



# DAN PATCH *Newsletter*

A Publication of the Dan Patch Historical Society

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[www.danpatch.com](http://www.danpatch.com)

## 2009 Dan Patch Days Winner



Les Ulrich, also called "Lucky Les" by our DPHS president, won the intarsia of our Dan Patch Days button. Les is a long time resident of Savage and a supporter of our organization by annually purchasing a button for our fundraiser. Pictured here, Les proudly displays his winnings. Several years ago he won a Savage blanket which was the second place prize in our drawing. Every year, Jim Ryan, local resident artist, makes a replica of our button and donates it to the DPHS for a grand prize drawing from our button sales.

## SETTING THE PACE FOR TOMORROW



Jeremy Willey, new elementary principal at Marion W. Savage Elementary School, liked the history of Dan Patch and M.W. Savage, but wanted to do something in a kid friendly way for a mascot and a new logo. He teamed up with a graphic design company and when school opened this fall, he introduced the students and faculty to "Patch." Patch is a smiling racehorse with a tuft of hair on his head and his hooves hold onto a wreath with the name of the school. Previously the school used the emblem of Mr. Savage's three initials intertwined. The emblem is used twice in the new logo that is in the school colors of blue and white. This design is one of a kind and unique to the school which donated some of the buttons to the society. The Dan Patch Historical Society commends Mr. Willey for his vision of promoting the rich history of our city and namesake.

**Mission Statement:** The Dan Patch Historical Society was formed for the purpose of collection, preservation and dissemination of historical knowledge and artifacts about the horse, Dan Patch, and it's owner, M.W. Savage.

# TELLING OUR HISTORY STORY.....

- The Dan Patch Historical Society partnered with the City of Savage Recreation Department and conducted a narrated historical bus tour of Savage on July 18. Twenty-two people rode around to visit Hidden Valley Park, Savage Depot, Camp Savage, Boiling Springs, Glendale Cemetery, Heritage Room at the public library and viewed where the International Stock Food Farm was and the Lindberg crash landing. The tour started and finished at the Environmental Learning Center with a lunch and conversation.



- Presbyterian Homes of Bloomington, Mn. brought a busload of residents to have lunch at the Savage Depot, be greeted by the mayor of Savage and a history talk on September 10. They proceeded on to visit some horses and to the Heritage Room where they spent a couple of hours asking questions and talking to DPHS members.



- Community Fest at the Prior lake High School in Savage and hosted by the Savage Chamber of Commerce was a place for us to have a booth and meet and greet people who have history questions. An item of interest in our display was a framed collection of our Dan Patch buttons owned by one of our members.



- Tiger Scouts met us October 22 for a History talk at the Heritage Room.
- St. John the Baptist Catholic School fifth graders in Savage were the first to view our new powerpoint on the story of Mr. Savage and Dan Patch on October 26.

## DPHS TRIVIA

In 1908, a Dan Patch horseshoe was sent to the President of the United States and was stolen in the mail, true or false?

True, Somewhere around Chicago, one of the shoes that Dan wore when he broke the 1:55 record at Hamline, was stolen in transit. A new shoe was sent out carefully concealed in a box marked "breakfast food"

## Life and times of Savage, Dan Patch chronicled in newspapers

Jim Ross (Savage, MN resident and board member, Dan Patch Historical Society)

Dateline: The first decade of last century and there about.

Place: America's hearts and heartland.

Sources: The Spirit of the West, The Des Moines News, The Iowa Homestead

Subject: The Methodist millionaires marketing, the great flood of 1916, and sadly, lightning strikes twice.

Recently the Dan Patch Historical Society was excited to receive a collection of newsprint published out of Iowa, from a prominent Wisconsin historian, about a horse born in Indiana, who just happened to make history in his Minnesota home. Diane Kleinsteiber, who also inherited her father's Dan Patch DNA sample of hoof shavings, donated the collection.

The rare documents intrigue immediately as page one has a unique photo of Dan with his mouth wide open, we're told catching his breath after having just finished a race. The headline poses an ethical question: "Can a devout Christian race horses?" The Daily News calls Savage a millionaire Methodist and asks if this mixture of sport gambling and religion is consistent behavior. I doubt the question would be asked today, but we can certainly question if some of these millionaire athletes of today make good role models. For the record Savage was known as "the parson", Dan never raced on Sundays, and both of them were envelope carrying members of Wesley United Methodist Church in Minneapolis.

Savage's marketing abilities are well known and he has purchased many an advertisement in this collection. You could buy a Dan Patch spreader on a four month free trial, with free shipping thrown in. You could buy "young Dan Patch stallions on six months' time, without interest that should earn you from \$2500 to \$5000 every year." You could even get your Dan Patch breeding fee free if you didn't end up with a 2 minute trotter or pacer. Of course you could also buy the 3 Feeds For One Cent, one of the items he became a millionaire Methodist from. Items to be had for free included a beautiful set of 54 pure white LaFrancaise dishes with elegant blue and gold decorations, and "a new picture in 14 colors from a \$500 painting" of Dan, George Gano, and Minor Heir. Also to be had for free were "2 big books" one on the "thrilling life of Dan Patch" and the other describes literally hundreds of "valuable and extra high class household free premiums".

The Spirit of the West, published out of Des Moines, was billed as "The only harness paper published in the great west". Savage sent a letter to the editor for the May 31st, 1916 edition describing an impressive flood of the Minnesota River that swamped his beloved Taj Mahal stock farm. Writing about one of the worst rampages in 30 years, it flooded over 400 acres. Savage was able to motor boat completely around his outdoor mile racetrack. The silt and sludge ruined his pasture and hay fields. As a result of the devastating flood he is forced to sell off many of his horses at public auction. And in true Savage fashion the rest of the letter becomes a free ad as he outlines the details of the sale. He even arraigned special trains for the event to come out from Minneapolis on the Omaha line of the Northwestern Railroad. Perhaps the tracks were south enough to avoid the flood waters. The return train would get you back to Minneapolis in plenty of time to take in the races at the state fair grounds. Savage was looking to unload 50 head of brood mares and colts by Dan Patch, Gano, Arion, and Dazzle Patch. The sale was held at his covered in-door half mile track, perhaps after the flood waters had receded. "You can turn my misfortune into your good luck". And of course the grand champion himself would be on hand to greet his fans.

Minnesota. (cont. on page 4)

(Cont from page 3)

The Spirit, whose subscription price was one dollar a year and was published every Wednesday, dedicated the entire cover of the July 12, 1916 to Dan. The picture was the classic "button" one of Dan's beautiful head in a circle with Dan Patch 1:55 written at the bottom. A footnote declaring in all caps "DIED AT SAVAGE STOCK FARM JULY 11". Informed by a telegram from Savage himself as they were going to press, the Spirit eulogized: "Never, since time began, has there been a horse so well known and universally loved as this great stallion...the greatest racehorse the world has ever seen...his name...familiar throughout the length and breadth of the land." The telegram ends with Savage's account of the king's death. "...peacefully stretched out in his stall...all four legs pacing true and strong."

Lightning struck again the very next day and the very next cover commemorated the death of Savage, also with a full cover photo. Ivanhoe Whitted wrote: "the man with the scythe appears to be in a vindictive mood...the harness racing world has reason to swing the flags at half mast." Whitted notes that Savage was a native of Iowa and while a young man there worked out the formula for his international stock food that made him the millionaire Methodist.

And thus the collection ends as it began, with matters of faith. Ivanhoe posits: "Those of us who lack the attribute of faith in the invisible are prone to rebellious questionings and doubtful quibbling."

Editors note. The DPHS would like to thank Diane Kleinsteiber for her donation to the society and invite you to view this interesting collection at the Heritage Room of the Savage library in Savage, Minnesota.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Dan Patch Historical Society held its annual meeting on Wed, July 22, 2009 at the Savage Public Library. George Augustinack, Joe Cade, Jed Williams and Will Williams were reelected to the Board of Directors for a three year term. The following officers were elected to one year terms: Jens Bohn, president; George Augustinack, vice president; Janet Williams, secretary; Nancy Allen, treasurer.



## Dan Patch Historical Society Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL DUES:**    Student (\$5)    Individual (\$15)    Family (\$25)    Benefactor (\$50)    Corporate (\$250 & more)

*Please mail completed form and check to: Dan Patch Historical Society • P.O. Box 1:55 • Savage, MN 55378*



# New/Renewing Members

Nancy Allen, Roger Applegate (Wilmington, OH), George Augustinack, Jens/Joyce Bohn, Michael Brandt (Edina, MN), Tom/Cheryl Brennan, Joe Cade (Lakeville, MN), Tausha Chamberland, David Christopherson (Farmington, MN), Rob/Lori Fendler, Dan Forsyth (Stratford, NJ), Diane Kleinsteiber (Watertown, WI), Marv/JoAnn Kumpula (Waite Park, MN), Greg Lind, Tom Markus (Birmingham, MI), Jim/Lauri Ross, Savage Chamber of Commerce, Dorothy Sifferath (Shakopee, MN), Barry/Lorna Stock, Robert Williams (Jordan, MN), Will/Janet Williams. (all those without a city listed are from Savage, MN)

# Donations

- A copper Dan Patch token was donated by Brad Weaver of Kirkland, WA. The token was from Zionsville, Indiana. Tokens were given out by Mr. Savage at some races and could be turned in for premiums. The token is displayed in the Heritage Room at the Savage Public Library.
- A plate with a picture of the Dan Patch Barn in Oxford, Indiana was donated by Bob Glaspie of Oxford, Ind.
- Photos, letters and news clippings of Savage history were donated to the DPHS by the family of Eunice (McDonald) Campbell.



# Items for Sale

- 2008 Dan Patch Pewter 2 1/2" diameter Holiday Ornament.....\$20
- Dan Patch Postcard.....\$1
- 2009 Dan Patch Days Button.....\$3
- M.W. Savage Storyboard.....\$75
- Dan Patch Storyboard.....\$75
- International Stock Food Farm Book.....\$25 (non-members).....\$15 (members)
- The Great Dan Patch and the Remarkable Mr. Savage Book....\$24.95
- Dan Patch Electric Railroad Book...\$15 (non-members).....\$12 (members)



\*Items available at The Razor's Edge Barbershop, through the website [www.danpatch.com](http://www.danpatch.com) or call 952-890-1669. Shipping and handling fees apply.

## From the President



Another successful Dan Patch Days is behind us. Our button sales featured two events: the horseshoe hunt won by the Julie Meyers family and the button drawing which was won by Les Ulrich. We had our historical booth on Saturday at Community Park and had two teams of horse and wagons donated by Karl Bohn in the grand parade on Sunday.

Dan Patch Days draws thousands to our city every year for a four day event. It is a nice way to promote our history. We thank the Dan Patch Days Inc. group for all of the work that they put into a great annual community event.

*Jens*

***For more information  
about our organization,  
visit our website  
[www.danpatch.com](http://www.danpatch.com)***

**DAN PATCH  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 1:55  
Savage, MN 55378**

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President Jens Bohn 12385 Ottawa Ave. S. Savage, MN 55378 952-890-5260	George Augustinack Nancy Allen Tom Brennan Joe Cade Tausha Chamberland Rob Fendler Greg Lind Jim Ross Janet Williams Jed Williams Will Williams
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**Check our website:  
[www.DanPatch.com](http://www.DanPatch.com)**

**VISIT:  
Heritage Room/Museum  
Savage Public Library  
13090 Alabama Avenue  
Savage, MN 55378**