

July 26, 2025



Gangster Series—available through: Amazon, Indie Book Stores, Barnes & Noble, Walmart
Customer Reviews: Amazon Author, Goodreads
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Gangster Blog

Mulberry Center Church — “The Pied Piper”



About 70 people from the Webster City area came out to hear "Gangster(s) in Our Midst: The Untold Story" on July 19th at 1:00. What an attentive audience! Each person, or so it seems, enthusiastically follows Carolyn Miller, coordinator for the historic Mulberry Center Church, as though she was the “Pied Piper of Webster City.”



The Daily Freeman-Journal sent Kolleen Taylor to capture the event. In an article that appeared a few days later, she wrote: Passick asked as she began her program, “Do any of you know if there were ever gangsters in Webster City?” Amid the whispers between the pews, someone spoke up, “I don’t know about that, but Fort Dodge was called ‘Little Chicago’ when I was a kid.” Passick knew the story; in fact she then announced she would be at the Fort Dodge Public Library on October 6th. Heads began to nod, and they were hooked on every word. The Q &A followed her 60-minute presentation—which continued well past 2:30.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Mulberry Center Church— the “Pied Piper of Webster City” 1
Back Story: Chicago Police Commissioner Hughes2
Bold Journey Magazine—Interview2
2025 Wapsie Writing Contest Winners2
Author Events2

Gangster Series

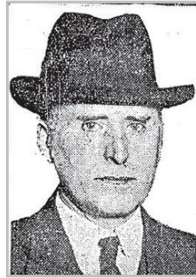


Book #3: Fall 2025!

Back Story: Chicago Police Commissioner Hughes



Detective Michael Hughes (pictured) was appointed Chicago Police Chief, following the gang murder of Chicago mobster Deon O'Banion in 1924.



Was there really a Chicago Police Commissioner Michael Hughes in **Gangster in our Midst (2017)?**

Indeed there was!

In the 1920s, local lawmen like **Sweeney Delaney** (aka Bill Hahn, who served

as town marshal for 33 years) received periodic police bulletins. One day he received a bulletin alerting him to be on the lookout for “a man from Chicago who had robbed and shot someone.” A short time later, **Louie La Cava** showed up on Oxbow’s main street driving a big, black Lincoln. Early in my research I sought to find a REAL person who could *feed Sweeney information* about Capone-related activities. I found **Michael Hughes**:

- Joined the Chicago Police Department in 1896.
- Made detective in 1918.
- Won an award for being the city’s top crime-fighter in 1920.
- Named Chief of Detectives in 1921.
- Named Police Chief (following the gang murder of Deon O’Banion) in 1924.
- Resigned as police commissioner in 1928; resigned CPD in 1935.

Bold Journey Magazine—Interview, June 21, 2025

Q. What was the most impactful thing your parents did for you (that set the stage for your success as an author)? Read the entire article: [Meet Betty Brandt Passick - Bold Journey Magazine](#).

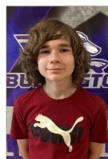
2025 Wapsie Writing Contest Winning Entries



Winners Announced —
2025 Wapsie Writing Contest
(Iowa and Minnesota)



Short Story:
“The Longest Train Ride”
Johanna J. Nelson, 10
(Child)
Maplewood, MN



Short Story:
“Point Nemo Extended”
Keelan Savoie, 12
(Youth)
Burlington, IA



Short Story:
“Wapsi Memories”
Dianne Osmun
(Adult)
Manchester, IA

Read entries: www.BettyBrandtPassick.com

Please join me in congratulating the three winners of the 2025 Wapsie Writing Contest: “**The Longest Train Ride**,” by **Johanna J. Nelson (child)** from **Maplewood, MN**; “**Point Nemo Extended**,” by **Keelan Savoie (youth)** from **Burlington, IA**; and

“**Wapsi Memories**,” by **Dianne Osmun (adult)** from **Manchester, IA**. Winners were mailed a certificate, plus a small monetary award. Their short stories were published in area newspapers, and posted at www.BettyBrandtPassick.com. Watch for the 2026 Wapsie Writing Contest. Contest rules are posted on the website.

Author Events

2025
(Jul.-Aug.-Oct.)

— **Sun, July 27, 11 am-3 pm** (book-signing), “Book Fair for Grown-ups,” [Rustic Roots Winery](#), 20168 St. Croix Trail N, Scandia, MN

— **Sat, Aug. 2, 9-1** (booksigning), [Riverwalk Market](#) Fair, Bridge Square, Division & 4th St, Northfield, MN

— **Sat, Sept 6, noon** (author talk), “Gangster in Our Midst: The Untold Story,” [Janesville Public Library](#), 319 Main St., Janesville, IA

— **Sat, Sept 20, 10a-4p** (booksigning), [Rosemount Writer’s Festival](#), Steeple Ctr, 14375 S. Robert Trail, Rosemount, MN

— **Oct. 6, noon** (author talk), “Gangster in Our Midst: The Untold Story,” [Fort Dodge Public Library](#), 424 Central Ave, Fort Dodge, IA

— **Mon, Oct. 6, 5:30 pm** (author talk), “Gangster in Our Midst: The Untold Story,” [Union Public Library](#), Union, IA

— **Sat., Oct. 18, 1:30 pm**, “The Legacy of an Iowa Pioneer Physician,” [James Kennedy Public Library](#), 320 1st Ave E, Dyersville, IA

— **Sat, Oct. 25, 9-1** (book signing), [Riverwalk Market](#) Fair, Bridge Square, Division & 4th St, Northfield, MN

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