

July 4, 2019



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

E-mail: bbpassickauthor@comcast.net

Gangster Blog

Sisters in Crime, Iowa

I finally got around to joining **Sisters in Crime in Crime, Iowa**. Sisters in Crime ([link](#)) is an international organization of readers and writers whose mission is to promote the professional development and advancement of women crime writers. I have both feet in the crime writers genre now.



Amazon Review: James Howard Huonder, White Bear Lake, MN

Wanted! 10 People to Write a Book Review (review #3 of 10):

*I only had a moment of hesitation with her careful background work on the vision of those times and the characters. I am of the first generation of these "depression era's" children, midwestern and it all rang so true! The world wars, I & II, stories of speakeasies and of stout people who were survivors! Humor, drama and good anecdotes paint a vivid picture of it all and then in the midst of it is this ominous, thuggish person to cast his shadow overall. Don't miss this! -- **James Howard Huonder**, Author | BEYOND AA | Voice Over Actor ([link](#))*

Shout Out: Frank Weber, Anoka, MN

I first heard Frank Weber from Anoka, Minn. speak at the Lake Elmo Public Library in June. His most recent book: **The I-94 Murders (2018)**, written through the lens of a forensic psychologist, is a fascinating read. Now he announces his interview for a national television which will air in January of 2020. Watch for it! For more information, go to his website: ([link](#)).



"Three Fingers"

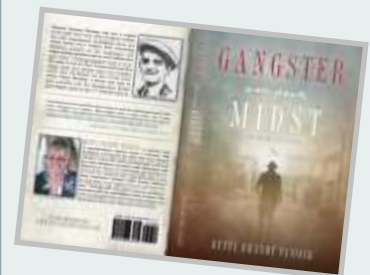
Bulletin Board

Current Projects:

I'm writing a sequel to **Gangster in our Midst**—and the screenplay.

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One married a Cop—the other, a Gangster

When the Necker sisters from rural Independence, Iowa ran away from the family farm in the late 1919s, ending up in Chicago, probably no one would have guessed that the elder sister, Mary, would end up married to a cop—and Josephine, to a gangster. Lawrence J. O' Malley, the cop, introduced Josephine to the gangster Louie G. La Cava, as the tale goes. It wasn't unusual for cops and gangsters to hang out back in the day. Probably still isn't. The sisters' cop-gangster legacy became a (whispered) family joke for decades, according to Necker relatives.

If Lawrence was a Chicago cop at the time of the nuptials, I was never able to confirm that detail—and I tried. My investigation included the Chicago Police Department of Human Resources, Chicago Police Historical Society, and the Chicago Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). None could find any record of O'Malley.

"His personnel ledger file could be misfiled," said Ed from H.R. "Many were misfiled during the Prohibition years of the 1920s-40s to mid-1950s," he added. "Call back if you can get a STAR number, then I'll likely be able to find O'Malley's file."

By the time Lawrence and Mary bought the house on the east end of Fairbank's Main Street, locals told me he worked for the Chicago Great Western in Oelwein. I couldn't find confirmation of his employment with the CGW either.

Among the houses in Fairbank considered historical, one might be O'Malley's, where Louie and Josephine commonly stayed when they were in town, at least until they built their own home on the northeast end of the township in the late 1960s.

Lawrence died in 1953, which was when, presumably, the Nuss family bought the property. It seems uncanny now that I played in that house as a young girl, after my family of nine (Brandts) moved into Fairbank in 1956. Our large two-story house was just a block away from the Nusses. Doc Nuss ran his chiropractic business out of the house, and I remember the Amish were among his patients.

I'll likely recall this story the rest of my days—whenever I drive past the O'Malley/Nuss home, or come across the O'Malley grave marker at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery in Oran Township, Fayette County, Iowa.

Author Events

— **Sun., July 21, 1-6 pm** — "Meet & Greet," Jackson Street Brewery, 607 5th St, Sioux City, Iowa, (712) 574-8403

— **Sat., Aug 3, 10 am-4pm** — Mason City Author Event, Southbridge Mall, 100 S Federal Ave, Mason City, IA, (641) 423-6688

— **Fri., Aug. 9th, 10-11:30 am** — "Meet & Greet," Lake Country Booksellers, 766 Washington Square, "White Bear Lake, MN, 651-426-0918

— **Tues., Sept. 24, 6:30 pm** — "A Ray of Hope" (Iowa's Oakdale Sanatorium), Clear Lake Public Library, 200 N. 4th St., Clear Lake, IA 641-357-6133

— **Fall 2019** — The Center, Corner of 8th and Kingwood Streets, Brainerd, MN, (218) 829-9345

Book Clubs

— **Beancounters**, Burlington, IA

— **Cicero Public Library**, 5225 West Cermak Rd., Cicero, Ill, (708) 652-8084

Book Festivals-Conferences

— **Sat., Aug 10, 9 am-3 pm** — Northwoods Arts & Book Festival, Hackensack, MN

— **Sat., Sept. 9, 9 am-5 pm** — WOW 10 Annual Writers Conference, Oak Knoll Luth Church, 600 Hopkins Crossroad, Minnetonka, MN

— **Oct 11-13** — St. Paul Art Crawl, 308 Prince St, Saint Paul, MN, (651) 270-0563

— **Sept 20-Oct 6**, Iowa City Book Festival, 123 S Linn St., Iowa City, IA, (319) 356-5245

— **Sat., Nov. 17, 10 am-2 pm** — Sterling Lord Writers and Readers Festival, Burlington Public Library, (319) 753-1647

Pending...

— Fall/Winter, Time: **TBD (new)** — Lake Time Brewery, 801 Main Ave, Clear Lake, IA, (641) 357-2040

— Date/Time: **TBD** — Coralville Public Library, 1401 5th St, Coralville, IA, (319) 248-1850

— Date/Time: **TBD** — Jefferson Public Library, 200 W Lincoln Way, Jefferson, IA, (515) 386-2835

— Date/Time: **TBD** — "Gangsters Hid in Small Towns, too", Roseville Public Library-Shoreview, 4560 Victoria St. N., Shoreview, MN, (651) 724-6090

— Date/Time: **TBD** — "Autism at the turn of the Twentieth Century", Mary Hanson Show, TPT Twin Cities PBS

— Date/Time: **TBD** — Musser Public Library, 408 East 2nd St., Muscatine, IA, (563) 263-3065

— Date/Time: **TBD** — Sawyer Co. Historical Society & Museum, County Highway B, Hayward, WI, (715) 634-8053

— Date/Time: **TBD** — James Kennedy Public Library, 320 1st Ave E, Dyersville, IA, (563) 875-8912

— Date/Time: **TBD** — Harrison County Welcome Ctr, 2931 Monroe Ave., Missouri Valley, Iowa, (712) 642-2114

— Date/time: **TBD** — Big Foot Inn, 11508 N US Highway 14, Harvard, IL, (815) 943-4740

— Date/time: **TBD** — Wapello County Historical Society, 210 W Main St., Ottumwa, IA, (641) 682-8676

— Date/time: **TBD** — Landmark Commons Retirement Community, 1400 Maxhelen Blvd., Waterloo, IA, (319) 296-7100