

July 5, 2018

***Gangster In Our Midst***—available on [Amazon](#)  
[www.bettybrandtpassick.com](http://www.bettybrandtpassick.com)  
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E-mail: [bbpassickauthor@comcast.net](mailto:bbpassickauthor@comcast.net)

## ***Gangster* Blog**

### Looking Ahead to 2019

I've added my first author event for 2019:

**Burlington Public Library**, Burlington, IA, has invited me to come in either April or May.

As for 2018, **Metropolitan State University** (my alma mater), St. Paul, MN has invited me in speak at the library in the fall.

New vendors, second edition (4):

- **Decades**, 25 South Frederick, Oelwein, IA;  
**Minnesota Historical Society Gift Shop**,  
345 W. Kellogg Blvd. , St. Paul, MN; **Oelwein Family  
Pharmacy**, 32 Frederick Ave S, Oelwein, IA; **Prairie  
Lights Books**, 15 S Dubuque St, Iowa City, IA

### Q & A

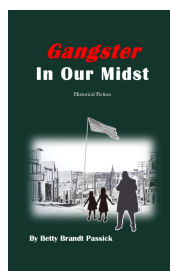
**Q.** *Gangster In Our Midst* is a book of historical fiction—but please clarify for me what is fact v. fiction in the book.

**A.** All the F.B.I. and police reports, plus newspaper accounts are factual (rewritten to avoid plagiarizing). The rest of the narrative is embellished with tales—tender, funny, and unforgiving—from interviews with a dozen local octogenarians who knew Louie La Cava best. MOST of these stories really happened... though not exactly the way I've written them. For example, La Cava actually made frequent late night visits to the engine house to “shoot the bull” with the marshal (Bill Hahn, s. 1916-1949). And a few locals took day trips to Chicago with Louie and/or went duck hunting with him on the Wapsie. Early in the book is a story about a male fetus found wrapped in brown paper floating in the Wapsie (a member of the historical society found this article from a 1920s publication of the *Fairbank View*). And—a three-year-old boy named Dale was really killed by a fast-moving CGW train in '44.



### 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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*I returned to my hometown for Fairbank's "Island Days" on the weekend of June 21-23... I found the time to revisit the Island Park.*

## ***I Envisioned a Boxing Match...***

*Gangster In Our Midst* is based on my hometown, Fairbank, Iowa. In the 1920s-30s, the town was known for its Wiltse Hotel; a flag pole set dead center on Main Street; and the Island Park, the site of baptisms, picnics—and amateur boxing matches.

I recently returned to Fairbank for "Island Days," and making my way across the white swing foot bridge, I found myself envisioning a 1930s boxing match at the island's center (perhaps on the very site that the Adam Sanders band played Saturday night).

I wonder if there are those reading this BLOG who can recall hearing about boxing matches involving *Doc Buckmaster's twin boys from Dunkerton, Cash Ward, Neil King, "Dynamite" Dunn, Dutch Marsh, or Merle Sharp, a Golden Glove award winner.*

It was an era when men, women and children—dressed in their finest attire—came for an afternoon of entertainment... *to watch teenage boys and mature men pummel each other for sport.*

## **Testimonial**

*I thoroughly enjoyed Gangster in Our Midst. Your characters were authentic and their stories taught me a bit about a time my parents and grandparents experienced. The history that was woven through the tale was interesting especially since you did such in depth research and it reflected the experience of real people. Thank you for a wonderful read.*

Cameron M., St. Paul, MN

## **Author Events**

**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., Jul. 21,** noon-2 pm—Once Upon a Crime, 604 W 26th St., Mpls, MN, (612) 870-3785

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

**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 (2 pm), 21 E 3rd St, Spencer, (712) 580-7290; and Cherokee Public Library (4 pm?), 215 S 2nd St, Cherokee, (712) 225-3498

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

**Fall 2018/Time: TBD (new)** — Metropolitan State University Library, 645 7th St E, St. Paul, MN 55106, (651) 793-1616

**April-May 2019/10 am (new)** — "First Friday" program, Burlington Public Library, 210 Court St., Burlington, IA 52601, (319) 753-1647

**Pending...**

Date/Time: **TBD** — Decades, 25 South Frederick, Oelwein, IA, 50662, (319) 504-1464

Date/Time: **TBD** — Majors & Quinn, 3038 Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55408, 612-822-4611

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

## **Book Fairs**

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