



# DAN PATCH *Newsletter*

**A Publication of the Dan Patch Historical Society**

Number 34 • Spring 2011

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

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Dan Patch Days  
2011 Button

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

## NEWS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In recent months we had the passing of our oldest member, Lucille Maun, and our charter member Del Stelling. Del is featured in an article in this newsletter and we thank his family for donating many of his photos and papers to our collection. Lucille was 101 and was born in the room over my barbershop. In 2003 she wrote her memoirs and said "when I was a child growing up in Savage, MN, there was a nationally famous pacer named Dan Patch that was breaking all horse racing records. My father, John McDermott, worked in the barn where Dan Patch and many other horses were housed." She goes on to share her fond memories of being at the race track, seeing Dan Patch and riding around the track with her father. She claims that at one time there was a newly foaled trotter named Lucille Gaynor in her honor. So all of her life she enjoyed talking about Dan Patch and these memories. Some of our members met and visited with her.



DPHS President  
Jens Bohn

Now that we have been listing our new/renewing members, we have received some interesting phone calls and also have been receiving more gift memberships. What an interesting idea for the person interested in horses and history when you are looking for the perfect gift. Remember our other items that are for sale too.



Left to Right: Will Williams, Jeff Kohnhofer  
George Augustinack and President  
Lakeville Rotary Club Dave Oswald

Our members continue our history talks and in the past few months have been at the Lakeville Historical Society meeting and the Lakeville Rotary Club. Mr. Savage built his railroad to Lakeville, owned Antler's Park Amusement Park and Lake Marion was named after him so there is a history connection to that city. 103 second graders at the Harriet Bishop Elementary School were in awe of the life size replica of Dan Patch as they heard the story about him and Mr. Savage.



Will Williams speaking to the second graders at  
Harriet Bishop Elementary

We are active and each of our board members has a specific task to do that makes us so successful. See you at Dan Patch Days!

*Jens*

**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.

# DPHS CONTINUES TO SHARE HISTORY

The Dan Patch Historical Society continues to share their historical knowledge of Dan Patch and Mr. Savage around our community. On February 15, 2011, Will Williams and George Augustinack spoke to 103 second graders at Harriet Bishop Elementary about Dan Patch and Mr. Savage.



Will Williams and George Augustinack spoke to second graders at Harriet Bishop Elementary

In November 2010, Will Williams and George Augustinack completed a history presentation in front of about 15 people at the Lakeville Historical Society. An article was contributed by the Lakeville Area Historical Society about Savage and Dan Patch to the local Thisweek Newspaper following this presentation. It was titled, *“Savage isn’t the only south metro city connected to Dan Patch”*.

To read this article, go to [www.thisweeklive.com](http://www.thisweeklive.com), click on opinion, guest columnists. Click next page a few times for older articles. You will find this article under *“Dan Patch has Lakeville Connection”*. You can also search their site for Dan Patch and click on older entries. The article was published in the Thursday December 2, 2010 issue.



From left to right: Lakeville Area Historical Society: Wally Potter and DPHS Will Williams and George Augustinack

## 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**

## In Memoriam

### Requiem for an Ink Stained Wretch

**Del Stelling**  
1917 – 2011

*Greetings: This is the first issue of **The Savage Review**, a monthly news publication... The purpose of this publication is to provide greater news coverage of the more important events of the community and...it is our goal to make the Review an interesting, lively and informative news magazine. Del Stelling, Editor*

With this disclaimer so begins the culmination of Mr. Stelling's dream, his passion for news, and his love for a city and its people.

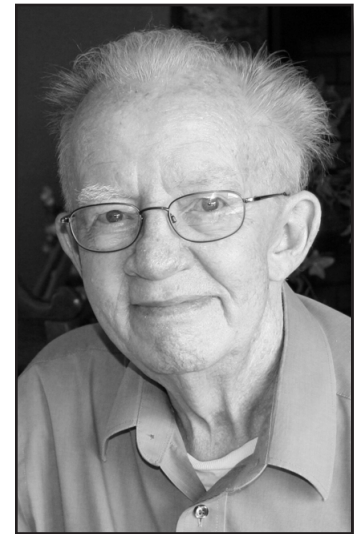
With Vol. 1 No. 1, in September of 1984, Del wasted little time in sharing his love of the history of Savage. Page two of this first issue explains how Credit River came to be named. It involves a priest, a dying husband and his distraught soon to be widow, and the raging torrent of a flooded river. As always, it was written in Del's easy to read homespun style. It contained 12 paragraphs and 2 columns, including an illustration at the top. It had to be short and sweet, as he moved on to the council approving funds to remodel the **Dan Patch Liquor** store, then announcements of the appointment of the new police chief and election judges, and included a half page ad for the **Evergreen Family Restaurant**. This first of 113 issues concludes with news about Savage residents: Jens Bohn starts a limousine service and Grace Morlock becomes a great great grand mother.

At the spry age of 93, Del passed away on January 7. He was born June 18, 1917. Del attended the Minnesota School of Business, eventually making his way to the **Bloomington Sun Newspapers**. He was a founding member of the **Dan Patch Historical Society** and was the first president.

For each issue of the Review, Del wrote most of the stories. He also did the editing, publishing and dealt with all the advertising. In this complete collection available in the **Heritage Room** of the Savage Public Library; Del documents the memorable and mundane of Savage life with accuracy and tenderness that marked his career in journalism. He filled a need at a time where there were no other means to discern our stories and share our joys, sorrows, triumphs and tragedies.

In the June '85 edition, on the occasion of Canterbury Downs opening, Del wrote an article on the original race track to occupy the Minnesota River valley, M.W. Savage's "breeding farms". In this edition he describes in great detail the Taj Mahal, the mile track, and the indoor half-mile track. A couple of pages later you can read about the rare turtle found in Joe Egan's garden. A few issues later, we learn that then Mayor Rod Hopp has decided not to run for another term (he changes his mind in the next edition). We also read about the death of Charlie Oster, the Savage Depot's last railroad agent.

Del is remembered as an excellent newspaperman, a gifted historian, and a gentleman. He had a love of reading, photography and jellybeans. Ever the editor, he taught his grandkids how to use a pencil eraser even before they began their schooling. Del was a quiet man of integrity and intelligence.



**Del Stelling**  
Photo taken by Nancy Huddleston  
Courtesy of the Savage Pacer

(continued on page 4)

(In Memoriam, continued from Page 3)

In Vol.10 No.5 Del announced the termination of publication due to the city council not renewing the subsidy for the Review. With class and professionalism Del stated he was grateful for the opportunity to serve the community. This issue also contained a letter from then Mayor Don Egan explaining how times have changed and budgets are tight. He thanked Del for his labor of love and looked forward to a new era of news reporting. Also in this issue Del informed us that the Dan Patch Historical Society had just published a new catalog and that membership renewal was due. After including reports on the fire department monthly activity, the new student council representatives from the M.W. Savage School, and the area church directory, the Savage Review was put to bed.

The **Review** chronicled every aspect of the life and times of Savage. Del and his Review documented who we were and presents the timeline of how we got to where we're at.

Del himself was put to bed January 14, 2011 in memorial services at the Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Burnsville, Minnesota. Del is survived by four children, three stepchildren, eight grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, and three step grandchildren.

We owe Mr. Stelling, a Savage original, a debt of gratitude for the body of work he left behind. He allowed all of us to share in the collective lives of this thriving little village.

Jim Ross  
DPHS Board Member

*A Volunteer at the library indexed all of the Savage Reviews so it is possible to easily find specific topics/articles.*

## Donations

**Breeder's Gazette, dated March 2, 1910, p.535 advertising "Motion Pictures of Dan Patch"** donated by Susan Moore, Prescott, WI

**Dan Patch postcard, 1906** donated by Virginia Hendrickson, Burnsville, MN

**Photos, news clippings of history of Savage** donated by the family of Del Stelling, Burnsville, MN

**St. Paul Rural Weekly (newspaper) March 24, 1909** with an ad for a new picture of Dan Patch mailed free by M.W. Savage, owner of the International Stock Food Farm. The newspaper was used as insulation in a old house and found under the floor boards. Donated by Terry Britton, Prescott, WI

**Flour or sugar sack (in excellent condition) with several pictures of Dan Patch, a placemat from the Savage Civic Dinner dated May 6, 1967 and a page with a photo of the International Stock Food Farm on one side with the photo of Harold Savage with several children on a cutter pulled by Dan Patch and the October 7, 1905 loving cup from Lexington, KY on the other side.** Donated by the family of Lucille Maun, Stillwater, MN



## NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

G. Wesley Bowersock, MD,  
Bacyrus, OH

Charles Couch, Kingsdown, PA

Vivian Egan, Winter Park, FL

Bob/Thelma Glaspie, Oxford IN

Carrie Johnson, Perham, MN

Tom/Debra Markus, Iowa City, IA

Wayne Mattox, Wanatah, IN

Virginia Odette, Elko New Market,  
MN

Alan Prince, Deerfield Beach, FL

Joel/Kari Settergren, Savage, MN

Phil/Betty Settergren,  
Burnsville, MN

Michael Simpson/Sharon Allen,  
Savage, MN

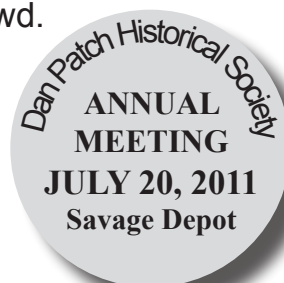
# WINTERFEST 2010

The Savage Chamber of Commerce Winterfest 2010 had their first annual parade. It took place downtown Savage on December 3, 2010. Participants walked a couple blocks in the cold weather.



Mr. and Mrs. Savage  
(Jed and Jenny Williams)

The Dan Patch Historical Society participated this year in the parade with an appearance by Mr. and Mrs. Savage. Other members of the historical society and their families wore horse hats and passed out candy to the crowd.



## 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](http://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](http://www.danpatch.com)**

**VISIT: Heritage Room/Museum**

**Savage Public Library**

**13090 Alabama Avenue, Savage, MN 55378**

**New Hours of Operation:**

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 10am-8pm

Wednesday 1pm-8pm

Friday 10am-4pm

Saturday 10am-5pm

Sunday 1pm-5pm



Dan Patch Days 2011 Button

# **DAN PATCH DAYS**

## **June 23-26, 2011**

The 2011 official Dan Patch Days button is now available for \$3. The button depicts Dan Patch at the MN State Fair in 1906. Besides being a collectors item the button is required to participate in the 16th Annual Horseshoe Hunt. A horseshoe is hidden somewhere within the City of Savage on public property. Historic clues written by our very own cluemaster will appear every Saturday beginning May 28th on our website and published in the Savage Pacer newspaper. Interest is high and competition is fierce. Winners receive \$100 and a chance to ride in the big parade on Sunday at

1 PM in downtown Savage. We always have a booth on Saturday from 2-8 PM at Community Park. Come and meet our members and view some of our vast collection. Buttons are available for sale at Savage City Hall, Savage Public Library and Razor's Edge Barbershop. You can also buy them online by visiting our website [www.danpatch.com](http://www.danpatch.com) or you can call 952-890-1669. Shipping and handling fees apply.