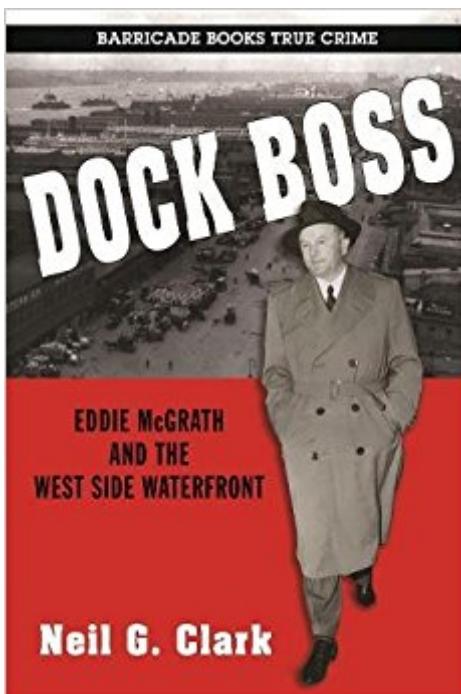


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Dock Boss: Eddie McGrath And The West Side Waterfront



Synopsis

At a time when the Port of New York was ruled by lawless criminals, one hoodlum towered above the rest and secretly controlled the piers for over thirty years. Dock Boss: Eddie McGrath and the West Side Waterfront is theÂ Â fascinating account of one gangster's ascension from altar boyÂ Â to theÂ Â leader of New York City's violent Irish Mob. Eddie McGrath's life and crimes are traced through the tail-end of Prohibition, the gang warfare of the 1930s that propelled him into the position of an organized crime boss, the sordid years of underworld control over the bustling waterfront, McGrath's involvement in dozens of gangland murders, and finally the decline of the dock mobsters following a period of longshoremen rebellion in the 1950s. Like walking into the backroom of a smoky West Side tavern, the book also features all the other unsavory characters who operated on the waterfront, including McGrath's brother-in-law, John "Cockeye" Dunn; the gang's hitman of choice, Andrew "Squint" Sheridan; racketeers such as Mickey Bowers, Timothy O'Mara, Charlie Yanowsky, Joe Butler and Albert Ackalitis; as well as a plethora of corrupt union officials, robbers, enforcers, shakedown artists, loan sharks, boss loaders, and bookies. This is the real-life story ofÂ Â theÂ Â preeminent racketeerÂ Â on Manhattan's lucrative waterfront and theÂ Â bloodshed that long haunted the ports of New York City. Â¢â Using newly uncovered primary sources, this extensively researched book also features the following:^{*} An eight page insert containing rare photographs. * Previously unpublished picture charts of New York City's waterfront gangs. * A completeÂ Â history of New York City's Irish Mob after Owney Madden and before the Westies. * A never-before-discussed 1930s gang war for control over the West Side of New York City's waterfront, which resulted in eleven murders, six near-killings, and dozens of shootings. * Details of the FBI's secret twenty-year investigation into the International Longshoremen's Association and the shadowy mobsters that manipulated the union's affairs. * The story of the sensational murder trial that almost brought down McGrath and his gang. * The complete and authoritative history of Eddie McGrath-- one the longest serving Irish Mob bosses in American history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Not since *On the Waterfront* has the world of labor racketeering been presented in such an enlightening and entertaining way. Neil G. Clark presents a fascinating portrait of Eddie McGrath and his waterfront minions, dock wallopers and hoodlums with names like Mutt, Cockeye, Squint, and the Bull. *Dock Boss* is essential reading for anyone with an interest in organized crime history, the sociology of New York's West Side, or the long, lost universe of the waterfront rackets, through which gangsters once held sway over the economic fortunes of an entire generation of working men." - T.J. English, author of the Irish Mob Trilogy (*The Westies*, *Paddy Whacked* and *Where the Bodies Were Buried*)

"Billions of dollars passed each year through the West Side docks, spanning from Houston Street up to 110th Street, and thousands of people worked there, loading and unloading trucks and cargo ships from around the world. And one man was at the center of it all: Eddie McGrath, an Irish mob chief and mastermind of dirty money." - *New York Post*

"*Dock Boss* is a fascinating and well-researched look at one of the most influential Irish mobsters of the 20th century. Eddie McGrath was not only the king of the New York waterfront, but a street-smart Irish mobster who stayed one step ahead of the law and his enemies. Neil G. Clark brings to life McGrath's story with clear prose and a sharp eye for detail." - Scott M. Deitche, author of *Cigar City Mafia: The Complete History of the Tampa Underworld* and *Garden State Gangland: The Rise of the Mob in New Jersey*

"In his new book, *Dock Boss*, author Neil G. Clark takes his readers inside the violent world of the New York City waterfront and the man who controlled it. It isn't a pretty world, but it was Eddie McGrath's world. It's a story that needed telling and one you don't want to miss." - Dennis N. Griffin, author of *Cullotta: The Life of a Chicago Criminal*, *Las Vegas Mobster*, and *Government Witness* and *Surviving the Mob: A Street Soldier's Life Inside the Gambino Crime Family*

"True crime history fans will find *Dock Boss: Eddie McGrath and the West Side Waterfront* a gripping saga of organized crime that combines the biography

of Eddie McGrath with the rise of mob activities in the 1930s. The story reads with the drama and action of fiction, but all events come from real life."-A "Midwest Book Review" [...] a thrilling read about a dock boss who pulled strings from the shadows, avoiding the limelight -- and would have been only a footnote in the annals of gangster lore if not for Clark's masterful exposÃ©."-OZY Magazine

Neil G. Clark is a researcher and writer who has conducted more than five years of investigation on the topic. The book is based on over a thousand previously unreleased law enforcement reports on waterfront gangsters, hundreds of rare archival records, interviews, dozens of trial transcripts, and numerous newspaper accounts. For more information about the book and the author visit neilclark.com.

Very informative saga of the NY Waterfront.

In his first book-length project, Neil Clark takes aim at the mobsters of New York's West Side waterfront and scores a hit. His selection of subject, puts Clark in the footsteps of giants. An early account of waterfront corruption and racketeering by Malcolm Johnson of the New York SunA "On the Waterfront: The Pulitzer Prize-Winning Articles That Inspired the Classic Film and Transformed the New York Harbor" A won the 1949 Pulitzer Prize for local reporting. On the WaterfontA "On the Waterfront (Special Edition), a fictional film about gang rule along the wharves, won a trunkload of 1954 Academy Awards. More recently, historian Nathan Ward revisited the Hudson River docks for his 2010 book, Dark HarborA "Dark Harbor: The War for the New York Waterfront, examining Malcolm Johnson's groundbreaking effort to bring waterfront organized crime to light. While much of the material in Dock Boss is familiar, Clark expands on earlier work with information drawn from court and prison files, FBI archives and other state and federal agency records. He delivers an informative and intriguing history. The Greater Toronto Area resident strays just a bit from the beaten path and approaches the subject through the life and career of a real-world "Johnny Friendly," Eddie McGrath. McGrath's life story is a virtual Who's Who of Gotham outlaws. On his way to boss status, he benefited from alliances with such figures as "Big Joe" Butler, "Peck" Hughes, "Red" McCrossin, "Farmer" Sullivan, Andrew "Squint" Sheridan, John "Cockeye" Dunn and James "Ding-Dong" Bell. The rÃ©sumÃ©s of his associates and his underworld rivals featured service with some of New York's most notorious gang chieftains, including Dutch Schultz, "Legs" Diamond, "Mag Dog" Coll and Owney Madden. Working relationships with Joey Rao, Vincent

"Jimmy Blue Eyes" Alo and Giuseppe "Joe Adonis" Doto, eventually brought McGrath into contact with syndicate bosses Meyer Lansky and Frank Costello. While exploring in detail the bloody gang wars, assassinations and brutalities of McGrath's career, Clark takes a bit of time to explain the unique features of New York City's docks and the rackets used by gangsters, union leaders and politicians to profit from them. This reviewer can manage only a few minor complaints about Clark's work:- Chapters are unusually short and sometimes break up logical units of the story. While I offer it as a criticism, it is likely that many readers will appreciate the short chapters.- There are occasional typos and a bit of indecision over whether to use U.S.- or Canada-preferred spellings for some terms.- The author may have been overly accepting of earlier histories. Some small Dock Boss flaws can be traced to Malcolm Johnson's work and reports based on Johnson's articles.- Dock Boss but does not include source citations for statements of fact in the text. This seems due to publisher policy. While it may be mildly frustrating for researchers, it should not be interpreted as a lack of documentary support. Clark provides an extensive bibliography and proves that he has command of the available sources in this subject area.

Great read! Meticulously researched and written. About a bygone era when men controlled the NY waterfront through fear, extortion, muscle and when that wasn't enough, murder! The movie "On The Waterfront" was a scratch of the surface to what really went on. All fact but reads like a well crafted crime fiction. It's hard to believe how hardened these men were!!! But it's all well documented and as I'm from Northern NJ, I recognize the locations where the crimes, murders and where the men involved hung out and planned their next moves, including robberies and murders! They ran more than just the Docks! Warning...Once you open this book you won't be able to put it down until the last page!

"Dock Boss" was a wonderful, informative, and entertaining read. The amount of research conducted is mind blowing when you consider the author pursued people and events not already thoroughly covered in dozens of volumes by dozens of authors. He paints an unbiased fact based portrait of the characters while delivering a very entertaining read. I would highly recommend this to anyone who loves true crime books. Well done, and I look forward to future work from the author.

Since my Grandfather was a Longshoremen it give me a better idea of what he dealt with on a daily basis to feed his family. I am a Grandchild of "Hells Kitchen" what a great place to be a part of.

Great read. The research is meticulous and the details are weaved together into a fascinating story.

Good read. A lot of my family history in it.

great

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