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# MEJ NEWSLETTER

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*Either write something  
worth reading or do  
something worth  
writing about.*

Benjamin Franklin



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Welcome to my first newsletter. I will try to think of something newsy to say.

My first Detective Henry Ike Pierce story has been submitted to a local publisher for consideration—fingers crossed. A second manuscript is in rudimentary form, far from complete, but should make an exciting sequel. I'm mulling a prequel as well, but that is in early outline form.

I'm looking forward to the 2021 Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc. annual conference in May. It is virtual this year but should be great again. The writing contest is a go—I've entered three categories.

## Peculiar Activities

The likely name for the first in the Henry Ike Pierce series.

iMovie is a terrific way to build book trailers. Much like a movie trailer, a book trailer allows an author to include images, videos, and sounds to create interest in their stories.

Check this one out on the homepage of my web site: [mejbookslc.com](http://mejbookslc.com)



Please note that all pictures used in the video are mine or purchased through available resources.

# Peculiar Activities A Synopsis

Henry Ike Pierce is a junior detective in Alexandria, Virginia, newly hired to reassess cold-case killings with evidence stashed long ago in the homicide division's basement. On the third day of his new job, a dismembered body appears in a local park. The corpse's desecration is like slayings from two decades ago, and his boss assigns Henry to his first investigation.

A detective examining the 1995 murders followed the suspected killer's trail from Alexandria to Prague, where he too became a victim. His widow, Angela Marconi, later became director of the city's homicide division, and she has pursued her husband's killer for twenty-five years. Does Angela's old quest rely on conspiracies only she can see? Henry Pierce must uncover the present-day killer while his boss pushes him to resolve crimes from the past. Rumors point to a killer called 'the hooded one.'



Henry seeks a killer within a community of rival ethnic groups, refugees from the 1990s Balkan wars. The emotions of those conflicts have waned but are always near the surface. The recent murder in the park triggers the old passions, leading again to central Europe and a tangle of new intrigue. Money can smooth old hurts, manipulate feelings, and alter allegiances, but finding the guilty is a hopeless task if discoveries are unwelcome.

Distrust, betrayals, conspiracies—Henry learns the meaning of the Tennessee Williams quote: *“We have to distrust one another. It is our only defense against betrayal.”* The young man from western Virginia's coal country discovers that 'trust' has a flexible definition.