



# DAN PATCH

## *Historical Society*

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 58 / SPRING 2023

### MISSION

The Dan Patch Historical Society collects, preserves and disseminates historical knowledge and artifacts about the horse, Dan Patch, and its owner M.W. Savage.

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## DAN PATCH



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Dan Patch Days

### GET YOUR 2023 BUTTON

PRICE: \$5.00

**WHERE TO BUY:** At Savage Library, Savage City Hall, the Dan Patch Historical Society Booth at Dan Patch Days or ask a DPHS member.

**DRAWING:** Saturday, June 24, at 7:00 p.m., Main Stage, Community Park, need not be present to win.

Purchasing a button gets you a chance to win:

- 1970 Dan Patch Whiskey Decanter (empty), donated by Tausha Chamberland
- Limited Edition Savage Blanket, donated by the Jens Bohn Estate
- 3 Dan Patch Collector Plates, donated by the George Augustinack Collection

**DESIGN:** This button was inspired by the replica of the International Stock Food Farm Stables, the "Taj Mahal" as it was referred to, that adorns the DPHS front window at the Savage Library.

Proceeds support the historical preservation and traditions of the city. Collector buttons have been a tradition at Dan Patch Days ever since the community event was started in 1953. The complete button collection is on display at the Heritage Room, and some are still for sale!

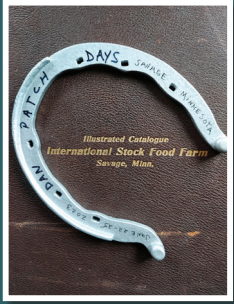


Button design by Board Member Tausha Chamberland and her daughter Amber Chamberland



(continued on page 2)

# Dan Patch Days (continued)



## HORSESHOE HUNT

Clues released **FIVE WEEKS** before Dan Patch Days!

The annual horseshoe hunt takes place every year preceding Dan Patch Days. A horseshoe is hidden somewhere within the city of Savage, on public property. Clues are available on the Dan Patch Historical Society's website, [www.danpatch.com/horseshoe-hunt](http://www.danpatch.com/horseshoe-hunt), or in the Savage Pacer, or at the Savage Library.

The annual horseshoe hunt has taken place since 1996 and has always been sponsored by the DPHS.

**Remember:** If you buy a Dan Patch Days button, and if you find the horseshoe AND you have a Dan Patch Days button, you'll win \$100. The winner has the opportunity to ride with the Dan Patch Historical Society in the parade. And those bragging rights? Priceless!

## VISIT THE DAN PATCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOTH

**Saturday, June 24 – 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

Come visit us at the Dan Patch Historical Society booth and pick up some great swag, such as coloring books, key chains, and candy; plus, get famous on Instagram by taking your picture with the Dan Patch photo stand-in.

We will be selling DPHS buttons and memberships, and you'll enjoy learning all about your hometown's history while cooling off in the shade of our tent. Learn about Dan Patch's prowess as a racehorse, the colorful history behind the city's namesake, and find out about the Japanese language military school that played an integral part to the country's WW II effort.

## PARADE

The Dan Patch Days parade is a time-honored tradition that brings the community together. It runs from 11:00 a.m. – noon on Saturday, June 24, in downtown Savage. Check the Dan Patch Days website, [www.danpatchdays.org](http://www.danpatchdays.org), for the parade route and full schedule of events.

We look forward to seeing your smiling faces and waving to you from our top spot near the beginning of the parade. We will be throwing out candy and honoring our Horseshoe Hunt winners.



## For Sale

### DAN PATCH ITEMS FOR SALE AT CITY HALL

**8:00 am-4:30 pm Monday-Friday**

Books: Images of Savage (\$24), Great Dan Patch and the Remarkable Mr. Savage (\$15), Dan Patch Electric Railroad (\$15), International Stock Food Farm (\$25); Postcards (\$1); Pewter Holiday Ornament (\$10). Previous Dan Patch Days Buttons (\$5). Cash or check, tax included. Mail orders to DPHS, P.O. Box 1:55, Savage, MN 55378 (\$5 S&H apply).



# 100-Year Anniversary Lucky Lindy's Savage Landing

By Jim Ross

One hundred years ago in the summer of 1923, America's premier pilot was forced to land in a swampy area in Savage due to a torrential downpour.

Aviation was still in its infancy, and Charles A. Lindbergh received a letter from his father, Charles Sr., telling him that there was money to be made back up north. Charles Sr., a former U.S. congressman, was campaigning for a U.S. senate seat and wanted to combine barnstorming with dropping his political handbills from the plane.

As Lindbergh's Jenny headed north in early June, with a stopover for gas in Iowa, he planned on meeting his father in Shakopee. When he neared the area Lindbergh was met by a severe thunderstorm and was forced to circle over Savage as he waited for the storm to pass. But when cylinders started cutting out, he was forced to land quickly. He eyed a flat area near the Minnesota River and went low. At touchdown the earth proved to be swampy, and after 20 feet the plane's nose dipped into the mud, dug in, and went over. With the wing and radiator touching the ground, and the propeller cracked, Lindbergh was left suspended in his safety belt.

Reports vary as to whether he cut himself free or he merely released the belt, but either way he was uninjured. Reports also vary on whether he walked to a nearby farmhouse for help and met the farmer who witnessed the crash, or if he was rescued by two local Savage youths. Either way, townspeople soon gathered to gawk at the wreck (the site is in what is now downtown near Highway 13 and Port Cargill property). The locals helped right the plane and pull Jenny to terra firma.

Though cushioned by the soft mud, Lucky Lindy was not going anywhere with a bad prop. He wired for a replacement from Little Falls and in the intervening three days it took to arrive, he was a guest at the Savage Depot under the care of Charles F. McCarthy, depot agent and mayor of Savage. The depot still rests in Savage (though now located across Highway 13 from its original spot) and the deeply worn steps that Lindbergh would have walked have been removed for safety reasons and are in the archives of the Dan Patch Historical Society.

A pilot friend of Lindbergh's described him as cautious, not one to show off, a good mechanic. He was strait-laced, did not smoke, chew, or drink. It's doubtful then that he would have visited Egan's Resort in Hidden Valley, the Budweiser Club or Kaufenberg's Parlor – the popular gambling and watering holes of the era.

Lindbergh's log indicates when he left the swamp in Savage after installing his new prop, he eventually made it to Glencoe to meet up with his father and spread the campaign materials from the air. At Glencoe there was another mishap and they wound up in a ditch with damage again to the prop and landing gear, but not to person.

## After the Crash

On May 20-21, 1927, Lindbergh was the first person to fly solo and nonstop from New York to Paris. The "Spirit of St. Louis" took 33½ hours to complete the 3,610 miles. He was met with enthusiastic ovations, much adulation and worldwide fame.

Later that year he returned to Minnesota on a whirlwind tour. As he left town, he flew over Savage to acknowledge the town's hospitality extended to him in 1923. He circled several times, buzzed down to 100 feet, waved down at Charlie McCarthy, his old friend, and dropped him a letter of greetings. Later, Lindbergh enlisted in the Army and was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

The 1923 Jenny that Lindbergh barnstormed with and visited Savage in, was sold for parts after another crash in 1927. It was rescued from an Iowa barn and has since been restored. It has been on Long Island where Lindbergh himself confirmed its identity when he found his own initials he had carved on a wing. It survived a massive fire while on display at the Minneapolis Northwestern National Bank building in 1982 and it spent some time on display at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport main terminal, which has been re-named the Charles A. Lindbergh terminal. The Jenny is currently housed at The Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City, New York.

Resources used for this article: City of Savage website. Lindbergh's Return to Minnesota, 1927. Minnesota History, Winter 1970. Barnstorming With Lindbergh, Minnesota History, Summer 1991.



*In this image from 1927, Mayor Charles McCarthy holds a greeting that Charles Lindbergh dropped over Savage while on his tour of the United States after his historic nonstop flight over the Atlantic Ocean to Paris, France.*



# From The President

## Passion Lives On For Savage's History

By Jim Ross

In the last many years, we have lost some invaluable board members in the deaths of:

- **Del Stelling**, founding member and past president.
- **George Augustinack**, founding member, past vice president and collector extraordinaire.
- **Jens Bohn**, 23-year past president, Razor's Edge barber, and another collector extraordinaire.
- **Tom Brennan**, most recent past president, and former Savage mayor.

Their historical knowledge and passion for our mission is deeply missed. This void has, however, been filled by new members and re-energized current members.

The current board is as follows:

- **Nancy Huddleston**, former editor of the *Savage Pacer* and author of *Images of America Savage*.
- **Joyce Bohn**, beloved wife of Jens, business owner and booster of Savage.
- **Will Williams**, lifelong resident, and the voice of DPHS – exceptional speaker and a wealth of knowledge.
- **Janet Williams**, Will's better half, founding member and current Savage mayor.
- **Jon Allen**, of the pioneer Allen family, retired parks and natural resources superintendent for the city of Savage.
- **Tausha Chamberland**, George's daughter, Dan Patch Days button designer.
- **Greg Lind**, webmaster, and committee for Dan Patch Days.
- **Vern Bloomquist**, treasurer, and former owner of Bloomquist Hardware. His wife Cathy, also of the Allen family, is an archivist for the DPHS.
- **Barry Stock**, secretary, former city of Savage administrator and member of the Dan Patch Days committee.
- **Jim Ross**, president, lifelong resident, retired Savage firefighter, and contributor to newsletter and *Savage Pacer*.

The position of vice president will be filled at our annual business meeting on July 20, at 6:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room of the Savage Library. Join us if you like, or just enjoy looking at a variety of collectible items from the Razor's Edge Barbershop, and about Dan Patch and M.W. Savage. Stop by anytime the library is open for information, or to purchase DPHS items that are for sale.

Rest assured this board will continue to be passionate about our mission, M.W., Dan and all things Savage.

Thanks for your support.

## Tom Brennan Remembered



DPHS President Tom Brennan, 63, passed away unexpectedly on October 30, 2022, and will always be remembered for his strong commitment to the community.

Tom was a great friend and mentor while he served on the DPHS Board and as President (2016-2022). When past president, Jens Bohn, wanted to step down, Tom stepped up and kept the Board focused and working together. His most notable accomplishments were advocating to the Savage City Council for more space for the Heritage Room at the library and securing the Dan Patch/M.W. Savage statue just outside the front door of the library.

Tom served as a member of the Savage City Council and as the city's mayor. When he left his elected position as mayor in 2008, he told the *Savage Pacer* newspaper that he never imagined serving as a mayor of a suburban community because he considered himself an introvert who wasn't comfortable speaking in front of the public. "I just wanted to do the job to the best of my ability," he said at the time.

Those who worked with Tom at the city described him as a man who grew into the job and had public service in his blood. "Tom had a passion to make a difference," said DPHS Secretary Barry Stock, who worked with Tom as Savage's city administrator. "He was not just a talker; he was a doer. If there was a problem, he was willing to get in there and fix it by tackling the problem and coming up with solutions."

Tom also worked tirelessly behind the scenes for three decades on Dan Patch Days, and when the community festival fell on hard financial times, he was a key part of a team of volunteers that helped save it by scaling it down and then building it back up. He was a founding member and president of the Savage Crime Prevention Association and helped the Savage Police Department create a K-9 unit.

Tom's career was in the IT field, and he worked for Emerson Electric, formerly Rosemount Industries, at the time of his death. In his free time Tom loved being outdoors with his ever-present cocker spaniel companions.

## 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

Dawn Bergman, Watersmeet, OR  
Bernadette Bonsell, Mt. Vernon, OH  
Bonnie Conrad, Glendale, AZ  
Rob/Lori Fendler, Savage, MN

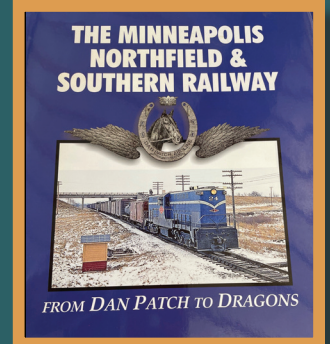
Patricia Harder, Angola, IN  
Nancy Huddleston, Burnsville, MN  
Jack Kenneally, Eagan, MN  
Barry/Lorna Stock, Savage, MN

**WE ALWAYS WELCOME NEW MEMBERS, TELL A FRIEND ABOUT  
THE DAN PATCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY!**

## Recent Donations

**Richard Fish** of Minneapolis donated "The Minneapolis, Northfield & Southern Railway: From Dan Patch to Dragons" to the DPHS. There were only 200 of these books printed. Authors John C. Luecke and Paul R. Spyhalski provide the full history of this interesting Minnesota railway. It covers every aspect of this never-say-die short line, from the earliest plans for the Dan Patch Line to the final takeover of the MN&S by the Soo Line.

*If you have something relating to the history of Savage that you'd like to donate, email us at [questions@danpatch.com](mailto:questions@danpatch.com) or call 952-890-1669.*



## Coming Up

### ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Dan Patch Historical Society's Annual Meeting will be Thursday, July 20, at 6:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room of the Savage Library

### FALL BUS TOUR

Join members of the Dan Patch Historical Society and the City of Savage Parks and Recreation Department for a narrated historical tour of Savage.

Hop on the bus and visit the Ports of Savage, International Stock Food Farm, Boiling Springs, Camp Savage, Savage Fen, Savage Depot, Heritage Room at the Savage Library and much more. We will start and end at the Library. The tour will last approximately two hours.

For the date, time, and further details on how to register, look for the Fall 2023 City of Savage Parks and Recreation Catalog, or check the website: [www.cityofsavage.com/parks-recreation](http://www.cityofsavage.com/parks-recreation).

## **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  
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.

## **HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE LATELY?**

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

See the latest news, read about Dan Patch, obtain back issues of our newsletter and more!

## **DAN PATCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

PO Box 1:55  
Savage, MN 55378

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*Jim Ross, President*

*Barry Stock, Secretary*

*Vern Bloomquist, Treasurer*

*Greg Lind, Webmaster*

*Nancy Huddleston, Newsletter Editor*

*Jon Allen*

*Joyce Bohn*

*Tausha Chamberland*

*Janet Williams*

*Will Williams*