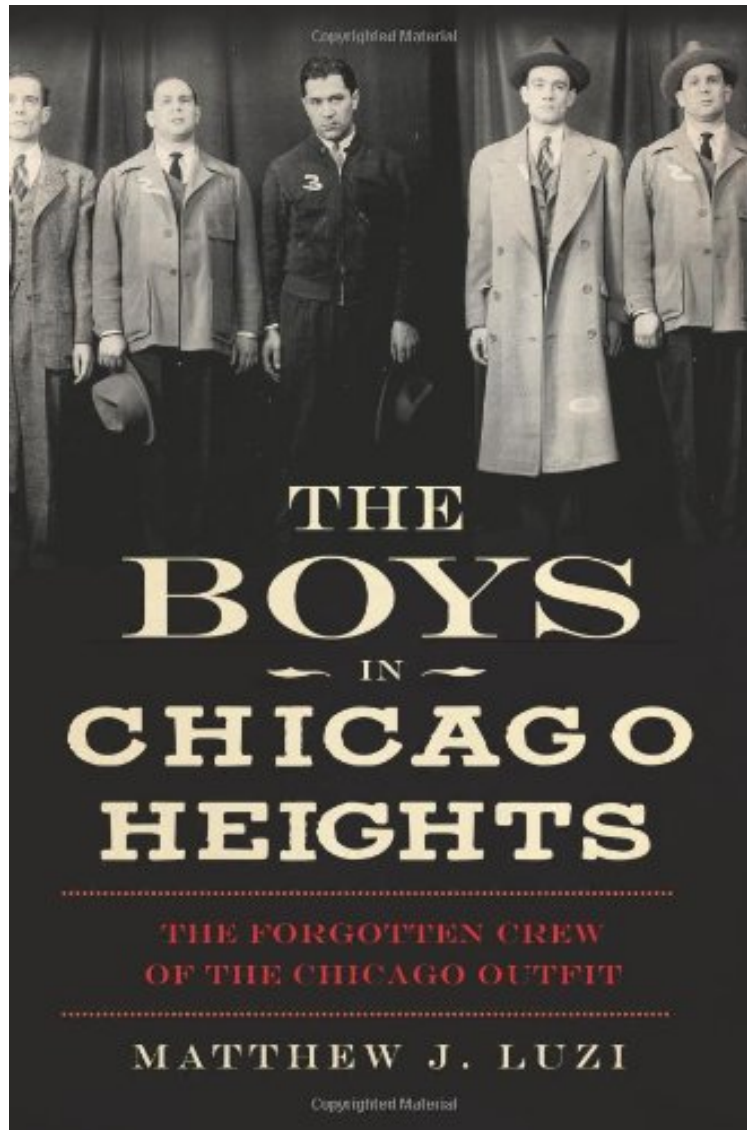


(Download ebook) The Boys in Chicago Heights: The Forgotten Crew of the Chicago Outfit (True Crime)

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Matthew J. Luzi

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Matthew J. Luzi : The Boys in Chicago Heights: The Forgotten Crew of the Chicago Outfit (True Crime) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Boys in Chicago Heights: The Forgotten Crew of the Chicago Outfit (True Crime):

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Chicago Heights By Chuck S. Cool book. Hard subject to write about, because much of the information you need-want just isn't out there. Not to mention, MUCH was kept quiet or buried

on this subject. A mention of that is in the book regarding the FBI not going after organized crime hot and heavy until mid 1950s because the majority of their actions were thought to be the responsibility of local police, with the exception of the Volstead Act earlier on. Funny thing, most if not all the police were bought off or forced to look the other way back then. VERY FEW people realize the SPAN of organized crime. Much has come and gone. Towns like Chicago Heights, Cicero, Lyons, Calumet City, and other communities in Illinois were wide open. Some still are in one way or another. This book tells you a whole other side to a story people know a bit about already- Organized Crime in Chicago and Prohibition. The way I see it, simple demand for a supply would create a need for booze. So, each town or area back in the 1920s had some kind of bootleg operation going on. Chicago Heights had an Empire that not a hell of a lot of people even know about. Ditto that for Cicero, Calumet City, and etc.....Al Capone is credited for most of this subject. Truth is, he didn't act alone, and there were others like him. Others, some of whom were not even Italian were key figures at one point or another. Capone was a force to be reckoned with, and for that reason 1. He didn't get killed, and 2. It took a long time before even the feds could nail him. And guess what? They didn't even get him on Volstead violation, murder, bribery, or any other obvious crime he took part in. That should tell you something about the goings on of the time with politicians, police, residents, and etc. This is a rare and special book. It covers a by-gone era. Much of the proof of the various goings on are no longer. So many people, buildings, places, and etc. are now gone. That could be said of any historical subject though. I would recommend this book. Not perfect, and not a story, but more a depiction of what went on, the who, when, where, and so on. I long for the day when a book like this is made about Cicero, Illinois. Many of the buildings in that town were torn down in part because of their history and the negative attention each attracted. Funny thing, if a museum were built, or if these towns embraced their history, which they can NOT erase, it would be a gold mine for them! ! History, be it positive or negative attracts people. IF you don't know your history and don't learn from your mistakes, you may be doomed to repeat them. In some instances, towns mentioned in this book have done just that in some way, shape, or form. Book is a sound effort on the subject. IF it were written years back, it would be twice the size. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I knew many Italian people from Chicago Heights and they were all good and honest people but they all knew of the ...By Customer I grew up in the Chicago Heights area and remember people talking about the characters in this book and as a young person I did not really know these people but I did know of them. I did have friends who did know them and it was a fascinating subject even then. To have someone tell the actual history of these people and what happened to them was so interesting. I could picture the area where this all happened and at one time I lived across the street from St. Rocco's church on 22nd street, East Chicago Heights, where Al Capone was said to throw money from the steps to the people. I remember the bell of the church ringing and it was so loud that I fell out of bed the first time I heard it. I knew many Italian people from Chicago Heights and they were all good and honest people but they all knew of the Mafia and were very respectful and fearful of them. Favors were granted to the "people" by the Mafia if asked. I remember I had a friend that disappeared in the 1960's and was never found and it was said that the Mafia had something to do with it. I don't know if this was true. Probably no one will ever know... 12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Finally, A Book On A Little Known Outfit - Chicago Heights By Rick Warner For those interested in the history of the Chicago Mob, Al Capone, and the city of Chicago Heights, the first and only book that covers it is the most detailed and accurate history that there will probably ever be. Matt Luzi, who as a past member of the Merry Gangster Society knows his stuff and has done fine research. Luzi, who also is related to some old members of the Chicago Heights Crew, passes on to us his personal insight and never-before-published photos. "The Boys in Chicago Heights" is not only a good read for the person with a casual interest, but is an essential work for the serious researcher. He provides previously hidden facts and details on John Torrio, Al Capone, early bosses Tony Sanfilippo and Phil Piazza, and their successors in the Outfit, from Dominic Roberto, Jimmy Emery, Frank LaPorte to Albert Tocco and Al Pilotto. As someone who has been writing on and researching organized crime myself I cannot recommend this any higher. Matt Luzi has done a masterful job and I believe this book will stand the test of time.

Chicago Heights was long the seat of one of the major street crews of the Chicago Outfit, but its importance has often been overlooked and misunderstood. The crew's origins predate Prohibition, when Chicago Heights was a developing manufacturing center with a large Italian immigrant population. Its earliest bosses struggled for control until a violent gang war left the crew solidified under the auspices of Al Capone. For the remainder of the twentieth century, the boys from Chicago Heights generated large streams of revenue for the Outfit through its vast gambling enterprises, union infiltration and stolen auto rackets. For the first time, the history of the Chicago Heights street crew is traced from its inception through its last known boss.

"The book was a labor of love for Luzi, who spent years researching it. He conducted personal interviews, scoured history books and newspaper articles, and even milked family connections to flesh out the book's story." --Casey Toner, Southtown Star "...I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the Chicago Heights Street Crew. It not only provides a well researched history of the crew, but also explains how the boys from Chicago Heights became an important, yet little known, part of the Chicago Outfit." --Robert M. Lombardo, Springer Science + Business Media

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About the Author
Matthew Luzi has been pursuing true crime history in Chicago Heights for more than 25 years. He has contributed to AE's biography of Al Capone, the History Channel's "Rogue's Gallery" program, and published works by John Binder, Jeff Thurston, and Art Bilek.