

July 22, 2024



Gangster Series—available through: Amazon, Indie Book Stores, Barnes & Noble, Walmart
Customer Reviews: Amazon Author, Goodreads
Website: www.bettybrandtpassick.com
Facebook: http://facebook.com/BettyBrandtPassick
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Gangster Blog

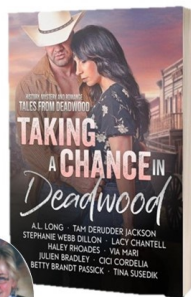
Fall 2024 Opportunities

“A Thousand Miles from Boyhood” (the story of Wild Bill Hickok)

In 1876 Wild Bill Hickok departed Cheyenne, Wyoming for the gold fields of South Dakota, only to be killed three weeks later. Why did he—and so many others—find the lure of ‘gold’ so alluring as to risk life and limb? Learn about Hickok and the South Dakota gold rush (vs Iowa’s gold rushes).

Tues, Oct. 8—6:30 pm
Denver Public Library
100 Washington St.
Denver, IA

Taking a Chance in Deadwood (anthology)
ISBN: 978-1-946271-78-5 (Paperback)
978-1-946271-77-8 (E-Book)



Award-winning Author Betty Brandt Passick

“A Thousand Miles from Boyhood” (the Wild Bill Hickok story)

My novella was chosen to be included in the annual WDR anthology, Taking a Chance in Deadwood, launched at the Wild Deadwood Reads book fair, June 2024.

I’m now scheduling author talks about the life of Wild Bill Hickok and the South Dakota gold rush (vs Iowa’s gold rushes). I’m hoping to schedule more author talks, preferably in early October.

Keep on Learning! Lecture Series

Where does one begin to write — a journal, a story, a book? On four Thursday mornings in November (9:30-11:30), I will teach a writing class related to what I have learned as an award-winning author : 1) Writing a Memoir; 2) Writing a Novel, 3) Writing a Series, and 4) Marketing & Public Relations. Advance registration is not required. If you enjoy the first class and decide to continue, a \$40 fee is payable at the second class. For more information, contact the Wartburg College Alumni & Parent Engagement Office at 319-352-8491 or alumni@wartburg.edu.

Wartburg College Keep on Learning 2024 Fall Lecture Series Course Title: “Where does one begin to write — a journal, a story, a book?” November 7, 14, 21, 28 (9:30-11:30) Heritage Room, Saemann Student Ctr. REGISTRATION: 319-352-8491, alumni@wartburg.edu



Award-winning Author Betty Brandt Passick



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Gangster Series



2021

Book #3: 2024!

Back Story: Gangster Museum, Hot Springs, Ark

Though a historical crime author, I never pick summer vacation destinations for their ties to gangsters.

However, in mid-June, my husband and I joined our son and his family on our annual family road trip — that included a stop at Hot Springs, Arkansas, home of The Gangster Museum.



Since 2016, while conducting historical research for *Gangster in our Midst* (2017), I became aware of the small town in the mountains of central Arkansas known for its ‘hot springs’—which initially drew gangsters as a retreat; gambling, bootlegging, and prostitution soon followed, when Hot Springs became a premier vacation spot for some of the most notorious criminals in America.

According to the museum, “During Prohibition the small town had a bustling criminal underworld...and operated the largest illegal gambling racket in the country between 1927 and 1967.”

It’s divided into seven galleries—the Madden Gallery gets its name from Owen Madden who once owned the famous **Cotton Club** in New York (Note: [Deirdre Capone](#) maintains Al Capone and Ralph Capone, uncle and grandfather respectively, owned the Cotton Club during Prohibition).

The Cotton Club is an interesting study in America’s racial history. Set in Harlem, it was considered a ‘whites only’ establishment, though the shows allowed “expression from some of the most highly regarded African American performers of the 1920s and 1930s, as well as specialty acts (dancers, comedians, vocalists) and the chorus line of —copper-colored gals.” Still, these performances “made inroads into subverting that [white] dominance, and African Americans were readily admitted ‘if they could afford it,” according to a dissertation, “[Harlem Holiday: The Cotton Club, 1925-1940](#),” by Malcolm Womack.

The Gangster Museum’s walls are peppered with photos of Al Capone and his wife Mae, Frank Nitti, Charles “Lucky” Luciano—even Alvin Karpis, the last official Public Enemy No. 1.—and myriad other famous gangsters characterized in *Gangster in our Midst*.

Author Events

2024

— **Wed., Aug. 14, 11:15 am** (Author Talk), “Gangster in our Midst: The Untold Story,” [Apple Valley Senior & Event Center](#), 14601 Hayes Road, Apple Valley, MN

— **Wed-Sun, Aug. 28-Sept. 1** (Booksigning), [Bouchercon World Mystery Convention](#), Gaylord Opryland Resort, Nashville, TN

— **Sat., Sept. 21, 10-4** (Booksigning), the [Country Faire](#), Steeple Center, 14375 S. Robert Trl., Rosemount, MN

— **Sat., Oct 5, 10-4** (Booksigning), [Deep Valley Book Festival](#), Country Inn & Suites Conf. Center, 1900 Premier Drive, Mankato, MN

— **Tues., Oct 8, 6:30 pm** (Author Talk), “Wild Bill Hickok and the Deadwood, SD gold rush (vs the Iowa gold rush),” [Denver Public Library](#), 100 Washington St., Denver, IA

— **Mon, Oct. 21, 7 pm, MN** [Mystery Writers](#), “Authors Frank Weber, a forensic psychologist, in conversation with Betty Brandt Passick, a historical crime junky, on writing about death and dying,” Axel’s Restaurant, Mendota Heights, MN

— **Wed, Oct. 30, 1 pm**, “The Life of Mrs. Dr. Alexander Wiltse,” [Magnet 55+ & MPS Adult Community ed 55+](#), Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1200 Marquette Ave., Minneapolis, MN

— **Sat., Nov. 2, 9-3** (Booksigning), Holiday Open House, [Barn Happy](#), 11310 Univ. Ave., Cedar Falls, IA

— **Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, 9:30-11:30 am**, [Wartburg College, 2024 Lecture Series](#), Course Title: “Where does one begin to write — a journal, a story, a book?” Vogel Library, Waverly, IA