



April 2023

A Photo of Our Past from Our Most Distant Contributor

We received this photo from **Harlow “Sam” Schmidt** that shows the Rapid Transit Station at Highway 100 and Janesville Road in 1951, right across the street from Holz Motors. The man in the photo is **Phil Nickerson**, brother of new HCHS member **Walter Nickerson**, and son of **Phil Nickerson, Sr.** who owned the *Tri-Town News*. Phil must have been on a photo assignment because you can see his camera and large flash attachment just in front of him.



Car 63 made the last round trip to Hales Corners on June 30, 1951.

Sam has a real talent for colorizing old photos and has generously donated a few to our collection. He and his wife, **Yong**, live in Hawaii now but he grew up in Hales Corners with his brother, HCHS member **Mel Schmidt**.

Our Society is constantly adding images of Hales Corners history to our digital collection. If you have photos that you think are of historic interest to our Village, please contact us by mail, phone, or email. See the back page for contact information.

Here’s a Fist that Delivers a Real Punch



This unusual item was donated to our collection by **Tom Earl**. It is a leather punch (an awl) in its own leather pouch, crafted by **Ben Hunt**. The punch is used to poke holes in leather to allow two pieces to be stitched together. Ben carved the punch handle into a fist. He also stitched and decorated the pouch, adding his unique “WBH” initials.

When he was a boy, Tom received the punch as a gift from Ben. He related how much the kids enjoyed visiting Ben and how he would pay them 5 cents for each arrowhead found in the diggings at nearby subdivisions. Tom also was one of the Good Medicine Dancers, a local group affiliated with Ben, that performed in Native American garb.



HALES CORNERS 1960



We received this wonderfully clear aerial image of Hales Corners from a collection of photos at the Village Hall. We managed to identify most of the buildings, and a little research provided some of the previous and future occupants of those businesses. Unfortunately, there are six names that we are not certain of, and plenty of missing opening and closing dates. If you have the answers, please let us know. Thanks!

- 1) **Country Fair Shopping Center (1954-Today)**
- 2) **Hales Corners Shopping Center (1954-Today)**
- 3) **First Harmony Restaurant (1954-1976)**
Dairy Queen Brazier (1976-2020)
Pho'Ever Restaurant (2020-Today)
- 4) **Dutchland Dairy Restaurant (?-1976)**
Second Harmony Restaurant (1976-?)
Golden Basket Restaurant (?-2002)
Razed 2002
- 5) **Hales Corners Law Offices (1910-2015)**
Razed 2016
- 6) **Godsell Insurance (1953-1980s)**
First State Bank Hales Corners (1910-1953)
Hales Corners Flooring (1980s-2015)
- Store moved farther south on Highway 100 before closing
Razed 2015
- 7) **Schmidt's IGA Store (1927-1960)**
E&R Electrical (?-?)
Artistic Wood Creations (?-?)
Pots & Petals Flower Shop (?-2001)
Hales Corners Village Florist (2001-2012)
Unoccupied (2012-Today)
- 8) **First Ritzman Appliance Store (1953-?)**
Bosch Motors (1924-1953)
Razed 2015
- 9) **Hales Corners Hardware (1954-1965)**
First Holz Motors (1915-1916)
Bosch Motors (1924-1953)
Franklin Motors (1965-?)
Peddler Furniture (?-?)
Second Ritzman Appliance Store (?-2012)
- Store moved farther south on Highway 100 to its present location
Razed 2015
- 10) **Swede Bayer's Tavern (1950s-1996)**
First Bosch Hotel & Tavern (1904-1924)
Fairview Garden (?-?)
Second Bosch Tavern (1996-Today)
- 11) **First Sherper's Discount Center (1957-2002)**
First National Tea Grocery Store (?-1957)
Razed 2002
- 12) **Second Meinzer's Drug Store (1955-?)**
Razed 2002
- 13) **Second State Bank Hales Corners (1953-2005)**
Associated Bank (2005-Today)
- 14) **?Gordon's Texaco Station? (?-?)**
Razed 1977?
- 15) **Second National Tea Store (1957-?)**
Razed 2002?
- 16) **?Rexall Drug Store? (?-?)**
Getz Drug Store (?-1942)
First Meinzer's Drug Store (1942-1955)
Razed 1962?
- 17) **Second Holz Motors (1916-1962)**
Razed 1962
- Dealership expanded with new office, showroom, and car lots which remain today
- 18) **?Dick's Tavern? (?-?)**
Razed 1962?
- 19) **Brinkmeier's Conoco Station (?-1961)**
Razed ?
- 20) **Schmidt Bros. Feed & Building Materials (1926-?)**
Razed 1962?
- 21) **?Utrecht's Midget Barber Shop? (1930?-?)**
Razed 1962?
- 22) **Bosch Motors Car Lot (1924-1953?)**
Holz Motors Car Lot (1953?-Today)
- 23) **?Bischoff's Blacksmith Shop? (?-?)**
Razed 1962?
- 24) **?Smiley's Gas Station? (?-?)**
Razed 1962?
- 25) **Gloria Lynn Beauty Salon (?-1960s)**
- Salon moved to two other locations on Highway 100 before moving out of the Village
Cap's Restaurant (?-?)
Ann's Italian Restaurant (1969-Today)
- 26) **Holz Motors Car Lot (?-Today)**

TALES OF THE CORNERS - APRIL

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

90 YEARS AGO (1933)

- In a vote of 296 to 10, Hales Corners electors support the repeal of Prohibition.
- Services are held in German the first Sunday of each month at Emanuel Lutheran Church.
- R.W. Holz, Fred Bischoff, Ray Hartung, and Harry Nelson drive four new Chevrolets to Hales Corners for Holz Motors from the Grand Trunk Railway in Milwaukee.
- Hales Corners parents and school children are getting ready for an old-time dance and box social at the new school building. Proceeds will be used for the annual picnic at Lake Denoon.
- State Bank Hales Corners advertises safety deposit boxes for \$2.00 a year plus a 10 percent tax.
- The Greenfield Town Board directs its engineer to survey Hales Corners to determine the cost of laying sidewalks.
- The Hales Corners Advancement Association forms a committee to look into a new contract offered by the Electric Company to see if it will lower street light costs.

80 YEARS AGO (1943)

- A ration timetable appears on the front page of the *Tri-Town News*. The schedule lists ration stamp expiration dates for sugar, fuel oil, gasoline, meat, vegetables, and shoes.
- "Your gas is rationed but our service isn't," says an advertisement for Carlson's Service Station in Hales Corners.
- The Hales Corners Co-op Market advertises cucumbers for 23 cents and pineapples for 17 cents.
- Greenfield officially changes the name of Boulder Road to Edgerton Avenue.
- Members of Whitnall Park Lutheran Church celebrate the church's first anniversary.
- The Hales Corners PTA presents the *Gay Nineties* review in the school gym.
- Hawaiian and Spanish guitar lessons are offered by Clarence Wagner. His studio is located on the second floor of Venzl's in Hales Corners.

70 YEARS AGO (1953)

- Walter Koehler and Albert Meares, incumbents, are re-elected to the Hales Corners Village Board. Nicholas Chaplin, an unsuccessful candidate in the first Village election of 1952, also wins a seat on the board.
- The Milwaukee County School Committee meets with local school officials to attempt to work out a plan for a high school district. Included in the proposed district would be the Hales Corners, Valley View, Jefferson, St. Martins, Willow Edge, and Ben Franklin school districts.
- Mrs. Milton Holtz is elected president of the Hales Corners Homemaker Club.

60 YEARS AGO (1963)

- Hales Corners has serious traffic problems due to the closing of Highway 24 (Janesville Road) from Grange Avenue to Tess Corners Road. The highway is being widened.
- Harold Phelan is named Police Chief in Hales Corners. Former Chief Michael Wolke is now the Milwaukee County Sheriff.
- All three incumbent Village trustees are re-elected. Robert Ziegler gets 433 votes, James Meadows 452, and Howard Graves 423.
- The musical *Finian's Rainbow* is presented at Hales Corners Elementary School by Whitnall High School students.
- The Tri-City squadron of the Civil Air Patrol celebrates its first anniversary.

50 YEARS AGO (1973)

- Nearly 14 inches of snow make some area roads impassable. Two busloads of Whitnall Middle School students are shuttled home in snowmobiles. Plowing on Ryan Road is hampered by an estimated 200 to 300 stalled cars.
- About two weeks after the snowstorm, Whitnall Park measures 4.25 inches of rain between Friday night and Sunday morning.
- Y-Wives present a Mexican fiesta at their annual luncheon and style show.

Research by Katy Galewski

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