



DAN PATCH *Newsletter*

A Publication of the Dan Patch Historical Society

Number 35 • Fall 2011

www.danpatch.com

INSIDE ...

- Donationspg. 2
- Member Apppg. 2
- An article written by Jim Ross.....pg. 3-4
- Dan Patch Days....pg. 5
- New/Renewing Members.....pg. 5
- Items for salepg. 5
- Letter from president Jens Bohn.....pg. 6



Dan Patch Days
2011 Button

**For more information
about our organization,
visit our website
www.danpatch.com**

DONATIONS GIVING AND RECEIVING

Donations played a major role in the last few months of the DPHS. At our board of directors meeting in July, it was decided to donate M.W. Savage storyboards to four schools within our city. This fit our mission of education and provides the opportunity for the students to learn about the namesake of our city, M.W. Savage. At our request, the storyboards were to be placed in the lobby and each school principal was pleased with the donation.



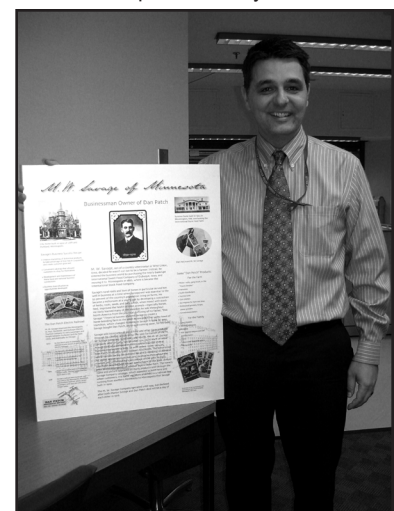
Jens Bohn, president of DPHS and Rob Nelson, principal of Harriet Bishop Elementary School



Jean Klatte, Media Specialist, Eagle Ridge Junior High



Barb Yetzer, principal, Red Tail Ridge Elementary School and four students from Mrs. Hudak's 4th grade class: Hunter Thomas, Lexi Hanft-Anderson, Brooklyn Mann, Alex Nelson.



Jon Bonneville, principal, Hidden Valley Elementary School

(Donations - Giving and Receiving continued on page 2)

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.

DONATIONS

GIVING AND RECEIVING

We received several exceptional donations for our Heritage Room at the Savage Public Library.

- Eloise M. Lewis (Sun City Center, FL) donated a Dan Patch watch fob from the International Sugar Feed Company in Memphis, TN. The fob is smaller than a penny with a nine inch long brass chain. It was donated in memory of her father, William Edgar Metzger, jr.
- Larry Lovstad (Savage, MN) donated a white derby hat with a band saying "Dan Patch Days" from the 1960's, a 1970 button booklet and envelope postmarked July 1, 1971; the first envelope postmarked at the Savage Post Office under the new reorganization.



Watch Fob donated by
Eloise M. Lewis



Phil Lyon with the Dan Patch Coaster
Wagon and poster

- Phil Lyon (Cottage Grove, MN) donated a Dan Patch coaster wagon from the estate of his father Jerome E. Lyon (Fall River, KS) who always "admired Dan Patch." Also donated was a poster of the three horses and a Reader's Digest article.
- Long time Savage resident Mildred Ludowese donated 1972,'73-'76 Dan Patch buttons, Dan Patch program books '57,'63,'66,'67,'70,'71,'72,'75,'76; Dan Patch Inn matchbook, 1982 Heritage Days program and DP whiskey bottle.

We are grateful for all of these gifts as we do not purchase items but rely solely on donations.

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

Last Days and Dispositions
The Deaths of M. W. Savage & Dan Patch
By Jim Ross

Ninety-five years ago, within thirty-two hours of each other, two of Minnesota's prominent residents died. In July of 1916, both world champion standardbred Dan Patch and his millionaire businessman owner Marion Willis Savage succumbed to minor illnesses while on the track to recovery.

In the city that changed its name to honor Savage, at the lavish international Stock Food Farm built for this horse, Dan was enjoying both retirement and the fourth of July holiday. Now at the age of 20 he developed indigestion and a veterinarian was summoned. That same day, the previously healthy 57-year-old Savage also took ill with acute hemorrhoids and was admitted to the Hill Crest Surgical Hospital at 501 West Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis. After a couple of days Dan was reportedly well and out of danger when he suddenly collapsed in his stall, critically ill in cardiac failure. Twenty miles away Mr. Savage lay recuperating from minor surgery when his heart threw a clot to his lungs sending him into cardio-pulmonary collapse.

Foaled in 1896 in Oxford, Indiana, Dan Patch would become the greatest pacer that ever lived. M. W. Savage was born in 1859 near Akron, Ohio and would become a hugely successful manufacturer, horseman and railroad man. In 1902 Savage paid the unheard amount of \$60,000 for the popular horse. Dan would never lose a race and set records across the nation in front of millions of fans enamored with his success and human like traits. His name or image appeared on virtually every product sold from Savage's International Stock farm business that had \$5 million in annual sales. Through this highly successful enterprise, constant marketing, gate receipts from record attendance at state fairs and through race winnings, Savage made millions. Fred Sasse states in his biography that Savage was a constructive force in the commercial life of the city, "and that Savage was a conspicuous figure in the economic life of the ...northwest." He further states that with Savage and Dan, you can't think of one apart from the other, they were linked by bonds so close they were always identified together. The Minneapolis Morning Tribune reported it appeared that Dan knew of Savage's deep affection for him, for whenever Savage entered the long corridor of Dan's lavish quarters, from his first foot falls, Dan knew Savage was coming and a joyful whinny would escape from the champion. They further wrote it was well known that Mr. Savage's love for Dan was as great as man ever bore animal.

After Dan collapsed he lay on his side, veterinarian Charles Cotton, groomsmen Mike Egan and trainer Murray Anderson looked on. Dan then tensed his body, raised his head as if checked up, and laid back his ears as if in the home stretch. To their amazement Dan began to pace furiously, hoofs beating the air. This last imaginary race, at a record breaking pace, went on frenetically for some time, until the powerful legs that brought the partnership fame and fortune finally slowed and stopped. His heart, in failure, swollen to twice its normal size, had beaten its last. At 10 A.M. on Tuesday July 11th, Sasse stated that the gamest and stoutest heart that ever throbbed in a champion beat no more. Dan Patch, the king, was dead.

Savage's family and Dan's keepers understood better than any what the pacer meant to his owner. They worried what effect the devastating news would have on Savage and how he would handle the loss of such a dear friend as he lay recuperating on a Minneapolis surgical ward. Trainer Anderson had previously been given instructions by Savage himself on the arrangements for Dan's death. He was to be mounted and displayed, most likely for merchandizing purposes and for his adoring fans to continue to admire him.

(continued on page 4)

By late afternoon Anderson made the call to the hospital and broke the news to Savage. The St. Paul Pioneer Press reported that the shock and grief he experienced was unbearable. His son Harold reiterated the plans to have Dan stuffed and he was sent to the taxidermist.

The next afternoon, Savage's wife Marietta ended her day at M.W.'s bedside at 5 P.M. She leaves Hill Crest assured by staff that Mr. Savage is on his way to a rapid recovery. She begins her journey back to Valley View, their country estate in Bloomington that overlooked the Stock farm where M.W. could look down on Dan as he trained. As she enters the grounds, panicked staff greet her. Before she can set a foot outside her vehicle she is informed of the need to immediately return to the hospital. She would not make it back in time to see her husband alive.

After the pulmonary embolism settled in his lung, Mr. Savage became acutely short of breath, his chest pain excruciating, he coughed up blood. His heart, straining to provide oxygen, raced frenetically and ineffectively. His blood pressure plummeted and he was in shock. At 6 P.M. on Wednesday July 12th, cold, clammy, wheezing and blue, his heart stopped and beat its last. At the age of 57 and a mere 32 hours after his famed stallion, M. W. Savage is also dead.

Reeling from the sudden death of her spouse and still stunned from the loss of the icon responsible for so much of their fortune, Marietta cancels plans to have the horse mounted and orders Dan's remains returned to the farm from the taxidermist. He lies in a box for three days as the family makes plans for another funeral and perhaps considers a joint service and interment. Of note, the city is in the midst of a record heat wave. Tuesday hits 93 degrees and by Saturday it was 95 with 61% humidity. The Minneapolis Tribune reports "25 prostrations" from the heat. The meek west wind of 8 miles per hour would not have been enough to prevent the stench from wafting up to Valley View across the river.

At the estate on the bluffs, the family determines that Savage's service will be at 2 P.M. Saturday, conducted from their town home in Minneapolis at 2600 Portland Avenue. In addition to Marietta, his sister Mrs. E.H. Foster and his two sons, Erle and Harold, survive Savage. The Rev. James F. Montgomery will officiate; as soon as he arrives from Washington D.C. He is an old family friend and former pastor of the Wesley United Methodist Church where the Savage's were active members and donors. Davies was the funeral home selected and interment would be at Lakewood Cemetery, tucked between lakes Harriet and Calhoun, a site once considered to be out in the country. Six active pallbearers are chosen and 16 honorary ones are named.

Since laws prevented man from being buried with beast, it is decided that Dan will have a separate burial from Savage. The stock farm had a site on the banks of the Credit River that staggered thru the farm. It was used for horses that had died like Roy Wilkes and Online; Dan was to be buried there, in a common grave.

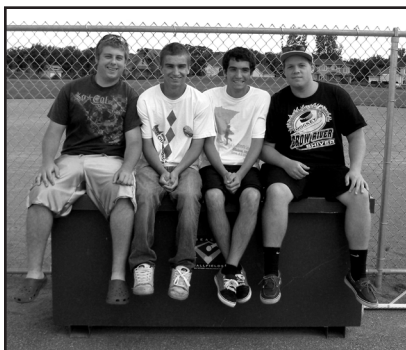
Both services are held at the same hour in the blistering heat. During Savage's last rites the general offices of the Dan Patch Railroad are closed. The ticket windows are draped and the flags fly at half-staff. At exactly 2 P.M. all trains on the road are stopped for 5 minutes. Once at Lakewood, Savage's casket is placed in a vault (Identification number 25724) behind the beautiful new memorial chapel; the architectural centerpiece of the cemetery. Back on the banks of the river, under a mighty oak and without ceremony, a grave is dug and a carcass dropped in. Only Murray Anderson and Mark Egan stand over the grave. They throw the pelt of Dan Patch over his carcass for he had been completely skun at the taxidermist.

This article was researched and written by Jim Ross, lifelong resident of Savage, MN and board member of DPHS.

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Nancy Allen, Savage, MN
 Roger Applegate, Wilmington, OH
 Jens & Joyce Bohn, Savage, MN
 Grove Bradbury, Jr. St. Paul, MN
 Tom Brennan, Savage, MN
 Tausha Chamberland, Savage, MN
 David Christopherson, Farmington, MN
 Mary Lou Dondarski, Jackson, NJ
 Lyle Elverud, Minneapolis, MN
 Rob & Lori Fendler, Savage, MN
 Carl R. Hanson, Savage, MN
 Drema Huston, Anderson, IN
 Greg Lind, Savage, MN
 Rita McKenna, Clinton, CT
 Charles & Helen Moriyama, Mililani, HI
 Richard Nash, New Prague, MN
 Sally Nielson, Apple Valley, MN
 Dan Patch, Waukegan, IL
 John Vessey, Garrison, MN
 Will & Janet Williams, Savage, MN
 John Zugschwert, Middleburg, VA

Dan Patch Days 2011



The team of Joey Ohman, brothers Brian & Shaun LaFrance and Josh Freeman

Four high school students from Savage who met regularly to decipher the clues found the horseshoe for the horseshoe hunt contest and won \$100 plus a ride in the Dan Patch Days parade.



Our vice-president, George Augustinack, board member Tausha Chamberland and her two daughters rode in the parade and distributed candy.

We had a new location for our booth and was well received. Winner of the intarsia from the button sale drawing was Joyce Bruha of Burnsville.

Items for Sale

- 2008 Dan Patch Pewter 2-1/2" diameter Holiday Ornament.....\$20



- Dan Patch Postcard.....\$1
- 2011 Dan Patch Days Button.....\$3
Previous years buttons also available
- 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
DVD also available for \$10
- Dan Patch Electric Railroad Book...\$15 (non-members).....\$12 (members)

*Items available at The Razor's Edge Barbershop, through the website www.danpatch.com or call 952-890-1669. Shipping and handling fees apply.

**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

Vice President George Augustinack

Treasurer Nancy Allen

Secretary Janet Williams

Webmaster Greg Lind

Newsletter Editor Tausha Chamberland

Tom Brennan

Joe Cade

Rob Fendler

Jim Ross

Jed Williams

Will Williams

www.danpatch.com

VISIT: Heritage Room/Museum

Savage Public Library

13090 Alabama Avenue, Savage, MN 55378

Hours of Operation:

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 10am-8pm

Wednesday 1pm-8pm

Friday 10am-4pm

Saturday 10am-5pm

Sunday 1pm-5pm

FROM THE PRESIDENT...



Jens Bohn

In September we had booths at two events that allowed us to meet hundreds of people. We had our annual booth at the Fall Community Fest that is sponsored by the Savage and Prior Lake Chambers of Commerce and the Prior Lake-Savage Community Education. Of interest there was our complete set of Dan Patch Days buttons.

I was invited to have a booth at the Richfield-Bloomington (MN) 24th Annual Old Timers, New Timers, All-Timers Get Together. Because of the connection to Mr. Savage in Bloomington there was much interest in our display of his home.

I am pleased to announce that Nancy Huddleston, former editor of the Savage Pacer, has contracted with Arcadia Press and is in the process of collecting photos of our city to produce a historic photographic book to be published before Dan Patch Days in June, 2012. We are pleased to have an opportunity to include photos of the International Stock Food Farm, Dan Patch and Mr. Savage.

We are also printing and having displayed at the library a map of the city depicting the historical spots of significance along with a brief description of the following: M.W. Savage summer home, Port Cargill, Charles Lindberg crash landing, St. James Lutheran Church, Boiling Springs, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Camp Savage, Dan Patch Electric Line, swing bridge, and the International Stock Food Farm. This map currently is on a kiosk at the Savage Depot in the downtown but because of the high volume of traffic at the library we thought that it would be beneficial to have it there too as we get many questions about the location of various historic places. The Scott County Historical Society in Shakopee, MN currently has two displays relating to our city. One is a historic display of city celebrations with information on Dan Patch Days and the other is of World War II with a display of Camp Savage and Cargill shipbuilding. We contributed parts of our collection to all of the displays.

Some members attended the showing of the documentary "A World Where We All Belong – the Story of Wesley United Methodist Church" (MPLS, MN). Mr. Savage and Dan were members of the church and are mentioned and depicted in photos. A copy of the documentary is in our collection in the Heritage Room and available to check out. Stay in touch as we always appreciate your comments.

Jens