



Milton Sills

January 12, 1882 - September 15, 1930

Los Angeles, California

Milton Sills, Chicago-born stage actor who became one of silent Hollywood's reliable leading men, died of a heart attack at his Brentwood home in Los Angeles on September 15, 1930, while playing tennis with his wife. He was forty-eight. The industry that had watched him move from university classrooms and Broadway to *The Sea Hawk* and a run of romantic adventure pictures lost a star who still looked like a scholar who had wandered onto a set.

Born Milton George Gustavus Sills in Chicago on January 12, 1882, he taught briefly, acted on stage, and entered films in the mid-1910s as features lengthened and studios learned to sell faces. Audiences knew the firm jaw and measured delivery; colleagues knew a man who kept books and ideas beside scripts. Marriage to Doris Kenyon after an earlier divorce placed him in a Hollywood household that still valued privacy more than premiere noise.

The tennis court ending was sudden enough to shock trade papers that had assumed another decade of talkies. Chicago's Rosehill Cemetery received him; Photoplay later printed a poem found among his effects - a small coda for a career built on presence rather than scandal.

He died in Los Angeles on September 15, 1930. Silent film histories still file him under leading man; Brentwood's afternoon remains the sharper local memory.

Sills's gift was to make adventure look thoughtful - a rare commodity when studios preferred either pure muscle or pure gloss. Notice Nearby marks the death date so September 15 keeps a Chicago scholar-actor beside the

louder rock and literary exits that share the calendar.

Services

Died in Los Angeles, California, September 15, 1930, of a heart attack. Stage and silent-film actor; interred at Rosehill Cemetery, Chicago, Illinois.

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