



November 2021

## More Ben Hunt Artifacts Donated to Society

On October 18th, **Lee Rynders** joined **Al Strekow** for a brief tour of the Ben Hunt Cabin. Lee was a neighbor of **Ben and Laura Hunt** and was also a member of the *Good Medicine Dancers*, a local group founded by Ben that honored Native American culture through costumes and dances in the 1950s and 1960s.

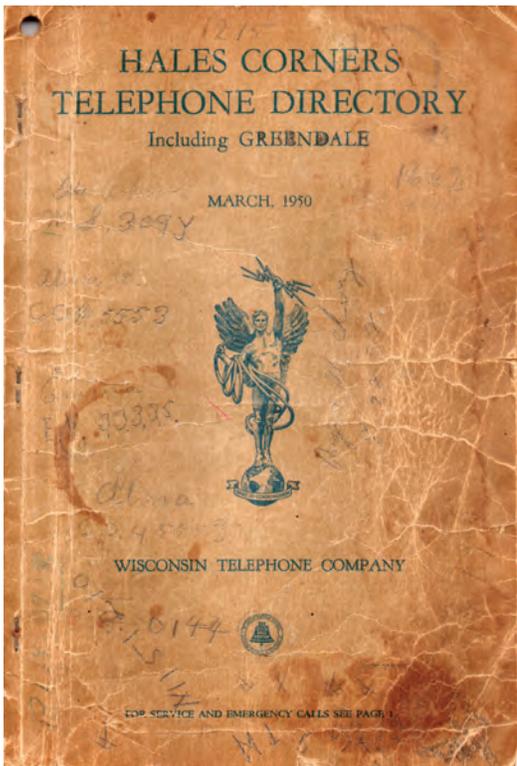
Lee generously donated some new items to add to our collection: a Kachina doll figure more than four feet tall, and several items of costuming from his dancing days. The Kachina was actually carved and painted by Ben and once stood outside his Cabin. Weather took its toll on the Kachina and it began to rot away. As a result, Ben offered it to Lee and he has had it ever since. Pieces that had broken away are included, so with a little help, the figure can be restored and eventually displayed inside the Cabin.

The *Good Medicine Dancer* costume items were also created by Ben, except for one piece that Lee made for himself, following Ben's instructions. Lee was thrilled with his visit to the Cabin, and he reminisced about being there many years ago with Ben. He even remembered some of the costumes on display and recalled the names of several of the girls who made and wore these costumes, more than 50 years ago!



*Kachina figure and Good Medicine Dancer costumes created by Ben Hunt*





Hales Corners Telephone Directory cover, Classified title page, and Party Line advertisement

## 1950 Telephone Directory Provided Instructions

A few weeks ago, a package arrived in the mail containing this telephone directory from 1950. It was donated to HCHS by member **Joan Berg**, who had received it from her cousin, **Dawn (Brunn) Behrendt**. Dawn was clearing the estate of her parents, **Harvey and Ramona Brunn**. They owned a farm on 76th and Rawson Avenue, just east of the current McDonald's, and sold sweet corn and other vegetables from a little vegetable stand. That property is now up for sale.

The directory is a priceless addition to our local history because, in addition to listing the addresses of residents in 1950, it also features a classified section of local businesses. Other interesting features are the instruction page on how to use a dial telephone and the page encouraging people to be courteous when using the party line.

Thanks very much, Joan, for adding this great item to the HCHS collection!

### How to Use the Dial Telephone

At HALES CORNERS and GREENDALE

- Obtain the correct number from the latest issue of the telephone directory. Assume that the number desired is Hales Corners 5-2801.

**4 SIGNALS TO REMEMBER**

**DIAL TONE**

—the busy signal (a rapid buzz-buzz-buzz sound)—

a series of subdued siren-like tones, telling you a mistake has been made in dialing, or—a high-pitched tone indicating that you are dialing a party on your line.

- Remove the receiver and listen until you hear the dial tone, a steady "humming" sound. This is your signal to start dialing.
- With the receiver off, place your finger in the opening in the dial over the black letter "H."
- Pull the dial around until your finger strikes the stop. Release the dial and allow it to return without interference.
- In the same manner, dial the black letter "A" and then the red numerals "5," "2," "8," "0," and "1" in the order in which they appear in the directory.
 

The letters on the dial are black and the numerals are red. If you dial the black letter "O" for the red numeral "0" (zero), or the black letter "I" for the red numeral "1," you will get a wrong number.

If your finger slips or an error is made while dialing, hang up for a few seconds, listen for dial tone, and then dial the complete number again.

**How to Call Another Party on Your Line**

- Lift the receiver and listen for dial tone.
- Dial the number desired.
- If this number is on your line, you will hear a high-pitched tone. (If you have 2 party measured service, instead of receiving a high-pitched tone, an operator will answer who will complete your call.)
- Dial the party code number as shown on your number card.
- When you hear the busy signal, hang up. This will allow the other party's bell and your bell to ring. When the ringing stops, it indicates that the called party has answered.

If your party does not answer within a reasonable period, remove your receiver momentarily in order to stop the ringing.

Dial telephone instruction page — use this to amuse your kids and grandkids!

# Who Renamed the Streets in Milwaukee Terrace? And Why?

The following is based on an article written by Katy Galewski for *The Hub* newspaper and is mentioned in *Tales of the Corners* on page 4.

**J. Allen Goff** was a real estate broker in Hales Corners for 35 years. In the 1920s, he bought the Milwaukee Terrace subdivision, which stretched from Godsell Avenue north to Grange Avenue, and from Highway 100 west to approximately 111th Street. The east-west streets in the area were originally named after U.S. presidents. Since the city of Milwaukee already had presidential streets, in 1931 the Goffs were charged with finding new names.

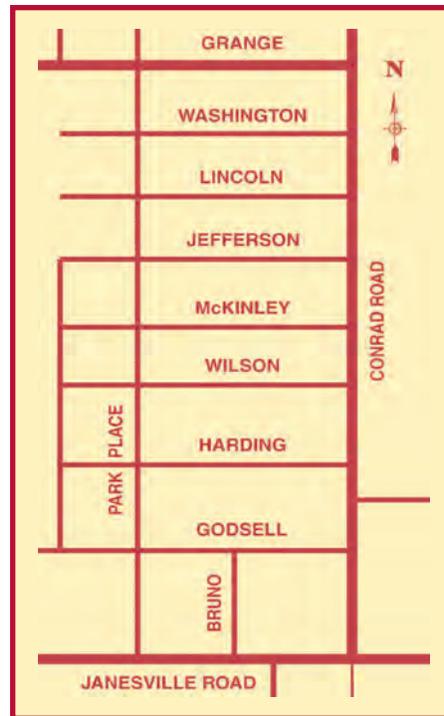
And rename them they did! -- and for some unique reasons:

▲ **Harding Avenue was renamed Green Avenue**, because Mr. Goff's favorite uncle, **J.J. Byrne**, lived on a street by that name in Chicago.

▲ **Wilson Avenue became Parnell Avenue**, after the great Irish statesman **Charles Parnell** (1846-1891). The Goffs were both of Irish descent.

▲ **McKinley Avenue was renamed Liberty Avenue**, because **Mrs. Goff's** favorite aunt, **Mrs. Connolly** of Hales Corners, had recently moved to Liberty Center, Ohio.

▲ **Jefferson Avenue was renamed Rockne Avenue**. Mr. Goff was a graduate of Notre Dame University, so he named the street after the school's famous football coach, **Knute Rockne**, who died on March 31, 1931.



*Milwaukee Terrace and Scholz subdivision streets before renaming*

▲ **Lincoln Avenue was renamed Denis Avenue** in memory of **Dennis Kelly**. (There's no explanation of why the second "n" in "Dennis" does not appear in the street's name.) Kelly built a house next door to the Goffs on Highway 100, but he died two weeks before he was supposed to move in.

▲ **Washington Avenue became Cobb Avenue** ("after one of Hales Corners' old residents," reported the *Tri-Town News*).

▲ **Godsell Avenue**, unlike other streets in Milwaukee Terrace, retained its original name, which was chosen to honor Village resident **James Godsell**, who co-founded the community's first bank, State Bank Hales Corners (now Associated Bank).

In addition, two north-south streets took new identities:

▲ **Bruno was renamed 109th Street.**

▲ **Park Place became 110th Street.**

▲ **And as for Highway 100 (108th Street)... it was originally called Conrad Road** because it ran through the **Jacob Conrad, Jr.** farm, which was north of Edgerton Avenue in the area of the expressway.

---

## Boy Scouts Visited the Ben Hunt Cabin



The Ben Hunt Cabin welcomed its final visitors of 2021 on Saturday, November 13th. That day conjured up the Cabin's early days when it played host to various scouting groups in the Hales Corners area. This time, 11 Cub Scouts from **Pack 74-Den 5** at Edgerton Middle School were the guests.

All-in-all, Cabin attendance has been quite good. Since re-opening in August, we have had more than 70 visitors!

## Pat Laughlin, Village Librarian, Retires after 33 Years

On October 29th, a bittersweet celebration took place at the Hales Corners Library as **Pat Laughlin**, Director of the Library, retired after more than 33 years in that position. The open house took place from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., with a presentation at noon. The event featured coffee and an enormous range of baked goods. Children who attended probably thought that this was a regular feature of the Library, and will be eager to return.

Representatives from the Village Board, the Library staff, and the Friends of the Library delivered their remarks to an appreciative audience. On behalf of HCHS, we wish Pat the best of retirements!



**Pat Laughlin,  
Director of the  
Hales Corners  
Library**

**MaryAnn  
Lindberg,  
President of  
the Library  
Board**



## TALES OF THE CORNERS

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

### 90 YEARS AGO (1931)

- Names of Hales Corners streets are changed. All north and south streets are numbered to correspond with Milwaukee. All east and west streets are named so that there is no duplication of street names in Milwaukee County. *(See article on page 3.)*
- All 18 greens at the Hales Corners County Golf Course (Whitnall Park) are ready for seeding next spring.
- James Godsell is elected first commander of the Hales Corners American Legion Post.
- Items for sale at the Hales Corners Fair Day included homemade hickory hammer and axe handles, as well as hand-woven rag rugs for 85 cents a yard.

### 80 YEARS AGO (1941)

- The Schmidt Brothers Feed Store advertises 100 lbs. of sugar for \$5.75.
- Gospel Mission services are scheduled to be held at Venzl's Hall on Sunday afternoons.

### 70 YEARS AGO (1951)

- A court date is set for a hearing on the proposed incorporation of Hales Corners.
- The cornerstone is laid at Hales Corners Lutheran Church. A copper box containing a Bible, a Concord hymnal, two newspapers, and several other items are set under the stone.

### 50 YEARS AGO (1971)

- Psychic Irene Hughes, a favorite guest on *The Merv Griffin Show*, is slated to speak at the Hales Corners Woman's Club.

*Research by Katy Galewski*

## WATCH FOR 2022 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL LETTER

Our membership renewal letter will be mailed to all members in December. We hope you will continue to support our efforts as we plan to resume all four FREE programs in 2022.

## HALES CORNERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

5885 South 116th Street, Hales Corners, WI 53130 • 414-529-6150, Ext. 24

info@HalesCornersHistory.com • www.HalesCornersHistory.com • www.facebook.com/HalesCornersHistory