

Canadian-born star dies

Actress Norma Shearer, an Oscar-winning leading lady of the golden age of Hollywood who married one of film's brightest moguls, has died at age 80.

The Canadian-born star, whose career peaked in the 1920s and '30s, died in Los Angeles where she had lived since September 1980. The cause of death was broncho-pneumonia.

The brown-haired grey-eyed actress won an Academy Award for her performance in the 1929 film *The Divorcée*. She was nominated as best actress for her roles in *Their Own Desire*, 1929; *A Free Soul*, 1930; *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*, 1934; *Romeo and Juliet*, 1936; and *Marie Antoinette*, 1938.

She also scored screen triumphs in *Idiot's Delight*, opposite Clark Gable, *Strange Interlude*, *Smilin' Through*, *Tower of Lies*, *Strangers May Kiss*, *A Lady of Chance*, *The Stealers* and *The Women*.

Married to Irving Thalberg, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film production genius, in 1927, Shearer was widowed in 1936 when Thalberg died unexpectedly at age 37, shortly after producing *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Good Earth*.

Shearer married her second husband, French ski instructor Martin Arrouge, in 1942 — the year she made her last film, *Her Cardboard Lover*.

Born Edith Norma Shearer in August 1902, in the Westmount area of Montreal, she left school at age 14 to embark on a stage career. She later played piano in motion picture theatres while she and her sister, Athole, took minor parts on Broadway.

Ultimately, Shearer gained more important parts and a trip to Hollywood, where she met the youthful Thalberg at MGM.

French literary prize

Quebec author Gaetan Brulotte and poet Guy Gervais were chosen recently as co-winners of the 1983 France-Quebec Jean-Hamelin Literary Prize. Brulotte was honoured for his book *Le surveillant*, a collection of ten short stories whose theme is the law and the people who enforce it — from judge to doorkeeper.

Guy Gervais, an employee of the Department of External Affairs, Cultural Division, was awarded the prize for his collection of poems in a book entitled *Gravité*.

Canadian painter Alex Colville featured in first major retrospective



Dog and Priest, 1978, acrylic, by Alex Colville.

The first major exhibition of the work of Canadian painter Alex Colville opens July 22 at the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto and runs until September 18. *Alex Colville: A Retrospective* will then travel to Berlin and Cologne in Germany, and across Canada to Montreal, Halifax and Vancouver during its year-long tour. The show is being sponsored by Norcen Energy Resources Limited.

Organized by David Burnett, curator of contemporary Canadian art, the retrospective brings together from widely dispersed public, private and corporate collections nearly half of the paintings Colville has created over the past 40 years. Fifty-seven paintings will be shown, along with 96 preparatory drawings and seven serigraphs.

Although Colville images such as *Horse*

and *Train*, *To Prince Edward Island*, *Family and Rainstorm* and *Pacific* are familiar to many, few people have had an opportunity to study and enjoy the many layers of meaning and the complexity of execution integral to the work of Alex Colville.

It is not unusual, says Dr. Burnett, for Colville to work five or ten years on an idea for a painting or serigraph. A section of the show will provide insight into how the artist works through sets of preparatory sketches and drawings relating to five paintings and one serigraph.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Art Gallery of Ontario and McClelland and Stewart have co-published a monograph on Colville's work, including a descriptive catalogue of all his paintings and serigraphs, written by David Burnett.



Seven Crows, 1981, acrylic on canvas.