

## Raymond Edward Johnson

Raymond Edward Johnson was born July 24, 1911, in Kenosha, Wisconsin. He started as a bank teller before studying acting at the Goodman School of Drama in Chicago, where he began his career in radio in the drama *Welcome Valley*. He also played the forest ranger in *The National Farm and Home Hour*, a role he shared with Don Ameche.

Mr. Johnson typically acted in thrillers such as Arch Oboler's *Lights Out* and *Arch Oboler's Plays*. His most famous role, however, was as host of *Inner Sanctum Mystery* under the direction of Himan Brown, beginning in 1941. His signature signoff, "Pleasant dreams, hmmm?" later was paraphrased by E. G. Marshall in another Himan Brown production, *CBS Radio Mystery Theater*.

Raymond took the reigns as *Mr. District Attorney* during part of its run in 1939. He played the other side of the judicial system as well, playing the title character in *Roger Kilgore, Public Defender*. He performed on Broadway in several productions, and even hit the silver screen as Alexander Graham Bell in the 1947 film *Mr. Bell*. Stricken with multiple sclerosis in his 40's limited his activities, but he still carried on his radio performances, even reprising his *Inner Sanctum* role for Old Time Radio Conventions, often appearing in a portable bed or a wheelchair.

Mr. Johnson died shortly after his 90th birthday in Wallingford, Connecticut.