



**April - May 2026**

## **Join Us May 6th for Our Second Program of 2026**



**Bonnie Blair**  
- Speed Skater -



**Hattie McDaniel**  
- Actress -

**WOMEN ENTERTAINERS WITH LINKS TO WISCONSIN**  
May 6, 7:00 p.m., Hales Corners Library / Hunt Room  
— Presented by **GREG JENKS**,  
*Speaker for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute*

With Mother's Day just around the corner, we thought it would be interesting to look beyond our own families at our May 6th program and recognize a number of strong, capable, talented women in the entertainment field who have called Wisconsin home, or who have had a significant connection to our state.

Through in-depth stories and videos, noted historian and presenter **Greg Jenks** will

acquaint us with actresses, athletes, musicians, and other women entertainers with ties to the Badger State.

Greg has proven to be one of our most popular speakers; this will be his fourth presentation to our Society!

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



**Viola Smith**  
- Drummer -



**Jeanne Dixon**  
- Psychic -

## **Village School Programs Celebrated the U.S. Bicentennial**

Like our upcoming United States Semiquincentennial celebration, the 1976 Bicentennial featured a number of special events to commemorate the event. Among them were the two pictured below that took place in April that year. Students of the Hales Corners Lutheran School

presented *Yankee Doodle*, an original musical revue featuring patriotic and other music, in the church's Fellowship Hall. Eighth-graders at St. Mary's Catholic School presented a *Bicentennial Pageant*. They wrote the script, designed the sets, and furnished the costumes.



**Students of St. Mary's Catholic School, 1976**



**Students of Hales Corners Lutheran School, 1976**

## 1949 Phone Directory Profiles Our Village

Recently, HCHS member **Linda Teschendorf** loaned HCHS an early Village telephone directory for us to scan. Published in 1949 by the Wisconsin Telephone Company, it contains 40 pages of residential and business phone numbers in Hales Corners and Greendale, plus 32 pages of classified listings and ads. It measures 6.25 inches wide by 9.25 inches high and is only a quarter-inch thick.

The directory's business listings provide a fascinating snapshot in time of post-World War II Hales Corners. The semi-rural character of the Village in 1949 is witnessed by the products and services offered in many of the listings and display ads. For example, there are seven vendors listed for "Agricultural Implements," another seven for "Feed Stores," and two each for "Milking Machines," "Tractors," and "Dead Animal Stock Removers."

However, as mid-century urbanization gradually increased and post-war optimism surged, Hales Corners began to adopt modern technology and would continue to do so. The quantity of directory ads for vendors/repair services of electric radios, refrigerators, and washing machines seems to indicate those items were becoming fairly common in Village homes.

Then came television: it was a hot new product in 1949. "T.V. sets" might have been unaffordable for many families, but the



directory shows they nevertheless were available for purchase at three local dealerships: Bosch Motor & Appliance Company, Heileman Brothers, and Holz Motor Co.

The directory category with the most business listings (38) is "Taverns." Perhaps that's not a surprise; Hales Corners residents have long been known for conviviality! It must be mentioned, though, that more than half of the establishments listed were located in neighboring communities such as Durham, St. Martins, and Tess Corners.

The directory also contains useful information and instructions for those unfamiliar with using a telephone such as:

- Day rates were charged from 4:30 a.m. to 6 p.m on all days except Sunday. Night rates

were charged from 6 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. at a lower cost. Sunday rates were also reduced no matter when the calls were made.

- Out-of-Town calls were either Station-to-Station or Person-to-Person. They were charged at different rates.
- Users of "party lines" (remember them?) were asked to be careful not to interrupt a conversation if the line was being used, and were asked to limit calls to five minutes.
- Questions were to be directed to the local Business Office at 5801 South 109th Street, which became a private residence when the telephone exchange moved to larger quarters in 1950.

Thanks, Linda, for saving this piece of Village history!

## Docents Are Needed at the Hunt Cabin and Museum

The Ben Hunt Cabin will reopen for the 2026 season on Saturday, May 2nd. HCHS is looking for volunteers to act as docents in the Cabin and the Hunt Museum room inside the library on an ongoing basis. Both sites require at least two in-

dividuals to welcome visitors, answer a few questions, and keep each other company during a two-hour period from 1-3 p.m. Training will be provided. If interested, please contact **Randy Sannes** at rdsannes@aol.com or 414-803-9377.

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

#### 90 YEARS AGO (1936)

- The *Tri-Town News* celebrates its ninth birthday, beginning its tenth year with a circulation of 700 copies.
- About \$300 is cleared for Hales Corners Elementary School from the mammoth card party, bingo, and candy games. More than 200 prizes are donated by area businesses.
- A homemade quilt is the big prize at the Emanuel Evangelical Church card party held at the Greenfield Town Hall.

#### 80 YEARS AGO (1946)

- The Hawthorn Garden Club makes plans to plant trees at Hales Corners Elementary School with the help of students to create a living memorial for World War II vets.
- Ben Hunt designs a bronze plaque that will be placed on a large field boulder. It reads "Dedicated to those who served in World War II by the school children of Hales Corners, Arbor Day 1946."
- Sixty-eight confirmands from St. Joseph's, Big Bend; Holy Assumption, St. Martins; and St. Mary's, Hales Corners are confirmed at St. Mary's Church by Bishop F. R. Cotton of Owensboro, Kentucky.
- Whitnall Park Lutheran Church holds special Palm Sunday services for 32 confirmands—16 from the church and 16 from the Norris Foundation.
- Senior Boy Scouts arrange for Sweet Sue and her orchestra to play at the informal dancing party they are planning at the Hales Corners Elementary School gym.
- Bill Holz, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Holz, is discharged after two years' service as a yeoman in the U.S. Navy.
- An electric shoe repair shop is opened by C. A. Anderson, who has 12 years' experience in shoe repair.
- A baseball team is being formed for Hales Corners.

#### 70 YEARS AGO (1956)

- Donald Fischer, incumbent Hales Corners Village president, is re-elected to his second term, and

George Weber, who ran unopposed for Justice of the Peace, receives 788 votes.

- Hales Corners posts another area for annexation. It is bounded roughly by Forest Home Avenue and 76th Street on the west, the Lakeside belt line on the north, 68th and 76th Streets on the east and a line south of Bottsford and Layton Avenues on the south. The area is joined to Hales Corners by a long, 150-foot-wide corridor from Layton to Edgerton Avenues.
- The Village Board is asked by the president of the Greenfield Advancement Association to consider consolidation of Hales Corners and Greenfield .
- Sixty-seven Cub Scouts of Pack 598, along with their mothers and fathers, tour the Milwaukee Boys' Club. Cub Scouts and their fathers swim in the club's pool after the tour.
- The Whitnall Park Shopping Center site is purchased by August Urbanek and excavation for the center begins.

#### 60 YEARS AGO (1966)

- Of the total 707 votes cast in the election, Walter Fehr, president of the Hales Corners Village Board, wins with 628 votes.

#### 50 YEARS AGO (1976)

- Anthony Alberte unseats Joseph Kroeninger as Hales Corners Village president.
- Career Day for about 100 Milwaukee County police cadets is hosted by the Hales Corners Police Department.
- A television commercial for the Boy Blue ice cream chain is filmed at Valley View School with fifth grade students participating. The commercial is directed by William Eisner, president of the advertising agency that bears his name.
- The Hales Corners Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for Village residents' favorite store employees in the "Most Courteous, Efficient and Friendly Employee" contest. Three "mystery shoppers" will evaluate and "test shop" the nominees.

## Ben Hunt Cabin Reopens Saturday, May 2nd for the 2026 Season

Join us on **Saturday, May 2nd** as we open up the Ben Hunt Cabin for visitors from **1-3 p.m.**

Future dates to stop by are:

- **Saturday, June 6, 1-3 p.m.**
- **Saturday, July 4, Noon-3 p.m.**
- **Saturday, August 1, 1-3 p.m.**
- **Saturday, September 5, 1-3 p.m.**
- **Saturday, October 3, 1-3 p.m.**
- **Saturday, November 7, 1-3 p.m.**
- **Saturday, December 5, 5:30-7:00 p.m.**  
for the Village Tree Lighting

The Ben Hunt Cabin may also be reserved at other times without charge by non-profit groups that serve a civic, cultural, or educational purpose.

A reservation form is available in PDF format on our website at [halescornershistory.com](http://halescornershistory.com). For information, phone **262-349-4208** or email [celine.elizabeth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:celine.elizabeth@sbcglobal.net).



## Horse-drawn and Airborne Transportation Overlap in 1976

An unusual sight to see must have been a wagon train traveling on Forest Home Avenue in May 1976, especially when their road trip took them past the Experimental Aircraft Association's Air Museum at 11311 W. Forest Home Avenue. The pioneer wagons were taking part in the United States Bicentennial celebration. Their route proceeded through Franklin and Hales Corners as they made their way to the State Fair Park in West Allis.

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Museum was located just outside the Hales Corners boundaries in Franklin. Its proximity to the Hales Corners Airport on Highway 100 and College Avenue made it a natural stop for flight enthusiasts. That airport ceased to exist in 1977 when it was sold to a developer and became the Plum Tree Apartments. The museum closed in 1984, but for 20 years the it was a major attraction in the area.



*A wagon train provides the rush hour traffic jam on Forest Home Avenue, 1976*

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

### 90 YEARS AGO (1936)

- Hales Corners Elementary School is closed by order of Dr. Clifford Wolf, health officer, to help stop the spread of scarlet fever in the Village.
- Freede-Eckel Legion Post agrees with 23 other American Legion posts to back the celebration of the centennial of Wisconsin's entry into the union as a territory on July 3, 4, and 5.
- The fair day in Hales Corners this month has cars and trucks taking all available parking on Forest Home, Janesville, Highway 100, and 108th Place.
- Hales Corners and Greenfield will join forces to build a sewerage system. Citizens of Hales Corners and vicinity favor the plan 22 to 11 at a special meeting.
- The Hales Corners Advancement Association directs J. Allen Goff to ask the Milwaukee County park board when a new club house is to be built at the Whitnall Park Golf Course.

### 80 YEARS AGO (1946)

- The Hales Corners School Board votes to continue serving hot lunches at the school next year, but the decision will have to be approved at the annual meeting in July. Over half of the 190 pupils use the service for which they pay 50 cents a week for five meals. Because the government pays an additional 9 cents per meal, the project is self-supporting.
- Wisconsin Skyways airport near Hales Corners holds its grand opening with 60 persons taking airplane rides. This keeps three planes busy throughout the event.
- About 40 Veterans hear G.I. Rights explained at the Hales Corners American Legion Post as national and state legion officials speak.
- Men of the church serve 105 mothers and daughters at the annual mother and daughter banquet at Emanuel Evangelical Church.

### 70 YEARS AGO (1956)

- The Hales Corners School Board names a building committee to study the possible necessity of adding more classroom space to the local school. The recently completed eight-room addition will be filled next year.
- The State Highway Commission proposes to widen Forest Home Avenue from Oklahoma Avenue to Waukesha County. The traffic volume is approximate 10,000 vehicles daily.
- The Hales Corners Village Board approves an offer for a 25-foot roadway to Kurtz (Mud) Lake on the

west end of the Village as offered by the Ogden Company, which is subdividing the old Eckel farm on Kurtz Road.

- The recently formed Hales Corners Youth Civic Council acquires a dance instructor.
- The parish fund drive, aiming at \$20,000, is being held in lieu of the annual St. Mary's Catholic Church Picnic.
- Women in the second graduation class receive diplomas for "Gas, Gaskets and Glamour" at Holz Motors.

### 60 YEARS AGO (1966)

- Myra Engebretsen, a Whitnall High School senior, is the recipient of the Hales Corners Woman's Club's first \$1,000 scholarship.
- Landscaping of the area under the electric transmission towers along Highway 100 is being completed by the electric company.
- The Hales Corners Village Board tells Robert Kern, vice president of the Whitnall Band Parents' Association, that the board will provide up to \$500, if needed, to help the band participate in an international competition at Winnipeg, Canada.
- Rev. Curtis Brandt of Whitnall Park Lutheran Church receives an American Lutheran Church scholarship and will leave his post at the end of the month.

### 50 YEARS AGO (1976)

- Whitnall Gardens nursery and garden center at the corner of Grange and Forest Home Avenues offers Mother's Day Specials: large geraniums for 98 cents per 4-1/2 inch pot, and "baker's dozen" flats of strawberries for \$3.98 each.
- Hawthorn Garden Club members meet at the home of Mrs. Richard (Priscilla) Riebs to make 35 May baskets for shut-ins in Hales Corners, a tradition begun 30 years ago.
- William Eisner and Associates, Inc., is elected to the American Association of Advertising Agencies, becoming only the eighth Wisconsin agency to achieve the honor. Founded in Milwaukee in 1959, the firm moved to Hales Corners in 1968 and now has annual billings over \$5 million.
- The Whitnall School Board approves free busing for 76 kindergarten through fifth grade students who must cross 108th Street between Grange and College Avenues. The board votes unanimously to declare 108th Street an unusually hazardous highway for K-5 pupils in the affected area.

# Statue of Little Girl Was Once Stolen from Whitnall Park

The following article appeared in a copy of the Hub newspaper, 1976.

A priceless piece of statuary was stolen from the trial garden of Boerner Botanical Gardens last week. Garden personnel did not notice the loss until 3:20 p.m. last Thursday.

The statue of a little girl holding a dove in one hand and a flower in the other was a hollow zinc sculpture about 30 inches tall, mounted on a concrete pedestal. It was over 100 years old and had been brought by boat from England.

**Mrs. Norman Fitzgerald**, Milwaukee, gave the statue to the park commission for the



newly developed formal hedge garden in 1968.

“It was a beautiful thing, said **John Voight**, garden director.

“I don’t know how I’m going to tell Mrs. Fitzgerald about this.”

He said he feared the statue had been stolen so that it could be melted for the metal—not because someone admired its beauty. The fact that the statue had been wrenched from the concrete pedestal so that the feet were left behind seems to bear out his opinion.

### 2026 Update:

Fortunately, the statue was recovered and reinstalled on its pedestal. However, the story of its return is unknown at this time. You can still view it in a meadow at the back of the trial garden at Boerner Botanical Gardens.

## WELCOME, NEW\* AND RETURNING 2026 HCHS MEMBERS!

Melanie Acker\*  
 Constance Anderson  
 Sarah Anderson  
 Vern & Lori Archiquette\*  
 James Bain  
 Nancy Barker  
 Mary Bennett  
 Joan Berg  
 Dan & Diane Besson  
 Robert Burnham  
 & Patricia Laughlin  
 Ronald & Kathleen Dondlinger  
 David HB Drake  
 George & Diane Edward  
 Mike & JuDee Fischer  
 Robert & Mary Forecki  
 Katy Galewski  
 Jim Gilboy  
 Marsha Hammer  
 Jean Hancock  
 Jeff Hanewell & Susan Spoerk  
 Paul Hapka

David & Margarete Harvey  
 Duane & Sharon Hause  
 Michael Holmes  
 Frank & Judith Humpal  
 Mary Javorek  
 Mike Jedrzejewski  
 & Sybil Grandeck  
 Gregory Jenks  
 Celine Kashishian  
 James & Jacqueline Keuck  
 Kathy Kilps\*  
 Dottie King  
 Scott & Judy Kruger  
 Romaine Krystowiak  
 Bob Lehman  
 Mary Long  
 Gary Kohls & Karen Niessing  
 Mike Praedel  
 Scott & Maureen Riemer  
 Mary Ellen Robertson  
 Richard & Carol Ann Rose  
 Randy Sannes

Mel & Kathleen Sass\*  
 Caroline Schachtlie  
 Elaine Schmidt  
 Don & Suzanne Schwartz  
 Nancy Sievert  
 Michael Simmons  
 Marjorie Stahl  
 Daniel & Kayellyn Strasburg  
 Al & Ruth Streckow  
 Linda Teschendorf  
 Mark Thiel  
 Dan & Mary Thomson\*  
 Ian Thomson  
 Robb & Kathleen Thoren  
 Brian & Laura Touhey  
 Patricia Warchol  
 Robert & Jeanette Wardinski  
 Michael Wittig\*  
 Kathleen Zellmer

*Membership roster  
 current as of April 2026.*



### HALES CORNERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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