



**HALES CORNERS  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

# Newsletter

**July / August 2019**

**Don't miss our program on August 21st at 7 p.m.!**  
**THE MAGNIFICENT MACHINES OF MILWAUKEE**

On August 21st at 7 p.m., our program will feature **Thomas Fehring**, History and Heritage Chairman for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and author of the book, *The Magnificent Machines of Milwaukee*, published in 2017. Tom is an engineer by training, having worked for 35 years at companies such as Wisconsin Energy Corp., Falk Corp., Briggs & Stratton, and Ford Motor Co. He was born and raised in Milwaukee in the shadows of the A.O. Smith factory near 35th and Capitol Drive. He describes himself as an “accidental historian.”

Tom will narrate the story of innovation and enterprise creation in Milwaukee during the “Century of Progress”—the 100 years following the Civil War. Milwaukee was one of the principal centers of U.S. industrial innovation and became known as “the Machine Shop of the World.” In his book, Tom compares the Cream City of yesteryear to today’s Silicon Valley.

Included in Tom’s presentation will be stories of Milwaukee’s manufacturing companies, the products they produced, and the innovators who ran them. Among them are Allen-Bradley, Briggs



& Stratton, Johnson Controls, and other well-known local names.

Copies of Tom’s book will be available for purchase and signing by the author. In addition, Tom will donate a copy of his book to the Hales Corners Library’s permanent collection.

Please join us in the Ben Hunt Room of the Hales Corners Library, 116th & Janesville Road.

*An ice cream social will follow the program.*  
**FREE for all HCHS members! For non-members, a donation of \$5 is suggested.**

## **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE COMING IN SEPTEMBER**

By maintaining your membership in the Hales Corners Historical Society, you demonstrate your support for preserving the Village’s unique history and rich heritage. **Thank you!**

Now HCHS is looking for additional individuals and families who might be interested in joining you—and all of us—in supporting our mission. In September we will launch a membership recruitment drive, and we’d greatly appreciate receiving your suggestions of neighbors, friends and others we should contact with our HCHS membership packet. In it, we’ll highlight our Society’s purpose, programs, membership levels, and benefits. **Please send names and addresses of prospective members to our email, [info@halescornershistory.com](mailto:info@halescornershistory.com), or call HCHS President Al Strekow at 414-529-2133.** With your help, we’ll continue to grow and provide additional services to the residents of our historic community.

## THE TERRIFIC TRIO TAKES CARE OF BUSINESS

Thanks to volunteers (l to r) **Jim Bain, Randy Sannes, and Chris Schachtlie**, the much-damaged historic sign in front of the Hale House Restaurant was removed and its new replacement was installed.



They also prepared the Ben Hunt Cabin for another season of openings on the first Saturdays through December. The Cabin was mopped, dusted, and de-cobwebbed. In addition, better lighting was installed and the grounds around the Cabin were cleaned up. If you'd like to help the "Trio" in the future, please contact the Society at [info@halescornershistory.com](mailto:info@halescornershistory.com).



## THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR MAKING OUR 2019 BRAT SALE A SUCCESS!

June 8th was a beautiful Saturday with no rain whatsoever. That was the first ingredient in our successful Brat Sale. The brats, dogs, beverages, and chips were the main attraction, but the most important ingredient continued to be our volunteers. Thanks so much to **Jim Bain, Mary Bennett, Katy Galewski, Mike Fischer, Fr. Jerry Hudziak, Mary Javorek, Mike Jedrzejewski, Ken Meleski, Randy and Sandy Sannes, Chris Schachtlie, Al and Ruth Strekow**. Want to help in the future? Just let us know.



(l to r) Sandy Sannes, Mike Fischer, Mike Jedrzejewski, Jim Bain, Ruth Strekow, and Al Strekow

## A PABST MANSION VIEW

Our program on May 15th took everyone on an in-depth room-to-room tour of Milwaukee's historic Capt. Frederick Pabst Mansion. (l to r) **Dave Fehlauer** and **Peter Drenzek** provided little-known details on the architecture of the Mansion as well as the Pabst family history.



## SENECA HALE'S SUMMER KITCHEN DISPLAY RE-INSTALLED

In 1996, HCHS disassembled and moved Seneca Hale's Summer Kitchen from its original location on Forest Home Avenue (across from today's Culver's) to Cobb Park on Janesville Road. This site was part of the 160 acres of land once owned by Seneca, and later became the property of his daughter, Harriet, and her husband, William Cobb.

In addition to saving and moving the building, volunteers created a six-panel display to provide a brief history of the Kitchen and an overview of life during the 1850s. The display included the names of the businesses, organizations, and individuals who financed and constructed the project.

However, the display faded over the course of 23 years from exposure to the sun and the elements, so HCHS decided it was time to take it down, touch up the illustrations, and replace the images and information panels with new ones. Many thanks to the 2019 display restoration team: **Bette Arey, Randy Sannes, Sherman Stock** (all three of whom were original volunteers in 1996), and newcomer **Al Strekow**.

The display should be okay for the next 20 years or so.



*Seneca Hale's Summer Kitchen before the move in 1995*



*Sherman Stock and Bette Arey were two of many volunteers involved with the original Summer Kitchen project in 1996. Sherman and John Arey, Bette's husband, designed and installed the original display next to the Kitchen.*

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## HEY, IT'S NOT JUST NOISE AND DUST -- IT'S VILLAGE HISTORY BEING MADE EVERY DAY!

Hales Corners, for good or bad, has been undergoing *months and months* of road construction projects along Highway 100. It's also experiencing noteworthy new construction and building upgrades—history in the making!



*New office building at intersection of Forest Home and Grange Avenues, former site of Petroff's Drive-In*



*New addition to Hales Corners Elementary School on Janesville Rd.*



*New Festival Foods on Highway 100, former site of K-Mart*

## BIZARRE WISCONSIN: SAVE THE DATE

It's too early to start thinking about Halloween, you say? Nope -- because HCHS has a terrific program planned for October that will both educate you and give you the chills! Join us on October 16th at 7 p.m. when Chad Lewis presents **BIZARRE HISTORY OF WISCONSIN: Strange Stories from Our Past.**



Chad's presentation showcases more than 100 bizarre newspaper stories from Wisconsin that have not been seen in over 100 years. These incredible stories were not lost, they were simply hidden. This program provides a "time portal" back to the early days of our state when it was filled with strange deaths, ghosts, peculiar people, medical anomalies, oddities, psychic phenomena, and UFOs. This will change the way you view the good ol' days of Wisconsin!

Chad is a Wisconsin-based researcher, author, and expert on the strange and unusual. He holds a Master's of Science degree in Applied Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. He has spent the past 20 years traveling the United States and the globe in search of unique and bizarre history and stories.

**Please save October 16th on your calendar and ask your friends to join you for this fun and spooky pre-Halloween look at Wisconsin's history!**

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## RECORD ATTENDANCE AT THE BEN HUNT CABIN AND SUMMER KITCHEN

The July 4th festivities in Hales Corners also brought record numbers of visitors to check out the Ben Hunt Cabin and the Seneca Hale Summer Kitchen. More than 70 individuals toured our two

attractions that day.

Thanks to our volunteers:

**Bette Arey, Katy Galewski, Mary Javorek, Celine Kashishian, Dave and Kathy O'Brien, Randy Sannes, and Don Schwartz.**

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## GET THE HISTORIC SOCIETY'S UPDATES ON FACEBOOK

Since we established a Facebook page in April, volunteer **Mike Fischer** has posted more than two dozen great images accompanied by the latest information on HCHS events, as well as fascinating bits and pieces of Hales Corners history that he's uncovered from the vaults of the Society's collection. Please don't miss Mike's fun and interesting updates. Just go to **facebook.com/HalesCornersHistory**, and "Like" and "Share" the posts.

## TALES OF THE CORNERS

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

### 90 YEARS AGO (1929)

- Work is begun on the new telephone exchange building on South 109th Street and Godsell Avenue.
- A few of the new smaller-sized dollar bills are received by the Hales Corners Bank and are on display.

### 80 YEARS AGO (1939)

- The Whitnall Park bathing beach is a popular place on hot days!
- William Froemming is elected president of the Hales Corners Lions Club. Albert Meares wins vice president by a coin toss.

### 70 YEARS AGO (1949)

- The Mila-Scopa Club, formed by Ben Hunt, is constructing a complete Indian village for this year's Scout-O-Rama.
- Hales Corners' Skyways Airport holds an open house and an air show.
- A summer recreation program is opened at Hales Corners School.

### 50 YEARS AGO (1969)

- The Chamber of Commerce is formed in Hales Corners and Don Diven is elected president.
- The Hales Corners Village board awards a \$101,000 contract to build a new fire station on West Forest Home Avenue behind the old one.

*Research by Katy Galewski*

## HALES CORNERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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