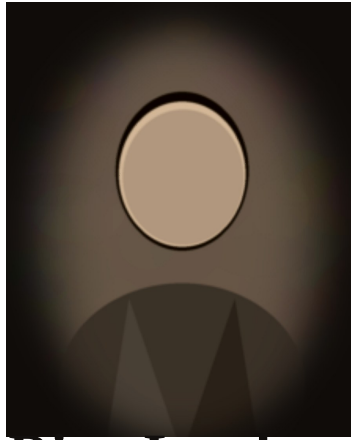




Ring Lardner

March 6, 1885 - September 25, 1933

East Hampton, New York

Ringgold Wilmer Lardner - American sportswriter and short-story master whose vernacular letters and dugout satire taught fiction how Americans actually talk - died in East Hampton, New York, on September 25, 1933. He was forty-eight. Born March 6, 1885, in Niles, Michigan, he climbed newspaper ladders from South Bend to Chicago, wrote *In the Wake of the News* for the Tribune, and published *You Know Me Al*, the bush-league epistles that made Jack Keefe a national type.

Stories such as "Haircut" and "Champion" carried a colder eye; the Black Sox scandal darkened his romance with baseball without dulling the ear for dialogue that Hemingway and Fitzgerald admired. He wrote for Broadway and nonsense plays that mocked stage directions themselves - a craftsman who never quite believed his own permanence.

East Hampton was a late Long Island address after Midwestern newsrooms. He died of a heart attack complicated by tuberculosis, leaving four writer sons and a shelf still assigned in American literature courses.

Editors saved his magazine pieces when he would not; the vernacular letters still read like overheard train talk. Fitzgerald kept him close; Hemingway borrowed the ear even when the friendship cooled.

Magazine editors kept tear sheets when he would not; the vernacular still reads like clubhouse steam.

He died in East Hampton on September 25, 1933. Copy desks still chase the cadence he heard in the clubhouse.

Lardner's gift was spoken truth - capturing how pride and slang reveal character faster than plot. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 25 remembers the Michigan columnist who made baseball letters into art.

Services

Died in East Hampton, New York, September 25, 1933. Sportswriter and short-story author; You Know Me Al; Chicago Tribune columnist.

NN-OBIT-2026-H172

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