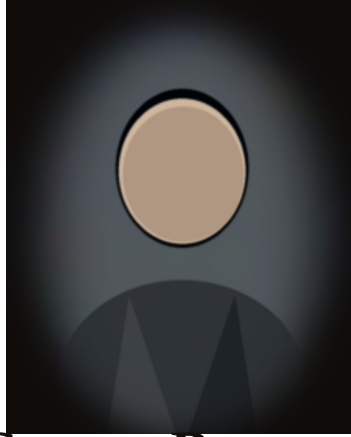




George Bancroft

September 30, 1882 - October 2, 1956

Santa Monica, California

George Bancroft - American film actor whose pre-Code tough-guy leads and later supporting work helped define Hollywood grit before the Production Code softened the edges - died in Santa Monica, California, on October 2, 1956. He was seventy-four. Born September 30, 1882, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy before finding the screen, then starred for Josef von Sternberg in films culminating in *Thunderbolt* (1929), which earned him an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor.

He later supported classics including *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town* and John Ford's *Stagecoach*, proving a hard face could still serve an ensemble. After retiring from films in the early 1940s he lived in Southern California and died in Santa Monica; he was interred at Woodlawn Memorial Cemetery there.

Philadelphia gave him ballast; Hollywood gave him the close-up. He acted as if toughness needed a pulse.

He died in Santa Monica on October 2, 1956. Somewhere a nitrate print is still catching the glare off a badge.

Bancroft's gift was workable menace - making authority look human. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so October 2 remembers the Philadelphia actor who toughened early sound cinema.

Services

Died in Santa Monica, California, October 2, 1956. Film actor; pre-Code tough-guy lead; Oscar-nominated for *Thunderbolt*; *Stagecoach*; *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town*.

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