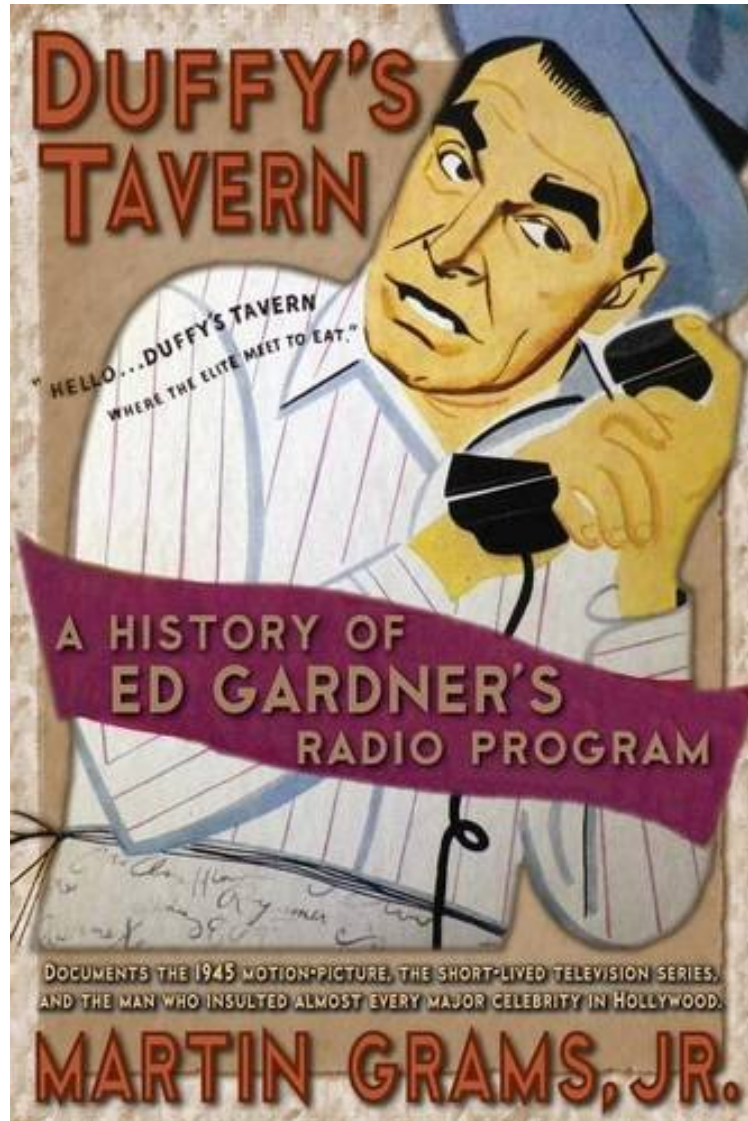


[Read free] Duffy's Tavern: A History of Ed Gardner's Radio Program

## Duffy's Tavern: A History of Ed Gardner's Radio Program

*Martin Jr. Grams*

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**Martin Jr. Grams : Duffy's Tavern: A History of Ed Gardner's Radio Program** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Duffy's Tavern: A History of Ed Gardner's Radio Program:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Comprehensive. By J. Smith For years, I had hoped for a comprehensive history on Ed Gardner's great radio program, Duffy's Tavern. And now, after all this time there is one. Martin J. Grams has done some outstanding research for this opus, and it shows. One can only wonder how many years it took for him to find all this material. Highlights include: Memorable quotes from the series which capture the

programs' tone., an extensive ten-year episode guide, "Ed Gardner's Radio Appreciation," a section on the short-lived television version (also starring Gardner), publicity art, radio ads, lost speeches Gardner gave as Archie, his radio alter ego. The book reveals the history of the radio program, but it's also the story of Ed Gardner, warts and all. The reader is introduced to a very flawed man. A comic genius and promoter in his own right, but a womanizer and always on the make for a better deal. Many of the programs early episodes with Shirley Booth as Miss Duffy remain lost. It would be wonderful to hear those missing stories and hear just what it was with Booth's Miss Duffy that made her so special. So unique was her interpretation that Gardner struggled for years, and with a succession of Miss Duffy's to re-capture her tone. Of course, that may have been due to the fact, that Gardner and Booth were once married, but parted ways after her first few years on the show. "Duffy's Tavern" may have been radio's progenitor of television's Cheers and Night Court. It has a more sophisticated kind of humor, especially when it comes verbal word play, guest stars, and various sitcom situations. Also revealed, Abe Burrows, one of Gardner's best writers is the father to James Burrows who also worked on television's Cheers. Do wish Mr. Grams had included a top ten list of his favorite episodes, but I confess my favorite shows are those with the "Bryon Club" and the one where the gang at Duffy's produced their own opera. A comic highlight. Mr. Gram should use his research skills on television programs, just waiting for him. Reading this book was fun. Great for radio buffs. JThreeWilliston ND1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A superb book at one of radio's greatest programs. The series not known by many old ...By Joseph W. WebbA superb book at one of radio's greatest programs. The series not known by many old time radio fans because there are few recordings that survive compared to many of radio's famous shows. Martin Grams reveals numerous details about the show and its stars, and the goings-on in network back rooms. The book has a superb log of the series. As usual, Mr. Grams does not disappoint. I hope his work stimulates interest in this series to the higher level it deserves. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Another homage to the glory days of Old Time RadioBy C. SextonMartin Grams, Jr. has done it again. With this hefty tome on one of radio's more unusual comedy programs, Duffy's Tavern, a flood of memories will engulf the reader with smiles, then chuckles, then laugh out loud moments. I remember listening to the program as a kid and being mystified by the opening "Where the elite meet to eat." I always heard it as "wherthlitemtet" or something along those lines. It wasn't until the OTR revival that began in the '60s that I finally discovered the actual words used. Then it made sense. But that was one of the hallmarks of this program. English teachers must have been appalled, but I bet they laughed along with all the rest of us. That's another thing Grams focuses on in this book, the why and how the "language" of Duffy's Tavern came to be. Grams' program log, which is a vital part of his books, includes actual bits of dialogue for most of the programs listed. This gives the reader a good feel for the hi-jinks that went on and makes one want to pull out a tape or disc to relive that time once more. But this is more than a detailed review of a favorite radio program. Grams delves into the background of the show's creator, Ed Gardner, with the same painstaking effort and detail as he does with the program itself. For instance, Gardner moved to Puerto Rico in 1949 to prepare transcription discs of the program while taking advantage of tax laws at that time. Even though ETs had been used in place of live broadcasting for a couple of years, this was still a revolutionary concept. The OTR club I belong to in Cincinnati, Radio Listener's Lyceum, features a library of appropriate books on radio history and Grams' works constitute a lion's share of the holdings. All in all, a very fine contribution to OTR history.

Soon after Duffy's Tavern premiered over the radio in 1941, Hollywood celebrities flocked to the microphone for a guest appearance and accepted what was rarely heard of in network broadcasting - celebrities were roasted in the form of insults that were praised by critics and raved by radio listeners. Duffy's Tavern was so popular it helped spawn a hit song, "Leave Us Face It," an attempted newspaper comic strip, a number of premiums and a U.S.O. Tour. Convicts at San Quentin voted it their favorite radio program. This book (700 plus pages) documents the entire history of the radio program, the 1945 motion-picture, the short-lived television program, the lawsuits, Ed Gardner's personal life, contract negotiations and much more!