



September-October 2024

Join Us on OCTOBER 30th for Our Final Program of 2024 ORSON WELLES' WAR OF THE WORLDS

Wednesday, October 30, 7:00 p.m.
Hales Corners Library / Hunt Room
Presented by **GREG JENKS**,
Retired Educator and Speaker for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

There's a special historic significance to the October 30th date and time of our upcoming program, "Orson Welles' *War of the Worlds*": it was on that exact date 86 years ago, at 8:00 p.m. Eastern time (7:00 p.m. Central) that radio listeners across the U.S. heard a startling report of mysterious creatures and terrifying war machines moving toward New York City.

Although the CBS broadcast was only *Mercury Theatre on the Air's* radio adaptation of H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds*, it caused a scare nationwide among listeners who believed it to be an actual news report of the landing of Martians near Princeton, New Jersey. Even those who hadn't tuned in to the broadcast were caught in the uproar as hysterical neighbors or relatives told them of the purported invasion. The panic led to many imagined situations. One man told police he had heard President Franklin Roosevelt's voice over the radio urging everyone to leave New York City. Another rushed into a police station saying that enemy planes were crossing the Hudson River. One said he could see the smoke of the battle from his window.

Of course, it was all untrue – "fake news" in today's parlance – but for several hours, many Americans believed it to be real, and Welles' *War of the Worlds* broadcast eventually became an infamous anecdote in American history. At a hastily arranged press conference the next day,



journalists asked Welles: Had he intended, or did he anticipate, that *War of the Worlds* would throw its audience into a panic? That question would follow Welles for the rest of his life, and his answers would change as the years went on – from protestations of innocence to playful hints that he knew exactly what he was doing.

Greg Jenks will retell the story of Welles' rise to fame, and of his innovative radio drama. Significant portions of the original 1938 broadcast will be played, and Greg will offer non-political thoughts on the existence of "fake news" in our culture.

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

In Memoriam

The Hales Corners Historical Society lost a good in September when **Fr. Jerry Hudziak** passed away at age 86. Fr. Jerry served on our board for nine years as Vice President, President, and Program Chair. In 2014, he wrote about his memories of Hales Corners for our Village history book.

His parents, **Roman** and **Sylvia**, owned a shoe repair shop that once stood at 10438 W. Forest Home Avenue, next to Annie's tavern. The Hudziaks purchased the two-story building in the 1950s, and the family lived above the shop. Besides



Fr. Jerry Hudziak speaking at a HCHS program in 2017

repairing shoes, they also sold them. Fr. Jerry wrote that his father had a policy that if you bought a dozen pairs, the 13th pair was free. Fr. Jerry once commented, "As a shoe repair



The shoe repair building in 1974, then occupied by a State Farm insurance agent, with a Clark gas station next door.

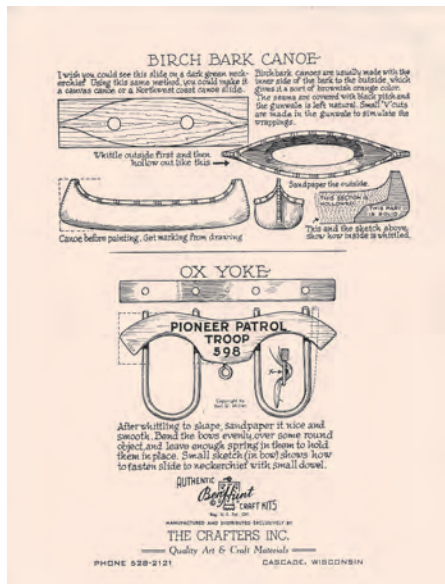
man, my father was in the "SOLE" business. As a priest, I'm in the "SOUL" business."

Our sincere condolences go out to Fr. Jerry's family.

Scout Heritage Museum Donates Ben Hunt Items

Not everyone may be aware that another collection of **Ben Hunt** items is on display at the Scout Heritage Museum at 330 S. 84th Street in Milwaukee. The museum is located within the office of the Three Harbors Council, an organization of the Boy Scouts of America. The museum was founded in 1975 and houses one of the finest collections of historic scouting memorabilia in the United States.

In August, HCHS received a donation of Ben Hunt materials from the Scout Heritage Museum. They included 25 information sheets that Ben wrote and illustrated for a Wisconsin company known as Crafters of Pine Dunes. In an arrangement with Ben, that company produced a product line known as *Authentic Ben Hunt Craft Kits* in the 1940s. Below are three examples.



American Legion Women's Auxiliary Pin and Photo Added to HCHS Collection

We recently received a photo and a pin from **Kathleen May**. Her mother, **Theresa May**, was a president of the American Legion Women's Auxiliary in Hales Corners. The photo shows her mother receiving her gavel as she accepts the presidency in 1948.

The auxiliary was a division of the Freede-Eckel Memorial Post, named after two World War I veterans, Milton Freede and Conrad Eckel. The Post was located in a two-story frame building at 10418 W. Forest Home Avenue from 1943 until it was destroyed by fire in 1954. The site is now occupied by Clifford's Restaurant.

In 1944, the auxiliary's first president, **Mabel Hansche**, turned part of the hall into a Village



Theresa May (left) and her presidential pin (right)
Notice that the pin includes a tiny gavel attachment

library with an original collection of 150 books. The library became the registration center for victory gardens during World War II, and for other volunteer projects such as the Red Cross and blood drives. By 1945, the building housed a collection of 900 books.

TALES OF THE CORNERS - SEPTEMBER

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

90 YEARS AGO (1934)

- The National Park Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) are digging a swimming lake at Whitnall Park on what was the Tim Doody farm.
- A new motor is being purchased for the Hales Corners fire truck. The old motor broke a piston rod while firemen were rushing to a fire.
- William Schreiber is appointed as postmaster in Hales Corners. James Godsell, former postmaster, resigns after 12 years of service.

80 YEARS AGO (1944)

- Due to the polio epidemic, Hales Corners children under 15 years old are quarantined by the Health Department and cannot leave their homes.
- "Swede" Bayer's Bar (now Bosch Tavern), on Janesville Road and Highway 100, holds its grand opening.
- Installation ceremonies are planned for the Freede-Eckel American Legion Post and its auxiliary. Robert Mattmiller will take over as the post's commander, and Viola Waldron as the auxiliary's president.
- Mrs. George Luebke is elected president of the Hales Corners Special Service Club.

70 YEARS AGO (1954)

- The Hales Corners Labor Day Fair stretches along Forest Home Avenue from Highway 100 to Grange Avenue, and draws more than 30,000 people.

- About 50 electors of the Valley View School District meet to discuss merging with the Greendale School District. The school board has already begun circulating a petition requesting the merger.
- Selection of an architect to draw plans for a new hall at Whitnall Park Lutheran Church is expected to be made this week.

60 YEARS AGO (1964)

- Ground-breaking ceremonies are planned for a new Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Hales Corners.
- The Hawthorne Garden Club captures a \$100 award for civic beautification at the 37th annual convention of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation.

50 YEARS AGO (1974)

- Hales Corners residents learn that rummage sales are a violation of the local zoning code.
- Sixteen employees are added to the Whitnall School District staff.
- The Whitnall School Board approves a request from 10 students to attend a model United Nations Conference at Harvard University.

Research by Katy Galewski

Pick-up Perks Up Holz Auto Show

During the July 4th Holz Motors Auto Show, this 1954 Chevrolet pick-up truck was on display. The owner, **Ken Buhandt**, converted it into a replica of his father's service truck after searching for more than five years. **Carl Buhandt** operated Carl's Skelly gas station in Hales Corners from 1950-1953. Inside the truck, Ken displayed his father's Skelly hat and uniform.



Installing Signs of the Times

Most of the time, HCHS maintenance duties revolve around the Ben Hunt Cabin and the Seneca Hale Summer Kitchen. But, occasionally there are historical markers to repair or replace. This summer, **Randy Sannes** and **Chris Schachtli** replaced two markers that were extremely damaged at the William Hale home on Janesville Road, and at the Edward Bodus home (now Barb's Green House Florist) on Highway 100. In addition, they installed a plaque commemorating the Ben Hunt Cabin's placement on the National Register of Historic Places.



Fifty-two Playing Cards Dealt to the HCHS Collection

In July, HCHS received this deck of playing cards from **James and Lynn Heindl**. The cards advertise the Emil Hribar Trucking Sand & Gravel business. They belonged to Lynn's father, **Ralph Zamjahn**, a mason contractor. Three similar companies operate nearby today: Hribar Trucking LLC in Caledonia, Thomas Hribar Truck & Equipment Co. in Mt. Pleasant, and Hribar Sand & Gravel in Franksville. Perhaps they are the successors of Emil's company.

The cards are probably from the late 1950s, based upon the large ranch home in the background and the telephone exchange. Telephone numbers began changing to all numerals in the early 1960s. Hribar's company was located on



Route 1 in Hales Corners. Does anyone know what Route 1 is known as today? If so, please let us know.

Ben Hunt's Eagle Feather Returns Home

Linda Hayward was one of the guests at our Heritage Day event, and she made quite an impression in her Native American costume. Linda is an advisor to an Indian dance team known as the Mascoutin Society of Chicagoland. One of the society's founding members, **John Lotter**, was a friend of **Ben Hunt**.

Because of this connection, she brought along a framed eagle feather that once was presented to Ben and later became the property of her society. Linda believes that Laudner had received the feather from Ben as a gift,

and she decided it should now become a part of our Ben Hunt collection.

The eagle feather is affixed to a cardboard backing that includes this dedication: "Cue feather of **Lone Eagle** 'Sioux' from bonnet presented to W. Ben Hunt by Lone Eagle 'Wanblee Isnala.'

Lone Eagle was a friend of Ben Hunt and gave Ben a deerskin vest that is on display in the Hunt Cabin. The name Lone Eagle also was used by Ben whenever he wrote articles about Native American crafts in *Boys' Life* magazine.

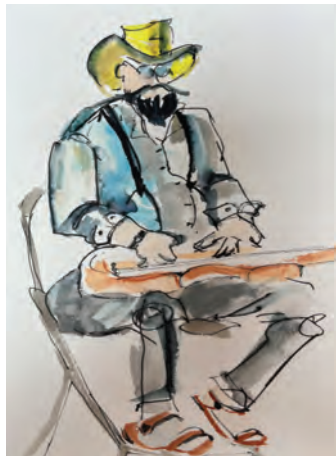


Heritage Day Remembered with Paint

During our August 24th Heritage Day celebration, **Earlean Kurtin** was busy painting watercolor images of the performers who entertained the crowd. Examples of her work that day are shown here. Earlean is a graduate of the Layton School of Art and works in multiple media including paint, fiber, gourds, and metal. She has worked as a commercial artist and an art teacher, and has exhibited her art at fairs throughout the United States.



Siggenau drummer



David HB Drake, folk singer



Ronnie Preston, Native American dancer

TALES OF THE CORNERS - OCTOBER

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

90 YEARS AGO (1934)

- The Hales Corners School District is awarded all but \$50 of \$13,000 in damages for the old school on Forest Home Avenue. The \$50 goes to the heirs of the site's original owner. The school is in the way of widening the road.
- Fire chars the interior of the sacristy of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church (St. Martin of Tours). It is extinguished by the Hales Corners Fire Department before it can spread to the rest of the church.
- A meeting is held at the William Klug home to discuss organizing a Village local of the Socialist party.
- A new 420-foot sidewalk is laid from the Holdridge garage to Emanuel Evangelical Church.
- Hogs about three months old are the popular item at Monday's fair day. Local farmers are selling them because they have little feed on hand, and they are bought by Illinois corn belt farmers. Potatoes are cheaper because of the late rains and they sell for 75 cents and 85 cents a bushel.
- Herbert Heileman opens a feed store behind Henry Schubring's tavern.
- Boys and girls at Hales Corners School learn about nature, with the first and second graders hiking to Whitnall Park and the third and fourth graders to Paul's woods.
- The Royal Neighbors hold a social evening at Schubring's hall. First prize in sheephead is won by Mrs. Thomas Welch, Sr.

80 YEARS AGO (1944)

- Threatening skies and a fine mist do not keep a crowd from gathering for the dedication of the new flag and pole at the *Tri-Town News* grounds with American Legion Post 299 of Hales Corners.
- The Hales Corners American Legion is collecting warm clothing for the men from Barbados being housed at Whitnall Park.
- The Hales Corners PTA schedules a Halloween party for area youngsters. A costume parade, movies, and refreshments are featured.

70 YEARS AGO (1954)

- Plans are made to dedicate the new St. Mary's School. Currently, over 250 pupils are enrolled.

60 YEARS AGO (1964)

- Wives of the Hales Corners Jaycees organize an auxiliary to assist the men.
- Barbara's Beauty Salon is opened at 10330 W. Forest Home Avenue.
- George Weber is named president of the Hales Corners School PTA.

50 YEARS AGO (1974)

- The Whitnall Park-Hales Corners Kiwanis Club makes plans to celebrate its 10th anniversary at the Peddler's Son restaurant.
- The Village Bicentennial Committee and Jaycettes announce plans for a pumpkin carving contest at the Hales Corners Postal Plaza.

Research by *Katy Galewski*



HAPPY HALLOWEEN
FROM THE
HALES CORNERS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY!



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