

Jan. 2, 2022



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

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Gangster Blog

DECADES—Closing, December 1

The building at 25 South Frederick in Oelwein has been sold,” said Donna Saathoff, owner of Decades,” in a phone call several months ago.

“And I’m retiring,” she added.

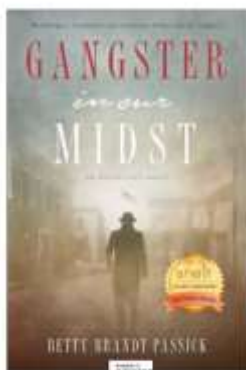
I was happy the opportunity had come her way to sell the building and to retire.

Born and raised in Oelwein, she had purchased the old Hub City Bakery building, built in 1922, in the summer of 2012.

Her mother passed away in April of that year, and she bought the building as a way to honor her mother. She named the business “Decades” to represent the many decades of memories in that building.

Donna sold the historical novel, *Gangster in Our Midst* (2017), which tells a neglected Iowa story—including some of the “gangsterism” that went on in Oelwein in the 1920s-30s. “The book fit well into the range of new, retro, and vintage items I sold at Decades,” she added.

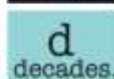
THANK YOU! Donna, for carrying *Gangster in Our Midst* the past four years.



— Thank you —

Donna
Saathoff
Decades!
25 South Frederick
Oelwein, Iowa

**Most Books
Sold by a
Gift Shop**



www.BettyBrandtPassick.com



**THE BLACK BAG
OF DR. WILTSE
*Murder on the
Prairie* (2021)
—now available
on Amazon.com!**

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Iowa Authors McCann and Passick at Denver Public Library

Linda Betsinger McCann and I shared the Iowa author spotlight on December 4 at the Denver Public Library.

Linda has written a dozen books under “The Lost Towns of Iowa” series; her most recent book is *Prisoners of War in Iowa*. My most recent historical novel, *The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse, Murder on the Prairie*, is my fourth book and book two in the “Gangster Series.”

Book Reviews Welcomed: Amazon, Goodreads

Fifty (50) pre-ordered copies of *The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse* were shipped in recent weeks. The book is now also available through Amazon.com ([link](#)), and IngramSpark (libraries, schools, bookstores). Please remember that **book reviews** are important for all authors, but especially so for self-published books because most sales are online. Amazon customer reviews can make or break shopper interest in a book. To date, *Gangster in Our Midst* (2017) largely received **5-star reviews (76%)**. Please consider purchasing either book and posting a review. Below are two links:

- Amazon: [Amazon.com: Betty Brandt Passick: Books, Biography, Blog, Audiobooks, Kindle](#)
- Goodreads.com: [Betty Passick's books on Goodreads \(2 books\)](#)

3 New Links to Books About Northeast Iowa

[Fayette County Economic Development and Tourism in Northeast Iowa](#) and [Delaware County](#) have confirmed their boards have voted to include a website link alert-

ing visitors to my two books about northeast Iowa. Plus—both books are listed in [The Iowa Center for the Book](#), a program of the State Library of Iowa and an affiliate of the Library of Congress Ctr.



Denver Forum, December 2021

Author Events (2022)

Hybrid Events*

- Mar. 19 (10-4), Rosemount Writers Festival and Book Fair, Rosemount Steeples Ctr, 14375 S. Robert Trail, Rosemount, MN
- (Pending) Spring, “Writing a Memoir” workshop, Denver Public Library, IA
- (Pending) June, Rhubarb on the River, Manchester, IA
- (Pending) July, Delaware Co. Fair Manchester, IA
- (Pending) July, Delhi Daze, Delhi, IA
- (Pending) August, River Runner Regatta and Card-board Boat Race, Manchester, IA
- (Pending) Spring, “The Legacy of an Iowa Pioneer Physician,” Delaware Co. Historical Museum Complex, Hopkinton, IA
- (Pending) Spring, Fairbank Community Club, IA
- Sept. 8 - 11, (Pending) panelist, “Mystery Writers--What spurs your MC into action,” Bouchercon, the World Mystery Convention, Mpls., MN

Book Clubs

- (Pending) Kaylene’s Book Club
- (Pending) Helen’s Book Club

