



July-August 2025

Join Us When Leslie Heinrichs Presents the History of the Pfister Hotel at Our August 13th Program

THE HISTORY OF THE PFISTER HOTEL

August 13, 7:00 p.m.

Hales Corners Library / Hunt Room

**— Presented by LESLIE HEINRICHS,
Archivist of the Marcus Corporation**

Leslie will take us on a virtual art and history tour of this iconic hotel that changed the landscape of Milwaukee more than 100 years ago.

The Pfister is one of the great 19th century hotels of America. When its doors were opened on May 1, 1893, it was acclaimed as the ultimate in elegance, no expense having been spared on the furnishing of its interior. Even rarer than the building itself is the fine collection of oil paintings exhibited throughout the interior.

Learn why Milwaukee's Pfister Hotel continues to be named one of the best historic hotels in the United States, and also the hotel of choice for celebrities, presidents, and sports stars.



SUGGESTIONS FOR 2026 PROGRAMS?

The HCHS Program Committee is seeking your suggestions for the types of programs you'd enjoy in 2026. Send your ideas to info@halescornershistory.com or mail them to the Hales Corners Historical Society, 5885 South 116th Street, Hales Corners, WI 53130.

HCHS Float Celebrates the Seneca Hale Summer Kitchen's 175th Anniversary

To commemorate the 175th anniversary of the Seneca Hale Summer Kitchen, HCHS built a new float for this year's July 4th parade. Designed by HCHS member **Todd Brinkmeier**, the float was one of two HCHS floats and was a wonderful addition. Many thanks go to Todd and his volunteer builders: **Mary Bennett, Katy Galewski, Kathy Kilps, and Randy Sannes**. Also, thanks go to Randy and **Najat Brinkmeier** who drove our floats in the parade.

HCHS was responsible for saving the Summer Kitchen in 1996 and for creating the historic display adjacent to it. The Kitchen was open to the public on the 4th and more than 90 visitors attended. Thanks go to **Mary Javorek** and **Kathy Kilps** for welcoming them.



65 Years Ago: The Largest Hales Corners July 4th Parade Ever

Led by Parade Marshall **Ben Hunt**, the 1960 July 4th parade started at the corner of Grange and Forest Home Avenues. It then proceeded through various shopping centers along Highway 100, finally ending at Hales Corners Elementary School.

More than 50 units comprised the parade, making it the largest in Hales Corners history. It included military groups, bands, drum and bugle corps, military equipment, helicopters, fire departments, drill units, local and state dignitaries, veterans organizations, floats representing businesses and clubs, and even a fly-over by jet aircraft. (See the Parade Order of March below.)

After the parade, displays of equipment were set up on the school grounds, followed later by a pavement dance in the

school parking lot. The celebration was sponsored by the Lions Club with the cooperation of other groups.

Since the Village was incorporated in 1952, Hales Corners residents have volunteered countless hours to organize

July 4th parades. Some have been very large events like the 1960 parade, while others have been somewhat smaller. Regardless of size, the tradition continues to be a major attraction, even drawing former Hales Corners residents back to the Village once again.



Parade photo from the front page of The Tri-Town News / Souvenir Edition taken by HCHS member Walter Nickerson in 1960

Parade Order of March

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Parade Marshall | 18. Gordon's Texaco Float | 35. Dutchland Dairy Store Antique Car |
| 2. Marine Color Guard | 19. Milw. Starlighters Drum & Bugle Corps | 36. Carl's Towing Service Float |
| 3. H. C. Grade School Band | 20. Go-Karts | 37. Craig Schlosser Band |
| 4. Village Officials | 21. Whitnall High Dr. Ed. Car | 38. Boggess Drugs Float |
| 5. Lt. Gov. and Lions Officials | 22. Womens Drum & Bugle Unit | 39. Towne Taxi Float |
| 6. Madison Drum and Bugle Corps | 23. Mathson's 1915 Ford Touring Car | 40. Grayslake Ill. Drum & Bugle Corps |
| 7. H. C. Amer. Legion Color Guard | 24. Tess Corners Fire Dept. | 41. Muskego V.F.W. Float |
| 8. H. C. Amer. Legion Aux. | 25. Drews Variety Store Float | 42. Muskego Fire Dept. |
| 9. Herb Froemming | 26. St. Matthias Sr. Drum & Bugle Corps | 43. Marzinski Hardware Float |
| 10. H. C. Lions Float | 27. Wis. Natl. Guard Airplane | 44. Foerster Music Float |
| 11. Racine Jr. Drum & Bugle Corps | 28. Wis. Natl. Guard Runway Vacuum | 45. Culligan Water Softener Service Float |
| 12. Army Marching Units | 29. H. C. Youth Council Float | 46. Culligan Water Softener Service Float |
| 13. Army Nike Missile Display Float | 30. Cross Yatch Drill Team | 47. Screaming Eagles Drum & Bugle Corps |
| 14. Cpl. Schaeffer Drill Team | 31. Country Fair Shopping Center Float | 48. Fray Studio Float |
| 15. H. C. Fire Dept. (5 Units) | 32. Kelly Heating Float | 49. Kenosha Shoreliners Drum & Bugle Corps |
| 16. Indian Dancers | 33. Bob Schmidt Fuel Oil Float | 50. Windlake Fire Dept. |
| 17. Harmony Restaurant Float | 34. St. Matthias Jr. Drum & Bugle Corps | 51. Tichigan Volunteer Fire Dept.
And added late entries |

90+ Visitors Toured the Ben Hunt Cabin on July 4th!

The Ben Hunt Cabin has always been a major attraction during the Hales Corners July 4th festivities. This holiday was no exception, with more than 90 visitors. This year, the recently opened Hunt Museum Room inside the library also attracted 20 individuals. Thanks go to our volunteers, **Mike Fischer, Celine Kashishian, Scott Kruger, and Al Strekow**, for making everyone feel welcome.



TALES OF THE CORNERS - JULY From the files of the *Tri-Town News and Hub*

90 YEARS AGO (1935)

- Opening of the new Highway 100 will mark a new street in Hales Corners and make it the meeting place of three-lane highways from four directions. Previously there has not been a 108th Street between Janesville Road and North Cape Road. The new U.S. Highway 45 follows North Cape Road to Durham, Union Church, Union Grove, and Bristol.
- R. W. Holz announces plans to enlarge and remodel his garage on Janesville Road. The remodeling will also provide an area on Highway 100.
- The extension of the bus line to Hales Corners may mean the fare will be 19 cents. A single fare on the Rapid Transit is 26 cents.
- More than 40 Hales Corners residents exhibit in the flower show sponsored by the Hales Corners, Orchard Grove, and Hawthorne Garden clubs.
- Ladies of the Hales Corners 500 Club enjoy an outing at Lake Geneva with dinner and cards at the Geneva Hotel.
- William Range's Tavern offers one-half fried chicken for 35 cents, while the same serving is 25 cents at the Wigwam (currently Annie's Place).

80 YEARS AGO (1945)

- Technical Sergeant Merlin C. Godsell receives the coveted Silver Star medal for the part he played in the capture of Drabenderhohe, Germany.
- About 90 people attend the Hales Corners School's annual meeting. A hot lunch program sponsored by the PTA with a \$600 budget is approved.
- The Hales Corners Businessmen's Association appoints a committee to conduct a census of the unincorporated Village, the school district, and the sanitary district in order to prepare plans for rezoning Hales Corners property.
- Dr. Clifford R. Wolf, area health officer, announces that there is "no cause for alarm about polio."

70 YEARS AGO (1955)

- The Hales Corners Fourth of July fair draws a crowd of about 12,000 people. The ordinance governing the monthly Hales Corners fairs is amended to allow the display of new farm machinery.

- Six mailboxes and some mail contained in one of the boxes are "blasted" by firecrackers.
- Hales Corners School electors appropriate \$5,000 for possible purchase of two lots adjoining the school property on Janesville Road. Also approved is the sale of the Hales Corners School barracks to the Village for \$1.00. It will be used as a recreation shelter for Village-owned land on College Avenue.
- The Town of Greenfield files a lawsuit contesting annexation of 2-1/2 square miles by Hales Corners. The area is bounded by 92nd Street, 124th Street, College Avenue, and Edgerton Avenue.

60 YEARS AGO (1965)

- Sky divers open the evening portion of the Hales Corners Fourth of July celebration.
- The Hales Corners Village Board appeals to residents with wells to restrict their sprinkling hours because some wells in the older part of the Village are going dry.
- New signs to welcome travelers to Hales Corners, "Our main product is friendly people," are approved by the Village Board. Signs will be erected on five major thoroughfares.
- The Hales Corners Village Board gives the okay to the access road, sewer, and watermain for the proposed Pennywise Car Wash on the east side of Highway 100 between Grange Avenue and Ridge Road.
- The Hales Corners Youth Council plans a Clipper trip to Muskegon, MI for 97 young people.

50 YEARS AGO (1975)

- The footbridge joining the north and south sections of Cobb Park is built by local volunteers as a Bicentennial project.
- The Hales Corners Woman's Club presents a check to the Hales Corners Library to complete its \$11,170 pledge for the year. Over the next four years, the club has promised \$2,000 per year.
- Winners for the Fourth of July float division are the Hales Corners Lions Club for best workmanship, Hales Corners Woman's Club for its theme, and the Hales Corners Historical Society for originality.

In Memoriam

On May 27, 2025, our Society lost one of its long-time members when **Jeffrey Javorek** passed away at age 71. Jeffrey was the husband of Mary Javorek, who serves on HCHS's board and is chair of our Hospitality committee. Jeffrey would often join Mary at our quarterly historical programs in the library's Ben Hunt Room. While Mary put out the night's refreshments, Jeffrey would help set up the chairs in the room.

Those who knew Jeffrey will remember him for his kind heart, his positive attitude, and his love for his family. We will always be grateful for the time and effort Jeffrey gave to HCHS, and we extend our sincere condolences to Mary and the family.



W. Ben Hunt Appreciation Day Was Celebrated in August 1967



Ben Hunt, guest of honor, walked through the Native American village set up in Hales Corners Park, 1967.

Ben Hunt had been retired from Village activities for some time when Village President **Walter Fehr** issued a proclamation declaring August 6, 1967 to be W. Ben Hunt Appreciation Day. His books and activities on rustic building techniques, wood carving, Indian crafts and lore, and related topics had earned him an international reputation.

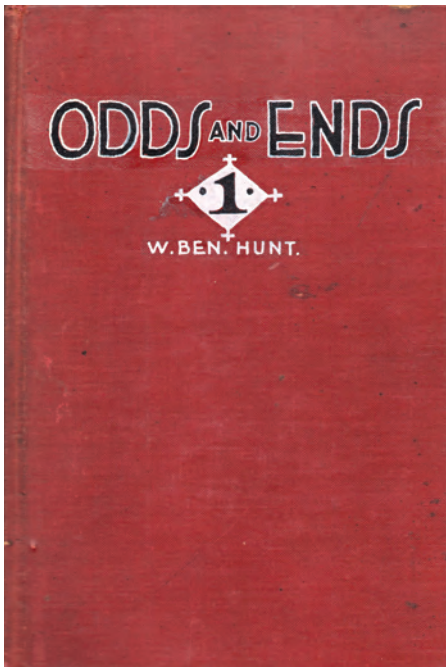
The Hales Corners Jaycees organized the event. More than 3,000 people attended the celebration in Hales Corners Park that featured exhibits by local Boy Scout troops as well as examples of Ben's own work. Amid a Native American village of tepees, various Native dances were performed by two Hales Corners groups, the "Good Medicine Dancers" and the "Indian Lore Dancers" from Medicine Drum Lodge. Visiting entertainers were the "Tribe of Delavan, Inc." from Illinois, and an all-girl group, the "Chinco Mila Dance Scopa." The testimonial dinner was held later at Clifford's restaurant, where the publisher of most of Ben's books, **Frank Bruce**, and the curator of anthropology at the Milwaukee Public Museum, **Dr. Robert Ritzenthaler**, were the guest speakers.

Ben later commented, "After everyone had left and **Laura** (Ben's wife) had gone to bed, I poured myself a good jolt of "Three Stars," sipped it, poured another and sat there until after 3 a.m. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and it was wonderful."

Rediscovered: Ben Hunt's Sketchbooks "Odds and Ends 1 and 2"

Recently, while organizing bookshelves in the Hunt Museum room, **Al Strekow** re-discovered two of **Ben Hunt's** sketchbooks among Ben's personal library. Entitled *Odds and Ends 1 and 2*, the hard-cover books were begun in 1934 and 1944, respectively.

The pages contain Ben's black-and-white and full-color sketches of gourds, masks, shields, totems, beadwork, musical instruments, silver jewelry, etc. In addition, there are names and addresses of Ben's friends and suppliers, and clippings from magazine and newspaper articles that he considered significant. In all, the more than 160 pages in the two rediscovered books provide another glimpse into the fertile and creative mind of Ben Hunt.



TALES OF THE CORNERS - AUGUST From the files of the *Tri-Town News and Hub*

90 YEARS AGO (1935)

- The new Highway 100 is opened with a carnival atmosphere, bunting, and a 1-1/2 mile parade.
- There have been 18,863 golfing permits issued at the Whitnall Park course so far this year.
- Hales Corners firemen are called to a barn fire at 43rd Street and Grange Avenue. There is only enough water from a local well to save the chicken house. The adjoining barn is destroyed.
- The grounds at Hales Corners School are being graded, and the parking lot enlarged.
- Froemming Brothers florist wins first place in the retail florist class at the State Fair.
- "Lands of Denishawn," a Great Dane owned by Dr. Dennis Pierce, wins first place at the State Fair dog show.

80 YEARS AGO (1945)

- The Hales Corners Honor Roll of servicemen lists 82 names as peace is announced.
- One of the largest farmers' fairs in years is held in Hales Corners with sellers extending as far east on Forest Home Avenue as Hart Road (104th Street) and as far south on Highway 100 as North Cape Road. Buyers' cars are parked practically to the Village limits in all directions.
- Filling station operators report a sharp increase in gas sales as motor fuel is removed from the ration list.
- The Hales Corners Fire Department is called to 43rd Street and College Avenue when a haystack catches fire. No damage is done to the building next door.
- Hales Corners school buildings have been cleaned completely and redecorated. All text books will be furnished to students for free.
- Employees of Holz Motors attend classes to prepare for the arrival of Chevrolet trucks.

70 YEARS AGO (1955)

- The U.S. Postal Department is seeking bids for new quarters for a Hales Corners Post Office twice the size of its present area in the building on Forest Home Avenue owned by the Emanuel Evangelical and Reformed Church. Larger quarters are needed because of the rapid expansion of services in the past few years.

- Drew's Variety Store advertises boys' suspenders for 25, 35, and 39 cents; girls' anklets at three for a dollar; pencils 29 and 39 cents per dozen, and a 480-page tablet for 25 cents.
- Bus service for Hales Corners students attending Juneau High School will be paid for by the Village.
- Three bids for sanitary sewers are under consideration by the Hales Corners Village Board. A committee is appointed to study and suggest an orderly dissolution of the Hales Corners sanitary district.
- Horace Nixon, recently named National Parks Recreation Director for a six-state area, moves to a home on Haleco Lane.

60 YEARS AGO (1965)

- To better serve Whitnall High School students, 116th Street is to be extended from the Greenfield city limits to Edgerton Avenue, by approval of the Village Board.
- For the first time, Hales Corners Lutheran School offers Kindergarten through eighth grades.
- The Hales Corners Village Board approves a \$400 donation to help with the Highway 100 reopening celebration.
- The Village is burning diseased elm trees next door to the Robert Rice home on 100th Street.
- The Village Board authorizes Superintendent of Public Works Elmer Faehrmann to negotiate with the contractor to relay 150 feet of sanitary sewer at the intersection of Highway 100 and Edgerton Avenue. The sewer has settled due to poor land fill.
- The Rev. Russell Buck assumes his duties as pastor of the Hale Park Wesleyan Methodist Church.
- Somchai Samatadol arrives from Bangkok, Thailand, to spend the upcoming school year as Whitnall's American Field Service student.

50 YEARS AGO (1975)

- A wood fire keeps the water hot for the Bicentennial Commission's fish boil Sunday at Cobb Park. An art fair is also held to raise money for '76 projects.
- In celebration of the Bicentennial year, Hales Corners police wear a '76 patch.
- A new twist on a drive-in movie is a bike-in at the Giant 24 Outdoor. No cars are allowed.



HALES CORNERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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