



DAN PATCH *Newsletter*

A Publication of the Dan Patch Historical Society

Number 44 • Spring 2016

www.danpatch.com



2016 Dan Patch Days
Button

ANNUAL MEETING

July 20, 2016
6:30pm
Heritage Room
Savage Public Library

DAN PATCH



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For more information
visit our website
www.danpatch.com

DAN PATCH DAYS June 23-26, 2016

Dan Patch Days planning is underway. Here are a few highlights for this years event:

- Horseshoe hunt – Dan's lost horseshoe is hidden somewhere on public property within the City of Savage. Clues of a historic nature written by our very own cluemaster appear in the Savage Pacer and the DPHS website five weeks before DP Days. The winner MUST verify that they have purchased a 2016 Dan Patch Days button. Prize is \$100 and a chance to ride on the float in the parade.
- Button - Dan Patch Days 2016 buttons are on sale for \$5 each at the Savage Public Library, Savage City Hall, Savage Chamber of Commerce, Razor's Edge Salon and from DPHS board members. Some previous years buttons are also available. First place button winner will receive an intarsia of the button created by Savage resident Jim Ryan , second place is a chance to win a blanket of the imagery of historic Savage donated by Jens Bohn, president of the society.
- Booth - We will have our booth at Dan Patch Days, Community Park in Savage, MN on Saturday June 25 from 3-7 PM. Stop in for an opportunity to see our full size time line banner of Dan Patch and M.W. Savage. See page 2 of this newsletter for a sneek preview.
- Parade - Sunday June 26 in downtown Savage at 1 PM. We will have our float with Dan and Mr. Savage.



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 and Dan Patch TIMELINE

Below is a picture of an 8ft banner created by the Dan Patch Historical Society that depicts a timeline of historical events of M.W. Savage and Dan Patch from 1886-1916. It shows there lives side by side and will help the DPHS to continue there mission answering the questions who is Dan Patch and M.W. Savage and why are they so famous? This timeline will be a great tool not just for new and current Savage residents but for everyone who is interested in this piece of our cities history. The banner is in production right now but will be available for viewing in the Heritage Room at the Savage Public Library and at our booth at Dan Patch Days so be sure to come visit us while you're there.

M.W. Savage and Dan Patch TIMELINE 1886-1916

DAN PATCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1886
Marion Willis Savage comes to Minneapolis where he starts his International Stock Food Company and markets his feed to local farmers while coining the phrase "Three Feeds for One Cent".

1895
With his growing wealth, "Will" Savage purchases 750 acres of farmland 18 miles southwest of Minneapolis on the Minnesota River near Hamilton (renamed "Savage" in his honor by city officials in 1919). On his estate he built extensive stables, two race tracks (one of which was completely enclosed) and began buying race horses. The structure was nicknamed the Taj Mahal because of it's resemblance to it.

1902
M.W. Savage purchases Dan Patch for \$60,000.

1907
M.W. Savage capitalizes on Dan Patch's fame by marketing Dan on items sold by his International Stock Food and Catalog Company. The name Dan Patch was on hundreds of items from wagons to washing machines. He also announces plans for a new railroad to serve Southern Minnesota. He renames the Minneapolis, St. Paul, Rochester and Dubuque Electric Traction Company to the Dan Patch Electric Line.

1916
M.W. Savage has minor surgery but upon hearing of his beloved horse's death, dies himself just 32 hours after his horse. He dies at the age of 57. Soon after his death, his railroad went into foreclosure and the stock farm lost its appeal without Dan Patch. His merchandising companies only lasted until the 1930's and some of the International Feed Companies ended in the 1960's.

1896
Dan Patch was born in Oxford, Indiana. "Patch" comes from Sire Joe Patchen and "Dan" comes from Dan Patch's first owner Dan Messner.

1900
After winning a dozen races or so, Dan Patch is sold to M.E. Sturgis of New York City for \$20,000 despite the fact that when Dan was born he was thought to have knees too knobby for racing but his first trainer Johnny Wattles saw the potential in Dan Patch.

1906
Dan Patch with driver Harry Hersey paces a mile in 1:55 at the Minnesota State Fair in front of a crowd of over 90,000 people. His record was matched by Billy Direct in 1938 but was not broken until 1961 by Adios Butler.

1909
Dan Patch retires after 3 years of fame. During those years, Dan was treated like a celebrity and traveled in his own luxury railroad car. Dan loved the crowd and had a way of turning his head towards the crowd after a race as if to say "Thanks Folks".

1916
Dan Patch collapses in his stall and dies due to an enlarged heart. He was 20 years old. M.W. Savage's wife, Marietta Savage had the horse buried under an oak tree alongside the Minnesota River bank where the farm was located. Only the two men who buried the horse knew the location of the unmarked grave. Dan's exact whereabouts still remains a mystery today.

Dan Patch Historical Society New/Renewing Membership

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Street Address: _____ E-Mail: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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

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

DONATIONS



- Bronze Statue of Dan Patch in memory of her father Tom Delaney Pat Roddy, Cambridge, MN



- 2008 MN License plate: "DANP155" Davin Jacobsen, Burnsville, MN
- Continental Machines benefit booklet,
 - August 1953
 Wally Stock, Savage, MN



2016 Dan Patch Days Button

The image on the collector button this year comes from the logo that was used for the Minneapolis, St. Paul, Rochester and Dubuque Electric Traction Company or the Dan Patch Electric Line. It was used on things like letterheads, brochures and stock certificates.

The wings are a symbol of Dan's speed and the speed of a train.

The crown symbolizes that Dan was the king of the pacers. Dan was so fast that no one would race their horses against him so Dan would race against the clock. He kept his title of pacing a mile in 1:55 until 1938 where his record was matched by Billy Direct and then was not broken until 1961 by Adios Butler.

FOR SALE

- 2016 Dan Patch Days Button.....\$5
Previous years buttons also available
- M.W. Savage 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
- Images of America, Savage Book.....\$23.50
- Dan Patch Electric Railroad Book.....\$15 (non-members).....\$12 (members)

*Items available by email at questions@danpatch.com or by calling 952-890-1669.
Shipping and handling fees apply.

REMEMBER WHEN: Dan Patch Days of years' past not so different from today's.

Posted: Monday, June 22, 2015 10:30 am Savage Pacer
By Jim Ross Dan Patch Historical Society

With Dan Patch Days fast approaching and Independence Day on the heels of that, lets take a look back and maybe you'll discover as I did, that the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Communities large and small have celebrated 4 Th of July since our Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776; probably every remembrance featuring bombs bursting in air with fireworks at night. Stephanie Herrick , the Curator of Education at The Scott County Historical Society in a recent article says local community "celebrations date back to the earliest days of the county." They included parades with floats, bands, fire trucks, church groups, civic groups and politicians. Store fronts were decorated with the American flag and red, white & blue bunting; the excitement level was high with a carnival like atmosphere. At the conclusion of the day, festivities were capped off with a fireworks display. Miss Herrick reminds us "fireworks back in those days were incredibly dangerous and often caused serious injuries."

Savage's Dan Patch Days started back in the 1950's by Justice of the Peace and historian/collector Ben Morlock; he was joined by the Lion's Club and the Fire Department. Soon the American Legion and the VFW helped out. Events included a parade with all the above groups, plus a kiddie parade with notable grand marshalls like M. W. Savage's son Harold in sulky behind a pacer.



Peggy Kearney, Mary Kay Kearney and Mary Kearney (the adult) lead the Dan Patch Days parade in this undated photo.

Events also included a rodeo, horse races, a queens pageant, and of course sales of the Dan Patch Days button which are now collectors items. In 1953 the queen was determined by which beautiful young lady sold the most buttons (Lois Breggeman). The horse races were down the dirt road Quentin avenue and the rodeo was held in the park behind M. W. Savage school. Various fair foods were available as well as a watermelon eating contest.

Sixty plus years later we still come together for parades, pancakes and pyrotechnics. We are still having eating contests, button sales and bombs bursting in air. Which gives proof through the night that our flag, our spirit, our community, and our neighborhoods, still thrive.

References: Scott County Scene, June/July, 2015; p. 19. Savage, Images of America, Huddleston; p. 91-94. Photos courtesy of the Heritage Room of the Savage Library.

VOLUNTEERS

Lynda Bickett volunteered for the last five years in the Heritage Room at the Savage Library keeping the files orderly and up to date.

Upon her retirement she trained Cathy Allen Bloomquist who is our new volunteer. Cathy lives in Farmington and is a retired RN from the VA Hospital and grew up in Savage where she was the librarian at the Savage Public Library downtown before going to nursing school.

She recruited Pat Anderson Schumann, a retired journalist from Burnsville who also grew up in Savage. She worked as a shelver at the Savage Public Library when it first opened in 1969. Both of them spend every Wednesday afternoon working on the history of the city and keeping the Heritage Room in order. We are grateful for their efforts.



Cathy Allen Bloomquist and Pat Anderson Schumann

NEW and RENEWING MEMBERS

- Roger Applegate, Wilmington, OH
- Chuck Erickson, Burnsville, MN
- Patrice Harter, Angola, IN
- Wayne Mattox, Wanatah, IN
- Phit & Betty Settergren, Savage, MN
- Barry & Lorna Stock, Savage, MN



The Dan Patch Project is underway. Artist Alexa King is beginning to make a maquette, which is a sculptors small model of the statue, thanks to some generous donations. Visit the blog at www.danpatchproject.org for up to date information.

www.danpatchproject.org



Dan Patch Day is
July 16, 2016

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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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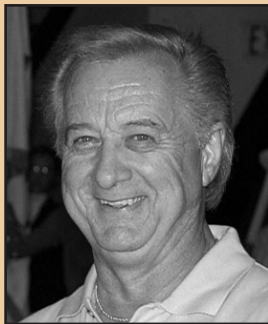
**Contact us at: 952-890-1669
Email: questions@danpatch.com**

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-5pm
Saturday 10am-4pm
Sunday 1pm-5pm

FROM THE PRESIDENT...



Jens Bohn

The Dan Patch Historical Society held its first meeting in March 1992. I joined in July 1993 and was named the president in February 1994 after the resignation of our president Dell Stelling so I have been the president for 22 years. I have decided to not run for president at the Annual Meeting in July but will remain on the Board of Directors.

It has been an honor to serve as the president and meet all of the people who stopped at my barber shop to buy Dan Patch Days buttons, books and chat about Dan Patch and Mr. Savage and look at my collection. We have some excellent young people on our board who share the interest in the horse and its owner so it is time to give them a chance to continue our mission.

Thank you for your continued support,

Jens