

*Hewitt S. Morris (1905-1973) left home at seventeen to become a ship's wireless operator or "Sparks," the name given to radio operators before vacuum tubes were invented. From 1923-1928, Morris plied the oceans and visited major ports across the globe as a crewman in ten merchant ships. He entertained thoughts of making this sea-going adventure a career, but an opportunity ashore intervened, and instead he pursued a career in the sound and communications field (his company installed the first "talking picture" equipment in movie houses starting in the late 1920s). Later he became president of Altec Lansing, a world leader in audio products. He once said that the sources of his education were the Harvard Classics and his five-year tenure at sea.*