



DAN PATCH *Newsletter*

A Publication of the Dan Patch Historical Society

Number 46 • Spring 2017

www.danpatch.com



2017 Dan Patch Days
Button

Dan Patch Days
June 22-25, 2017

See Page 3 for Details!

ANNUAL MEETING

July 26, 2017

6:30pm

Heritage Room

Savage Public Library

DAN PATCH



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For more information
visit our website
www.danpatch.com

DPHS Celebrates 25 Years

A SOCIETY IN REVIEW

In March of 1992, a small team of people with a passion for the History of Savage's namesake and his famous pacer, won approval from the Minnesota Secretary of State for their articles that incorporated the Dan Patch Historical Society. The Society's mission was and remains the collection, preservation and dissemination of historical knowledge and artifacts about Dan Patch and his owner M. W. Savage. The founding members who signed the articles were former City Administrator Mark McNeill, George Augustinack who was the Vice President, board member and legal counsel Joe Cade, President Del Stelling and secretary Janet Williams (now mayor of Savage).

In their first meeting on March 24th the board unanimously approved having a booth at Heritage Days (now called Dan Patch Days). The Society has been a presence there ever since; recruiting members, educating citizens and generating interest in the parson & his pacer. Sometimes the board would meet in the old Savage Public Library (which was the old Savage Bank), and sometimes they were at the Evergreen or Buckboard restaurants or maybe City Hall.

Some of the first items in the Society's archives were purchased from Joe Egan's coveted collection, including a book, a movie poster & a sulky used by Dan. Over the decades many artifacts of historical value have been generously donated to the Society.

Also right from the beginning merchandise was available to purchase including the International Stock Food Farm book, buttons, postcards, pins, cups and even a collectors crock. Proceeds from sales as well as membership dues were used to purchase brochures and giveaways such as membership cards and the Dan Patch coloring book. Fundraising was essential to help the society fulfill its mission of collection, preserving and educating. Many times every year presentations by board members are made to schools, scouts and many civic groups and organizations. Storyboards have been donated to all area schools and pictures and artifacts can be seen in many of the businesses in town. The Society still fundraises (see separate article on repurposed wood siding & nails from the Depot on page 3) and has many items for sale thru their website including 4 more books by professional authors (Brady, Leehrsen, Huddleston & Savage).

DPHS FUNDRAISER

See Page 3

(DPHS Celebrates 25 Years 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.

DPHS Celebrates 25 Years Continues...

(DPHS Celebrates 25 Years continued from page 1)

1992 also saw the premier of the DPHS newsletter, which was first published in the Savage Review and is now mailed to all members, containing original writing, the latest donated memorabilia, and information on Dan Patch Days and the entire goings on in the Society.

The Society has worked with the Minnesota State Fair Board many times throughout the years, most notably in '96 when Commonwealth Avenue was re-named Dan Patch Avenue and again extensively on the 100TH anniversary of Dan breaking the pacing record at the fair in 2006. The Fair gave him his own day (Dan Patch Day) and the Society had a big tent to display memorabilia and was also part of the parade.

In 1996 Mayor Egan and his council decided to build a new Savage Public Library and it was important to them to showcase the city's rich history. They formed a partnership with the Society who created the Heritage Room and the front display case, which now houses permanent displays of artifacts, documents and a great deal of the history of Savage. The Horseshoe Hunt also began in '96 in conjunction with the Dan Patch Days celebration. Thru published prompts a clue master led interested parties to local parks searching for a replica of Dan's shoe, that he threw, for a prize to accrue (sorry).

Shortly after the turn of the last century the Society launched its website, www.danpatch.com. Of course these historians needed a great deal of help in this technological endeavor.

Perhaps the greatest accomplishment of the Society began in 2001 with efforts to bring the historic Savage Depot back from Murphy's Landing. The Depot had closed in 1970 and was moved to the landing in 1973. The closing and tear down of both the Dan Patch Lounge and the Savage Municipal Liquor Store provided a town square site perfect for repurposing the 1880 structure. After selling commemorative personalized engraved bricks, receiving monetary donations and a generous donation of labor and materials from project manager and board member Rob Fendler, in July of 2006 the Depot finally returned home.

Over the years the Society has worked closely on projects with The Minnesota, Scott County, Carver County & Bloomington Historical Society's, Canterbury Park & Running Aces racetracks, the Minnesota Racing Commission, the Scott County & Wisconsin State Fairs, The Hambletonian Society, The Minnesota Harness Racing Hall of Fame as well as the above authors (Debra Savage is a descendant of M. W.), video producers and even a sculptor; Not to mention many, many friends, collectors, and curious citizens of Dan Patch & M.W. Savage.

Speaking of a sculptor, we are currently working with the Dan Patch Project and Alexa King to help create and bring statues of Dan & Mr. Savage to the state fairgrounds and one to the Library. Stay tuned for more details as this project progresses.



The Dan Patch Historical Society currently has about 80 members from Hawaii in the pacific to Florida on the Atlantic, even a former member from England.

This team of historians still has a passion for continuing its mission; we thank you for your continued support and welcome any & all to share in this mission and join the fun!

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

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.

DPHS FUNDRAISER

DPHS Fundraising to Pursue its Mission

We continue to pursue our mission with presentations about the history of Dan Patch and M.W. Savage. Recently, we gave a talk to the Masons in Savage and in the Dan Patch Hall at the Masonic Home in Bloomington. In order to continue to preserve and disseminate the historical knowledge of Dan Patch and his owner M. W. Savage, the DPHS is offering a unique opportunity exclusive to its members to purchase a piece of repurposed history. A limited number of the wood siding boards from the original Savage Depot have been made into coat racks & wine racks. The Depot was built in 1880 by the Chicago, Minneapolis, & Omaha Railroad. The racks contain original square head nails used in that era. The undercoat of paint is the original red with an overcoat of brown; there is lead in the paint.

Proceeds from the sale of these one of a kind items will be used to help the DPHS continue its mission. The racks are \$100 each and tax & shipping are extra. Please contact the DPHS for availability and to purchase.

Thank you for your continued support of the Dan Patch Historical Society.



DAN PATCH



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DAN PATCH DAYS

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 at danpatch.com five weeks before DP Days. The winner MUST verify that they have purchased a 2017 Dan Patch Days button. Prize is \$100 and a chance to ride on the float in the parade.

Button - The 2017 official commemorative buttons are on sale for \$5 each at the Savage Public Library, Savage City Hall, and from DPHS board members. Prizes will be a full color Savage Blanket, a coat rack made from the original wood and nails from the Savage Depot. The drawing will be held Saturday night June 24 on the big stage.

Booth - We will have our booth at Dan Patch Days, Community Park in Savage, MN on Saturday June 24 from 3-7 PM. Stop in for an opportunity to see our full size time line banner of Dan Patch and M.W. Savage.

Parade - New this year the parade will be held on Saturday at 11am. We will have our float again with Dan and Mr. Savage.

**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

Dan Patch Historical Society *NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS*

Roger Applegate, Wilmington OH

Dawn Bergman, West Linn, OR

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Drema Huston, Anderson, IN

Wayne Mattox, Wanatah, IN

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