

June 4, 2018

Gangster In Our Midst—available on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B071K3K3K3))
www.bettybrandtpassick.com
www.facebook.com/BettyBrandtPassick/
[Twitter@BBPCOM](https://twitter.com/BBPCOM)



E-Mail: bbpassickauthor@comcast.net

***Gangster* Blog**

Historical Societies & Libraries: Preserving Fairbank's place in Iowa history

Gangster In Our Midst is a book of historical fiction, but in many ways it documents the evolution of Fairbank, Iowa (called “Oxbow” in the book).

To write historically accurate about the town and its people—along with one of Al Capone’s gangsters who arrived in town in the 1920s, and remained until his death in the 1980s, when he was buried in the town cemetery—required considerable research.

Read [Historical Fairbank, Iowa](#) posted on my website, which represents twenty pages of Fairbank history and photos not included into the book.

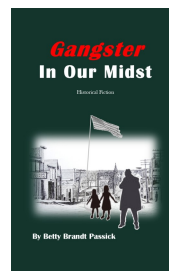
Small Midwestern towns underwent significant changes during those sixty-plus years, and I tried to touch on many of them in the book’s 250 pages: Feuds between Catholics and Protestants. Prohibition. Gangsters. Great Depression. World War. Etc.

Fairbank was unique though... a thriving Main Street with U.S. flag swaying from a pole in the dead center of Main Street... Island Park... boxing matches. I wanted to tell that story, too.

Under the Author’s Note and Acknowledgements, I listed the names of many locals who helped bring this story to fruition.

Since August 2017 I’ve donated books to Iowa historical societies and libraries to help preserve Fairbank’s place in Iowa history. Most recently, *Gangster In Our Midst* has been accepted by the

- **State Historical Society of Iowa**, 600 E. Locust Street, Des Moines, IA 50319.



Three Fingers

July 1, 1928—Frank Yale was found slumped over the wheel of his new Lincoln near his New York home, gunned down by four men in a black Nash sedan dispensing one hundred .45 caliber bullets into his car. The police...

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GET BOOK EVENT POSTINGS FIRST ON FACEBOOK:

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Chicago Gangsters



Johnny Torrio



Dion O'Banion



Frankie Yale



Tony Lombardo



Jake Lingle



Hymie Weiss



Al Capone



George "Bugs" Moran



Frank Nitti



Jake "Greasy Thumb" Guzik



Jack Zuta



Albert Alsemi (left) & John Scalise

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According to newspaper accounts, Fairbank's gangster, Louie La Cava, was well acquainted with these notorious Chicago hoodlums.

Events at Gangster 'Hideouts' Are Pure Fun!

Those who frequented Al Capone's hideout near Couderay, Wisconsin likely were some of the most notorious gangsters in Chicago at the time.

On June 16th, I'll return to Wisconsin, this time to the [Redbery Bookstore](#) in Cable, for a book reading/signing that includes a slide presentation with photos of Capone's 407-acre property—located forty miles south of Cable.

I'm grateful to friend Jeri Fink for providing photos he took during a private tour of the property in 2012, with permission from the La Courte Oreilles Band, the current property owner.

His photos allowed me to write realistically about Capone's two-story rustic lodge in the chapter entitled "Hayward"—where members of Capone's Outfit meet to plan a major assault on Chicago's northside "Bugs" Moran Gang in late 1928.

It's my opinion that book events held at/near gangster hideouts are just pure fun... They give the story I tell in *Gangster In Our Midst* an air of authenticity.

I witnessed this firsthand on April 17th at the Sherman and Ruth Weiss Community Library book event in Hayward, WI; then at the Wabasha Street Cave in St. Paul, MN on April 22nd.

Seeing a photo of Capone's lodge adjacent to the 37-acre lake he used to fly in booze or bullet holes in Wabasha Street cave walls—well, attendees tend to listen a little closer, that's all.

Book Readings

Sat., Jun. 16, 11 am — Redbery Bookstore, 43455 Kavanaugh Rd., Cable, WI, (715) 798-5014

Fri., Jul. 20, 4-8:30 pm — 2018 Friday Night History Cruz Authors, Paperbacks Plus bookstore, 2539 E 7th Ave, North St Paul, MN, (651) 770-0384

Sat., Aug. 18 — Northwest Iowa Book Tour: "True Crime Day": General N.B. Baker Library, Sutherland (noon), 315 Ash Street, Sutherland, (712) 446-3839; Spencer Public Library (time **TBD**), 21 E 3rd St, Spencer, (712) 580-7290; and Cherokee Public Library (time **TBD**), 215 S 2nd St, Cherokee, (712) 225-3498

Fall 2018/Time: TBD — Chapter2 Books, 226 Locust S., Hudson, WI, (715) 220-8818

Pending...

Date/Time: **TBD** — Plot Twist Bookstore, 502 N Ankeny Blvd, Unit 6, Ankeny, IA, (515) 964-8410

Date/Time: **TBD** — Magers & Quinn, 3038 Hennepin Ave, Mpls., MN (612) 822-4611

Book Fairs

Sat., Jun. 23, noon-2 pm — "Island Days", Fairbank Food Center, 102 4th Street N., Fairbank, IA, 319-635-2139

Sat., Aug. 4, 1 pm — Local Authors Book Fair, Beaverdale Books, 2629 Beaver Ave., Ste. 1, Des Moines, IA, (515) 279-5400

Sat., Sept. 15, 9 am-3 pm — Iowa Author Fest, Capital Square, Des Moines, IA