

Dan Patch & M.W. Savage



# Dan Patch Newsletter

A PUBLICATION OF THE DAN PATCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NUMBER 55 / FALL 2021

## MISSION

*Dan Patch Historical Society collects, preserves and disseminates historical knowledge*

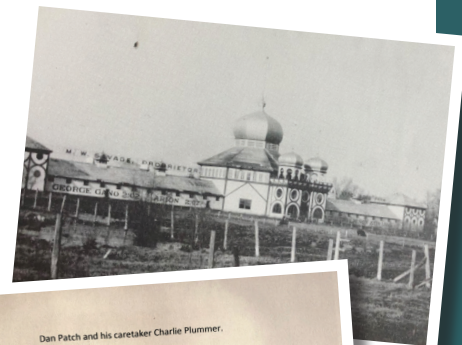
## IN THIS EDITION

*Remember When: Savage's Notorious Past*

*International Stock Food Farm*

*A Tribute to George*

*Did You Know?*



*Replica set up at front entrance to Savage Public Library.*

## International Stock Food Farm

*The Story of the International Food Farm, By Lisa Jemtrud*

*[Excerpts taken from Images of America, Savage by Nancy Huddleston and the International Stock Food Farm compilation].*

The International Stock Food Farm was owned by M.W. Savage. Savage stated that it was the fulfillment of a dream cherished by M.W. Savage when he was attending an Iowa school at the age of fifteen. He had aspired to raise high-class harness horses. The investment was large and the general expenses were many to build a stock food farm of this type. The International Stock Food Farm was often referred to as the "Taj Mahal" because of its opulence and size.

The barn was patterned after the Taj Mahal in India – with cupulas atop the roof, flags and large rotunda which is generally assumed to have been used to exercise the horses. Per Nancy Huddleston, the rotunda was octagonal, 100 feet long with a 90 foot diameter. It was topped with an oriental-inspired (green) dome, which people described as an onion or an upside down turnip. But it had an important purpose – the dome contained a huge water tank for the horses and for the other water needs on the farm. The floor of the rotunda was tanbark and there was a large display case that included International Stock Food Company products. Each of the five wings of the barn was 160 feet long and contained stalls for 130 horses. At the end of one of the wings was Dan Patch's stall which measured 20 feet by 20 feet. It had window shades and monogrammed woolen blankets. The barn had a hot water heating system, ventilation and electric lights.

The main stable had living quarters for 60 employees. The farm employed people from all the surrounding areas including stable crews, blacksmiths, grooms, trainers, drivers and stable hands.

The barn cost \$60,000 to build and could easily be seen from the railroad, the Minnesota River and the bluffs on the other side of the river. Today, the barn and outbuildings are no longer standing, having been lost to a fire in 1922, but the outline of the track that surrounded it (a mile long track that cost \$18,000 to build) can still be seen from the air.

## THE REPLICA

The replica all started with a dollhouse according to "Replica of the Past" – an article in the Sept., 20, 1982 THIS WEEK Newspaper. Phillip Beckwirth of Apple Valley created the replica. It was a 2 year project that took more than 1300 hours to complete. Beckwirth, a Claims Manager for Continental Western Insurance Company, had built kid toys, doll houses and furniture. Then Joe Egan, a long time local got him excited about Dan Patch.

Each piece is hand made (nothing pre-purchased). He noted that he spent a lot of time figuring out how to do this project joking that there are a lot more toothpicks in the world because of his mistakes! This amazing replica barn assembles in 15 pieces and measures just over 8 feet.

It is a one-of-a-kind piece. Somewhere along the line George Augustinak came into possession of this outstanding replica. DPHS thanks the Augustinak family for this special donation. Come check it out at the library!

# A Tribute to George

## CHAMPION OF SAVAGE HISTORY, GEORGE AUGUSTINACK

George Augustinack graduated from Cathedral High School in St. Cloud, MN in 1959 and started working in Minneapolis. He worked hard to start his own printing business which opened in 1962 in Savage, MN. During this time, Savage was a small town and George got to know the locals who had been there a long time. He learned about the history of Dan Patch and M.W. Savage. Over the years as these gentlemen passed on, George acquired their collections and their stories.

Along his journey, he became a landowner and real estate developer. He divided his time between running a print shop and taking care of his 3 buildings: Burnsville West, Northview 42 and Plaza West. When he wasn't running a printing press, fixing something at one of the buildings, taking care of tenant needs or showing space, he was spending time talking about M.W. Savage and how he admired him. He cared about keeping the history alive and telling those stories that were once told to him. He was on the City of Savage Planning Commission for 24 years. He was a founding member of the Dan Patch Historical Society, was vice president until his death in 2018 and was one of the originators behind creating a festival again like the Dan Patch Days the city used to have. It started out as Heritage Days and became the Dan Patch Days we know today.



Over the years, George became one of those locals he got to know so many years ago. He collected as many items as he could find relating to Dan Patch and Mr. Savage. He spent a lot of time reading anything that talked about them. He dined at the same local restaurants every day, getting to know the owners, the wait staff and anyone who came in that wanted to talk and hear about the town of Savage and its history. One of my favorite things to do was to go out to eat with my dad and listen to him talk about Mr. Savage. He felt Mr. Savage was "ahead of his time", he used to say.

George was also an avid hunter. During the year, he spent a lot of time taking care of his hunting property and getting things ready for hunting in the fall.

George was always giving a kind hand to someone by helping them anyway he could. Whether it was fixing something for someone, paying them to do odd jobs for him or giving them a basket of tomatoes that he had traded something for, he was always there for you. He is forever missed by those who knew and cared about him. As his only child, I feel it is my job now not only to keep Savage history alive but his history as well.

Tausha Chamberland  
Lifelong resident of Savage, MN  
Board Member of the Dan Patch Historical Society

## MORE MEMORIES OF GEORGE AUGUSTINACK *by Janet and Will Williams*

George Augustinack came to Savage in the early 1960's, set up his AllType Printing business and became immersed in the city. He loved meeting people, hanging out at the local restaurants, and all one had to say was "George" and everyone knew who you were talking about. Active around town, George served from April 1976 thru January 2000 on the Savage Planning Commission. He was also involved in the Savage Chamber of Commerce and, most notably, the Dan Patch Historical Society. He was fascinated by the history of the city and especially Marion Willis Savage, our city namesake, along with his famous horse, Dan Patch. The first meeting of the DPHS was held on March 24, 1992 when he along with Del Stelling, Mark McNeill, Joe Cade, Hugh Cardenas, Bill Olson and Janet Williams set out to tell the story.

George and Will Williams, a current board member, became the "voices of the DPHS" by speaking at local organizations – the Savage Chamber, Savage Rotary, historical societies, senior groups, Masonic Home, WWII Roundtable AND schools in Savage. George loved to bring his life size replica of Dan to the schools and the children would love it when Will would "listen" to Dan whisper to him and then tell George what the horse said! George in his enthusiastic storytelling way would teach the students history in a way that they had not experienced before. His family has donated the life size replica of the Dan Patch that was used in those parades and presentations. Other donations include items the Dan Patch Historical Society continues to inventory.

WE WILL MISS YOU GEORGE, from all of us at the DPHS.

# Remember When: Savage's Notorious Past

## GAMBLING, GAMING & GUZZLING

One might first think of Las Vegas when these activities are mentioned, but Vegas was just a train stop from L. A. to Salt Lake City when it was established in 1905. Reno on the other hand, was founded in 1864 after the prospectors of the early 1800's began mining for gold and silver in northwest Nevada. After a long day's work men wanted an evening of whiskey and a chance to get rich even quicker. Reno became such a hot spot for casino gambling that President Lincoln himself appointed the Governor to control the crime and promote a ban on gambling. But Abe soon had bigger battles to fight and the vices firmly took hold.

As the nation spread out and settled in, so too did gambling and drinking. The city of Savage was not to be left out; it would eventually come to be known as Little Reno. In 1902 M. W. Savage, the cities namesake, purchased Dan Patch, a world record holder and renown standardbred pacer. Savage proceeded to build a massive farm on the banks of the Minnesota River called the Taj Mahal with stables and his own indoor and outdoor track. These parts quickly became the epicenter of a racing industry, and wagering came along with it. M. W. was nicknamed The Parson since he would not let Dan race on Sundays. The horse was, after all, an envelope carrying member of the Methodist Church. Try as he might, Savage could not prevent the wagering that went on at the track. Once at a race in Toronto, the Board of Control had to threaten to pull the license of the track if they did not cease and desist with the wagering and drinking. The allure of both could not outweigh prevention or prohibition, which started in 1920 and was repealed in 1933.

Both M. W. and Dan died in 1916; the farm was sold in '19 and promptly fell into disrepair. The stables burned down in 1922. In 1928 a Minneapolis syndicate headed by O. A. Gray leased the farm and built a grandstand to seat 3500. For \$4000 the quarter mile track was equipped with an electronic rabbit and converted to dog racing. Up to 300 greyhounds were housed on site. Locals were hired to exercise the dogs and earned \$5 a day. People from all over the Twin Cities came to bet on the races. The last heat each day on the racing card was called "The Monkey Race", as monkeys were hitched to the backs of the dogs like jockeys as they raced around the track. With anti-gambling laws gaining in popularity, the track was shut down. It opened again in 1930, was closed again and re-opened in '35, it was finally destroyed in 1938. This location is off of Hwy 13 and now part of Cargill property and the racetrack oval can still be seen from the air.

During this same era members of the Egan family opened up their Picnic Grounds. They created 2 ski runs on the east side, called Eskimo Hill because it was shaped like an igloo. The runs emptied into a lodge with a massive



*Pictured: Virginia Coakley Emerson and Irene Kaufenberg in 1940 behind the bar in the Kaufenberg Building at the corner of what now is 23rd Street & Ottawa. Note the Whirlwind slot machines at the end of the bar.*

fireplace. The west side was bordered by the Credit River. With winter fun and summer picnics including fishing, horseback riding and swimming in the creek, this was a popular spot year-round. Thanks go to the proprietors for providing adult beverages and you guessed it, illegal slots in the back room. Local yore has it that when the booze was running low, the coins from the slots would be raided to buy more. This area is now Hidden Valley park, the original fireplace still stands.

Jennings, Watling, and Caille all manufactured slot machines in those days. Kaufenberg's Tavern had a Whirlwind in their back room, manufactured by Pierce Tool who made 37 different machines. When asked about it the sly reply was "we only sell ice cream here". The dope was Kaufenberg served his beer a little warmer as it created more foam which meant less actual beer and more profits. Built in 1912, the building still stands at the corner of 123rd St. and Ottawa.

The most notorious establishment in Savage was the Budweiser Club, catty corner from Kaufenberg's (Savage's few city streets once held 7 bars yet only one church). The Budweiser was a popular destination, walls were lined with slot machines and roulette tables and you could also bet on the greyhounds running across the road. The liquor was flowing as well as free lunches. Pretty girls offering change, chips and cigarettes. Cab Calloway was on the radio, followed by Bing, Louie or Glen. Everyone was hustling for a shot at easy money.

# Remember When: Savage's Notorious Past (continued)

So popular was the Budweiser Club in Little Reno that perhaps some of the notorious gangsters like Dillinger, Ma Barkers Gang or Machine Gun Kelly left their protected speakeasies in St. Paul to attend the Club. They would leave hangouts like The Hollyhocks Club on Mississippi Boulevard, the Castle Royal at the Wabasha Street Caves, even The Green Lantern in Downtown. Maybe with a moll or a flapper in tow, they made their way south of the river in their Studebaker's or Chrysler Airflows for their cut of some easy money.

More lore has it that when law enforcement from Shakopee would leave to come check out the club, a call would be made to Savage tipping them off of the impending raid. Slot machines would be hidden in baby buggies and coaster wagons and roulette tables were stored in car trunks and under beds. One report has the devices heading back to St. Paul, which lends credence to a gangster element. When the authorities arrived, they found all was in order. Before the deputies even got back to headquarters the nefarious activities had begun again.

There still may be a basement or two that hides a slot machine, or has a cache of poker chips.

On May 30, 1936, an armed robbery occurred at the Budweiser Club. Three men smashed glasses, ransacked

the cash register and hi-jacked a couple of slot machines. The Minneapolis police were notified by town marshal George Allen Sr., who also ran a garage. He said he was "too busy repairing a car" to do anything about it. He did however give them the license number of the getaway vehicle and they were subsequently arrested by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension in Iowa. The building eventually became apartments and has since been torn down. The empty lot is on Ottawa between 123 rd. & 124th street.

Gambling now is still just as popular as evidenced by the success of Canterbury Park's horse racing and poker operation, Mystic Lake's Casino, and Running Aces Casino and Racetrack, which races pacers pulling sulkies and harkens back to the glory days of Dan Patch.

Maybe, just maybe, if you listen close, on a hot summers' night, as the fog from the river creeps across Mr. Savage's farmland and into downtown Savage, you will hear Dan's hoofbeats, the clanging of nickels paying out, & feel the full throat burn of the whiskey.

-Jim Ross, Dan Patch Historical Society

*\*Many obscure references were used for this article and can be found at the Heritage Room of the Savage Public Library*

## Board Report

On July 15, 2021, the Dan Patch Historical Society held it's Annual Meeting. The primary course of business included the election of Board Directors to fill vacant and/or expired terms. At the meeting Ed Egan was elected to fill a three year Board Director position. Ed Egan is the oldest son of Joe and Jean Egan, longtime Dan Patch collectors and descendant of Egan homesteaders. Will Williams and Lisa Jemtrud were re-elected to also fill three year terms. We accepted the resignation of Jed Williams, a board member since 2006. Many of you will remember that he portrayed Marion Savage in parades and at all events. His most notable portrayal was in the video of "Why Savage is named Savage". Thank you Jed for your years of service!

Immediately following the annual meeting, the Board of Directors conducted a regular meeting in which officers were elected. In a hotly contested battle – all of the officers seated were re-elected including Tom Brennan - President, Jim Ross - Vice President, Vern Bloomquist - Treasurer, and Barry Stock - Secretary.

### 2021 DPHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS (pictured right)

Janet Williams, Lisa Jemtrud, Jim Ross, Greg Lind, Ed Egan, Barry Stock, Vern Bloomquist, Will Williams, Tom Brennan

*Not Pictured:* Jon Allen, Tausha Chamberland



## MEMBER RENEWAL FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL DUES:  Student (\$10)  Individual (\$20)  Family (\$30)  Benefactor (\$55)  Corporate (\$250+)

Please mail completed form and check to: Dan Patch Historical Society; P.O. Box 1:55, Savage MN 55378  
Annual renewal date is listed in on the address label of your newsletter. Thank you for your support.

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### DAN PATCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW & RETURNING MEMBERSHIP

Jon Allen, Prior Lake, MN  
Vern/Cathy Bloomquist, Farmington, MN  
Tom/ Cheryl Brennan, Savage, MN  
Dave Christopherson, Farmington, MN  
Joe Cade, Prior Lake, MN  
Kathleen, Dempsey, Pompono Beach, FL  
Drema Huston, Anderson, IL

Lisa Jemtrud, Savage, MN  
Greg Lind, Savage, MN  
Tom/Deb Markus, Milwaukee, WI  
Charles/Helen Moriyama, Mililani, HI  
Jim Ross, Savage, MN  
Paul/Carol Williams, Atlanta, GA  
Will/Janet Williams, Savage, MN

## Did You Know?

by Jim Ross

Did you know that every year since 1966 4-H has given out a Dan Patch and Youth Leadership Award?

The award recognizes exceptional leaders within the Minnesota 4-H Horse Project. There are two categories based on age; the Youth category is grades 6th through 9, and the Dan Patch Award is grades 10th through the first year of college.

Under sponsorship of the University of Minnesota Extension Program both groups apply and submit a resume and a portfolio-this is phase one. The Dan Patch Award applicants have a phase two where they are scored on three additional areas; an interview, a presentation, and must take part in a team problem solving activity such as working through a barn management or racing issue. Applicants must show knowledge of horses and also their participation in horse related activities. Their leadership roles both within and outside 4-H in clinics, projects or camps are outlined. This service component demonstrates how they have applied knowledge and leadership skills such as teaching clinics or mentoring. Applicants must submit a 2-page presentation with a cover letter by April of each year.

All applicants need to have at least two years of involvement and have participated in one other 4-H activity such as The Hippology (study of horses) Contest, were 4-Hers compete on their knowledge of equine science and husbandry. This year of the pandemic presented additional challenges such as learning Zoom meetings and on-line participation. The top 10, as scored by judges, receive a trip to the Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show, held in September at the state fairgrounds coliseum. The Dan Patch Award winner receives a \$500 college scholarship.

The 2021 winner was Kassidy Kalka of Washington County. A plaque hangs in the coliseum commemorating the victory all year long. First runner up was Paige Newcomb, also of Washington County, and second runner up was Caleb Johnson of Chippewa County.

Winners can apply for the national American Youth Horse Council Award, and in fact since 2012 there have been 5 national Minnesota winners of the award, earning an additional scholarship. CONGRATULATIONS!



## **VISIT US**

**Heritage Room / Museum  
SAVAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

13090 Alabama Avenue  
Savage, MN 55378

## **HOURS**

Monday 10am-6pm  
Tuesday 12pm-8pm  
Wednesday 10am-6pm  
Thursday 12pm-8pm  
Friday 10am-4pm  
Saturday 10am-2pm

## **CONTACT US**

[questions@danpatch.com](mailto:questions@danpatch.com)

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

**Library Phone:** 952.707.1770

## **NEED A SPEAKER?**

Let us know! We specialize in Dan Patch, M.W. Savage, and Savage, MN area history.

In person or virtual options available.

We speak for free, but a donation to the Dan Patch Historical Society is welcomed and gratefully appreciated.

## **DAN PATCH ITEMS FOR SALE AT CITY HALL**

Mon-Fri 8a-4:30p

Books, Postcards, Ornaments and Buttons!

## **DAN PATCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

PO Box 1:55  
Savage, MN 55378

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*Tom Brennan, President*

*Jim Ross, Vice President*

*Barry Stock, Secretary*

*Vern Bloomquist, Treasurer*

*Greg Lind, Webmaster*

*Lisa Jemtrud, Newsletter Editor*

*Jon Allen*

*Ed Egan*

*Tausha Chamberland*

*Janet Williams*

*Will Williams*