

Seagulls & Summer People

A record of Maine humor
By Captain Kendall Morse





Captain Kendall Morse Seagulls and Summer People

CAPTAIN KENDALL MORSE is the genuine article — an authentic downeaster from Machias, Maine, who worked in a sardine packing plant as a youth and became the skipper of a fisheries inspection vessel in his maturity. He now lives and works in Portland. He comes by his storytelling skills naturally; his great-uncle, Curtis Morse, was a locally well-known storyteller from whom “out-of-staters” collected yarns, and his grandfather, Alfred, was no slouch, either, when it came to swapping tall tales.

The fact that Kendall has, in recent years, told his stories (and sung his songs) in front of audiences detracts not one whit from his authenticity. Whether sitting at your kitchen table or on a stage, Kendall remains himself. He assumes no self-conscious stage mannerisms, affects no accent or costume to “dress up his act.” He just sits there, quietly piling one outrageous story on top of another while his friends (or his audiences) collapse in laughter.

Kendall is one of those rare individuals who takes in a story — and prints it — the first time he hears it, and he has been printing good ones in his seemingly unlimited memorybank for the better part of his forty-odd years. Offer him your best one and he'll enjoy it, of course, and remember it, but the moment the laughter subsides, he'll have one of his own ready to top it.

This album was recorded “live,” with an invited audience in the barn we use as a studio, because we found that Kendall is much more comfortable telling stories to people than to microphones. We've even left in some of his occasional “asides” to give you the true feeling of the evening — and a further insight into the ready wit of this remarkable “folk” raconteur.

Play this record for your friends; they'll love you for it. But, if you plan to play it for your prissy Aunt Mathilda, you'd be wise to edit it a bit first. Some of the stories are, well... appropriately salty. *Caveat emptor.*

*Sandy Paton
Folk-Legacy Records*

SIDE 1:

Uncle Curt's Stories
Seagulls and Summer People
Old Jigger Jones

SIDE 2:

About Preachers
The Maine Character

Cover drawing by Web Bryant

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