



**January / February 2018**



**February 7 at 7 p.m.:  
LIGHTS OF THE LAKES:  
A PHOTOGRAPHIC TOUR  
OF GREAT LAKES  
LIGHTHOUSES**

A tour of Great Lakes lighthouses will be the focus of a presentation by **Phillip L. Block** on Wednesday, February 7th in the Hunt Room of the Hales Corners Library. Phil is a longtime member of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association, and also serves as a volunteer docent and guide at the Port Washington 1860 Light Station.

His program consists of over 200 images, accompanied by music and sound effects, and highlights 56 lighthouses situated on the shores and islands of Lakes Superior and Michigan. Also featured are pictures of shipwrecks and of the mining and lumbering industries that were dependent on water transport to distant markets.

**FREE for all HCHS members!  
For non-members, a donation of \$5 is suggested.**

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM HCHS!**

We wish all Society members a happy and healthy New Year and thank you for your participation and support during the past year. If you have already renewed your HCHS membership for 2018, you will soon be receiving your acknowledgment letter, membership card, and program brochure. **If you haven't yet renewed, we encourage you to do so now.**

HCHS has four engaging, enjoyable programs planned for 2018. Remember, they are FREE for members, and refreshments are included. Read more here about our February and April programs, and mark your calendars!



**April 4 at 7 p.m.:  
CONSUMER BEVERAGE: HALES CORNERS' LIQUID ASSET**

It's one of Hales Corners' historic (and most-patronized!) businesses: Consumer Beverage, our Village's "liquid asset" on Hwy. 100. On Wednesday, April 4, in the Hales Corners Library, **Mike Praedel**, owner of Consumer Beverage, will talk about working in the family-owned business since 1962, when it was founded by his parents, Milton and Florence Praedel. In spite of a devastating fire in 1966, the business continued to grow, and is now in its fourth Village location. Mike will also share memories of growing up in Hales Corners and will answer questions from the audience, so come prepared!

**FREE for all HCHS members!  
For non-members, a donation of \$5 is suggested.**

In December, HCHS lost another long-time member, Priscilla Riebs. She will be greatly missed. In her memory, we are reprinting excerpts from her brief biography in our Society's 2015 book, *Hales Corners Wisconsin, A History of the Village Since 1837*

## PRISCILLA RIEBS - ULTIMATE VOLUNTEER by SHERMAN STOCK



Priscilla Riebs entered Hales Corners community activities in the traditional manner in 1962, as a mother of four elementary school-age children. Dorothy Holz enlisted her in Brownie and Girl Scout activities. Priscilla didn't know it at the time, but she was hooked. She led a Troop for eight years.

Volunteer organizations were the outlet for a mother of four who could not promise a regular schedule of her time. She said, "There is much that needs to be done that is not paid work, and that was where I could fit in." The PTA, the Friends of the Library, the Library Board, the Historical Society, the garden club, were all tolerant when a child was sick or had a recital.

Her activities reflected her deep feelings for the community. She recognized the wealth of assets Hales Corners and the surrounding area had to offer, and she loved her family's choice of Hales Corners for a home.

In 1982, Priscilla helped to create the first walking tour of the Village. It was popular enough for a second version to follow in 1991. A third tour was a much larger project, comprising 11 separate and distinct tours scattered throughout the Village. A 60-page booklet was produced that documented the effort; it remains a viable guide, available for use today.

In the early 1980s, when Priscilla was President of the Hales Corners Historical Society, a very special property was put up for sale. It contained the house and log cabin studio of the Hales Corners artist and writer, W. Ben Hunt, who was known worldwide for his more than 20 books. The Society decided to preserve his legacy by purchasing the cabin. Under Priscilla's leadership, a successful community-wide drive raised the money to purchase the cabin, moved it to the present location, and restored it for use by the community.

In 1987, Priscilla took on the task of writing the first published version of Hales Corners history.

In 1991, in recognition of her many successful efforts on behalf of the Hales Corners Library, Priscilla received the Library Trustee of the Year Award from the Wisconsin Library Association.

Another significant project that Priscilla chaired for the Hales Corners Historical Society in 2000-2001 was the photographing of the entire Village, property by property, for posterity, with the intention of repeating the project every 10 years for 100 years.

Priscilla's work was recognized by the Milwaukee County Historical Society in 2002 when it awarded her the Courtland R. Conlee Community Service Award. The Whitnall Park Rotary Club followed suit with a Paul Harris Fellows award. In 2004, Priscilla was recognized by the Village of Hales Corners, which conferred on her its first Achievement of the Year Award. In 2005, the Village presented Priscilla with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

These awards did not mark an end to Priscilla's service to the community. She continued to engage in the cataloging of both the Hales Corners Historical Society and W. Ben Hunt collections through the past year. The photo of her above was taken at HCHS's "Cabernet at the Cabin" fundraiser in 2016.

# RECENTLY DONATED ARTICLES FROM BOYS' LIFE MAGAZINE HIGHLIGHT HUNT PROJECTS

From 1942 to 1970, Ben Hunt submitted various craft projects to *Boys' Life* magazine, the official publication of the Boy Scouts of America. Each month, two or three illustrated articles by Ben would appear in the magazine.

He used his real name when writing about Silver-smithing and other handicrafts. He presented his Indian lore column under the name of "Lone Eagle" (also Wanblee Isnala); and his Whittling

and Carving column under the name of "Whittlin' Jim," where he declared, "Any knife can be used for whittling, that's why the hobby is so popular."

Whenever Ben would finish with an article, he would carry it from the cabin to his house and show it to his wife, Laura. She would look the article over carefully and make suggestions. Ben explained, "I always listen to what she says, because she has more common sense than I."

## Pirate Chests

**BEN HUNT**

In case you are not a pirate with a lot of pieces of eight or gold doubloons to hide, you can use just such a chest to keep your personal things locked up in, or one of them would be swell in the Scout room to keep flags and other signaling equipment from being kicked around right?

### A ROUND TOP CHEST

Chests can be anywhere from 18 inches to 2 feet long.

Hammer down the edges slightly.

Old iron cut nails for wood.

Dimensions are for end pieces.

Make this one a foot square and 2 ft long.

Build in one unit, mark cover and saw.

Build up of shaped and fitted segments, glued together.

An easy top to build. Hold boards in place with one finishing nail X in center of each top board. Plane and finish nailing.

### AN IRON BOUND CHEST

Hinges and hasps are fastened first.

Sharp edges and corners can be hammered and filed smooth.

Put hammer marks on bands.

Point chest before bands are put on. Then the paint with turpentine to take away some of the gloss, or use flat wall paint.

Use thin black sheet iron for bands. They can be between 2 and 3 inches wide.

Punch holes in bands for nails. Use washers for backs for fastening bands. And don't be too fussy, the chest should look old.

## Build a PUNT

**BEN HUNT**

The English punt is a small boat for shallow waters where it is usually poled. In deeper waters it can be sculled or oarlocks can be added for rowing. It is an excellent boat for duck hunting, fishing or for hauling wood or supplies to camp. White pine, white cedar and cypress are the best woods for building small boats.

1. Place forms. 2. Band ends. Do not drive nails all the way to forms. 3. Band ends are alike.

4. Plane to same angle as sides. 5. Crosspiece. 6. Beaded buckram. 7. Bead. 8. Skag. 9. Skag. 10. Deck. 11. Strips. 12. Deck. 13. Seat construction. 14. Skag.

16' dressed lumber is 1 1/2" wide.

2-1 1/2" boards and 2-3/4" boards for the bottom.

Use wash coated nails. Heat nails and sprinks with powdered rosin.

Canik all seams with candle waxing soaked in white lacquer or marine glue.

Deck should have about 1" pitch from A to B.

You can also use 3/8" water-proof plywood for the bottom. 2-6 pieces will do it.

Take out the forms after seat is nailed in place, and paint your punt with 2 or 3 coats of marine or porch paint.

Stern for sculling.

## INDIAN WAR SHIRTS

**BEN HUNT**

APPROPRIATE FOR ORDER OF THE ARROW RITUAL TEAM

THESE TYPES OF SHIRTS WERE WORN ONLY FOR WAR OR FOR CERTAIN OCCASIONS. THEY SHOULD BE COLORED BUT NOT BEATRE. CONSULT ORDER OF THE ARROW BOOKLET ON INDIAN RITUAL COSTUMES FOR ARTICLES USUALLY WORN.

WOODLAND INDIAN SHIRT.

HEAVY UTILITY FLANNEL MAKES THE BEST IMITATION SUEDESKIN. NEXT IS UNBLEACHED MUSLIN. USE A LOOSE-FITTING SHIRT FOR YOUR PATTERN.

FOR FRINGE ON CLOTH CANNOT BUY CHEAP CHAMOIS SHIRT. BUY 3/4 OF A INCH STRIPS TO THE CLOTH AND CUT FRINGE. GET THE CHAMOIS SKIN FIRST AND ONE CLOTH TO MATCH IT. ALLOW 1/2" ALL AROUND WHEN CUTTING, FOR SEAMS.

DO NOT IRON IT.

BEADED GARTERS WITH LONG FRINGE OF COLORED YARN.

BEADED BELT WITH WOODLAND DESIGN.

THESE CAN ALSO BE MADE OF HEAVY CLOTH OR CANVAS STRIPS, WITH DESIGNS PAINTED WITH SAMPLES COLORED LACQUERS OR THEY CAN BE APPLIED WITH STENCILS AND FABRIC DYES.

PLAINS BEADED BUCKRAM WAR SHIRT.

DESIGNS SAME ON BACK.

SHIRTS CAN BE WORN WITH BUCKRAM OR DARK CLOTH LEGGINGS WITH WHITE FLAPS OR LONG FRINGE.

BEADS SEWED TO BUCKRAM OR CLOTH STRIPS AND THEN SEWED TO SHIRT. USE THE SAME DESIGN FOR ALL STRIPS. STRIPS ARE SEWED TO THE BACK IN SAME POSITION AS IN THE FRONT.

WOODLAND CEREMONIAL SHIRT.

USUALLY MADE OF BLACK VELETTEN, BUT ANY GOOD, BLACK OR DARK BLUE GOODS WILL DO.

WHILE BATTERED MODERN THESE VELETTEN COSTUMES, WHEN BEADED THE TOWN "SHIRT" AND ARE A STRIKING CONTRAST TO BUCKRAM SHIRTS.

In order to produce these articles, Ben had to decide which images and instructions were necessary for a step-by-step process. After that, he drew all the images and hand-lettered the text to fit within the space available. These three examples were among the 40 articles recently donated to our Society by John and Jean Scorgie. All 40 were scanned by Bob Liebl so they could be added to the HCHS digital collection of images.



**THE HALE BROTHERS  
ARE COMING BACK TO  
PICK'N SAVE  
ON JUNE 16th!**

Once again the tantalizing aroma and taste of grilled brats, hot dogs, and all the fixings will help to kick off the summer...and raise funds for the Hales Corners Historical Society! Mark your calendar now: Society members will be grilling and serving at the Hales Corners Pick 'n Save on Saturday, June 16th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please make a point to stop by and satisfy your summertime craving while also supporting HCHS. **Seneca** and **William Hale** will be back to offer their support in the "wurst" way.



**BEN HUNT CABIN CONTINUES TO DRAW VISITORS**

Ben Hunt Cabin volunteer tour guides were delighted to welcome 110 individuals to the Cabin during the Village's annual tree lighting in December. And, in late October, the **Badger Woodcarvers** (pictured above) visited the Cabin to work on their carvings and talk about Ben Hunt. As usual, Cabin Open Houses will resume in 2018, beginning with the first Saturdays of May through November, and on the 4th of July.

**HALES CORNERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

5885 South 116th Street, Hales Corners, WI 53130  
414-529-6150, Ext. 24 • [www.HistoricHalesCorners.org](http://www.HistoricHalesCorners.org)

**TALES OF  
THE CORNERS**

**From the files of the  
*Tri-Town News and Hub***

**50 years ago (1968)**

Members of the Hales Corners Woman's Club meet to package toys for children in Vietnam.

**60 years ago (1958)**

The traffic commission advises the Hales Corners Village Board that street closing permits will not be granted for future fairs. The fairs, held on the first Monday of the month for over 75 years, are creating traffic problems on Hwy. 24.

**70 years ago (1948)**

The move to Wisconsin Skyways Airport in Hales Corners is complete. The West Allis squadron has brought its diesel powered generator to light the airfield.

**80 years ago (1938)**

The State Bank Hales Corners will now be open during the noon hour. Its new hours will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Hales Corners Volunteer Fire Department gets a 1,000 gallon water tank mounted on a Reo truck.