



**September 2022**

## Join Us for “Milwaukee’s Women In History”

**October 19, 7 p.m., Hales Corners Library / Hunt Room**

Although historians have recounted the accomplishments of numerous men who helped build Milwaukee from its founding to the present day, the contributions of Milwaukee’s women have received much less attention. On October 19th, **Anita Pietrykowski** will share with us the stories, struggles, and successes of a variety of remarkable local women as part of her presentation, “Milwaukee’s Women in History.”

Formerly a teacher, principal, and administrator for Milwaukee Public Schools, Anita now is a volunteer historical educator at Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee. Her primary interest is researching and sharing the stories of the many notable women buried at the cemetery. Her presentation will focus on the accomplishments of women such as:

**Dr. Laura Ross Wolcott**, the first woman to become a physician in Wisconsin and the third woman in the U.S. to earn a medical degree.

**Susan Frackelton**, a successful 19th century artist who specialized in painting ceramics, and a leader in the U.S. Arts and Crafts movement.



*Laura Ross Wolcott*



*Susan Frackelton*



*Elizabeth Plankinton*



*Dickey Chapelle*

**Elizabeth Plankinton**, a local philanthropist of the early 20th century, who was called the “municipal patroness” by the people of Milwaukee because of her generosity.

**Dickey Chapelle**, an American photojournalist known for her work as a war correspondent from World War II through the Vietnam War.

## Come Sit for a While at the Seneca Hale Summer Kitchen

The Hales Corners DPW recently installed a metal bench at the site of the Seneca Hale Summer Kitchen. This was the final step in a wonderful

restoration of the landscaping in the Cobb Park area. The back rest of the bench features a simplified rendering of the building, with this three-line inscription: “*Village of Hales Corners / Irving Cobb Park / Seneca Hale Summer Kitchen.*” Stop by and try it out.



**The Summer Kitchen  
will be open 1 - 3 p.m. on  
Saturday, October 1st**



## Milton and Chris Flieller Revisit the Ben Hunt Cabin

Tuesday, August 30th, was a busy day for visitors at the Ben Hunt Cabin. In addition to welcoming **Alan** and **Marilyn Pape** (see page 4), we also were very pleased to host **Chris Flieller** and his father, **Milton**.

The Flieller family has a long tradition of donating Hunt-related artifacts to the HCHS permanent collection, including a desk, a chest, a lamp shade, a painting of a French Cavalier, a bracelet made of beads, bone, and bison teeth, several Kachina dolls, arrowheads, books written by Ben, and other articles. We are very grateful to the Fliellers for their generosity through the years. On August 30th, they donated another two outstanding items:

- A buckskin jacket made by Ben in the 1940s for **Carol Anne (Goetsch) Flieller**, who was Milton's wife and Chris's mother. As the photos show, it is in pristine condition, with a lot of fringe and bone buttons still attached. There is even one extra button pinned inside, just in case.
- A wrought iron floor lamp made by Ben for **Orrin Flieller**, who was Milton's father and Chris's grandfather. Orrin grew up in Hales Corners and at one time drove a horse-drawn carriage to deliver milk. Although the lamp's original lampshade is long gone, it is an excellent example of Ben's work as a blacksmith. Until now, the only examples of Ben's ironwork in our collection have been fireplace tools and a frying pan inside the Cabin.



*Milton and Chris Flieller at the Hunt Cabin*

**The Ben Hunt Cabin will be open  
1 - 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 1st**

*Hunt floor lamp*

*Front and back of the Hunt jacket*

# A Children's Garden Opens in Whitnall Park

Early this summer, a new attraction at Whitnall Park's Boerner Botanical Gardens was finally completed. It is designed as a children's garden, but adults also will find it charming. Called "Margie's Garden," it is dedicated to the memory of **Margaret Kezman**. The plaque at the entry gate reads: "*Driven by Margie's passions and inspired by how she lived her life, Margie's family honors her memory by giving this children's garden to the community. Margie's Garden is a special place, a place where children can come to play, learn and explore the world around them.*"



## TALES OF THE CORNERS - SEPTEMBER

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

### 90 YEARS AGO (1932)

- Enrollment at the two Hales Corners schools reaches a record high of 148 students. The first four grades will go to the old school on the Triangle, and the upper four grades will be attending the new building on Janesville Road.
- The Whitnall Park Golf Course opens. An exhibition match is played by Bowden Davis (Milwaukee County champion), Billy Sixty (former state amateur champion), Herbert Dernehl, and Gordie Kummer.
- A meeting of area residents is held at the Hales Corners fire station to discuss building a sewage disposal system. The proposal is voted down unanimously.
- Due to the Depression, the *Tri-Town News* announces that on Hales Corners Fair Day it will accept produce in payment for subscriptions.
- Candidates for Congress from this district are invited to speak at a meeting of the Hales Corners Advancement Association. All candidates favor the repeal of prohibition.
- Joe Poznanski and His Rollicking Farmers play at the Fairview Gardens Hall (now the Bosch Tavern) every Wednesday night.

### 80 YEARS AGO (1942)

- About 20 tons of scrap metal has been collected by area residents for the war effort. The collection will continue until October 1st.
- The Valley View School Board advertises that it is auctioning a one-story brick schoolhouse, an oil stove, a hand well pump, a woodshed, and two outhouses.

### 70 YEARS AGO (1952)

- Hales Corners voters give Republican Senator Joseph McCarthy a 319 to 152 vote lead over Leonard Schmitt in the primary election.

### 60 YEARS AGO (1962)

- The new 13-room addition to Whitnall High School opens.
- The Smothers Brothers hand out publicity material at the U-Tell Discount Store in Hales Corners.
- Auto owners who leave ignition keys in their cars will be subject to a fine under a new Hales Corners ordinance.
- Hales Corners Police Chief Mike Wolke wins the Democratic primary election for Milwaukee County sheriff.
- Plans are made for Hale Park Wesleyan Methodist Church at 12219 W. Janesville Rd. (now Passion Church) to hold its first services. The Rev. Richard Franklin is pastor.

### 50 YEARS AGO (1972)

- Whitnall School District administrators estimate this year's enrollment to be about 3,205 students.
- Assessed property values in Hales Corners total \$28,099,800. (Currently it is \$687,386,700.)

*Research by Katy Galewski*

## Alan Pape Returns to the Ben Hunt Cabin, a Local Landmark He Helped to Preserve

Other notable visitors to the Ben Hunt Cabin in August were **Alan** and **Marilyn Pape**. They were in the Milwaukee area for meetings at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design (MIAD) regarding the Papes' involvement with the restoration and activation of the Saxonia House, a German/American country inn located in Fillmore, Wisconsin that was built in 1855. Alan is currently the president of the Friends of the Saxonia House, Inc.

Alan has a longstanding relationship with the Ben Hunt Cabin. He once was the site manager of the Old Wade House State Park in Greenbush, Wisconsin and the head of restoration at the Old World Wisconsin Outdoor Ethnic Museum in Eagle, Wisconsin. In the early 1980s, **Priscilla Riebs**, then president of HCHS, approached Alan to evaluate the historical merits of preserving the Ben Hunt Cabin and the possibility of moving it to its current location next to the Hales Corners Library. Alan's enthusiasm for the project was inspiring.

In 1986, Alan wrote a magazine article entitled "Memories of Ben Hunt," which summarized the building of Ben's cabin for the *Log Home Guide for Builders and Buyers*. In the article, he wrote about Ben's book, *Building A Log Cabin*: "His was the first book I found that gave step-by-step detailed instruction. His illustrations, especially, were a tremendous asset. Most other books available at that time were heavy with philosophy but lacked the how-to aspect so important for novices." (This book was later combined with Ben's book *Rustic Construction* and republished as *How To Build And Furnish A Log Cabin*.)

Alan summarized Ben's legacy in this way: "Hunt influenced thousands, no, tens of thousands of people. When you have a person with that much influence on so many people, he's important."



*Alan and Marilyn Pape relax on the Priscilla Riebs memorial bench during their visit to the Ben Hunt Cabin*

Alan also was consulted in 1995 regarding an architectural review of the Hale/Cobb House, which was located at 10970 W. Forest Home Avenue. The house had endured several remodelings, leaving very few significant Greek Revival details. It had also been trashed by previous renters. The consensus of his report was to allow the house to be demolished but to save one of our other HCHS landmarks, the Seneca Hale Summer Kitchen, which was moved to Cobb Park in 1996.

It was a great pleasure to meet the Papes and we wish them well with their endeavors to preserve the Saxonia House. For more information, go to [www.saxoniahouse.org](http://www.saxoniahouse.org).

---

### HALES CORNERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

[info@HalesCornersHistory.com](mailto:info@HalesCornersHistory.com) • [www.HalesCornersHistory.com](http://www.HalesCornersHistory.com) • [www.facebook.com/HalesCornersHistory](https://www.facebook.com/HalesCornersHistory)