

RAYMOND HART ASSEY



in London in 1922. After that he acted, managed the *Everyman* and produced plays. He came to Broadway in *Hamlet* in 1931 and, after a series of hits and misses there, played the title role in *Abraham Lincoln in Illinois* in 1939. He then starred with Katharine Cornell in a series of Shaw plays and made 30 films, the most notable being *Fire Over England*, *Abraham Lincoln in Illinois*, and *Forty-ninth Parallel*. His best-remembered television role was as Dr. Gillespie in *Dr. Kildare* (1961 to 1965). His brother, Vincent, had an equally distinguished career and served as Governor General of Canada from 1952 to 1959.

Raymond Hart Massey, born in Toronto into a family of farm machinery tycoons, made his theatrical debut in Siberia, entertaining the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Russia in 1919. His British stage debut was in Eugene O'Neill's *In the Zone* at the Everyman Theatre

Snag Not Snug

In 1947 the temperature in the village of Snag in the Yukon fell to -81°F, the coldest temperature ever recorded in North America.

A Social Caution from Not Too Long Ago

"These are NOT DONE by a gentleman: Having the razor used on his head and neck, giving a convict-like appearance, instead of having the hair cut with the scissors and tapered gradually off. Manicuring his nails in public. Using a toothpick at table or anywhere in public. Being photographed in evening clothes. Wearing a white tie with a dinner jacket. Borrowing money from a woman. Stretching himself full length on a sofa when making an evening call."

The Blue Book of Canadian Social Usage, Gertrude Pringle, 1932

Last Laughs

"There are no comedies of manners because there are no manners."

Raymond Massey

Savanna

In Ontario and Quebec a savanna is a tract of peat bog or boggy barren, not a grassland. A Canadian "Hannah, The Vamp from Savannah" would have to wear hip boots.

Bluenose

"Bluenose" is the name of a fine potato grown in Nova Scotia and a nickname for the Nova Scotians themselves. It is also the name of the schooner of 154 tons launched at Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, in 1921. She beat the United States' *Gertrude L. Thebaud* and the *Columbia* in celebrated races, and her engraved likeness is on the back of Canadian dimes. She was lost off Haiti in 1946, and there is now a *Bluenose II*.



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