



February - March 2024

Join Us on MARCH 27th for Our First Program of 2024

KODACHROME MILWAUKEE: Pure Americana with a Cream City Twist

Wednesday, March 27, 7:00 p.m.
Hales Corners Library / Hunt Room
Presented by **ADAM LEVIN**, author and creator and moderator of the popular “Old Milwaukee” Facebook group

Singer **Paul Simon** may have pleaded, “Please don’t take my Kodachrome away,” but the popular slide film, introduced by Kodak in 1935, eventually was discontinued – after being used by amateur and professional photographers worldwide for 74 years. Countless slides now lie neglected in attics and basements like tiny time capsules just waiting to be discovered.

On March 27, **Adam Levin** will lead us on a Kodachrome stroll down memory lane into the Milwaukee of yesteryear, using slides from his personal collection, which he acquired from estate sales, antique stores, and donations. Included are never-before-seen images of Milwaukee’s downtown, parades, festivals, storefronts, sporting events, and landmarks.

Adam is the author of two books about old Milwaukee: *Fading Ads of Milwaukee* and *Kodachrome Milwaukee*, both of which will be available for purchase. He is also the creator and moderator of the popular “Old Milwaukee” group on Facebook.

As always, this program is FREE for Hales Corners Historical Society members. For guests and non-members, a donation of \$5 is suggested.



Happy 100th Birthday to the Ben Hunt Cabin Watch for Special Events This Year!

Ben Hunt decided to build a log cabin based upon happy memories of his childhood at his grandmother’s log cabin in Franklin, Wisconsin. He chose a site behind his home on Janesville Road. In 1924, using only hand tools, Ben, his brother, his father, and his father-in-law built the main cabin, beginning with sawing logs to size and continuing until they nailed down the last shingle.

Very likely, Ben wouldn’t be surprised that his cabin is now a century old -- he built it to last, and it has done that (with regular, loving upkeep). HCHS has been busy planning a celebration of this important

milestone. We’ll reveal the particulars soon, but in the meantime, please save **Saturday, August 24** on your calendar, and **watch for more details to come!**



Hunt's Totem Returns to Hales Corners

In January, HCHS received a most spectacular gift from **Matthew M. Crawford** of North Carolina — a 1:12 scale model of a Haida totem pole carved and painted by **Ben Hunt** in 1953. Matthew's parents, **Malcolm**



Ben Hunt's totem pole model, 1953

and **Noney Crawford**, carved and painted a 22-foot-high version of this model for installation at the Hayden Lodge in Towaco, New Jersey.

Ben was commissioned to design this pole by the Aheka Council, a Boy Scout camp in Passaic, New Jersey. To assist the carvers and painters, he painted only one side of the model so that the carvings would be more visible. From top to bottom, the pole features an eagle (courage and leadership), a beaver (perseverance and industriousness), an owl (wisdom), and a bear (strength). Ben's fee for this commissioned piece was only \$75.

Sadly, the full-size pole did not survive years of weathering and neglect, and the Aheka Boy Scout Camp closed in 1972. Fortunately, the model still exists. Thank you, Matthew, for donating it to us!



Matthew Crawford's family: sister Jennifer (holding the model), and parents Noney and Malcolm



*Hayden Lodge, Aheka Boy Scout Camp, Towaco, New Jersey
Notice that the Boy Scout patch is based on Ben Hunt's totem design.*

TALES OF THE CORNERS - FEBRUARY

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

90 YEARS AGO (1934)

- A traffic count at Janesville Road and Highway 100 reveals that about 60 cars per hour pass through the intersection. The number doubles from 7 to 8 a.m. and 4 to 5 p.m.
- Members of Whitnall Park's Civilian Conservation Corps and the Freede-Eckel American Legion Post get together to celebrate President Roosevelt's 52nd birthday.
- The Hales Corners Volunteer Fire Department reports it answered seven calls last month. The department is paid \$50 per run.
- Bosch Auto Sales announces that it will switch from selling Chryslers to Dodges. It will continue to sell Plymouths.
- Despite below zero weather, 40 tables of players enjoy the Emanuel Church's Ladies Aid Society card party at the Greenfield Town Hall.
- The Freede-Eckel American Legion Post initiates 36 new members. A spanferkel (roasted pig) dinner is held afterwards.
- More than 20 guests attend the piano recital given by Mary Quick Taugher's pupils at the Taugher home.
- Emma Schubring entertains the ladies of the Hales Corners 500 Club. Mrs. George Kelm wins first prize.

80 YEARS AGO (1944)

- The call goes out to get volunteers to prepare surgical dressings for the Red Cross. The group meets every Tuesday afternoon at the Mary Dreyfuss home.
- The Hales Corners Volunteer Fire Department reports it answered 62 fire calls in 1943.

70 YEARS AGO (1954)

- The Hales Corners School Board announces plans for a referendum on the March 2nd ballot. Electors will be asked whether the board should sell \$150,000 worth of bonds to build an eight-room, two-story addition to the school.
- Hales Corners incumbent clerk William Holz decides to run for re-election. He reconsiders his earlier decision not to run after discovering that there were no candidates for the office.

- Barczak Bros. advertises boneless ham for 57 cents per pound, three pounds of hamburger for 95 cents, and pork roast for 43 cents per pound.
- Al Lodde remodels his barber shop.

60 YEARS AGO (1964)

- Highway 24 (Janesville Road) is overloaded with instructional and warning signs in Hales Corners. Between South 104th Street and Highway 100 alone there are 60 signs.
- Plans are made by the Hales Corners American Legion Post to celebrate the completion of its building on Ridge Road near Highway 100.
- The Good Medicine Dancers in Hales Corners schedule their second annual parents' night.
- The Hales Corners Woman's Club sponsors baby-sitting clinics. Students who qualify will be listed in the 1964 Hales Corners Sitters' Directory.
- Dr. James Clemence is appointed public health officer of Hales Corners. Clemence succeeds Dr. R.C. Wolf who retired.

50 YEARS AGO (1974)

- A snowstorm shuts down local schools for two days.
- Fire Chief Karl Kearns reports that in 1973 the department received 117 calls to supply water to residents whose wells had gone dry. That's 112 calls more than the previous year.
- The Hales Corners Village Board adopts a resolution to formally petition Milwaukee to supply water to the Village.
- An \$885,000 addition to the Wisconsin Telephone Company office on Forest Home Avenue will provide equipment to handle the growing volume of local calls.
- St. Thomas Church, Hales Corners, and St. Hugh of Lincoln Episcopal Church, Greendale, combine to form St. Thomas of Canterbury. Both properties are up for sale.
- About 200 people come to the first St. Mary's bingo game. The first game is only a trial run and no money changes hands.
- Anthony Alberte, Joseph Kroeninger, and James McArdle are seeking the post of Hales Corners Village President. Village President Howard Graves is not running for re-election.

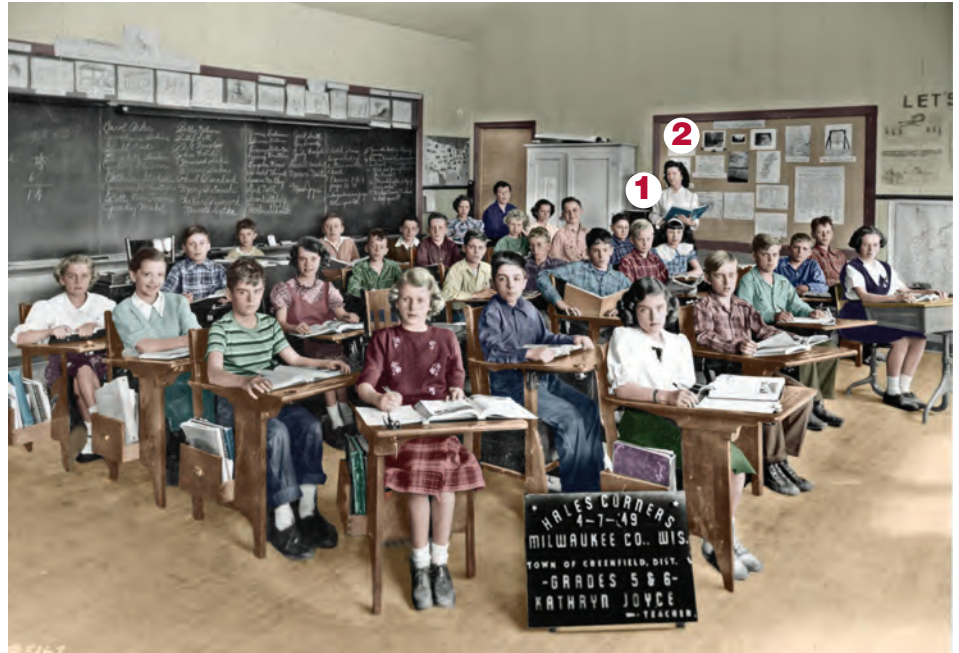
Research by Katy Galewski

School Days, School Days, Dear Old Golden Rule Days

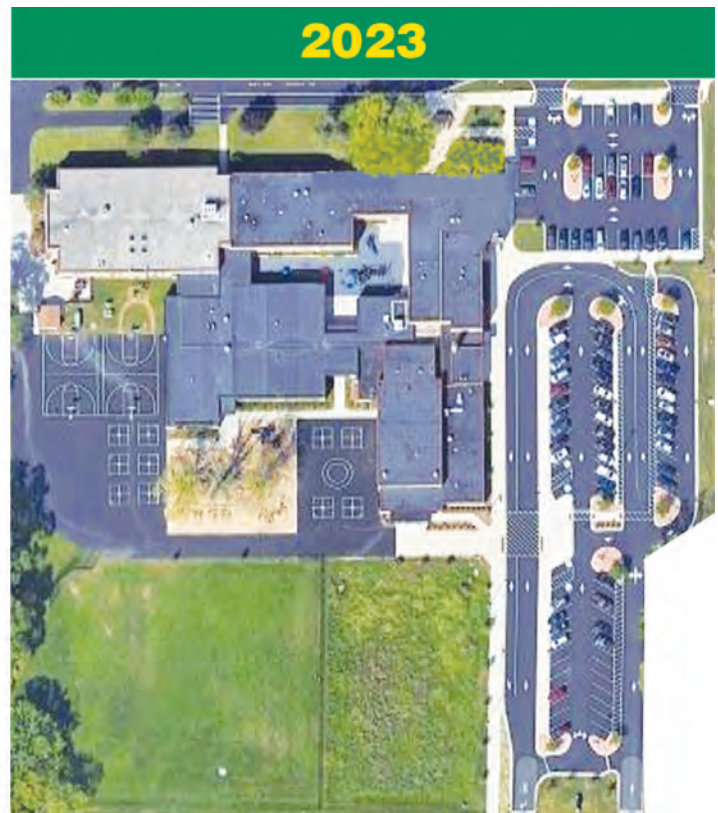
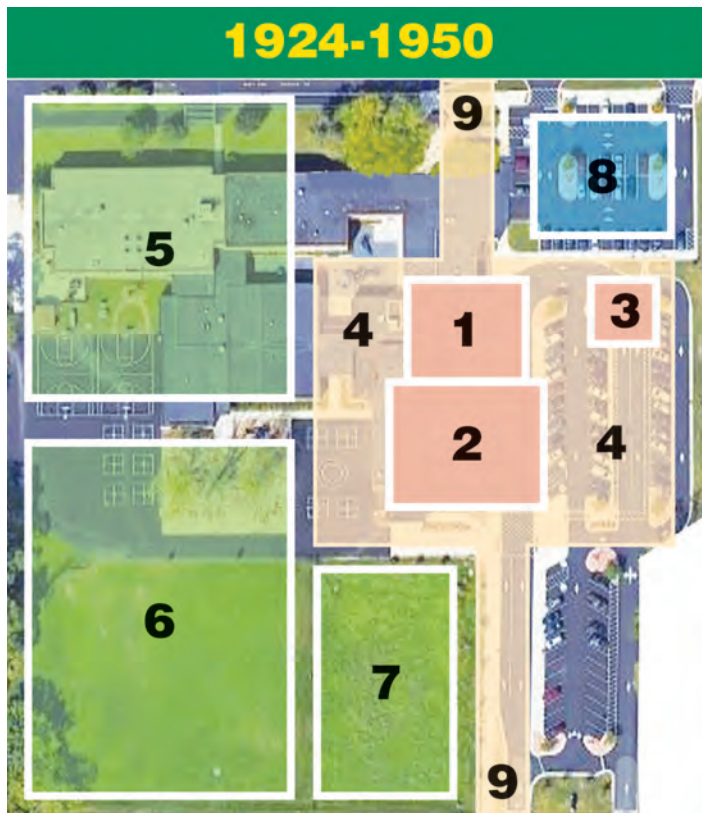
Last month, we received another colorized photo from Harlow "Sam" Schmidt in Hawaii. This is his classroom at the Hales Corners Elementary School in 1949. Fifth and sixth graders were combined in one room inside a barracks. See square #3 in the photo below.

The barracks was built in 1942 to house a growing number of pupils. It remained standing until 1974 when the main school was enlarged.

The aerial photos below give you a rough comparison of the school area from 1924-1950 vs. today's campus.



*Hales Corners Elementary School - Grades 5 & 6, April 7, 1949
Harlow "Sam" Schmidt - 1, Kathryn Joyce, Teacher - 2*



- 1) 1924 SCHOOL**
- 2) 1934 ADDITION**
- 3) BARRACKS**
(BUILT IN 1942)

- 4) PLAYGROUND AREA**
- 5) SOFTBALL FIELD**
- 6) FOOTBALL FIELD**
- 7) SOCCER FIELD**

- 8) WINTER ICE RINK**
(WATER PROVIDED BY
HALES CORNERS FIRE DEPT.)
- 9) ENTRANCE / EXIT**

HCHS Receives More Pix from Our Past

This month, we received early photos of Hales Corners and nearby Durham Hill from **Cynthia Bennett** in Portage, WI. She is related to the Bosch family of Durham Hill. Like the Bosches in our Village, they owned a tavern and a car dealership. **George Bosch** and **Ben Hunt** were once partners in a hardware store there around 1910.

The photos include images of the Hunt Cabin, Hotel Dreyfuss, Neussel Hotel, South Side Hotel, our Third School, and even a “gypsy camp.” Our sincere thanks go to Cynthia for thinking of HCHS!



The Neussel Hotel, last known as Senft's Triangle Inn, with Otto Neussel behind the bar serving Jacob Siegel, late 1800s. (Notice that Jacob has three arms. Who knew?)



A “gypsy encampment” near the Root River Parkway and St. Mary's Church

WELCOME, NEW* AND RETURNING 2024 HCHS MEMBERS!

Constance Anderson
 Vern & Lori Archiquette
 Kenneth J. Augustine
 James Bain
 Mary Bennett
 Joan Berg
 Todd Brinkmeier
 Robert Burnham
 & Patricia Laughlin
 Michael Clavette
 Esther Demerdash
 Ronald & Kathleen Dondlinger
 George & Diane Edward
 Matthew Eternicka
 Mike & JuDee Fischer
 Robert & Mary Forecki
 Katy Galewski
 Jim Gilboy*
 Marsha Hammer
 Jean Hancock
 Jeff Hanewell & Susan Spoerk*
 David & Margarete Harvey
 Duane & Sharon Hause
 Michael Holmes
 Frank & Judith Humpal

Jeffrey & Mary Javorek
 Mike Jedrzejewski
 & Sybil Grandeck
 Gregory Jenks
 Celine Kashishian
 James & Jacqueline Keuck
 Bob & Dottie King
 Jeremy & Stacy Koenen*
 Mary Long
 Gary Kohls & Karen Niessing
 Scott & Judy Kruger
 Romaine Krystowiak
 Jason & Susan LaFountain*
 Bob Lehman*
 David & Kathleen O'Brien
 Mike Praedel
 Cornelio & Colleen Resendiz
 Scott & Maureen Riemer
 Mary Ellen Robertson
 Randy Sannes
 Chris & Caroline Schachtlie
 Mel & Elaine Schmidt
 Don & Suzanne Schwartz
 Joe & Joan Sem
 Marjorie Stahl

Daniel & Kayellyn Strasburg
 Al & Ruth Streckow
 Mark Thiel
 Ian Thomson
 Brian & Laura Touhey
 Tom Ueberroth & Delene Hanson
 Patricia Warchol
 Robert & Jeanette Wardinski
 Janice Zeit
 Kathleen Zellmer

Membership roster current as of February 2024.

Please Return Your HCHS Membership Renewal Form

If you haven't yet done so, we hope you'll renew your membership and continue to support our efforts to preserve the history of the Village - and attend all four of our FREE historical programs in 2024. Thank you!

TALES OF THE CORNERS - MARCH

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

90 YEARS AGO (1934)

- Thousands of visitors come to Hales Corners for the opening of the Home Show House at the northern edge of the Village on Highway 100.
- The Milwaukee County Dairy Herd Improvement Association holds its first calf sale at the Holdridge Motor Co. garage in Hales Corners.
- The Hales Corners Advancement Association schedules a St. Patrick's Day dance. Proceeds will be used to support the Hales Corners baseball team.
- A dance is scheduled at the Greenfield Town Hall to raise money for the Hales Corners School annual picnic. The Hillside Cowboys will provide the music.
- Holdridge Motor Co. advertises a Ford Tudor Sedan for \$616.
- The Hales Corners Beauty Studio advertises permanent waves for \$3.00.

80 YEARS AGO (1944)

- Greendale, Hales Corners, and Franklin grocery stores are checked by volunteers of the War Price and Rationing Board. The survey reveals that 43 percent of the stores are selling food items at over ceiling prices and are violating posted regulations.
- Max Sievers, manager of the Greendale Farms, is slated to give a talk on Victory Gardens at a meeting of the Hales Corners Civic Association.
- The Swiss Family Fraunfelder is slated to entertain at the Rural Cooperative Services and Co-op Food Store Jamboree.

70 YEARS AGO (1954)

- In an advisory referendum, Hales Corners residents vote 440 to 150 in favor of continuing the Hales Corners Fair. The fair is developing from a street fair to a business fair as well.
- Hales Corners School District electors vote 183 to 146 in favor of a \$150,000 bond issue for construction of an eight-room addition to the school.
- Hales Corners appliance dealer Bill Ritzman attends a service school for color television repair.
- Construction begins on a 12-unit shopping center in Hales Corners on Highway 100 between Scharles and Parnell Avenues.

- The Hales Corners Village Board holds its first meeting in the new Village office in the former State Bank Hales Corners building.
- In the primary election, Hales Corners voters choose Donald Fischer and Hans Wenzel as nominees for Village president.
- The Hales Corners Beer and Liquor Depot advertises a case of Oconto Premium beer for \$2.49.

60 YEARS AGO (1964)

- Village-owned property on New Berlin Road at Denis Avenue is the unanimous choice of the Hales Corners Village Board for the site of the proposed municipal center.
- Retiring Fire Chief August Giese, 76, is honored at a testimonial banquet for his 35 years of service to Hales Corners.
- The Hales Corners Community Theatre announces that its next production will be *The Happy Time*.
- Price's Drive-in charges \$2.49 for 16 pieces of broasted chicken with french fries.
- National Food Store advertises smoked ham for 29 cents per pound, bacon for 65 cents per pound, and two cans of tuna fish for 45 cents.

50 YEARS AGO (1974)

- An offer to purchase St. Thomas the Apostle Church for use as the Hales Corners Library is made by Village Attorney David Schoetz.
- "Calico Corners" is held by the Hales Corners Woman's Club. The event is the group's first antique show and sale. Proceeds are given to the Guadalupe Clinic and Irving School.
- Because the Wisconsin State Senate fails to act on the implementation of the bingo bill, St. Mary's cancels its first scheduled game.
- Whitnall High School students start rehearsals for their play, *Home Sweet Homicide*.
- The theme of this year's annual spring luncheon, sponsored by the St. Mary's Altar Society, is "What I'd Like to Be When I Grow Up."

Research by Katy Galewski

HALES CORNERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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