

# No retirement for Canadian-born actor

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HOLLYWOOD (AP) — Says Glenn Ford: "Noel Coward once told me, 'You will know you're old when you cease to be amazed.' Well, I can still be amazed."

One of the things that amazes him is the fact that he will be 65 on May 1. That age marks retirement for a lot of folks, but Ford exhibits no evidence of even a slowdown after 42 years in films, minus wartime years in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Californians see and hear him daily as a TV spokesman for a local savings and loan, following the oversized footsteps of John Wayne. Ford will be seen in two features this spring: Happy Birthday To Me, directed by W. Lee Thompson (The Guns of Navarone); and Virus, a disaster movie co-starring George

Kennedy, Bo Svenson, Chuck Connors and Robert Vaughan.

Both were made in Canada under the Canadian film development program. Since he was born — as Gwyllyn Ford — in Quebec, his presence in the cast adds to the points needed to qualify for tax-shelter backing of Canada-made movies. This despite the fact that Ford is a U.S. citizen.

"Once a Canadian, always a Canadian" seems to be the system, he says.

"Cynthia (his third wife) and I will be in Bali on my birthday," Ford remarked, "but not because I want to avoid it.

"Age never worries me."

Nor should it. The creases are a bit deeper, but the face still has a slightly boyish look, especially with his Marine-issue haircut.

Glenn Ford was a product of the big-studio system, the passing of which he laments. He worked in 44 movies during his 17 years at Columbia Pictures.

"I had no problem with Harry Cohn," said the actor of his late, hard-driving boss. "I wish we had 10 Harry Cohns running the movie business today.

"I remember paying a visit to Harry when my contract was up. He was kinda sad

when he said, 'Bill Holden has left the studio, Rita Hayworth has left, now you're going. All the old gang has gone. You know why we always got along together? Glenn? Because you were never afraid of me.'"

Ford has made a total of 222 features, which he figures is some kind of record in today's Hollywood. He was asked which films he remembered most fondly.

"Oh I don't know, there were so many of them," he said. Thinking a bit, he named The Blackboard Jungle, Gilda, Cowboy, 3:10 to Yuma, The Sheepman, The Gazebo.

"They may not have been the best pictures I did, but they're the ones I remember most fondly because of the people involved," he added. "People like George Marshall, who directed six pictures with me, and Debbie Reynolds."

"I appeared in 55 plays before I got into moveies," he said, "But I don't think I could get through an opening night now.

"I think it's good to know one's limitations. I like to do what Jack Lemmon does — go back and forth between films and theatre — but I'm not quite prepared for it."

He pondered for a moment, then: "Still, I could do it."



Glenn Ford