



May 2021

## Repairs Give Ben's Cabin a New Lease on Life

Thanks to all of you who helped with funding and labor, the 97-year-old Ben Hunt Cabin is safe and secure again. During the last week of April, **Hill & Valley Landscaping** arrived at the Ben Hunt Cabin and, within three days, completed the project we began planning last year. It was necessitated by a rotting log at the Cabin's base, which threatened the building's stability.

The following photos illustrate the project from start to finish. Most of them were taken by HCHS Board member **Chris Schachtlie**, who oversaw the landscapers' progress. The final touch will be the addition of a 4-foot-wide, brown composite step that will provide entry at the north side door.

*(Continued)*



*A previous view of the Cabin, showing a stockpile of wood under the overhang, and the adjoining Lannon stones.*



*Wood scraps were removed along with Ben Hunt's duck-hunting boat, which hung beneath the roof.*



*The previous walkway was removed so that the soil could be regraded away from the Cabin.*



*Pavers were stacked up for later reinstallation.*



**Lannon stones were removed and the soil was regraded here as well.**



**Large Mississippi stone was added where the wood pile used to be.**



**Mississippi and Lannon stones were added along the north wall to enhance drainage.**



**A trench was dug and two downspouts were buried to drain water to the west of the Cabin.**



**Weston wall blocks were used to create a window well on the east side of the Cabin.**



**Pavers were reinstalled.**



**Pavers once again connect the front walkway to the north side entrance.**



**New top soil, premium grade grass seed, and starter fertilizer were covered with mulch.**

## Have you liked us lately? Go to [facebook/halescornershistory](https://facebook/halescornershistory)

Thanks to Board member **Mike Fischer**, our audience on Facebook has grown to almost 600. Every week, Mike posts photos from our collection of images as well as his own sources, and includes information about them. There have been 165 of these postings since our first one in April 2019. Last summer, even videos of past 4th of July parades were featured. If you haven't checked out our page, it's never too late. You can scroll down from the latest posting to the very beginning. So, enjoy your Village history!

## TALES OF THE CORNERS

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

### 90 YEARS AGO (1931)

- Plans are made to widen the Janesville Plank Road (Forest Home Avenue). It will be widened 6 feet on both sides from Hawley Road to its intersection with North Cape Road. That will allow for three lanes of traffic.
- A.J. Getz holds the official grand opening of a new drug store in Hales Corners. Booths and stools are provided at the soda fountain. *(See photo on page 4.)*
- Redner's Restaurant, Hales Corners, advertises turtle soup for 15 cents.
- The first picnic permit is issued by Hales Corners County Park (Whitnall Park).

### 80 YEARS AGO (1941)

- State Bank Hales Corners has about \$13,900 to distribute to holders of certificates of the segregated trust fund. So far, 87 cents on the dollar has been returned to customers since the bank was reorganized in July 1932.

### 70 YEARS AGO (1951)

- The new Hales Corners School is complete and students are moving in.
- The new street in the Hales Corners Kelm Subdivision is named Kay Parkway. The "K" stands for Kelm, the subdivider, and Walter Koehler, the first builder and home owner in the area.

### 60 YEARS AGO (1961)

- The old barn on the Hales Corners Village Hall grounds is razed. The grounds are being prepared for a new county park (Hales Corners Park).
- Archbishop William Cousins presides over dedication ceremonies at St. Mary's Catholic Church.
- The Rev. Marvin Kammrath officiates at the cornerstone laying ceremony for the Hales Corners Lutheran School.

### 50 YEARS AGO (1971)

- The Hales Corners Village Board adopts an ordinance allowing women to work in liquor stores and taverns.
- The Hales Corners Community Theatre presents *Picnic*, a summer romance by William Inge. *(See photo on page 4.)*
- Whitnall High School's junior prom theme is "Tara."

**Research by Katy Galewski**

## From the HCHS Image Collection

The Hales Corners Community Theatre was begun in 1959 by a group of local residents, many of whom had belonged to amateur theatrical groups elsewhere. Their first production was *You Can't Take It With You*.

Subsequent productions varied in character: comedies, mysteries, and dramas. They included *The Bat*, *The Girls in 509*, *The Great Sebastians*, *The Happiest Millionaire*, *The Happy Time*, *Harvey*, and *The Skin of Our Teeth*.

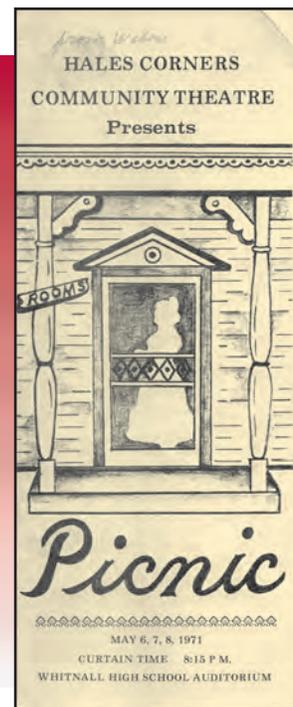
The Hales Corners Community Theatre continued into the early 1970s. Its final production was *The Teahouse of the August Moon*.

In addition to the photo below from the 1960s, our collection includes a number of programs from the group's productions. The 50-year-old program cover at right, from *Picnic*, is referred to in the *Tales of the Corners* (see 1971).



*Community Theatre members from the 1960s:*  
(Standing l to r) Maryanne Alberte, Bob Polasek, Unknown, Ken Schroeder, Art Kilps, Jim Bauschek, Emmy Fray, Vern ?, Fritz Reidenback, ? Baumeister, Mary Jane Parck, Bev Schoetz, Mahlon Westcott, Unknown, Russ Kilps, Tony Alberte. (Sitting and kneeling l to r) Chuck Stevens, Unknown, Don Carlton, Unknown, Dave Schoetz.

**Beverly Jane Getz** celebrated her fourth birthday at her father's drug store in the 1930s. Among the 65 first- and second-graders who enjoyed ice cream cones at the store were **Pearl Acker** and **Jerry Schmidt**, shown in this photograph on either side of Beverly Jane. The Getz Drug Store is referred to in the *Tales of the Corners* (see 1931).



This 20-page program is a mini-record of the businesses that provided support for productions through their advertisements. Only seven of the 40 businesses that advertised in the program continue to do business in Hales Corners today. They are:

- Consumer Beverage
- Hales Corners Beer & Liquor
- Holz Motors
- M & W Marine
- Sentt's
- Sherper's
- Tri City Bank

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