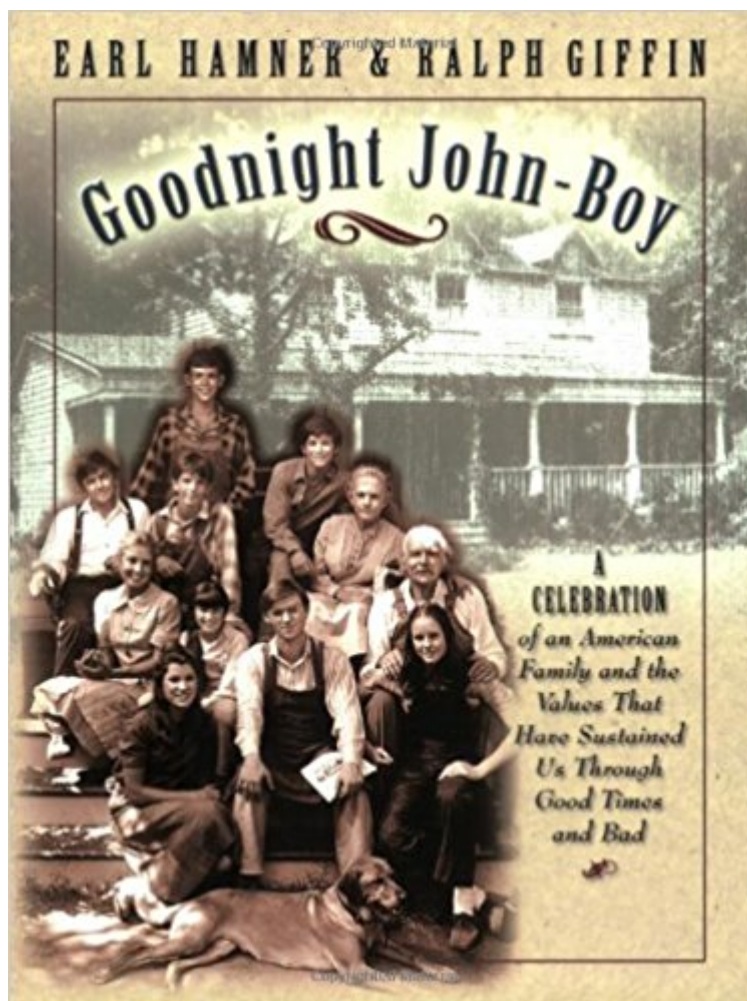


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# Goodnight John-Boy



## Synopsis

For eight wonderful years *The Waltons*, the story of a family living in the foothills of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains during the Depression, entertained America and the world. Yet this television show was more than entertaining. Each episode combined wonderful stories and "teachable moments" in which adults and children alike learned the importance of honesty, hard work, respect, responsibility, self-sacrifice, and kindness. As is true in most families, the Waltons faced many challenges, occasionally stumbled along the way, but they struggled to live their lives within the framework of the values they believed and taught. *Goodnight, John-Boy* is a memory book of *The Waltons*, the number-one television show of its time. Filled with behind-the-scenes anecdotes and profiles of people who appeared on the show, it introduces readers to the Hamner family members who later became characters on *The Waltons*, suggests events and locales that inspired many of the episodes, and traces Earl Hamner's life as a writer from Virginia to New York to Hollywood. Included is a description of each episode plus reminiscence, comments, and personal feelings from numerous people connected with the series-writers, actors, directors, producers, family, and fans. Heavily illustrated with publicity shots and personal photographs taken by cast, crew, and others, *Goodnight John-Boy* will be a welcomed book by millions of loyal fans. When *The Waltons* first aired in 1972, it was at the bottom of the Nielson ratings-by December it led the list. That dramatic leap came about because fans told their friends about it and wrote the CBS network to praise the show and to plead that the show not be canceled. Thirty years later, *Goodnight, John-Boy* is sure to touch the hearts of the show's fans again.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

EARL HAMNER is best known as the creator and producer of the Emmy Award-winning series *The Waltons*. The producer of *Falcon Crest* and other television series, he has also written for *The Twilight Zone*, *CBS Playhouse*, and *Theater Guild on the Air*. His seven best-selling books include *Spencer's Mountain*, *The Homecoming*, *You Can't Get There from Here*, and *The Avocado Drive Zoo*. He lives in Studio City, California. RALPH E. GIFFIN is president of Blue Ridge Publications in Ocean Pines, Maryland, and the director of *The Waltons Museum* in Schuyler, Virginia.

I love the *Waltons*, and still watch the re-runs on TV. What little bit Earl talked about his real family and life before the *Waltons* came about was interesting, but two-thirds of the book just lists all the episodes, and what they were about with a little comment here and there by one of the show's cast members. If you're a *Waltons* fan, you already know that. Big Disappointment.

Bought as a gift for my boss. She loved it!

I have re-established my love of *The Waltons* after watching the reruns on The Hallmark Channel the past few months - so I decided to geek out completely and buy this book and the *Spencer's Mountain* and *The Homecoming* novels and movies [in case you're wondering, Earl Hamner wrote those 2 novels, and *Spencer's Mountain* was made into a film with Peter (?) Fonda and Maureen O'Hara - then a few years later *The Homecoming* was made into a Christmas TV special movie. It is *The Homecoming* that directly inspired the TV series - the original cast of kiddos was in it (so little and cute! it was a few years before the series got started) but the parents and grandparents are different (Patricia Neal was the mom). Anyway, needless to say if you are a big *Waltons* fan the book is great, meaning better than not reading it, but as other reviews have alluded to, this book COULD have been really great, and it's just ok. There are a couple of typos and mistakes in the episode synopses, which makes it seem thrown together, and there are hardly any 'behind the scenes' photos of the cast, just a few here and there. How about an 'epilogue' saying what the whole cast has been up to the past 25 years - married, kids, writing, any more acting, etc.? And the big mystery as far as why Michael Learned and Ralph Waite were totally MIA the last episodes is never adressed. They each wrote something tiny for the bok so I would assume they didn't leave the

series on a bad note - EVERYONE IS WONDERING! Why didn't they tell us? Also the guy who played Jason called the girl who played Toni, his Walton wife, the 'love of his life.' Does that mean they are married now? He even alluded to the fact that he dated a 'Lisa' during the show (Toni's real name) but never comes out and says it was her - why thy mystery? The best behind the scene stuff is from 'Elizabeth' - funny little nothing stories the fans love to hear. And 'Ben', 'Erin' and 'Jason' make a lot of comments, which is nice. Would really have loved to hear a lot more from the cast, though. The other nice thing is that Earl talks about his real family, what real facts inspired the series, and for hard-core fans there is info. on the Waltons museum in Virginia. For more Waltons stuff, you can buy the 2 novels like I said in the beginning, and the movies they made them into (I got all on ). I do believe they also have seasons 1-6 on DVD now, if not all 9. Ye-hoo! :)

Great book to see what the Waltons have in common with the Hamners.

Was an interesting read thoroughly enjoyed it. It came in a timely manner in good shape.

I loved reading the background behind the stories and the personal experiences of the cast...wonderful.

I purchased this book, written by Earl Hamner (creator and producer of the Waltons) and Ralph Griffin (president of the Blue Ridge Publications in Ocean Pines, Maryland), just before I began to purchase each of the nine seasons of The Waltons on DVD. The book was published in 2002, which is really a testament for how loved this series is, especially considering the last season ended in 1981! The first portion of the book introduces Earl Hamner's family, and how he became a writer. Hamner then describes his early writing career, and then his succession of books, starting with "Spencer's Mountain", which led into "The Homecoming", which further led into the TV special of the same name, and which finally led to the highly successful (and loved) TV series. The middle portion of the book explains how the actors were selected to play their roles in the TV series, which I particularly enjoyed. What follows is a very brief summary of each episode from season 1 to season 9. There are many comments and anecdotes from the actors, guest actors, and Walton fans, which make reading the summaries a joy. The book is interspersed with pictures of the cast and scenes from some of the episodes. The book concludes with a chapter on Walton's Mountain Museum (located in Schuyler, Virginia), and then a meaningful tribute written by Ms. Elaine Klonicki. Her tribute summarizes why so many of us were touched by the Waltons, and why we continue to love

the show to this day. The appendix contains a list of all the actors who appeared in Walton episodes along with their character names. I could only give the book 4 stars for several reasons. First, the book itself is made rather cheaply. This is stock paper, not quality paper, and likewise, the pictures are black and white and are printed on the same paper, thus, they are not the quality one would like to see. The pictures themselves are quite nice, but would have been appreciated much more in color and on quality paper. Oh well, cannot have everything and still be offered at a reasonable price. The second thing I did not like about the book is the lack of detail on why certain characters left the series, such as Michael Learned, Ralph Waite, Richard Thomas, and Peggy Rea. It would also have been interesting to see a summary of each season's ratings, and how they compared to other network shows. When did the writers learn there was not to be a season 10 - and how did this impact the writing of the final episodes in season nine? I would have appreciated more information in this regard. Finally, this is a very "gentle" telling of the Walton's experience; the book presents little or no behind the scenes squabbles, of which there had to be some! I recall a comment (on a news video) by Michael Learned in regards to Ralph Waite, which indicated some tension between the two of them. Certainly, this is no Kitty Kelly tell-all book, and was not meant to be, but a few additional tidbits of "juicy" controversy would have made the book more complete and interesting. Had this book been done with more actor/TV information, and been of "coffee-table" quality, especially in regard to the pictures, it would be a very nice keepsake. As it is, as much as I adore the Waltons, I am not compelled to want to keep this book forever. It is a valuable easy-reading resource, but it falls short of being a treasured keepsake. I could not give it 3-stars, but how about 3 and 1/2???

I love this book! It contains a wonderful synopsis of every program. I keep it next to my remote control. That way if I miss a program here or there, I can look at the book & catch up to be current.

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