



April-May 2024

Join Us on MAY 22nd for Our Second Program of 2024 W. BEN HUNT CABIN: A NATIONAL TREASURE

**Wednesday, May 22, 7:00 p.m.
Hales Corners Library /
Hunt Room**

Presented by

ALAN J. STREKOW,

HCHS President and

Co-Author of *W. Ben Hunt:*

From Whittlin' Jim to Lone Eagle

The W. Ben Hunt Cabin will mark its 100th Anniversary in August with a day-long celebration. To help get everyone prepared for that occasion, our May 22nd program will feature rare images of the

actual construction of the Cabin, as well as its relocation to its current site in 1986.

Al Strekow's connection to Ben Hunt developed over time as he researched Ben's life and work in preparation for co-authoring (with the late **Bob Zeit**) the only book covering Ben's multi-faceted career.

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



PLUS...At the May 22nd meeting, we'll also celebrate HCHS's 50th Anniversary. Please see the article below and plan to join us.

Come Celebrate HCHS's 50th Anniversary in Our Expanded Space!

HCHS is stepping into its second half-century with a larger footprint! In 2023, the Hales Corners Health Department moved from the Library to its own building on Highway 100. Thanks to our Village Board of Trustees, HCHS then was approved to expand into the Health Department's former office space.

We are currently in the process of moving some of our existing furniture into those rooms. Kudos to our board members and volunteers for their efforts, especially **Chris Schachtlie**, our very own "Super Shopper." Chris found slightly used furniture on eBay at bargain prices, picked up everything, and delivered it to our new space.

some time to achieve our goals but we will keep you apprised of our progress.

We invite you to help us celebrate HCHS's 50th Anniversary in our expanded space on May 22nd in conjunction with our program about the W. Ben Hunt Cabin!



Board members Mary Bennett and Chris Schachtlie assembling our new conference room table

HCHS will continue to occupy our original rooms as we work to convert them to museum spaces. One room will focus on Ben Hunt, displaying artifacts that could not be included in the Cabin. The second room will focus specifically on Village history, with changing exhibits from time to time. It will take



Al Strekow, gavel in hand, is ready for the next HCHS board meeting

Adam Levin's Program Returned Us to the Milwaukee of Yesteryear

Nearly 70 HCHS members and guests enjoyed a trip down memory lane on March 27th when **Adam Levin**, the curator of the popular "Old Milwaukee" Facebook group, presented "Kodachrome Milwaukee" at our first program of the year. Adam showed a sampling of the thousands of slides he has collected that capture street scenes, day-to-day life, and special events from the 1950s through the 1980s. Among the highlights:

- A selection of slides from 1946, the oldest in Adam's collection, documenting the Veterans Day parade, which included floats celebrating Gimbels' 100th Anniversary, Schuster's Department Store, Gertie the duck, and various ethnic groups.
- Photos showing sports competitions at County Stadium: an August 1957 game of the Milwaukee Braves vs. the Brooklyn Dodgers, and an October 1960 game of the Green Bay Packers vs. the San Francisco 49ers.
- A 1969 slide looking eastward on Wisconsin Avenue, showing Marc's Big Boy, Cinema 1 and Cinema 2, the Palace Theater, Pill & Puff, F.W. Woolworth, W.T. Grant Co., the Sheraton-Schroeder Hotel, and Boston Store – all gone now, or reimagined as other businesses. What a difference 55 years make!
- Scenes from 1979 of Summerfest and the Lakefront Festival of Art, long before the construction of Discovery World and the Calatrava addition to the Milwaukee Art Museum. The Pieces of Eight restaurant stood on Harbor House's present site, and the neighboring Third Ward had not yet been redeveloped with apartment buildings, trendy stores, and restaurants.

Adam also collects 8mm home movies, and he showed clips from several of them, including President Kennedy's motorcade during his 1962 visit to Milwaukee, a 1950s July 4th parade in

Bay View, and skating at Mayfair Mall's ice chalet during the 1980s – plus a variety of wedding receptions and tavern parties clearly showing that previous generations certainly knew how to "party hearty!"



Nearly 70 people attended our first program of 2024

HCHS Directors Elected

As a result of unanimous votes from you, our members, the following directors have been elected to three-year terms from 2024-2026: **Mary Javorek, Scott Kruger, and Ian Thomson.**

Thanks for voting!

HCHS Member Chosen to Head Cudahy Historical Society

Our HCHS members often help preserve history in multiple ways. Congratulations go to **Don Schwartz**, who was recently elected president of the Cudahy Historical Society. He also serves as the current president of the Stahl-Conrad Homestead and is a former board member of our society.

TALES OF THE CORNERS - APRIL

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

90 YEARS AGO (1934)

- Plans are made to change the route of Highway 100 in order to eliminate the jog around the Getz drug store at Janesville Road.
- Whitnall Park's golf course opens for the season. The third, fourth, and fifth holes will be ready for play as soon as the freshly seeded grass grows.
- Eighteen elm trees are planted in Whitnall Park. Each tree has a nameplate to commemorate a noteworthy woman in the Milwaukee County Federation of Women's Clubs.

80 YEARS AGO (1944)

- Hales Corners Senior Girl Scouts meet at the Dreyfuss home to make surgical dressings. Their co-leader, Mrs. L. C. Kutz, is co-chair of the local Red Cross surgical dressings unit.
- Total assets of State Bank Hales Corners come to \$1.6 million.
- The Freede-Eckel Post and Auxiliary are making arrangements for the Hales Corners blood donor day.
- Thomas Welch, Jr. is president of the Hales Corners Lions Club.
- The Gloria-Lyn Beauty Salon, Hales Corners, advertises a \$6.50 custom-oil permanent for \$5.00.
- The Co-op Food Store, Hales Corners, advertises four-and-three-quarter ounces of mushrooms for 15 cents, pink salmon for 27 cents per pound, and coffee for 35 cents per pound.

70 YEARS AGO (1954)

- Donald Fischer is elected Hales Corners Village President.
- Newly elected Hales Corners officers are sworn in by retiring Village President Walter Fehr at the Candlewick Inn (now Clifford's Supper Club).
- The new Hales Corners police vehicle is put into operation, replacing Constable Ralph Chatfield's familiar green auto. The police car will be used as a combination squad car and emergency vehicle.
- The Hales Corners Businessmen's Association asks the county to widen Highway 24.
- Dr. Harold Clemence is building a dental clinic on Highway 100 between Godsell and Parnell Avenues.
- A seven-foot-tall cross, a gift from a parishioner, is erected on the steeple of Emanuel Church. Neon tubes inside the cross will light it at night.
- The Hales Corners Fruit Market on the Triangle advertises 12 pounds of bananas for \$1.00, two pounds of onions for 25 cents, and 10 grapefruit for 59 cents.

60 YEARS AGO (1964)

- Hales Corners electors go to the polls in near-record numbers, with 1,972 of the Village's 2,732 registered voters casting ballots. That is more than 72 percent.
- About 60 persons attend an interracial discussion at St. Mary's School auditorium.
- Whitnall Park Lutheran Church confirms 48 young men and women. Rev. C. W. Hornburg is pastor of the congregation.
- Earl Vance, Hales Corners, is among 26 Peace Corps volunteers to leave for Iran.
- Mrs. Anton Doneff and Mrs. Emil Ruhle serve as co-chairs of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's season ticket campaign in Hales Corners.
- Mary Jo Eberhardy is queen of the Whitnall High School Girl's Athletic Association's annual semi-formal dance.
- Don Jones, of Fair Drugs, is installed as president of the Country Fair Shopping Center Association.

50 YEARS AGO (1974)

- Bette Arey is the first woman to be elected to the Hales Corners Village Board. Joseph Kroeninger is elected Village president.
- A glaucoma screening is slated to be held at Hales Corners School by the Franklin, Hales Corners, Greendale, and Greenfield Lions Clubs.
- Hales Corners Auxiliary Police sell tickets to their annual spring dance.
- A decision to sell the St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church property in Hales Corners is made at Sunday's annual meeting. The congregations of St. Thomas and St. Hugh of Lincoln in Greendale voted last June to merge.



Research for Tales of the Corners is done by Katy Galewski, shown here in our new office space at the Hales Corners Library.

Whittling Kachina Dolls - Instruction Sheet by Ben Hunt

Earlier this year, we received a two-sided instruction sheet designed by Ben Hunt to teach aspiring artisans how to whittle a Kachina doll. It was sent to us by **Jean Scorgie**, who grew up in Hales Corners and who now lives in Fort Collins, CO. It was accompanied by a letter from Jean, transcribed below.

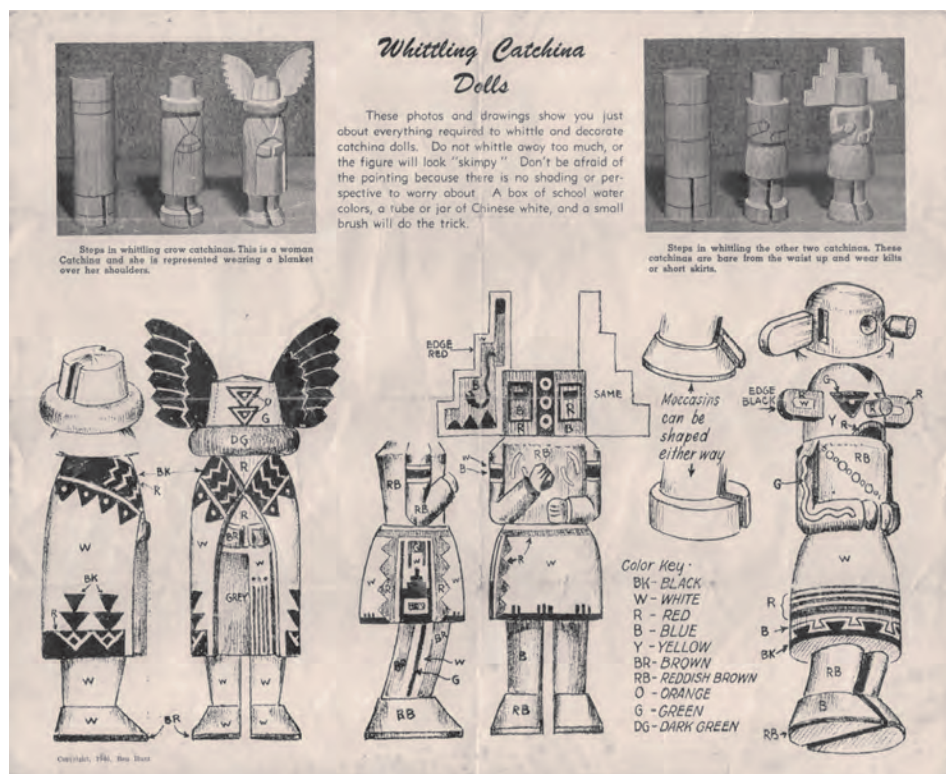
Enclosed is an instruction sheet for one of Ben Hunt's Kachina Doll kits that I thought you might like to add to your collection.

I grew up in a Lannon-stone house just east of Ben Hunt's house on Janesville Road with his cabin in the back woods. My three brothers and I have fond memories of spending time with Ben in his cabin filled with Indian artifacts. We watched him engrave the backs of pocket watches, his elderly hands trembling until the moment his tool touched the silver surface and became rock solid. His workshop was the small room at the back of the large meeting room with the long hand-hewn table. Small logs from his woods kept the pot-bellied stove crackling to warm the small room in the winter.

*He was very kind to us children, sometimes taking photographs of my younger brother **Alan** posing to chop a tree so he could draw an accurate illustration for one of his articles in Boys' Life or one of his books.*

*Because we had some of his work, we have already donated a kachina doll lamp he gave my older brother **John** as well as some other ephemera.*

Thank you, Jean!



One side of a whittling instruction sheet by Ben Hunt

Commemorative Plate Added to Collection

We just received a plate from **David Kaun** of St. Paul, MN that commemorates the Hales Corners English Evangelical Lutheran Church. The plate was originally owned by **Carl and Florence Gerfin**, the great-uncle and aunt of David, who lived in West Allis, WI.

Some members of the Kaun family also lived in that area, including David's father, **Charles**, who was born there. The church was built in 1929-1930 and was replaced by another

in 1953. That building still remains, although the parish relocated to a new facility on Janesville Road in 1997.



(Left) Postcard photo of the English Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1938 (Right) Commemorative plate, probably for the church's 50th anniversary

Ben Hunt and the Wa-Be-Ski-Wa Indian Fairs

Recently rediscovered in our collection are these photos of children creating and wearing Native American costumes for the Wa-Be-Ski-Wa Indian Fair. The fair was an annual week-end of Indian dancing and camping, usually held in mid-June after schools closed for the summer. Boys and girls would travel to Janesville, WI from several states to take

part in this event, surrounded by a semi-circular encampment of Indian tepees.

Ben Hunt was very involved with the Indian Fair. In the Ojibwa Indian language, the term “Wa-Be-Ski-Wa” meant “White,” which was quite appropriate as the participants were white children wearing Indian costumes and black wigs.



On the local level, Ben founded the Good Medicine Dancers, a group of young people interested in Indian lore, dancing, and music. Ben taught them authentic Indian dances as well as how to construct their costumes, jewelry, and drums.



Dan Bernhard and Merlin Rynders assembling their costumes with feathers in the Hunt Cabin, 1954



Boys in costume practicing their dances, 1957

WELCOME, NEW* AND RETURNING 2024 HCHS MEMBERS!

Constance Anderson
 Vern & Lori Archiquette
 Kenneth J. Augustine
 James Bain
 Mary Bennett
 Joan Berg
 Dan & Diane Besson
 Todd Brinkmeier
 Robert Burnham
 & Patricia Laughlin
 Michael Clavette
 Esther Demerdash
 Ronald & Kathleen Dondlinger
 David HB Drake*
 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 Jdrzejewski
 & Sybil Grandeck
 Gregory Jenks
 Celine Kashishian
 James & Jacqueline Keuck
 Bob & Dottie King
 Jeremy & Stacy Koenen*
 Scott & Judy Kruger
 Romaine Krystowiak
 Jason & Susan LaFountain*
 Bob Lehman*
 Mary Long
 Frank & Rose Mary Matusinec
 Walter Nickerson
 Gary Kohls & Karen Niessing
 David & Kathleen O'Brien
 Mike Praedel
 Frank & Audrey Reineck

Cornelio & Colleen Resendiz
 Scott & Maureen Riemer
 Mary Ellen Robertson*
 Richard & Carol Ann Rose
 Randy Sannes
 Chris & Caroline Schachtlie
 Mel & Elaine Schmidt
 Don & Suzanne Schwartz
 Joe & Joan Sem
 Nancy Sievert
 Marjorie Stahl
 Daniel & Kayellyn Strasburg
 Al & Ruth Strekow
 Mark Thiel
 Ian Thomson
 Robb & Kathleen Thoren*
 Brian & Laura Touhey
 Tom Ueberoth & Delene Hanson
 Patricia Warchol
 Robert & Jeanette Wardinski
 Janice Zeit
 Kathleen Zellmer

*Membership roster
 current as of April 2024.*

TALES OF THE CORNERS - MAY

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

90 YEARS AGO (1934)

- Flowers are dropped from an airplane over Emanuel's and St. Mary's cemeteries to honor the war dead. Joe Desnoyers is the pilot and Walter Heiden drops the flowers.
- June bugs are coming out in such thick swarms that area drivers report a veritable hail of bugs hitting their windshields.
- The basement of Greenfield Town Hall is filled with card players at the party given by the Emanuel Church's Ladies Aid. Prizes include hand-embroidered pillow cases and cushions.
- Pigs, ducklings, goslings, puppies, and plants sell well at the May Fair Day in Hales Corners.
- The Freede-Eckel American Legion Post holds a May Ball at Walter Heiden's hall. Music is furnished by the Lone Star Rangers.
- Men in the local Civilian Conservation Corps are offered classes as well as work. Courses include mechanics, arithmetic, English, physiology, botany, and forestry.
- The Hales Corners Advancement Association decides to sponsor the local baseball team in the Root Valley League.

80 YEARS AGO (1944)

- Members of the Hawthorn Garden Club meet at the Dreyfuss home to make May baskets for shut-ins.
- The Hales Corners Special Service Club sends 40 pounds of homemade candy to servicemen in the states.
- Some Hales Corners children are quarantined for measles and mumps.
- Hales Corners Cub Scout Pack 598 is organized into three baseball teams. The pack is sponsored by the Hales Corners Civic Association.

70 YEARS AGO (1954)

- The Wisconsin Anti-Tuberculosis Association's chest-mobile visits Hales Corners. Free chest x-rays are given to 156 residents.
- The Hales Corners Village Board hires a school crossing guard to help children cross Highway 100 at Scharles Avenue.

- Valley View School graduates 13 students from eighth grade.
- An aspirator and resuscitator are purchased by the Village to be used in emergencies.

60 YEARS AGO (1964)

- *The Happy Time* is presented by the Hales Corners Community Theatre. Uncle Louis is played by Anthony Alberte.
- A caravan of 16 Corvettes leaves Holz Motors for a weekend drive to St. Louis. The owners are members of the Wisconsin Corvette Club, headquartered at the dealership.
- Dr. R. C. Wolf is honored at a banquet by the Hales Corners Village Board in recognition of his many years of service as public health officer for the Village.
- The Hales Corners Auxiliary Police Corps conducts automobile safety checks.
- A Kiwanis Club is formed in Hales Corners.
- Whitnall High School announces there are 135 candidates for graduation this June.
- *Come Dine With Us* is the name chosen for the cookbook being prepared by a group of women at St. Mary's Church.
- A new library is dedicated at St. Mary's School.

50 YEARS AGO (1974)

- Hales Corners Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts fill two 15-yard trucks with trash picked up from streets and parking lots. The clean-up drive is to promote Keep America Beautiful Day.
- "Car Pool" ads are published free of charge in the *Hub* classified section to help readers cooperate with the national effort to conserve gasoline.
- Harold Rock, a seasonal naturalist at Whitnall Park, is named director of the new Wehr Nature Center. The \$400,000 center is scheduled to be opened in June.
- Frank's Pharmacy opens for business.
- Chester Bochniak is appointed a Village trustee by Village President Joseph Kroeninger. Bochniak will take over the last year of Kroeninger's term now that he has been elected president.
- Whitnall School District teachers vote to send money to striking Hortonville teachers.

Research by Katy Galewski

HALES CORNERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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