lobby and our large group walked over to the world trade center where Barry would be performing Merely Players. On the walk over I got to gossip about Martin L. and Barbara B. with Terry Bowers.

There was time before curtains so we snacked at the reception area set up to collect more \$\$ for Parkinson's Research. I talked with other fan's wearing our OLA buttons. The plan was working, there are a lot of lurkers out there who I'm happy to have met and wouldn't have without noticing their buttons!

Jim and I went in and I sat by Charlene. We talked about Fan Fiction and people we knew from early conventions. The play of course was wonderful. Barry Morse is a pro at what he called "pulling faces and making noises". From his portrayal of an Irish bar maid to taking a scene from Chekov's play Swan Song, he was brilliant. During the closing Barry shared with us that this was the first time he had done this play without his beloved Sydney in the audience. It was very moving. All too soon it was over and Barry came out and asked our group onto the stage for a picture of US to show Sydney. How many STARS do you know who'd take a picture of the fans. He even referred to us as his adopted grandchildren. (smile)

Jim was being a sport, but he looked like death warmed over. His cold was getting the best of him, so we said good night and walked back to the hotel leaving the others to party at a Jazz bar.

Jim looked better after a nights sleep, so we headed down for the brunch. We met Barry (other Barry #143) and Aaron in the lobby. We'd lost Charlene, Mark and a few other's already headed for home. Mr. Morse was also down stairs waiting, so Paul (our dealer friend) took our picture with Barry Morse with a digital camera. He'll be sending it to us via e-mail. Too cool.

Brunch was very tasty and Mr. Morse made it to every table to say Hello. We talked about 1999 merchandise we owned. Aaron has a Dr. Russell bank -- lucky duck.

The last of the charity auction was hot. Bid's flew left and right. I bought a set of ITC owned PR pictures. They're B&W images of the Earthbound spaceship and monster from Dragon Domain. I love how on the back it says that these pictures were sole property of ITC and had to be returned! (NOT!) Barry (#143) bought a Dinky toy eagle and was flying it around the room. He then made a bed for it in his camera case and tucked it in. Rosie and Sandra bought art work of Barry Morse to share. The highest bid piece I think was James David's CD. Glenda Nicholls bought it for \$160. Wow! (So we all want copies - yes?) The auction ended and we'd collected over \$1200, not bad for

our small group!

We got to take the Portland (free) trolley to the hotel where Barry was speaking at a symposium on Parkinson's Research. We had some time so we bought snacks and waited in the lobby. This is probably one of the most memorable times for me during the trip! As we all waited to go hear Barry speak we gathered around a coffee table and sitting standing, and kneeling we began to talk about our favorite show. At first it was normal discussion like "what do you think of Helena in Alpha Child" stuff. But soon started to take a strange twist when we bought up "eating on Alpha" again. Barry (#143) jumped in saying, "I'm sorry, but eating only veggies, when on the planet in the "Matter of Life and Death" - I'd Anton Zoref one of those parrots for dinner!" Of course it didn't stop there, something about Etrec's dead dove on a coat hanger spit over a fire, and there was to be a rule about not eating someone's pet with out inviting them to dinner. Jenny's last comment about "throwing another parrot on the bar-b" left me laughing so hard I was in tears. NO one but US could joke about our wonderful show like this -- but it was a great time!!! I'll never look at those parrots again without giggling.

During Barry's speech, he of course bought warmth and heart into the room. Everyone could share how much he truly loves and cares for his wife. After, he met us in the hall and spoke to us privately.

On the way back to the hotel we stopped by a book shop and then ended up in the hotel dinning room for dinner. We were now down to around 14 people, but it was a great group talking and sharing where everyone was from, where they worked, favorite show's etc. We even found out that if you ever walk in on Sandra Sprecker and she's eating olives straight from the jar with the refrigerator door still open, she's had a bad day. (sorry Sandra)

Mr. Morse stopped in to say good-night and we all slipped into our rooms.

Monday morning, was my last chance to get Barry's autograph for Corey. He was in the lobby waiting for their trip to the beach. I walked up and showed him a photo of he and I when I met him in 1982. I also had a newspaper clipping of him visiting the children's hospital which I gave him. He was so cute, saying he still owned that shirt. I got Corey's autograph and thanked him. He gave me a hug! :- ) (we are all a huggy group - also mentioned by Terry Bowers).

As Jim and I waited to send the van off, Mr. Morse walked back over to me and asked "So little one, where are you from?" (OK, even though I'm 33 I'm only 5'1 so I look young). I told him that I was living around Chicago! He brought up wonderful memories of when he did some radio plays there. One of which was The Odyssey. He also asked if we'd went to any play's? I was happy to share that we go to The Circle Theater in Forest Park often which is an untraditional theater group. He quite liked that. I also told him how much I loved his portrayal of the bar maid in Merely Players. He said it was Sydney who told him he had to shave his "Beard" for it just wouldn't work with it on.

What a great way to end my Spacecon trip!!!! I love Barry Morse dearly, and

feel like I've come home to my family. It was 15 years ago that I'd attended a Spacecon and can't believe I ever stopped going. Aaron put it best by saying we all are now suffering from PSCD ( Post Space Con Depression!)

So to all my new friends and all my old friends - we'll see you for sure at Breakaway!!!!

Janet Schill  
Forest Park, IL

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### SEPTEMBER 11 - 18 RECOLLECTIONS

Following a cancelled flight (due to hydraulic failure), a change of airlines, stops in two cities I wasn't planning on stopping in, and a generally tired feeling (the result of waking up at 4am to catch the cancelled flight), I arrived in Portland on September 11, 1997, and quickly met Sandra, Terry and Rosie. We were rapidly joined by Jenny and it was time to get going, driven by Tony. Pretty much everything else went as smoothly for the rest of the week. The following are my thoughts on Merely Players and everything else....

Merely Players is a wonderful collection of casually presented tales documenting the lives of all sorts of actors over hundreds of years. Through it Barry Morse brings to life these people: men and women, young and old, and in the process brings the audience a great deal of laughter, and certainly a few tears. It has comedy, drama, two musical numbers, a magic trick, and the powerful presence and performance of Barry Morse. The show is presented from the heart and one knows the performer feels many of the emotions on a very personal level, as with the song "My Old Dutch". These Portland and Eugene performances were the first times Barry had ever performed the play, and this song, without Sydney being in the audience. It was an emotional experience for him, and touched our hearts deeply.

It was our pleasure to have been able to help Barry as much as we could as a make-shift stage crew, an experience I felt a bit closer to with the second show, though I did my part for the first performance as well. As I had done in '95 with Love Letters, I was once again Barry's stand-in for the lighting tests, and this had to have been one of the greatest highlights for me personally. We were also able to view the rehearsals for both performances, which was particularly interesting. Seeing the sound and lighting checks, and mostly seeing Barry running through his bits and pieces of rehearsal, getting the show together in his mind, was quite a learning experience.

Both performances of Merely Players were excellent, though the second was perhaps a bit more lively due to the smaller theatre space. It seemed as though there were a greater connection between Barry and the audience, which you might expect in such a space. They certainly were emotional, and Barry swept us from song to tear to laughter with his expert performance.

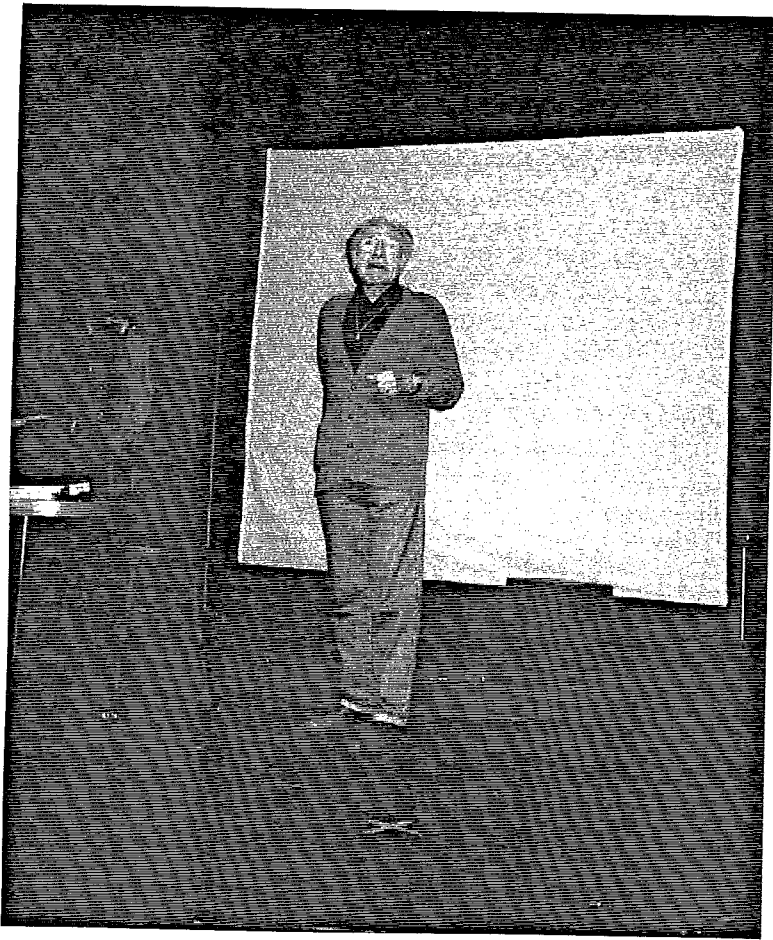
The convention was highlighted by many things, but mostly by the talks given by Barry. He spoke of SPACE:1999 and all his concerns with it, and also his fond recollections of working with Martin and Barbara, and all the rest. He mentioned that he still sees Zienia occasionally, and gave us an up-date on her. Barry talked of the promise 1999 held to have been more than what it eventually became. It is clear that SPACE was a show Barry had high hopes for, but had been quite disappointed with it in the end. Nonetheless he recognized our opinions that he had infused Victor Bergman with more character and humanity than he often gives himself credit for. Barry also recognized there must be something very special about a series that brings us all together even now, so many years later.

The charity auction was a huge success and made even more so by the participation of Barry; providing anecdotes, memories, comments (particularly hysterical laughter followed after his thoughts on Sybil Danning, "that poor dear"). And his pleasure at signing things to people raised their value significantly. The money raised at the auction goes to Parkinson's Disease research and we should be proud of the success.

The Con brought us together, some as old friends, some as new friends, some as strangers, but the best example to illustrate the kind of generosity, kindness, honesty and "family" which extends between us all, took place Monday the 15th. Aaron Carlson, who had driven in from Seattle, found he had a flat tire that morning. The day's planned trip (several of us and Barry in a rented mini-van on a road trip to the Oregon coast - where it rained) meant Aaron couldn't spend the day taking care of the tire repair. His AAA people would only put his little donut on, and would not help him by taking the car and having the real tire fixed and replaced. Another fellow fan, James David, agreed (without bribery!) to take care of it. So Aaron handed over his keys, and then asked for James' name!! They were meeting for the first time! Aaron was trusting James with his car and the responsibility of having it fixed over the course of the day, and returning it. Needless to say, arriving back at the hotel that evening, Aaron found his keys at the front desk, and his car in perfect condition. Of course there was no doubt. We all knew it would be. But where else in the U.S. (or the world) would you give a stranger your car and seriously expect them to repair it and give it back again... It just goes to show how great a group we have. Barry was very impressed by this as well.

It was great seeing some long-term friends again - Sandra Sprecker, Terry Bowers, Tony Wynn, Rosie Badgett, and Jenny Lobb. And it was nice meeting a lot of new people, and making friends with Aaron, among others. Most especially of all, Terry Lee.

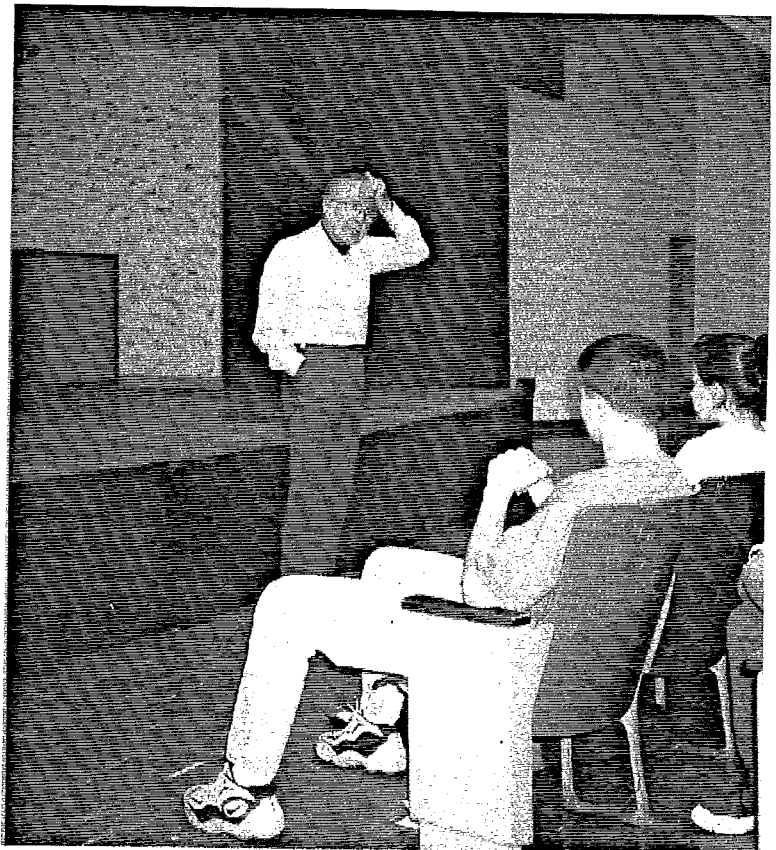
There were so many incredible times in this week, so many memorable meals (like breakfast on the 18th where Barry serenaded us with several wonderful old songs). So many times and instances that should be mentioned here. Like our road trip to Eugene with Barry. Or Barry calling us his honorary grandchildren. Or Barry mentioning us on stage at the end of his performance, and by name after the second show. Or the ongoing "competition" to attempt to not let Barry buy all of our food, because if left to his own devices he might have not let us pay for hardly anything. At one point I beat him to paying the bill for an afternoon snack, and he scolded me with "I'm



"My Old Dutch"

Speaking to High School  
Drama Class

Junction City, Oregon



supposed to be the grandpa here." He picked up the tab a few times, as did we. How about Barry taking photos of us (repeatedly) throughout the week to take home to show Sydney. What other star takes photos of his fans, instead of the other way around? But Barry is no ordinary star. He's very special. And we're no ordinary fans either. We are, collectively, his honorary grandchildren, his "chums", or even "young people" (as in "Don't let the young people pay.").

Barry is also a natural master storyteller who has unenthralled permanently with his stories, recollections, thoughts and even his religious and political views. His vocal chords are amazing, and we are very thankful for their strength. Note the title of this whole publication, BARRY MORSE TALKS... it is simply the beautiful truth.

More favorite bits. ...Being at the CBS station with Barry waiting for him to go on air, and having him read to us a poem he had written for Sydney (which was absolutely brilliant and touching and very funny!). ...Giving Barry two bottles of wine which featured my art work on the labels (Barry loves wine - especially Pinot Noir). ...Attending the Parkinson's Center of Oregon symposium which featured Barry as a guest speaker. ...Being unable for days to get the catchy song "Her Mother Came Too" (from Merely Players) out of my head. ... And there could be many more but you've read enough from me.

Just let me say, with all sincerity, it was the best time in every sense since the week I spent at Con '92, but this was better. It's on my list of greatest times along with, I'm sure, our L.A. convention in 1999, when that one comes along. Let's all be there. No excuses!

Robert Wood  
Calgary, Alberta  
Canada

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"And when they're visiting me  
To have some afternoon tea  
She likes to sit on my knee  
And her mother does too..."



## *"And Her Mother Comes Too"*

Originally performed by Al Plunkett of "The Dumbells"  
As performed by Barry Morse in Merely Players.

*I seem to be the victim of a cruel jest  
It dogs my footsteps with the girl I love the best  
She's just the sweetest girl that I have ever known  
And yet we never get a chance to be alone.*

*My car will meet her  
And her mother comes too  
It's a two seater  
Still her mother comes too  
And when they're visiting me  
To have some afternoon tea  
She loves to sit on my knee  
And her mother does too*

*To golf we started  
And her mother came too  
Three bags I carted  
Cause her mother came too  
Mum fainted just after tea  
My darling whispered to me  
At last my dear we are free  
But her mother came too*

*There may be times when couples need a chaperon  
But mothers ought to learn to leave a chap alone  
I wish they'd have a heart and use their common sense  
For three's a crowd and more it trebles the expense*

*We buy her trousseau  
And her mother came too  
Asked not to do so  
Still her mother came too  
She simply won't take a snub  
I go and sulk at the club  
Then have a bath and a rub  
... And her brother comes too.*

## 1997 SPACE: 1999 CONVENTION

Thursday, Sept. 11, 1997 -- After a brief night of sleep, I was up and on my way to Portland for the 1997 Space: 1999 Convention. It was a very pleasant surprise to be met at the airport by Terry Bowers, Sandra Sprecker, Rosie Badgett, Bob Wood, and Tony Wynn. Thanks guys. I hadn't seen any of them in several years, yet we were immediately comfortable with each other. It was like seeing family again.

We made a brief pit stop at Sandra's apartment for refreshments, then wandered around the Bohemian part of town, pausing to have ice cream in the local Haagen Daz store. The song playing while we ate was Prince's "1999"---a good omen if I ever heard one!

That evening we had dinner with Barry Morse. Barry is one of the most interesting people I have ever met and I could listen to him talk for hours. Hmm, I think I did listen to him for hours as he regaled us with tales of his life and career.

On Friday, we got up early and headed off to AM Portland, a local morning show, to sit in the audience and watch for the station's brief promotional notice of Barry's one-man play Merely Players.

After suffering through the boring morning show, we hit a local mall. Coincidentally, we found copies of Mel Proctor's Official Fan guide to "THE FUGITIVE", which features quite a few photos of Barry and a foreword by him. I think the salesclerk was a little surprised when Terry and I both purchased copies at the same time!

After lunch, we rode the free trolley and took in some of the local sights, then went to the theatre to watch Barry rehearse and block his play. Tony Wynn proved that he does do windows when he climbed up a long ladder and cleaned the windows on the viewing booth!

By evening more fans had arrived and we all went out to eat with Barry and Grace Lee Whitney, who is best known as Yeoman Rand on the original Star Trek. Fortunately, I managed to avoid Grace's lecture on the evils of alcohol and engaged Barry in an interesting conversation about the nature of acting. One thing that really impresses me about Barry is his genuine interest in his fans. He's truly interested in finding out more about us and listening to what we have to say. I thought it was funny that he probably took almost as many photos of us as we did of him!

On Saturday the convention officially started. I met some on-line Alphans (i.e. members of the Space: 1999 electronic listserv) including Janet Schill and her husband Jim; Raja Thiagarajan and his wife; Barry Scannell ("White Left Sleeve"), Aaron Carlson (creator of Alpha Sound Center), Jim David, Terry Lee, and Mark Eidemiller ("Moonbase Alpha Chaplain"). It was a pleasant surprise to run into Glenda Nicholls, who had been at the last Space convention.

I was disappointed that the dealer's room was so small--three dealers and only one who had any Space: 1999 items for sale (and not much at that--two mini promotional posters, Eagle blueprints, and a Moonbase Alpha patch.) Luckily, the Charity Auction offered something for everyone. Items for bid included: a full set of Space: 1999 Year One and Year Two novels, The Making of SPACE:1999, the super rare Earthfall, coloring books, comic books, the board game, several puzzles, a Dinky Eagle, a resin stungun kit, autographed photos of Barry, an autographed videotape copy of Barry and Grace's OUTER LIMITS episode, Barry's Starlog interview issue, a rare photo of Prentis Hancock, Anton Phillips, Zienia Merton, and Johnny Byrne at a recent French Space: 1999 convention, a Barry Morse autographed copy of Mel Proctor's FUGITIVE book (wonder where that came from!), and not one, but two Sybil Danning compilation videos! Bob Wood's gorgeous art work of Barry that was used for the convention program book and the Merely Players playbills was also auctioned off. Barry made funny comments about many of the auction items and was particularly interested in the Sybil Danning videos. After watching parts of her introductions, Barry had some choice comments about her acting talents (or lack thereof!) A very rare bootleg compact disc garnered the highest bid--a whopping \$160.

Having saved so much money in the dealer's room, I was able to pick up a few interesting auction items--a complete set of Tony Wynn's fanzine "Reconnaissance Quarterly", a commlock, a Fanderson Gold con program book autographed by Barry, Zienia, and John Hug; and my favorite item, a very cute home-made Commander Koenig Teddy Bear complete with commander's uniform, including bell bottoms and a tiny commlock and stun gun! There were so many items in the auction that it spilled over into Sunday. And all of the money went to fight Parkinson's Disease.

We watched a videotape of the Best of Victor Bergman, which Bob Wood had put together. I noticed scenes from "A Matter of Life and Death," "War Games," and "Another Time, Another Place."

Later that afternoon we watched "Controlled Experiment," which was part of the salute to THE OUTER LIMITS. Barry, Grace Lee Whitney and Carroll (Archie Bunker) O'Connor were the stars of the episode. Although I found the episode a bit slow and repetitive, I loved Barry's characterization of an alien discovering the vices of caffeine and cigarettes for the first time. After the episode, Barry and Grace answered questions about the episode.

That evening we went to the Portland World Trade Center to see Barry's one-man play Merely Players, which was a fund-raiser for Parkinson's Disease--a cause that has been near and dear to Barry's heart ever since his wife Sydney was diagnosed with it. Seeing Barry live on stage impersonating all manner of characters is truly a treat. His videotaped scene from Henry Irving's play The Bells was quite intense and left me admiring his talent even more--no small feat on his part.

After the play we dined at La Brasserie, a Jazz Club, where you were encouraged to draw on the place mats. Rosie quickly sketched John and Helena and Barry Scannell did such an elaborate crayon drawing of an Eagle that it was auctioned off in part two of the charity auction on Sunday. We talked

about a variety of topics including fan attempts to track down rare British and French SPACE:1999 collectibles.

On Sunday September 14, the day began with Brunch with the stars. Although my table was star-less, I enjoyed talking with my fellow fans. Barry Scannell was at our table and had us all in stitches!

Later in the day Grace Lee Whitney talked about her career--how she became an alcoholic and hit bottom, then began the long climb back up. She credited her salvation to Alcoholics Anonymous and her becoming a born-again Christian. Grace is working on her autobiography, which will be published some time in the next year or so.

After grabbing a quick snack, a group of us ended up laughing and talking about SPACE:1999. Barry Scannell once again had us in stitches with his comments--this time about Alphan meat deprivation and the lengths it could drive the crew to--chasing after "Matter of Life and Death" parrots and "Bringers of Wonder" monsters. I suggested it might lead Alan to use the phrase "Throw another parrot on the barbie!" Okay, maybe you had to be there.

That afternoon a large group of us travelled downtown to the Doubletree Hotel to hear Barry's speech to the Parkinson's Symposium. Entitled "Care Giving from the Heart" Barry spoke about the importance of the human factor in medicine and caring for the sick. Afterward, he had some choice words about the British National Health Service and its short comings and some interesting comments about the need for doctors to be more caring and compassionate to their patients.

Sunday evening we had a lively dinner and lingered at the table long after we were all through eating. I nearly overdosed on the Chocolate Decadence dessert!

That night we began saying sad goodbyes to fans who were leaving the next day.

On Monday a group of us pitched in and rented a mini-van so we could drive to the Oregon coast. We arrived at Cannon Beach in the middle of a rain storm. Barry graciously treated us all to a lovely seafood lunch. After a brief very wet romp on the beach, we went back to the restaurant for some hot chocolate.

We drove along the infamous Pacific Coast Highway, pausing to take in some absolutely breath-taking scenery of the rugged Oregon coast. Then we drove up to Tillamook and had the most wonderful home-made ice cream. Mine was Wild Mountain Blackberry Ice Cream.

Finally, we drove back to Portland while Barry continued to regale us with stories of his acting career and some of the places he had been while shooting films on location.

Back at the hotel, Barry got a kick out of the Victor Bergman action figure that Aaron Carlson presented him with.

Those of us who were left went out for pizza and good conversation.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Portland SPACE:1999 convention and can't wait for the next one. Thank you to everyone who made it possible. And a special thanks to Barry Morse for being such a wonderful guest.

Reported by Jenny Lobb  
Washington. D.C.

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# MERELY BENEFITING A GOOD CAUSE

By Anthony Wynn  
Portland, OR

It is quite difficult to figure out just where to begin, as so much happened in such a short period of time! I have so many positive and heartwarming memories from our week of events that will forever be a part of me. This little remembrance covers the happenings from Thursday, September 11th to Wednesday, September 17th.

On Thursday evening, fellow "Friends of The Parkinson's Center" volunteer Camilla Sundholm and I met Barry at the airport on his arrival and were fortunately able to successfully negotiate the extensive construction taking place there. Barry astutely commented on how he noticed cars parked as far as two and three miles away through the plane window as he was coming in to land.

Upon arrival at the Days Inn, we were greeted by a group of fans who were waiting for Barry's arrival and following his check-in, Barry and the fans (as well as Camilla and I) invaded The Portland Grill, the in-house restaurant, for the first of a number of memorable dining experiences together.

Friday morning started off with two different publicity appearances - a local TV station asked us to send about 10 supporters to their studios for a live taping of the "AM Northwest" program, in exchange for running a 30 second commercial promoting the upcoming performance of Merely Players. While a group of fans went off for that appearance, I accompanied Barry to KPTV, the local UPN affiliate, where he gave an interview that would appear on the evening news and run again over the weekend. Following the interview, we stopped and picked up our audio/visual support equipment which was kindly donated by a local company, then made our way to the World Trade Center Theatre for a day of rehearsal.

It was a day of hard work, but very satisfying to see the elements of the show coming together. Barry, our technician Drew Flint, and I broke away for about 45 minutes in the early afternoon for a small lunch break at the nearby Lotus Cafe, where we talked shop and Barry regaled us with tales of the some of the technical and logistics problems he faced while on tour with Merely Players throughout Canada. We resumed work, and a group of fans joined us back at the

theatre for the afternoon session. What a marvelous help they were, too! We found out that a dance group would have to use the theatre in the evening for rehearsal, therefore we would have to clear the stage bare. Rosie Badgett, Sandra Sprecker, Terry Bowers, and Bob Wood helped with a number of tasks, locating the stage props and taping the stage floor with marks, noting the position of all the props so they could be safely moved. As we approached the end of rehearsal, I found myself on a tall ladder steadied by Terry and Bob, far above the seats below, cleaning the windows of the sound and lighting booth. Normally, I don't do windows, but for Barry... !

In the "excitement" of the moment I had somehow mis-read my notes about when Grace Lee Whitney would be arriving at the airport, and realized that I had missed her arrival! I paged the airport, leaving a message for her to catch a cab to the hotel. Meanwhile, Barry and I went back to the hotel and he relaxed with a glass of red wine, while I continued to kick myself mentally for my stupidity. He pressed a glass of wine into my hand, saying "I think you could use this!" Grace finally arrived at the hotel and checked-in and I apologized to her profusely. She was very gracious with me and said that she decided not to take a taxi because of the expense, and instead took a shuttle bus that gave her a tour of downtown Portland which she thoroughly enjoyed. Grace joined Barry and I in his hotel room and Grace and I plopped on the bed, while Barry sat in the easy chair; the three of us sat talking about THE OUTER LIMITS, television in the 1960s, and the current state of the entertainment field. Barry and Grace talked at length about the preponderance of "rubbish" in the movies and on TV and Barry told us that he recently turned down an extremely lucrative offer from a Hollywood producer to appear in a film because he could not stomach the script. They also talked about their experiences working with a young "Billy" Shatner - Barry gave him his first professional acting job in Canada.

Barry and I headed back to the theatre early Saturday morning, for a final run-through of our sound cues with Drew and to get all of our props back on-stage in their proper places. At noon we headed back to the Days Inn to join up with the SpaceCon activities that had begun at 10:00 am. The Charity Auction was still going strong and Barry joined right in, helping to auction a number of items. After a short break, Grace joined the proceedings and we screened THE OUTER LIMITS episode "Controlled Experiment."

That evening was Barry's Portland performance of Merely Players and he gave a wonderful performance. The house wasn't completely full, but it certainly was full of love between audience and performer. Barry held the audience in the palm of his hand. I even had the pleasure of joining Barry on-stage for a few minutes during the second act to help with his performance of a magic trick.

Barry's week in Portland continued with an engagement as featured Guest Speaker at The Parkinson's Center Annual Fall Symposium, a day off that featured a trip to the Oregon Coast, and our journey down to Eugene for the second performance of Merely Players at Actors Cabaret of Eugene. Barry spoke to two separate groups of high school drama students in the Eugene area, the first school was more rural outside of town and the students were more or less beginning performers, while at the second school, South Eugene High, the

students were far more savvy and experienced, having been involved in numerous productions during their school years.

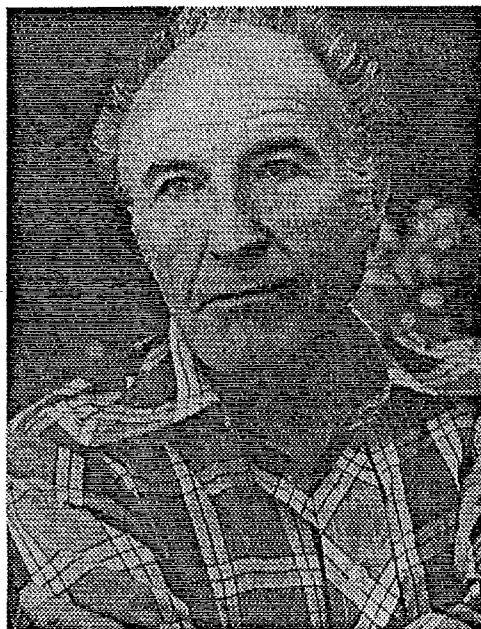
For me, I would have to say the highlight of the entire week was a very special dinner I had the pleasure to share with Barry, Terry Bowers, and Bob Wood on Tuesday evening. We dined at one of Eugene's best restaurants at The Valley River Inn, overlooking the beautiful Willamette River. It was an evening of laughter and insight as we had the pleasure of talking with Barry about the wonderful length and breadth of his career, and heard wonderful stories from his childhood, the inception of television, his work on the stage both with and without Sydney, and much, much more. At dinner, Barry noted that we had found the best Oregon wine he had tasted during his visit, an excellent Hinman Vineyards Pinor Noir 1994.

The second performance of Merely Players was even better than the first (if that's possible) and Barry played to a very enthusiastic and supportive audience. It was interesting to note the change in dynamic between the Portland and Eugene shows, taking into account the more intimate arrangement of the Eugene performance space. Terry Bowers and Bob Wood traveled with Barry and I and were instrumental in helping at the theatre and our other outside promotional engagements. We were able to arrange some good publicity for the both Merely Players and The Parkinson's Center, including interviews with two television stations, three radio stations, and articles in two local newspapers.

That week gave me the wonderful opportunity to work closely with one of finest living stage actors around, an experience that I will always deeply treasure, as well as the pleasure of raising both funds and publicity for Parkinson's disease research and treatment. I want to extend my public thanks to Barry Morse for his generosity and hard work here in Portland; to Sydney Sturgess for letting Barry come and do these shows; and lastly, to all the marvelous fans who flew in from around the country to see Barry and who helped out with details both small and large.



**Anthony Wynn and Grace Lee Whitney are convinced to expose themselves for "The Celebrity Tongue Book", a project by photographer Melody Tamar Saunders, daughter of big band leader Dick Saunders. Whitney was vocalist with Dick Saunders in the '60s and '70s.**



*Barry Morse: He's not so hated anymore.*

## **Morse to perform play in Portland**

He's best remembered for his portrayal of "the most hated man in America," Police Lt. Philip Gerard from the TV series *The Fugitive*. When actor **Barry Morse** visits Portland, however, he'll be here to do a good deed. Morse will present his one-man show, *Merely Players*, Sept. 13 as a fundraiser for The Parkinson's Center of Oregon. The play will take place at downtown's World Trade Center Theatre at 8 p.m. and Sept. 17 at Eugene's Actors Cabaret at 8 p.m. Tickets are available through Fastixx. Morse will also speak at the Annual Fall Symposium of The Parkinson's Center Sept. 14 at the Doubletree Hotel/Lloyd Center. The work of The Parkinson's Center hits close to home for Morse since his wife of 58 years, actress **Sydney Sturgess**, has been diagnosed with the disease.

## on stage

# Barry Morse of 'The Fugitive' will perform one-man show

British-Canadian actor Barry Morse will present his one-man show, "Merely Players," at 8 p.m. Wednesday at Actors Cabaret of Eugene, 996 Willamette St.

The performance is a fund-raiser for the Parkinson's Center of Oregon at Oregon Health Sciences University.

Morse's appearance Wednesday in Eugene and a performance Saturday in Portland mark the U.S. premiere of the international show.

Morse is probably best remembered for his portrayal of police Lt. Philip Gerard in the television series "The Fugitive" with David Janssen and as Professor Victor Bergman in "Space: 1999" with Martin Landau and Barbara Bain.

The center's work on Parkinson's disease is particularly significant to Morse because his wife of 58 years, Sydney Sturgess, was diagnosed with the disease in 1985.

Tickets for the Eugene performance are available through the Hult Center box office (682-5000) and Fastixx locations. The price (not including service charges) is \$18.50 general or

\$14.50 for students and seniors.

Born in London, England to a cockney family, Morse was a 15-year-old school dropout and errand boy when he won a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. He performed in London's West End and on Broadway, appeared on the BBC's earliest live shows beginning in the late 1930s and performed in various productions and touring companies during World War II. He moved to Canada in 1951.

In Toronto, Morse devoted some of his time to a half-hour weekly CBC Radio series, "A Touch of Greasepaint." That show, which ran for 10 years, explored the experience of actors through the ages and served as a rough draft for "Merely Players."

The show is a theatrical scrapbook offering a wide variety of entertainment from Elizabethan to modern-day. There are show business stories that are hilarious and heartbreaking, about performers world-famous and obscure, and even a musical number thrown in for good measure.

# SPACE:1999 CONVENTION XII

September 13 - 14, 1997

Portland, Oregon

The last SPACE:1999 convention I attended and helped with was over five years ago - July, 1992 in Los Angeles. But as with riding a bicycle or swimming, attending Con is a skill you never forget. I found myself falling into "con mode" almost immediately, becoming totally (well, almost) oblivious to regular meal times, how much talking and laughing I did, and especially how much sleep was attained. None of that seems to matter much when faced with the amount of fun, relaxation, and enjoyment derived by attending con.

I'm hoping that the other post-con reports will supply details and highlights of convention activities because - honestly - I really didn't have a chance to do much. During THE OUTER LIMITS tribute I was busy with details of the charity auction. During the Q&A following the screening of Barry and Grace's episode, "Controlled Experiment", I had errands to run. During Grace's talk, I was bust counting money and tallying the intake from the charity auction. Being on the "con committee" can be a two way launch pad. You may be "clued in" as to what is going on and what is happening -- good or bad -- but you're also kept so busy with other things you may not have a chance to participate in all the convention activities you might like.

However, there are two convention highlights I clearly recall. The first has to be the charity auction, to benefit PCO (Parkinson's Center of Oregon). When Tony first asked me to coordinate the auction, I willingly agreed. After inventorying my own "stash" of SPACE:1999 and related items, I began to contact my sources; begging, pleading, cajoling, grovelling (okay, no grovelling, but I thought about it...) in order to amass a nice selection of items for the auction. Response was wonderful and generous, and I was able to gather such items as a complete set of American Year One and Year Two novelizations as well as individual copies of numerous novelizations, a copy of the SPACE:1999 board (bored!?) game, a copy of the almost impossible to find E.C. Tubb original novel Earthfall, two of the horribly funny Sybil Danning 1999 "movies", a copy of THE OUTER LIMITS - "Controlled Experiment" autographed by Barry Morse and Grace Lee Whitney, a hand made original teddy bear with Commander's uniform and utility belt, original ITC press release photos, and more. Bob Wood generously donated the art work he'd done for the event as well. These items were made available for all to inspect, and we decided to hold the auction in two parts. Half was done on Saturday morning, raising about \$640.00, and the second lot auctioned off on Sunday morning following the brunch with Barry and Grace Lee. After some additional donations, the final total for the auction came to over \$1300.00! Kudos to everyone who participated - either by donating items, bidding, purchasing, or just cheering us on.

The other convention highlight that comes to mind has to be Barry Morse and his performance of his one man show, Merely Players on Saturday evening. I'd seen a video tape of it previously, but that could not prepare me for the live version. Included in the show are pieces by Anton Chekov, Swan Song,

Henry Irving, The Bells, and of course The Master, William Shakespeare. Also included, and among my favorites pieces, are Barry's recollections of his days in repertory in the U.K., and of people he knew and worked with then, especially Carl Bernard, a man who took the "yo-yo" parts to the extreme. Barry also relates how he came to be an actor, winning a scholarship at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, and treats us to one of his audition pieces: Cockney street patter from a rather frail man in ill health selling a miracle, cure-all unguent (pronounced UN-jent).

Also included is a piece in which Barry plays an Irish land lady (complete with adjusting the bra strap and what it supports), and a very moving piece about Edward Alleyn and his wife Joan. Allen was an actor during Elizabethan times, forced to go 'on the road' in order to keep working during the summer and early fall - plague season in London. The letters exchanged between Edward and his wife Joan reflect not only the everyday trivialities of life, but also the love and devotion shared by Edward and Joan. Astounding that these letters have not only survived into current times, but that they actually reached Joan and Edward at all, having to be entrusted to kind strangers headed in the general direction of one party or the other, in an era of no postal system at all.

A musical number or two also populates the show, including "Her Mother Came Too" - the story of a suitor's attempts to be alone with his girl being thwarted by her mother tagging along on their dates. Barry ends the show with an old Cockney song he dedicates to his wife of nearly 59 years, Sydney Sturgess. It's called "My Old Dutch", and it never fails to make me all misty-eyed at the end.

My bout with PCD (Post Con Depression) was delayed a few days as I was able to stay on and accompany Tony, Bob Wood and Barry to Eugene, OR., where Barry did a second performance of Merely Players on Wednesday evening. We were joined that day by Sandra Sprecker and Rich Clark for a wonderfully enjoyable evening in an intimate, cabaret setting.

As with any convention, much of the enjoyment comes from seeing old friends and meeting new ones. People whose names were familiar but whom I'd never met face to face, or those who have found their way back to this large, extended family after an absence of varying periods. Although some might consider me a "veteran" of many conventions, I'm still new at this, as each convention has its own charm and character. The one universal aspect of all SPACE:1999 conventions is the instant friendships that are formed, and the feeling of being among family.

Just like riding a bicycle or swimming in the "deep end" for the first time -- attending a SPACE:1999 convention is an experience you'll never forget!

Terry S. Bowers  
River Falls, WI.

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## *"My Old Dutch"*

Originally performed by Albert Chevalier  
 An old Cockney Song as performed by Barry Morse in *Merely Players* and  
 dedicated to his wife of nearly 60 years, Sydney Sturgess.

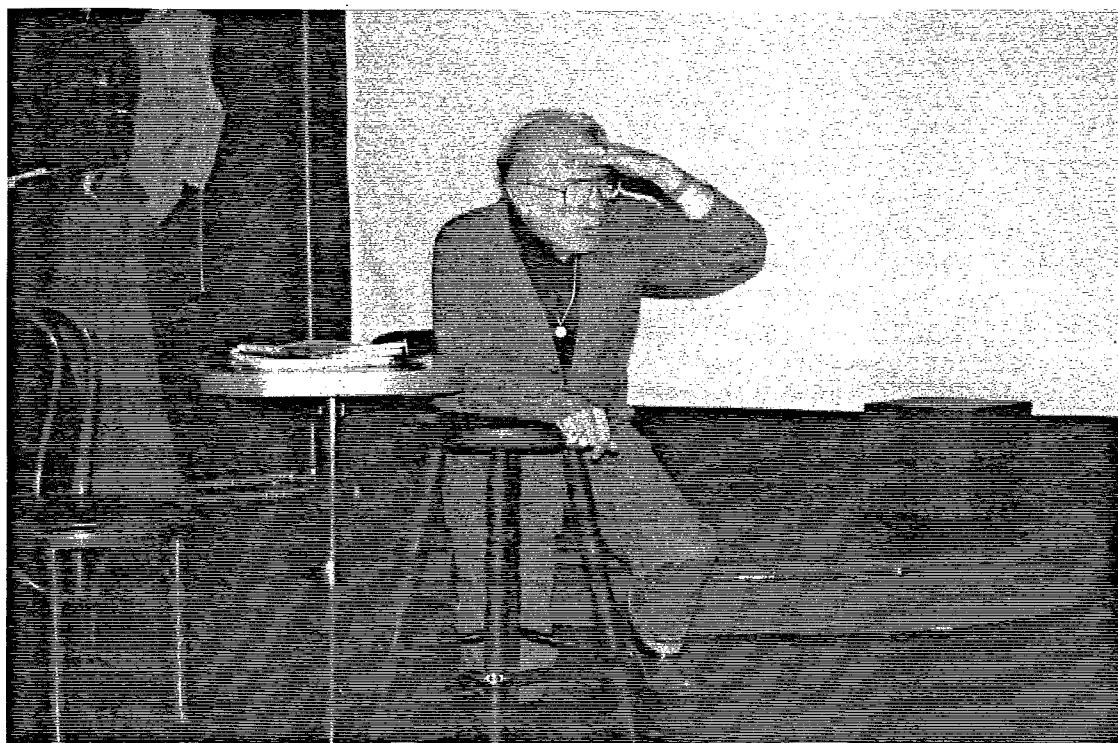
In Cockney rhyming slang, "My Old Dutch" means the Duchess of Fife = Wife

*I've got a gal  
 She's a reglar alder aller (?)  
 She's a dear good old pal  
 And I'll tell ya all about 'er  
 It's many years since first we met  
 'Er hair was than as black as jet  
 It's whiter now but she don't fret  
 Not my old gal*

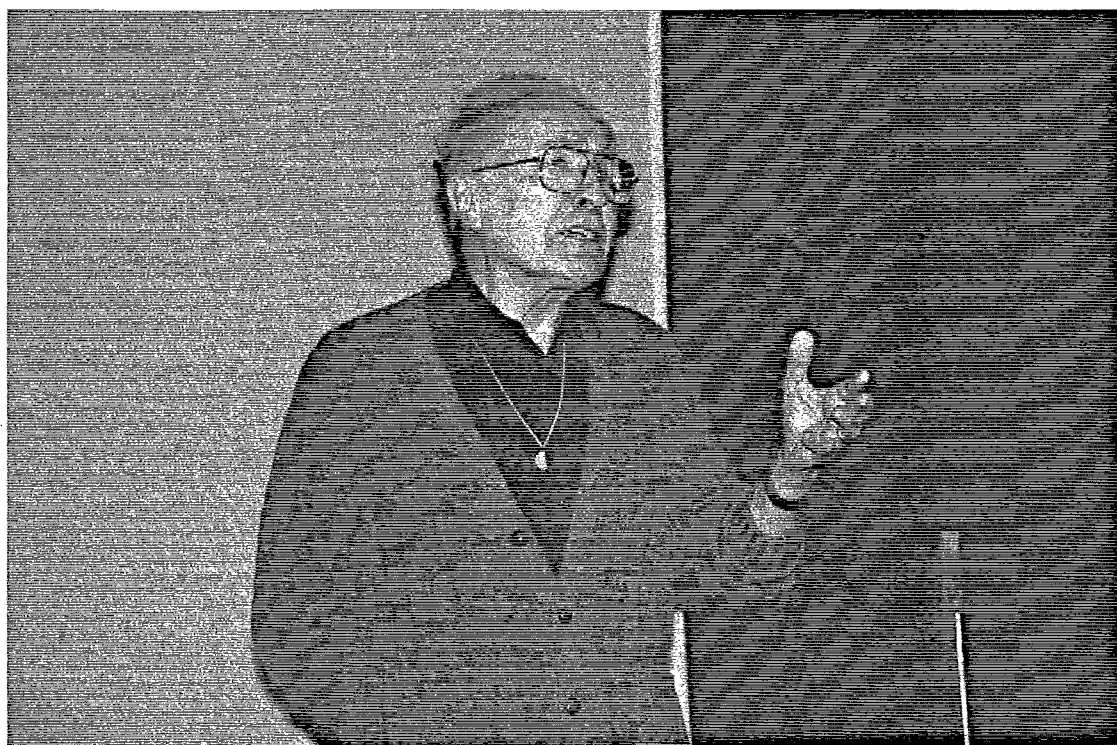
*We've been together now for sixty years  
 And it don't seem a day too much  
 Cause there ain't a lady livin' in the land  
 As I'd trade for me dear old dutch  
 No there ain't a lady livin' in the land  
 As I'd trade for me dear old dutch*

*I sees you gal  
 Your pretty ribbons sportin'  
 Many long years old pal  
 Since them young days o' courtin'  
 I ain't a coward  
 Still I trust  
 When we've to part  
 As part we must  
 That death will come  
 And take me first  
 To wait for my gal*

*We've been together now for 60 years  
 And it don't seem a day too much  
 Cause there ain't a lady livin' in the land  
 As I'd trade for me dear old dutch  
 No there ain't a lady livin' in the land  
 As I'd trade for me dear old.... (blows a kiss to Sydney)*



SWAN SONG, ADAPTED FROM Anton Chekov



"My Old Dutch"

September 13th

I left from Tacoma, Washington to Oregon at 7 am, and after driving in circles around the confusing city of Portland I arrived around 9:30 at The Days Inn, where the convention was held. After checking in I went to the convention room to check things out. Being this was my first SPACE:1999 convention (I'm only 20 years old), I wasn't sure what to expect. I was used to the big 5000+ attendees at the usual Star Trek type conventions, I wasn't expecting this wonderfully small (probably around 25 people) group. Of course being in a group this size meant that you got to know each other quite well. First off I met a few of my fellow internet mailing list members; Mark Eidemiller, Barry (who at this convention became known as "The Other Barry" or "Crazy Barry"), Jenny Lobb, and Janet Schill with her husband Jim.

The first event was the charity auction. Some wonderful items were auctioned off and the auction alone brought in more than \$1,200! Not bad for such a small group. After the auction Barry Morse and Grace Lee Whitney arrived. It was time to view their episode of THE OUTER LIMITS, "Controlled Experiment". It was very interesting to see Barry and Grace from almost 35 years ago. After viewing the episode, they both shared some of their memories of the show.

After THE OUTER LIMITS tribute, we all had some free time, as Barry needed to prepare for the play. A group of listmembers and myself went out to get something to eat, while others stayed and watched a SPACE:1999 episode.

At around 7:15 we all met in the hotel lobby to walk over to the World Trade Center to watch Barry's one man performance of his play, Merely Players. The play was absolutely marvelous, and very moving, although it did have some amusing moments too (ask anyone there about what Barry did when someone's cell phone went off in the audience). Needless to say Barry got a standing ovation at the conclusion of his performance.

After the play we helped clean up the stage, and Barry took pictures of us all to take home to Sydney. Once finishing up at the World Trade Center, most of the group walked to a small jazz type club and had a late dinner/snack with Grace. The evening ended at about 1 am.

September 14th

Sunday began with brunch, with Barry and Grace both in attendance. After eating we finished up the auction, which had some fierce high bidding (Barry commented, "Some of you are going to have to walk home!"). Upon it's conclusion we had some more free time before we would take the trolley to the Doubletree Hotel to listen the Barry's speech at the Parkinson's symposium. After his speech he chatted with us and I said goodbye to him, thinking that my trip was over. It of course was not.

After arriving back at The Days Inn, Bob Wood (a very nice and talented guy), mentioned to me that a few of convention goers (Terry S. Bowers, Jenny Lobb,

Rosie Badgett, Sandra Sprecker and of course Bob) were going to rent a mini van and take Barry to the coast on Monday. He asked me if I would like to go. Now this was an offer that I could not resist, so needless to say, I stayed another night.

September 15th

My first job of Monday morning was to drive Sandra and Bob to the rental agency to get the van, but much to my dismay, my car had a flat tire!!! I called AAA to fix it, but they told me they could only put on the very tiny spare tire (which would be inadequate to drive home 150 miles with). Panic set in and fortunately two of my new convention friends (James David and Mark Brezic) came to the rescue. Since their flights would be leaving several hours later (and thus couldn't accompany us to the coast), they agreed to drive my car to the local service center and have my flat tire patched. Space: 1999 fans seem to be the most generous group of people I have ever met. Thank you James and Mark! I am eternally grateful!

We left for the coast around 10 am, and had a wonderful drive. One thing about Barry is he loves to talk, and he tells the most fascinating stories from his long career, which even includes stories of his radio work in the 1930's!

The group arrived in Canon Beach around noon, and as it began to rain, we decided to go and have some lunch at one of the cozy restaurants in town. While we were not paying attention, Barry snuck away and paid for all of our lunches!

After lunch we went to the beach took some pictures, until it began to pour down rain (and I do mean Pour!!) We decided the rest of our trip might be best served in the van, so we drove along the coast, until we happened upon a small coffee and ice cream place. After finishing up there, we decided it was time to head back to Portland. The day, and my vacation were coming to an end, but there was one more thing I had to do.

Upon arriving back at the hotel, I presented Barry with a Mattel Victor Bergman action figure. Apparently he hadn't seen one in years. He exclaimed, "How bizarre! They seemed to have been rather generous with my hair, but they did seem to get my whiskers (sideburns) right!"

He told me Sydney and the grandchildren would get endless joy out of it. And so my last vision of Barry was him stepping onto the elevator holding little Victor by the hand.

After Barry departed, the remainder of us went out for pizza, and it was time that I had to say goodbye to my new friends. And so after exchanging addresses and giving out hugs, I departed Portland, heading back to Washington, remembering this trip, and how much it will always mean to me.

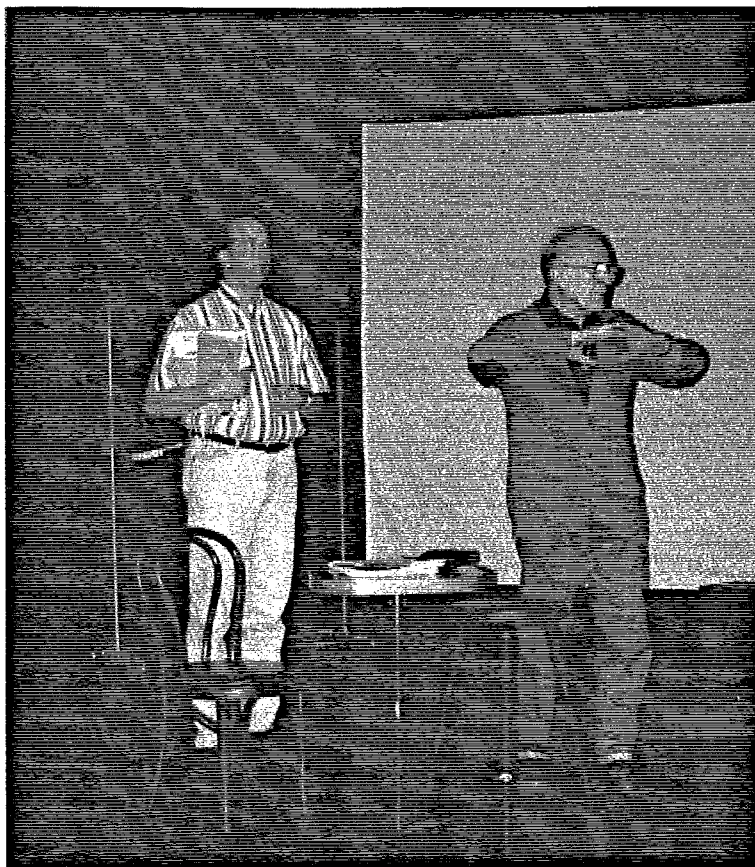
In Conclusion

I have two lasting memories of this convention that I am sure I will remember forever. The first is of what an incredible man Barry Morse is. Over the course of the few days I was there, I learned so much from him, he is an immense fountain of knowledge, and one of the kindest person's I have ever met. The second memory is the sense of family (Barry even referred to me as "one of his Grandchildren") among the group. Never before have I been with such people who were so loyal, dedicated, and generous. I think Terry Bowers put it best when she said to me before I left, "Welcome to the family."

I am looking forward to our next family reunion in 1999!

Aaron Carlson  
Seattle, Washington

Tony Wynn assisting Barry Morse  
in  
"Maybe a Little Magic"



## PARKINSON FOUNDATION

## SPECIAL FEATURE PAGES

# Real life role is challenging task

Veteran actor and wife play out their drama of love, courage

BY MARILYN DUNLOP  
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

In a downtown Toronto apartment Barry Morse prepares tea, hands a cupful to his wife Sydney and gently caresses her cheek. "Time for your medicine," he says, placing a pill on her tongue.

Can this tender man be the tough cop who for four years in the TV series *The Fugitive* (and in countless reruns over a quarter of a century) relentlessly pursued his prey, a doctor accused of murder?

The very same. THE Barry Morse. The versatile, veteran actor, as familiar to Canadians for his roles in Shakespearean dramas as he is as a formidable detective.

But this apartment scene is real life. A love story that has been playing for 56 years, since the Morses were married in London, England, where both were carving out stage careers.

Ten and a half years ago, Sydney was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Morse says their daughter Melanie, who lives in Toronto, was the first to notice something was wrong. The Morses, as they still do each year, spent half their time here, half in England. Melanie hadn't seen

them in several months and she was alarmed when she observed her mother's unsteady movements. She drew her father aside and told him her fears, urging him to take her mother to a doctor.

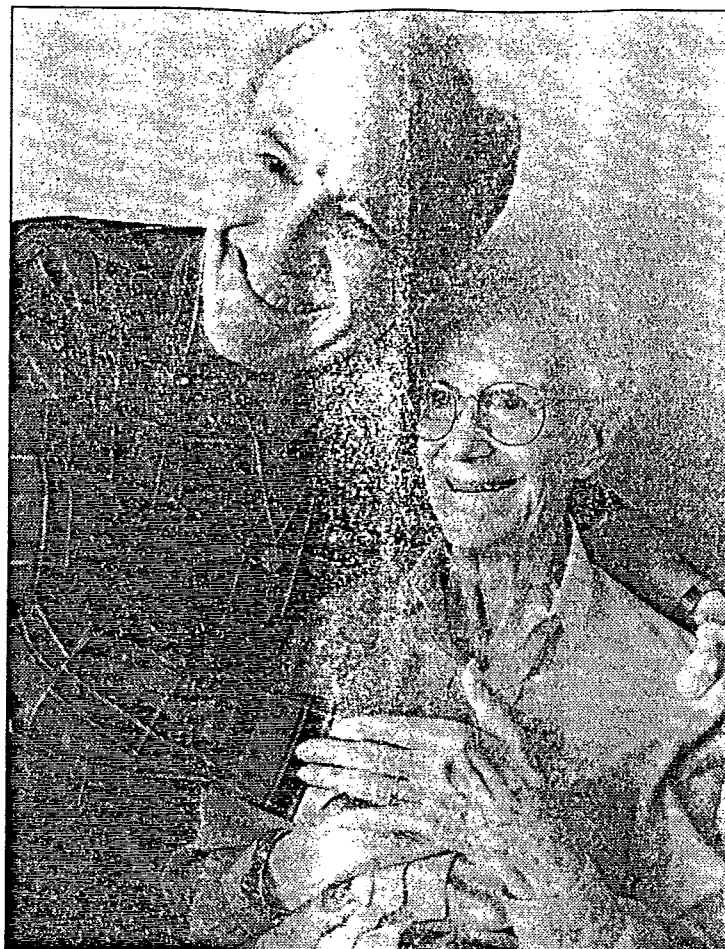
"When you are with somebody every day you don't notice tiny transitions," he says. "I thought Sydney was just slowing down a bit with age. She was 70."

Back in England, as soon as their doctor saw her walk he guessed she had Parkinson's. There is no absolute diagnostic test for the common movement disorder. Doctors make the diagnosis by a number of procedures to rule out other conditions that mimic Parkinson's symptoms. The neurological assessments showed her doctor's initial guess had been correct.

As is inevitable with Parkinson's, over the decade her condition progressed and she consulted physicians in London and in Toronto. It gave the Morses an opportunity to compare medical care between the two countries. "It is far, far better here," Morse says. The couple have high praise for the neurological services at The Toronto Hospital, Western division.

"In London," he continues, "in 10 years she has seen a neurologist only twice a year — and that only with persistence — and on those visits she saw nine different neurologists."

In Toronto, he says, there is continuity of care. She is seen



ANNE MUNRO / TORONTO STAR

**LOVE STORY:** Actor Barry Morse and his wife Sydney have been married for 56 years. Sydney has battled Parkinson's disease for the last 10½ years.

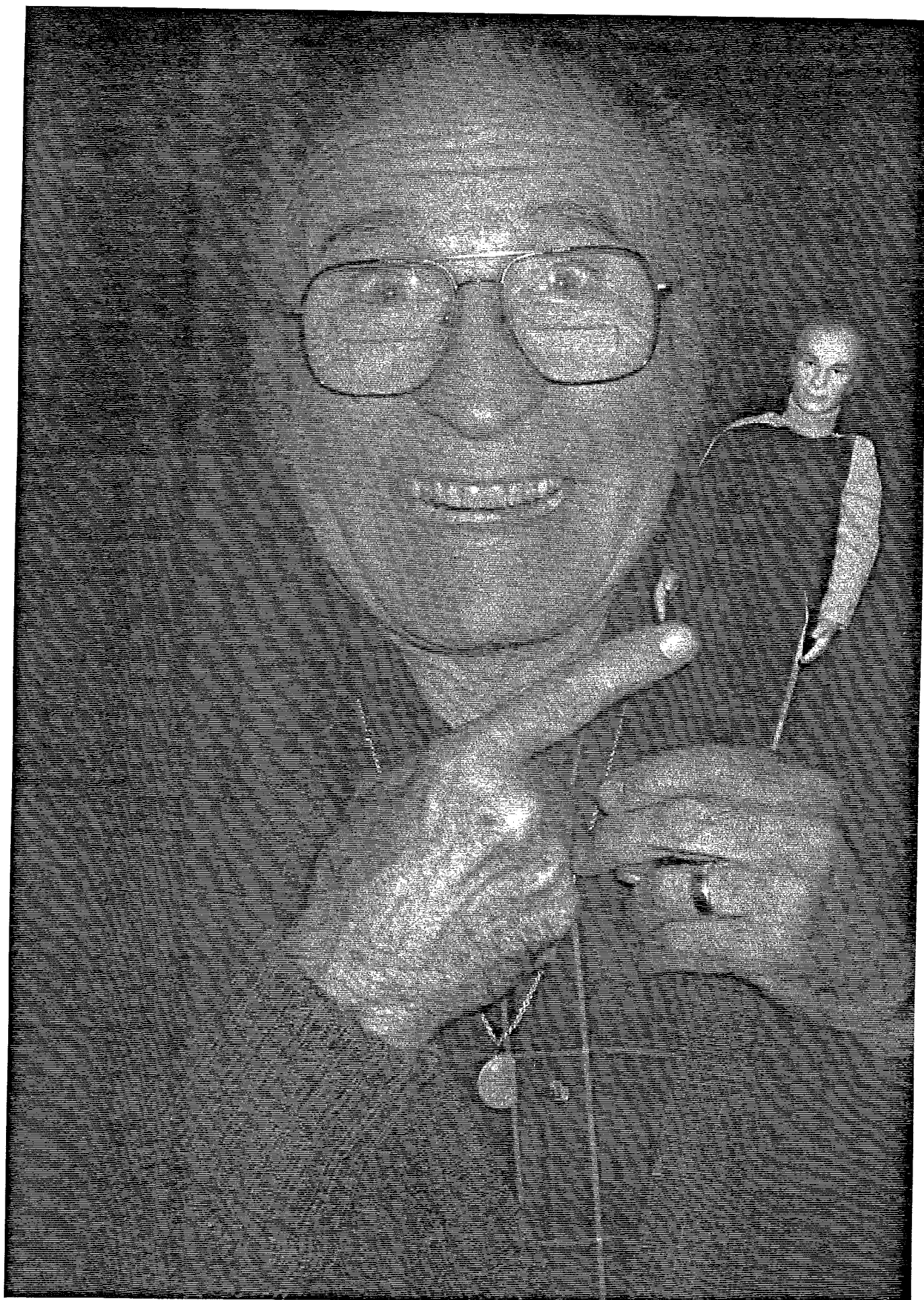
regularly by the same neurologist who knows her case. To help keep her medications adjusted to her needs, Morse records a daily log of her drugs and her reactions to the medications. "For some time, we did a lot of tight-rope walking, adjusting frequency and strength of drugs," he explains.

Yet with time, an individual's responses to a drug may change. She uses a wheeled-cane to

help her keep her balance. "She has had falls and has some bruises but hasn't been badly hurt," he knocks on the wooden table beside him.

But they walk regularly for exercise.

They've managed to cope and keep active "mainly because of her courage" he claims. She credits him. "Well, she looked after me for the first 46 years," he says.



*Barry Morse Meets Victor Bergman*