

Sept. 11, 2021



Gangster In Our Midst—available at local bookstores, [Amazon](#), [Walmart](#) & [Barnes & Noble](#)

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Gangster Blog

10th Annual Austin Art- Works Festival, August 26-28

Much of downtown Austin, MN was barricaded from car traffic for the festival, which began Friday evening, with a reception and picnic for authors, artisans, and musicians under a sprawling white tent.

Live musical offerings throughout the weekend including the Austin Community Band and Austin Symphony Orchestra.

About twenty artisan tents exhibited their wares in the grassy half-block nearby, across from the historical Paramount Theatre.

Seven author talks, scheduled to take place on the outdoor Author Stage, had to be moved indoors to Sweet Reads & Candy bookstore on Saturday due to rain. The talks resumed outdoors on Sunday—my author talk focused on *Gangster in Our Midst* (2017), which won a 2019 Notable 100 Indie Book Award.

Short plays and musicals also happened on this stage, performed by Summerset Theatre. Austin is blessed to have an impressive pool of talent from the community and Riverland Community College.

“The crowd was a bit more sparse than the previous year due to rain—and the persistent coronavirus,” said Lisa Deyo, Sweet Reads owner. “But all in all, I’m very pleased with the festival turnout.”



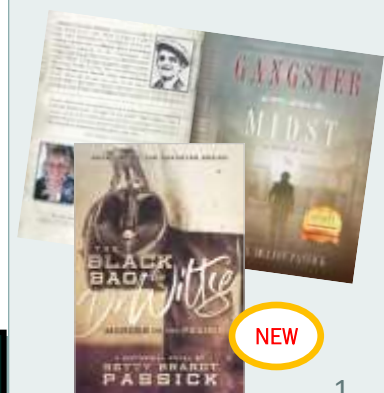
**Reserve your
signed copy
now!**

**THE BLACK BAG
OF DR. WILTSE**

(see p. 2)

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HELP LAUNCH:

The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse, Murder on The Prairie

I welcome your help launching the 2nd book in the Gangster Series: **The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse, Murder on the Prairie.**

Your EVENT can be **in-person**—with Covid-19 protocols in place—or via **Zoom** video conferencing—or (hybrid) both. Available dates: After October 1st, 2021. Presentation: One hour.

BOOK DESCRIPTION: Dr. Wiltse leaves his beloved Ontario in the mid-1850s with wife Phebe and three young children to establish new roots in America. Only she knows of his attraction to murder... His well-oiled black canvas bag simply allows him into emplacements where others may not go. Still, his fellow French Canadians called him *Guérisseur*, Healer. Perhaps the pioneer physician is also running from entanglements of the past.

The historical mystery novel takes place in Buchanan and Delaware counties in Iowa.

Reserve your signed copy of *The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse* now! \$16.95 + tax, S&H (total: \$23.50). Contact: www.BettyBrandtPassick.com.

Children's Workshop: "Journaling"

I have loved to write since a young girl growing up in my small hometown of Fairbank, Iowa.

I said to myself—and to anyone who would listen—"Some day I'm going to write books."

For seventeen years I kept a journal. Then I wrote 4 books. And now, I enjoy going to elementary (5-7) schools to engage students in a FUN TALK (one hour) about "Journaling."

Contact: www.BettyBrandtPassick.com.



Author Events (Sept.—Dec.)

Hybrid Events: on-line/Zoom*

— Sat., Sept. 18, 3 pm, "Building the Story" (Author Talk*), Sisters in Crime--Iowa, Café Diem, 2005 S Ankeny Blvd, Ste 700, Ankeny, IA

— Sat., Oct. 2, 6th Edition Deep Valley Book Festival (Book Signing), Loose Moose Saloon & Conference Center, Mankato, MN

-- Mon., Oct. 4, "Oakdale Update" cable show (Interview), Frank Orsello, White Bear Lake, MN; sctv.org

-- (CANCELLED) Sat, Oct 9, 9:00-3:00, Women of Words 11th Annual Writers' Conference (on-line), Minnetonka, MN

-- (new) Tues., Oct. 12, 2 pm ("Black Bag/Wiltse" Author Talk*), Denver Public Library/City Center, 100 Washington St., Denver, Iowa

— (new) Sat., Dec. 4, 1-4, "Denver's Old Fashioned Christmas" (Book Signing), Denver Public Library/City Center, 100 Washington St., Denver, Iowa

-- (Pending) Kaylene's Book Club

