



HALES CORNERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

October 2021

Kids Delight in Cabin and Kachina

This year has been a quiet one at the Ben Hunt Cabin. The door was closed to the general public until the first Saturday in September. Since then, the Cabin has been visited by several families and their children. The photos below confirm that "Zike," our giant Kachina, has been a big hit with

the kids. Scouts from local dens have also visited, with two more groups scheduled in November. Credit for the success of the children's visits goes to our most dependable Cabin docents, **Celine Kashishian** and **Katy Galewski**, both of whom are retired grade school teachers.



HALLOWEEN HISTORY: How Trick-or-Treating Became an American Tradition

Trick-or-treating has been a Halloween tradition in the United States and other countries for more than a century. Its origins remain murky, but traces can be identified in ancient Celtic festivals, religious holidays, and medieval practices.

In the early 20th century, Irish and Scottish communities in the U.S. revived the Old World traditions at Halloween of "souling" (going from door to door, asking for gifts in exchange for offering prayers for the souls of the homeowners' dead relatives) and "guising" (dressing in costume and accepting offerings, or "treats," from households in exchange for singing a song or performing a "trick").

By the 1920s, however, pranks had become the Halloween activity of choice for rowdy young people -- soaping windows, overturning trash cans, etc. The Great Depression exacerbated the



Halloween postcard from the early 1900s

problem, with Halloween mischief often devolving into vandalism, physical assaults, and sporadic acts of violence. One theory suggests that excessive pranks on Halloween led to the widespread adoption of an organized, community-based

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Sherman Stock Saluted at James R. Ryan Portrait Dedication

Sherman Stock has been a resident of Hales Corners since 1960. As a member of HCHS, he was involved with the preservation of the Seneca Hale Summer Kitchen and its outdoor display in 1996, and the creation of the Western Hotel diorama in 2005. Sherman played a leading role in the restoration of the diorama and its move to the Hales Corners Library in 2018, and the restoration of the Summer Kitchen display in 2019.

A writer by profession, he was Legal Counsel to **Senator Gaylord Nelson** and Policy Advisor to **Governor Anthony Earl**. Sherman also continued to develop his aptitude for drawing and painting which began in high school with a poster for the first Milwaukee Holiday Folk Fair. In 1998, he designed a banner for Hales Corners which commemorated the Sesquicentennial of the state of Wisconsin.

On September 18th, Sherman's portrait of former Village President **James Ryan** was



Sherman Stock and his portrait of Jim Ryan



Sherman (left) with Lisa Ryan and Dan Besson (behind podium)

unveiled at a special ceremony held at the James R. Ryan Municipal Building. **Lisa Ryan**, wife of the late James Ryan,

and **Dan Besson**, current Village President, opened the ceremony, thanking Sherman for contributing the portrait to the Village Hall where it will remain on display.

James R. Ryan served with distinction and honor for 27 years as a County Supervisor, Village Trustee, and Village President. His tenure as Village President was for a longer period of time than any other individual before or since. At his last Board meeting, the Village Hall was renamed by unanimous vote as the James R. Ryan Municipal Building

In addition, he played an integral role in the establishment of the Milwaukee Regional Medical Complex and the creation of the Flight for Life program. In addition, he was a committed advocate for the well-being of children throughout the area as Child Welfare Supervisor and President of Penfield Children's Center for more than 10 years.

(Halloween, continued from page 1)

trick-or-treating tradition in the 1930s. The trend was abruptly curtailed, however, with the outbreak of World War II, when sugar rationing meant there were few treats to hand out.

At the height of the postwar baby boom, trick-or-treating reclaimed its place among other Halloween customs. It quickly became standard practice for millions of America's cities and newly built suburbs. No longer constrained by sugar rationing, candy companies capitalized on the lucrative ritual, launching advertising campaigns specifically aimed at Halloween.

Although it is unknown precisely where and when the phrase "trick or treat" was coined, the custom had become firmly established in American popular culture by 1951, when trick-or-treating was depicted in the *Peanuts* comic strip. In 1952, Disney produced a cartoon called "Trick or Treat," featuring Donald Duck and his nephews Huey, Dewey, and Louie.

Today, Americans spend an estimated \$2.6 billion on candy for Halloween, according to the National Retail Federation, and the day itself has become the nation's second-largest commercial holiday.

Source: History.com

Curiosities from Our Collection

Edward and Anna Kurtze built a Queen Anne-style house in 1902 near the intersection of Janesville and Kurtz Roads. The road was named after the family but, perhaps to save space, the “e” was omitted.

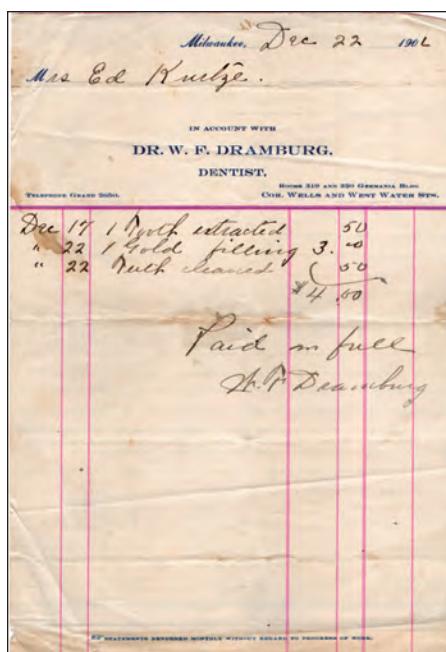
According to an invoice from our collection, Anna traveled to the Germania Building on Wells and Water Streets in Milwaukee for a dental appointment with **Dr. W. F. Dramburg** in 1906. Dramburg also had an office in Hales Corners on Forest Home Avenue from 1900-1923.

Anna's total dental bill was \$4.00, which included the following:
One tooth extraction - 50 cents
One gold filling - \$3.00
Teeth cleaned - 50 cents

Times have changed!
We checked today's prices:
One tooth extraction - \$199
One gold crown - \$1,275
Teeth cleaning - \$99
The total is now \$1,573.



Framed picture of the Kurtze Farm



Anna Kurtze's dental invoice, 1906

In Memoriam

Former HCHS member **Ronald W. Noeske** passed away at the age of 89 on October 15th. Ronald was an architect for Milwaukee County, and as such he lent his expertise to numerous Village building projects, including the Seneca Hale Summer Kitchen. He served with distinction as a long-time member of the Plan Commission, the Fourth of July Committee, and the Building Board.

He also served as Chair of the Ad Hoc Space Needs, Public Safety Facility, and Fire Station Relocation Committees, providing valuable leadership. In addition, he volunteered his time for the Church Council of Whitnall Park Lutheran Church, Boy Scout Troup 591, and West Allis Memorial Hospital. Ronald will be greatly missed.

HCHS Programs Are in the Works for Next Year

It's been more than a year since our Society has been able to offer its quarterly historical programs. However, in an optimistic mood about pandemic conditions and the availability of vaccine booster shots, the program committee has started lining up guest speakers for 2022. At present, two programs are planned.

In May, **Doug Schmidt**, author of *Six Outs To Go! A Baseball Anthology*, will present an excursion through Brew City's baseball history, from a three-toed outfielder to a one-legged manager who kicked Milwaukee baseball back into high gear. Featuring photos from his personal collection, Doug will cover 130 years of Milwaukee baseball history.

In late July/early August, **Don "the Kid" Walter** and **Patrick Heaney** will present *Hales Corners Speedway: 53 Years of Racing Thrills*. Originally scheduled for 2020, the program is back on track with stories and photos of the glory days of the Speedway and reminiscences about the drivers and their cars.

We welcome your suggestions for programming in February and October 2022. What historical topics would you like to learn more about? Your ideas will be helpful, not only for the coming year, but also the next one. Please email the Society at info@HalesCornersHistory.com, or call HCHS President **Al Strekow** at 414-529-2133.

From the HCHS Images Collection

In our growing collection of photos and artwork from the Village's past, we found the images below that are referred to in the *Tales of the Corners* at right. (See 1961 and 1971.)



Money pouch from State Bank Hales Corners, showing the building as it was in the early 1960s



Hales Corners Library at Hwy. 100 and Ridge Avenue (where Confucius Chinese Restaurant is today), during an Art Fair and Fish Boil, August 1, 1976

Recently, we received this photo from **Colleen Resendiz**, showing a feathered friend of HCHS. Looks like he volunteered to help remove some pests from the Ben Hunt Cabin!



TALES OF THE CORNERS

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

90 YEARS AGO (1931)

- Hales Corners School has an enrollment of 137 pupils.
- Plans are made to meet for a rabbit luncheon after elections of officers for the new American Legion post in Hales Corners.
- As part of Fire Prevention Week, a demonstration on how to fight fires is planned for Fair Day. It will be shown at the Dreyfuss lot in the center of the Village.

80 YEARS AGO (1941)

- Sanitary sewers on 111th Street are scheduled to be completed this week.
- Members of the Hales Corners Garden Club vote to contribute \$5.00 to the British War Relief Fund to send garden seeds to England.

70 YEARS AGO (1951)

- P.G. Nickerson posts notices for the annexation of Hales Corners by West Allis. The move is made to prevent Hales Corners from being annexed by Milwaukee, if its plans to incorporate fail.

60 YEARS AGO (1961)

- A yo-yo contest is held at Country Fair Shopping Center, featuring World Yo-Yo Champion Frank Young.
- State Bank Hales Corners purchases a parcel of land east of the National Tea grocery store on Janesville Road to build a new bank building. (*See photo at left.*)
- Dedication ceremonies are held for the new \$300,000 Hales Corners Lutheran School building.

50 YEARS AGO (1971)

- The Hales Corners Chamber of Commerce attempts to organize a historical society for the Village.
- The Hales Corners Woman's Club seeks support for a library in the village. (*See photo at left.*)
- The Hales Corners Village Board decides to hire a crossing guard for the intersection of Janesville Road and 116th Street.

Research by Katy Galewski

HALES CORNERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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