



August 2026

Holz Family Foundation Helps Fund New Roof for Hunt Cabin!



On July 15th, HCHS received a very generous grant of \$16,500 from the **Jerome J. and Dorothy H. Holz Family Foundation**. That gift will enable us to proceed with the replacement of the roof

on the W. Ben Hunt Cabin. Our goal is to complete the project this year before winter arrives. The Cabin is now more than 100 years old, and, according to our records, its roof was replaced in 1978. It has held up remarkably well, but after almost 50 years of wear and tear, is now on borrowed time. There probably will be additional expenses as the roof is removed and we discover problems long hidden beneath. Any contributions to our efforts would be greatly appreciated.



Photo by Katy Galewski

Our Board, Directors, and Volunteers are sincerely grateful to the Holz Family Foundation for enabling HCHS to get this project underway.

Two Parade Floats Are Much Better Than One

Once again, HCHS was featured on two floats in the Hales Corners 4th of July Parade. Designed by HCHS member **Todd Brinkmeier**, the floats were a wonderful addition to the parade. Many thanks go to Todd and his volunteer builders: **Mary Bennett, Katy Galewski, Mary Javorek, Jeanette Javorek, Kathy Kilps, and Randy Sannes**. Also, thanks go to **Najat Brinkmeier** and **Don Walter** who drove our floats in the parade. In addition, thanks also go to **Hiller Ford** for the donation of one of its F-150 pickup trucks to pull our second float.



Photos by Randy Sannes



Bicentennial Quilt Greet Village Hall Visitors

The HCHS Bicentennial quilt was on display in the Hales Corners Village Hall throughout the month of July. HCHS is grateful to the Hales Corners Board of Trustees for granting us the space needed to make this display a part of the Village's July 4th festivities and its celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary. The photos at right show the quilt along with the four posters

that related the story of its creation and listed the names of the 471 Village residents whose names are embroidered on the quilt.



Village History Captured in Vintage Postcards

HCHS member **James Keuck** recently donated several postcards depicting scenes from Hales Corners' past. This is not the first time he has done this, and hopefully not the last. This particular selection includes three scenes of the Janesville Plank Road, three views of Emanuel Church, one photo of the Third School, one photo of the original Holz Motors building, and one "mystery" photo of a hotel that may or may not have been in Hales Corners.



(Left)
Emanuel Church Parsonage, 1910
(Below)
Emanuel Church & Parsonage, 1910



(Above)
"Mystery" Hotel Postcard
(Front & Back), 1919

HCHS Welcomes Its Most Distinguished Visitor Ever!

Although the historical record shows that **Abraham Lincoln** was in Wisconsin only three times – in 1832, 1848, and 1859 – the 50+ audience members at HCHS's July 15th presentation may have felt he actually was present with them that evening in the Hunt Room.

Lincoln re-enactor **Kevin Wood's** physical resemblance to the president, complete with beard and stovepipe hat, set the stage. Speaking as Lincoln, Wood recounted the president's limited formal education as a child (attending five different schools for only two months each), which was mitigated by a great love of reading that enabled him to educate himself.

During his youth, Lincoln developed a moral aversion to slavery. Wood's portrayal emphasized the importance of that issue in Lincoln's decision to seek the presidency in 1860. Offering a compromise that he hoped would preserve the Union, Lincoln stated that, as president, he would not take action against slavery in states where it already existed, but would oppose its spread anywhere else. Eleven states found that unacceptable and seceded in 1861, leading to the Civil War.

Wood recounted the many leadership challenges Lincoln faced during the war. Among them was



"Honest Abe" meets Ben Hunt

his decision to issue the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863 for moral reasons, as well as to help cripple the Confederacy's use of slaves in the war effort and bring about an earlier end to the conflict. Lincoln considered the proclamation to be the crowning achievement of his presidency, declaring, "If my name ever goes into history, it will be for this act, and my whole soul is in it."

Many thanks to Kevin Wood for his highly engaging portrayal, and to the Friends of the Hales Corners Library for co-sponsoring his appearance.

Ben Hunt's House Displays New HCHS Marker



The residence that Ben Hunt built at 112th and Janesville Road is once again designated with one of our historical signs. Thanks so much to current owners **Eugene** and **Geraldine Manske** for allowing access.

Geraldine (at left) pointed out an interesting feature of the house: in the Manskes' garage is a mural (at right) depicting a Native American blanket painted by Ben Hunt in September 1963.



Canoe Made from Shipping Pallets Donated to HCHS

In last September's HCHS newsletter, we reported on **Austin Archiquette**, a scout from Troop 598, and his Eagle Scout project. Austin decided to pursue his badge by building a canoe from wood shipping pallets. He was inspired by an article by **Ben Hunt** in a *Boys' Life* magazine from 1951. Ben provided detailed drawings and step-by-step photos on how to build a canoe from orange crates. However, Austin chose wood shipping pallets as modern analogs of orange crates. He earned his Eagle Scout rank last year.

This July, family, scouts, and friends were present for the ceremony dedicating the canoe, "The Topsy," named after the beloved family dog (and not a comment on its seaworthiness). Drawing on Austin's Native American heritage, the lake-side ceremony included blessings with smoke and water, songs of thanks and celebration, and a recognition of Austin's accomplishments. After



Austin Archiquette and his parents, Vern and Lori

the ceremony, Austin generously donated the canoe to the HCHS collection. It will serve as an example of how Ben Hunt's original instructions can be adapted to use modern materials.

Thanks very much, Austin, for this great addition to our Ben Hunt-related collection.

A Tradition Since 1982: The Holz Motors Classic Auto Show

Holz Motors and the Village of Hales Corners have been teaming up every Independence Day since 1982 for a Classic Auto Show, followed by a patriotic 4th of July parade and fireworks in the evening. It's a tradition that continues to be enjoyed by thousands of people today.

Days in advance, the Holz car lots are cleared by the Holz staff to make room for the classic cars, assorted exhibits, and food tents. Four cars from Jerry Holz's personal collection are usually on display: a 1915 maroon Chevy touring car, a white 1953 Corvette, a turquoise 1954 Corvette, and a maroon 1963 Impala.



Jerry Holz in his 1915 Chevy with his 1954 Corvette close behind, 1980s



Two photos from the Holz Classic Auto Show, 2012



110+ 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 110 visitors. Thanks go to our volun-

teers, **Mike Fischer, Celine Kashishian, Randy Sannes, and Mary Thomson**, for making everyone feel welcome.

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

90 YEARS AGO (1936)

- The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp at Whitnall Park is nearly empty because 110 workers have left to fight forest fires on Isle Royale, leaving behind 40 at the camp.
- The annual picnic of St. Mary's Catholic Church, held at Karr's Grove on Forest Home Avenue near Woodlawn, runs 25% ahead of last year's receipts (\$4,800). A record-breaking 1,500 chicken dinners are sold.
- Hales Corners firemen save a burning haystack that was used for mulching at Whitnall Park. It had been piled on 92nd Street near College Avenue for about a year. The park's creek furnished a handy water supply.
- Hales Corners Elementary School will have a music teacher this year. She will spend at least two hours weekly teaching and supervising music in the school.
- The annual American Legion Carnival in Hales Corners grosses \$1,500. Dorothy Freitag is named Miss Hales Corners and will represent the Village at the State Fair.
- The 136-acre Niederman estate, just across 92nd Street from the Whitnall Park Golf Course, is purchased for the Greendale resettlement housing project. The government now has 2,141 acres and is short 3,500 for the project.
- A.W. Meier opens a grocery store on Forest Home Avenue. Opening specials are: two loaves of bread for 15 cents, pork roast for 18 cents per pound, pot roast for 14 cents per pound, and hamburger at two pounds for 29 cents.

80 YEARS AGO (1946)

- Firemen work until midnight fighting a fire that started in August Paul's barn on Forest Home Avenue. They do their best to protect lumber, equipment, and other materials stored in the building.
- Laura Hunt, wife of Ben Hunt, entertains the Hawthorn Garden Club at a picnic lunch.
- School census figures for young persons ages 4 to 19 show 348 for Hales Corners, 173 for Jefferson, and 82 for Valley View Schools.
- Plans are made for the principal and teachers to be available at Hales Corners Elementary School on the afternoon of Labor Day to meet parents before the school year begins.

- Five flyers and students form the Skyway Flying Club at the Hales Corners Airport.

70 YEARS AGO (1956)

- The Valley View School Board is authorized to issue bonds up to \$30,000 to purchase more property for future school use.
- A new 50 x 70-foot building at the corner of Highway 100 and W. Cobb Avenue will house the offices of Dr. Clifford R. Wolf and Math Starck & Sons Builders.
- Thomas Welch of Welch's Plumbing, Heating and Hardware, 10526 W. Forest Home Avenue, is appointed the exclusive dealer for Westinghouse air conditioning and heating in southwestern Milwaukee County.
- The site committee of the Hales Corners area high school district is seeking a tract for use as a high school building site.

60 YEARS AGO (1966)

- Burglars net only \$80 in a break-in at the Hales Corners American Legion Memorial Hall.
- A preliminary study committee is appointed by Village President Walter Fehr to look into acquiring a new Village Hall.
- The Hales Corners Village Board adopts an ordinance creating the Auxiliary Police Corps, making possible workman's compensation for volunteers who help the police department without pay.
- Thomas Wanasek of Hales Corners is appointed a page in the U.S. House of Representatives.

50 YEARS AGO (1976)

- The Hales Corners Bicentennial Committee sponsors a fish boil and art fair on the Hales Corners Library grounds.
- Kmart holds a truckload steak sale in the parking lot featuring five-pound boxes of ribeyes for \$8.70, six-pound boxes of T-bones for \$13.14, six-pound boxes of strip steaks for \$12.60, and five-pound boxes of liver steaks for \$3.15. Free samples also were offered.
- The Hales Corners Library seeks books by Ben Hunt for its collection as it only has two titles on its shelves.
- Robert Hall Men's Clothing Store closes with S-L-A-S-H prices, offering men's quality leisure suits for \$9.88 and leisure jackets for \$4.88.

Additional Items Added to Seneca Hale's Summer Kitchen

Seneca Hale built the Summer Kitchen behind his home in the 1850s, which makes the kitchen the oldest structure in Hales Corners. Such a structure was common in earlier centuries, as it provided a place to prepare meals, bake, and heat water for bathing and laundry. Most important, it kept the heat of a wood-burning stove out of the house during summer months and reduced the possibility of a farmhouse fire.

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 of July and more than 100 visitors stopped by. Thanks go to **Mary Javorek** and **Kathy Kilps** for welcoming them.

The Summer Kitchen contains its original stove plus a variety of kitchen and farming tools from the late 1800s and early 1900s. More than 20 items were added to its collection this past year, making a visit to the kitchen even more interesting.

Kitchen Items

- Apple Peeler Corer (Sinclair Scott Co.)*
- Cherry Pitter (Goodell Co.)*
- Coffee Can (Farmers Pride-Hulman & Co.)



- Food Chopper
- Glass Mason Jar
- Graniteware Coffee Pot*
- Kerosene Lamp*
- Meat Cleaver
- Metal Noodle Press*
- Milk Bottle (John Graf Co.)*
- Milk Bottle (Stokes Co.)*
- Milk Bottle (Wilke Dairy Co.)*
- Porcelain Candlestick Holder (Favorite)
- Rotary Cheese Grater (Mouli Co.)*
- Scale (John Chatillon & Sons)*
- Stoneware Crocks
- Tin Candle Mold
- Wood Pestles
- Wood Tongs

Farm Items

- Barrel Hoop
- Blade Shears for Sheep*
- Buck Saw
- Cow Bell*
- Farm Sickle*
- Grain Box
- Hay Rake Scythe
- Hay Scythe
- Hewing Axe
- Horse Bit*

- Horse Shoe*
- Horse Snowshoes
- Ice/Hay Hook*
- Ice Hook Tongs*
- Metal Wash Tub
- Milk Pail (Oatman Sandwich)*
- Wood Barrel
- Wood Block Pulleys with Hooks*
- Wood Hay Fork*
- Wood Wagon Wheel

** HCHS is grateful for these items donated by Kathy Kilps and Caroline Schachtlie.*



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