



DAN PATCH *Newsletter*

A Publication of the Dan Patch Historical Society

Number 30 • Spring 2009

www.danpatch.com



Dan Patch Days June 25 - 28, 2009

The first sign of Dan Patch Days in Savage, MN occurred a few weeks ago when the button went on sale. This year's button has a bright blue background with a picture of Dan Patch surrounded by a horseshoe with the word "king" written above. Buttons sell for \$3 each with the purchasers being eligible for a grand prize of the button in intarsia (an art form of natural inlaid wood created and donated by local artist, Jim Ryan.) Second prize is a historic blanket of Savage and third prize is a 2008 collector pewter ornament.

The society sponsors several events in conjunction with the celebration. "Find the Horseshoe" hunt starts with historic clues written by the cluemaster, our very own member and appearing weekly starting with May 30 on our website and in Savage Pacer. Finder of the horseshoe receives \$100 cash. We have a booth at Community Park from 2 – 8 PM displaying items relating to Dan Patch, M.W. Savage and the history of the city. On the main stage we have a quiz show where we select members of the audience to answer questions about our history. Prizes are the book, *The Great Dan Patch* and the Remarkable Mr. Savage, an ornament and membership in the Dan Patch Historical Society.

Check the Dan Patch Days, Inc website (www.danpatchdays.org) for up to the minute details.

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.



M.W. Savage with Wife Marietta Savage
played by Jed and Jenny Williams

SAVAGE WINTERFEST 2008

The second annual Winterfest was held in downtown Savage on Dec. 4, 2008 from 5 until 8 PM. The society had a booth where we sold our commemorative pewter ornaments and Mr. and Mrs. Savage (Jed and Jenny Williams) strolled the street to view the many activities, Music was provided by the schools, horse drawn carriages provided rides, Santa rode in on old fire truck , smores were made on an open fire pit, the mayor read a proclamation and lit the community tree....and much, much more. What a grand time on a cold night in Savage, MN.

Savage Historical Tour

The Savage Park and Recreation Department is partnering with the Dan Patch Historical Society for a narrated historical tour of Savage on July 18, 2009. Hop the bus for a visit to Boiling Springs, Camp Savage, The Savage Fen, the Depot, the Heritage Room at the library and much more. The bus departs from the Environmental Learning Center in Community Park at 10 AM and will return there for a lunch and questions with the historical society members until 1PM. Registration is online at <http://webtrac.cityofsavage.com> or by calling 952-224-3420. Deadline is July 10, 2009, \$15 per person. Hope you can join us.



“Minnesota’s Greatest Athlete”

This is a school article that was written in February 2009 by Veronica Faye, a fifth grader from Eagan, MN titled “Minnesota’s Greatest Athlete”

Dan Patch, who was known as “the greatest harness horse in the history of the two-wheel sulky”, was born April 29, 1896 in Indiana. The sixteen-hand tall mahogany bay standard-bred stallion first gained fame in New York as a pacer with his second owner. Later Dan Patch moved to Minnesota when M.W. Savage purchased him for the extravagant price of \$60,000 in 1902. Dan Patch under the ownership of M.W. Savage became famous both on and off the track and their names are recognized still today.

On September 8, 1906, before an enthusiastic crowd of over 90,000 people. Dan Patch raced at the state fair grounds setting his record time of 1:55 for the mile. A horse racing at the incredible speed of 1:55 per mile is covering 45.81 feet of track every second. According to Tim Brady in his book *The Great Dan Patch and the Remarkable Mr. Savage*, “Dan Patch 1:55 has paced more miles in two minutes or better than the combined miles of all trotters and pacers that ever lived.” The record of Dan Patch stands today as the only champion pacing stallion never beaten in a race.

Jens Bohn, President of the Dan Patch Historical Society likes to ask, “Who was the world’s most famous athlete that has endorsed more product than Michael Jordan?” The answer of course is none other than Dan Patch. Mr. Savage was offered to sell Dan Patch for \$180,000 but refused to sell his favorite stallion. That decision proved to be very fortunate for him. In 1903 Ty Cobb, the highest paid baseball player, earned \$12,000 while the same year Dan Patch earned \$1 million.

Marion Willis Savage had a passion for horses. He built the Taj Mahal, a horse- breeding farm, on 750 acres of farmland south of the Minnesota River. The area where the farm once stood was later named Savage in the honor of M.W. Savage. The interesting stable had a octagon center, 90 feet in diameter and each of the five wings was 157 feet long. It had a total of 130 heated box stalls, a one-mile outdoor track, and an enclosed half-mile track with 8400 windows. M.W. Savage used Dan Patch to promote International Stock Farm Company and other products and made Dan Patch a household name.

Dan Patch died July 11, 1916 at twenty years old. His owner was recovering in the hospital with an illness and died just 32 hours after receiving the news that his favorite stallion had died. The legacy of Dan Patch continues to live on as the city of Savage, Minnesota celebrates their heritage each year during the third week of June. The Minnesota 4-H Horse Project also annually recognizes one person for their highest overall achievement, leadership and service with The Dan Patch Award. This amazing harness racing horse that achieved legendary success both on and off the track has left his mark in Minnesota history and in the hearts of many horse lovers.

Dan Patch on Display at Harriet Bishop's Science and Learning Fair



Greta Schwarz, a kindergartener from Harriet Bishop Elementary School in Savage, MN did her project on Dan Patch at their Science and Learning Fair on February 17, 2009.

Dan Patch Historical Society

ANNUAL MEETING
July 22, 2009 at 7PM
at the Savage Library

For more information about our organization, visit our website

www.danpatch.com

DPHS Trivia

What color was the Taj Mahal?

answer: white and green

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

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBER...

John Lause, Brooklyn Park, MN



2009 Dan Patch Days Button

...AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Roger Applegate, Wilmington, OH
Dan Bowers, Eagan, OH
Grover Bradbury, Jr., St. Paul, MN
Michael Brandt, Edina, MN
Bonnie Conrad, Phoenix, AZ
Vivian Egan, Winter Park, FL
Drema Huston, Anderson, IN
Greg Lind, Savage, MN
Tom/Debra Markus, Birmingham, MI
Lucille McDermott Maun, Stillwater, MN
Virginia, Odette, Elko, MN
Jonathan Wall, Lompoc, CA
Jed/Jenny Williams, Savage, MN
John Zugschwert, Middleburg, VA

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 or call 952-890-1669. Shipping and handling fees apply.

From the President



Featured in this newsletter are two articles about students who did an article or a project for their school about Dan Patch. Because kids loves horses there continues to be interest in the story of Dan. We are working on a powerpoint presentation for our school talks.

A few months ago we got a call from someone who wanted to purchase for a gift some Dan Patch Days buttons from years ago to the present

day. We do have an inventory and sell them for \$3 each so if you have an interest contact us. All other items that we currently sell are listed in the newsletter.

We rely on our dues to fund our activities so remember to renew your annual membership. The oldest member was born in Savage and lives in Stillwater – Lucille McDermott-Maun. Your membership expiration date is the date listed on your mailing label.

See you at Dan Patch Days!

Jens

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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Check our website:
www.DanPatch.com**

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