

April 5, 2019



***Gangster In Our Midst***—available at local bookstores, [Amazon](#) & Barnes & Noble  
Website: [www.bettybrandtpassick.com](http://www.bettybrandtpassick.com)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BettyBrandtPassick/>

E-mail: [bbpassickauthor@comcast.net](mailto:bbpassickauthor@comcast.net)

## *Gangster* Blog

### Barn Happy-iness

This weekend will mark my 3rd author visit at Barn Happy in Cedar Falls. I always look forward to seeing many friends!

— **Sat., Apr 6, 9 am-3 pm**, 11310 Univ. Ave, Cedar Falls, IA

### “First-timers” Club

I’m thrilled to have added these new venues to my schedule in 2019:

— **Sat., Apr. 27, 10 am-2 pm**, WOW (Women of Words) Book Fair, Oak Knoll Luth. Church, 600 Hopkins Crossroad, Minnetonka, MN

— **Fri., Aug. 9th, 10-11:30 am** — “Meet & Greet,” Lake Country Booksellers, 766 Washington Square, White Bear Lake, MN

— **Tues., Sept. 24, 6:30 pm**, “Iowa’s Oakdale Sanatorium—A Ray of Hope,” Clear Lake Public Library, 200 N. 4th St., Clear Lake, IA

### Book Club (study guide now available)

I’ll be attending two book club kick-offs in April and May. They’ll be the first to use the new *Gangster in our Midst* study guide.

— **Fri., Apr 12, 2:30 pm**: 2nd Tuesday of Month Book Club, Hawkeye Community College (staff of 8), Waterloo, IA

— **Fri., May 7, 12-3 pm**: 1st Tuesday of Month Book Club (12 members), Olivia, MN

### Friday Night History Cruz

Come! to North St. Paul, MN on Friday nights this summer to ogle the CLASSIC CARS and enjoy the GREAT FOOD... and look for me on the sidewalk in front of Paperbacks Plus Bookstore (I’ll be giving away a free photo of “Maggie” with the purchase of *Gangster in our Midst*).

— **Fri., Jun. 21, Jul 12, Aug. 2, Sept. 13 (5-9 pm)** — 2539 7th Ave E, (651) 770-0384



“Three Fingers”

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Barn Happy-iness .....	1
“First-timers” Club .....	1
Book Club (study guide now available) .....	1
Friday Night History Cruz ..	1
Meet “Maggie” .....	2
Author Events .....	2



Available in  
Paperback and E-book!



## Meet “Maggie”

I envisioned a 1926 Ford Model T when I wrote about Walter Bierkoff’s “Maggie” in *Gangster in our Midst*.

I also had a specific farmer in mind when I created the thoughtful, introverted man—Walter... but more about that later.

It wasn’t a stretch for me to include in this novel the love affair between man and his car that began soon after the turn of the twentieth century. It’s part of American folklore. Though that love affair has not gone on anywhere near as long as the one between man and his booze.

During Prohibition, both became desperate for alcohol.

The Model T was built to be a work horse with high ground clearance for traversing muddy, rutted roads. It could be modified to pull a plow through spring fields, or to add a platform over the rear bumper to allow a farmer to haul his milk to the nearby creamery.

Perhaps what old-timers most remember about the Model T is that the crank in the front was responsible for breaking a lot of arms.

Nonetheless, the Model T became a hero to modern man. Much like its creator, Henry Ford.

Ford’s plant in Detroit, Michigan churned out over fifteen million Model Ts on its assembly lines before the car’s demise. It was available in every color in the rainbow, as long as it was black.

The Chevrolet ended the run of the Model T in 1927. By then, people wanted style...something more pleasing. Not just utility. Then came the Plymouth with its V-6 engine. Henry Ford countered with the V-8 engine. Gangsters like Clyde Barrow and John Dillinger wrote Henry Ford notes of gratitude for the bigger, faster engine.

Chrysler and General Motors soon organized into unions. The Ford plants followed. But the glory days for the Ford Motor Company, so to speak, seemed to lay in the rear view mirror.

Walter and Henry Ford were similar men. Both hardworking, idealistic, durable. I envision them being of similar height and stature.

But Walter reminds me of another man. A local farmer. One who loved his mother and wife so much that he’d hang ribbons from their funeral sprays at the car’s side. And never take them down.

## Author Events

- **Sat. Apr 6, 9am-3 pm** — Barn Happy, 11310 Univ. Ave., Cedar Falls, IA, (319) 266-0888
- **Fri., May 3, 10 am** — Burlington Public Library, 210 Court St., Burlington, IA (319) 753-1647
- **Sat, May 4, 11 am-3 pm** — Burlington By The Book, 301 Jefferson, Burlington, IA, (319) 753-9981
- **Sun., May 5, TBD** — Moon River Magic, 915 15th Ave., East Moline, Illinois
- **Date/time: TBD** — Davenport Public Library, 321 N Main St., Davenport, IA, (563) 326-7832
- **May/time: TBD** — Ottumwa Public Library, 102 W 4th St, Ottumwa, IA, (641) 682-7563
- **May/time: TBD** — Iowa City Public Library, 123 S Linn St, Iowa City, IA, (319) 356-5200
- **Sun, Jun 23, 1-2:30 pm** — “Iowa’s Oakdale Sanatorium—A Ray of Hope,” Johnson Co. Historical Society, 860 Quarry Rd, Coralville, IA, (319) 351-5738
- **Fri., Aug. 9th, 10-11:30 am (new)** — “Meet & Greet,” Lake Country Booksellers, 766 Washington Square, White Bear Lake, MN, 651-426-0918
- **Tues., Sept. 24, 6:30 pm (new)** — “Iowa’s Oakdale Sanatorium—A Ray of Hope,” Clear Lake Public Library, 200 N. 4th St., Clear Lake, IA 641-357-6133
- **Date/Time: TBD** — “Iowa’s Oakdale Sanatorium—A Ray of Hope,” Kinney Pioneer Museum and Historical Society of North Iowa, 9184 265th St, Clear Lake, IA, (641) 423-1258
- Book Club (kick-offs)**
- **Fri., Apr 12, 2:30 pm, (new)** — 2nd Tuesday of Month Book Club, Hawkeye Community College (staff of 8), Waterloo, IA
- **Fri., May 7, 12-3 pm** — 1st Tuesday of Month Book Club (12 mbrs.), Olivia, MN
- Book Festivals**
- **Apr. 26, 12-6 pm** — “Spring Market 2019,” The Barn on 128, 25457 Hwy 128, Garnaville, IA
- **Sat., Apr. 27, 10 am-2 pm** — “WOW (Women of Words) Book Fair,” Oak Knoll Lutheran Church, 600 Hopkins Crossroad, Minnetonka, MN
- **Sat., Apr. 27, 1-6 pm**, Books and Beer Pop-Up Bookstore - Cider Edition, Number 12 Cider house, 614 N 5th St, Mpls, MN, (612) 568-6171
- **April 16/Time: TBD** — April Podcast, Legal Bits For Business with Atty. Julie Finch, St. Louie Park, MN
- **Fri., Jun 21, Jul 12, Aug. 2, Sept 13 (5-9 pm)** — Friday Night History Cruz, Paperbacks Plus Bookstore, 2539 7th Ave E, North St. Paul, MN, (651) 770-0384
- **Sept 20-Oct 6**, Iowa City Book Festival, 123 S Linn St., Iowa City, IA, 319.356.5245
- Pending...**
- **Date/Time: TBD (new)** — Landmark Commons Retirement Community, 1400 Maxhelen Blvd., Waterloo, IA, (319) 296-7100
- **Date/Time: TBD** — Clayton County Historical/Genealogy Society, 119 N. Main St., Elkader, IA, 563-245-1065
- **April/Time: TBD** — Sawyer Co. Historical Society & Museum, County Highway B, Hayward, WI, (715) 634-8053
- **Spring/time: TBD** — Cicero Public Library, 5225 West Cermak Rd., Cicero, Ill, (708) 652-8084
- **Date/Time: TBD** — James Kennedy Public Library, 320 1st Ave E, Dyersville, IA, (563) 875-8912
- **Date/Time: TBD** — Gangster Museum of America, 510 Central Ave, Hot Springs, AR, (501) 318-1717
- **Date/Time: TBD** — Templeton Rye Distillery, 209 E 3rd Ave, Templeton, IA (712) 669-8793
- **Date/Time: TBD** — Harrison County Welcome Ctr, 2931 Monroe Ave., Missouri Valley, Iowa, (712) 642-2114
- **Date/time: TBD** — Wapello County Historical Society, 210 W Main St., Ottumwa, IA, (641) 682-8676