



August 2022

Pat Heaney and Don Walter Were “Up to Speed” at July’s Speedway Presentation

The presentation *Hales Corners Speedway: 53 Years of Racing Thrills* by **Patrick Heaney** and **Don “The Kid” Walter** proved to be well worth the long wait, after COVID postponed the event for two years. On July 27th, the Meadows Room of the Hales Corners Village Hall was filled with approximately 160 very enthusiastic racing fans. . . so enthusiastic that several of them brought their own Speedway memorabilia to display on tables around the room: signs,

posters, trophies, model cars, etc. In addition, three drivers, **Matt Schellinger**, **Willie Seiske**, and **Jayme Zidar**, proudly displayed their race cars outside the hall an hour before the event, and they remained there until shortly after the program ended at about 10 p.m.

This event was more than simply another program for HCHS; it was a fundraiser as well, our first in three years. The audience was most generous, contributing more than \$600 to our Society. In addition, Pat and Don graciously declined to accept their speakers’ fees. The HCHS is very grateful for everyone’s support.

Behind the scenes, a multitude of thanks go to the HCHS members who helped make

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Standing at the podium, Pat recounted the history of the Speedway and its many thrilling races through the decades, while Don, using a wireless microphone, worked the crowd. The PowerPoint presentation created by **Al Strekow** featured 169 photos of the Speedway and its competing drivers from Pat’s personal collection. Several of those drivers were in the audience, and as their photos appeared on-screen, Don was quick to reach them with his microphone and get them to share some of their stories.



Pat Heaney and Don Walter



Don Walter interviews Frank Smith and Scott Barnharst



The program *Hales Corners Speedway: 53 Years of Racing Thrills* attracted an audience of 160 at the Village Hall

this program so successful through promotions, audio-visual expertise, decorations, hall setup/takedown, photography, etc.: **Jim Bain, Mike Fischer, Lauren Klich, Scott Kruger, Randy Sannes, Chris Schachtlie, Don Schwartz, and Al and Ruth Strekow.**

In addition, thanks go to the following: the **Hales Corners Village Hall staff** for their assistance in preparing for the event, the **Hales Corners Chamber of Commerce** and **Hales Corners Library** for promoting the program on their websites, and **Sendik's** for providing deli trays for the volunteers and drivers.

A very special thank you goes to local musician **Dave Drake** for providing the sound system and microphones. He not only monitored the sound throughout the program but also videotaped the presentation for future reference as part of the HCHS collection.

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Matt Schellinger, #61



"Stockcar Willie" Seiske, #198



Pat Heaney talks about race car driver Miles Melius



Jayme Zidar, #9



Model cars of Speedway racers



Speedway memorabilia was displayed by audience members for everyone's enjoyment



Interiors of the cars on page 2



Trophies awarded to Miles Melius and Bill Johnson

TALES OF THE CORNERS - AUGUST

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

90 YEARS AGO (1932)

- Among the usual things for sale at the Hales Corners Stock Fair are a pair of racoons for \$15 and a bear for \$20.
- The new Hales Corners telephone directory contains the numbers of more than 600 subscribers.
- Emanuel Church holds its picnic on the church grounds. Mrs. William Basse and the Ladies Aid are in charge of preparing the chicken dinners. Nearly 400 dinners and 400 suppers are served.
- Frank Utecht is building a 12x12 foot barber shop on 108th Place. Currently his shop is in the Fair View Gardens (now the Bosch Tavern).
- A group of Hales Corners young people remodel a former chicken coop into a clubhouse at Liberty Avenue and 110th Street. Donations of furniture, a radio, and a phonograph have made it a comfortable place to play cards and dance.

80 YEARS AGO (1942)

- Hales Corners air raid wardens complete their training and receive their certificates and arm bands.
- A test blackout is held for a half-hour in Hales Corners.
- Ad: "Housewives, your waste kitchen fats are needed for explosives, turn 'em in!"
- The 26 members of the local Red Cross knitting group log 1,000 hours in the month of August and produce 42 garments to send to Iceland.
- A group of women meet at the new American Legion headquarters to organize the Freede-Eckel Auxiliary.

70 YEARS AGO (1952)

- A.H. Nickel announces that he will collect garbage, tin, and ashes each week for the fee of \$1.00 per month.
- The State Department of Agriculture temporarily bans selling pigs at the Hales Corners Fair in an effort to control a highly contagious disease.
- Peter Rynders is elected chairman of the group seeking annexation to Hales Corners.
- A buffet supper is held at the Greenfield Town Hall as part of a fund-raising campaign for the new St. Mary's Catholic School.

60 YEARS AGO (1962)

- Construction begins on the new Hales Corners Post Office at 108th Street and Grange Avenue.
- The Whitnall School District hires 39 new teachers for this fall.
- Milwaukee County Parks workers are clearing the creek bank along the Root River for future park use.
- Gov. Gaylord Nelson, who is running for senator, is scheduled to speak in Hales Corners.

50 YEARS AGO (1972)

- Plans for a 20-story condominium development are presented to the Hales Corners plan commission. The proposed project would be built at College Avenue and 108th Street.
- The Whitnall Falcons clinch their third consecutive Parkland baseball championship with a 15-1 record.

Research by Katy Galewski

Last but not least, we want to acknowledge HCHS member **Joan Berg**. In 2018, we asked our members if they had any photos connected to the Speedway. Joan responded by sending us the photo below taken at the Wisconsin Auto Museum in Hartford. Her contribution helped jumpstart the development of the Speedway program.



Car driven at the Speedway by Miles "Mouse" Melius

We Need Your Input

It's now the third quarter of the year, with only one more HCHS program scheduled in 2022: on October 19th, **Anita Pietrykowski** will present *Milwaukee's Women in History* at the Hales Corners Library.

We now need to schedule speakers for 2023. If you have suggestions for **topics you are interested in**, please let us know. And, if you have **specific speakers to recommend**, please provide their contact information. Send your input to the mailing address or the email below. Thank you.

Kachina Restored

Last November, we told you about a four-foot-tall Kachina doll donated to us by **Lee Ryn- ders**. The Kachina was created by **Ben Hunt** and was in Lee's custody for many years. Although it had some major problems resulting from wood rot, we are happy to report that the Kachina has been restored and is now installed in the Ben Hunt Cabin.

Thanks to **Randy Sannes** for locating **John Hembrook** who volunteered to reattach various parts of the doll and affix it to a platform so it can stand up once again. He also attached a platform to our larger Kachina in the cabin, making it more stable. John was a junior high school science teacher in Franklin before retiring. We are thankful that he also has carpentry skills, because those abilities certainly were put to the test on this project!



John Hembrook, the Kachina, and Randy Sannes

Record Attendance at the Cabin and Kitchen on July 4th

It was disappointing that the annual Hales Corners July 4th Parade was cancelled due to threatening weather. However, from noon to 3 p.m. the doors were open at the Ben Hunt Cabin and the Seneca Hale Summer Kitchen. Docents **Celine Kashishian** and **Lauren Klich** welcomed 175 guests at the Cabin and docents **Sybil Grandeck** and **Mary Javorek** greeted 100 visitors at the Summer Kitchen. Thanks to all of them for taking time to help out on the holiday.



Brothers Seneca and William Hale welcomed visitors to the Summer Kitchen on July 4th

In Memoriam

HCHS member **Fred Hammer** passed away at the age of 71 in July. Our sincere condolences go out to Fred's wife of 49 years, **Marsha Hammer**.

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