



DAN PATCH Newsletter

A Publication of the Dan Patch Historical Society

Number 26

Fall 2007



Dan Patch was chosen to be included in the Minnesota Historical Society's "Minnesota 150" exhibit at the Minnesota History Center. The exhibit, part of the upcoming celebration of 150 years of statehood in 2008, opened October 23, 2007, and showcases 150 people, places, things and events that shaped Minnesota history. The exhibit features photos and artifacts related to Dan Patch along with the rationale for the nomination. Minnesota Historical Society Press published a book, *Minnesota 150* by Kate

Roberts. With short essays and eye catching illustrations, Ms. Roberts reveals the many ways in which our collective history came into being. Page 35 tells the story of Dan Patch. The book is available for \$19.95 from bookstores.

"The exhibit features photos and artifacts related to Dan Patch along with the rationale for the nomination."



A VISIT TO LEXINGTON, KY.

Around barn that was built in 1875 at the Red Mile Track still stands in Lexington, KY. Dan Patch made history there in 1905 with his 1:55 1/4 mile. It is the second oldest harness track in the world. Members of the Dan patch Historical Society visited there in September 2007.

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 its owner, M. W. Savage.

www.DanPatch.com

Donor Recognition

The Dan Patch historical Society wishes to thank all those who made the BRING THE DEPOT HOME project a reality with their generous contributions. In the last issue of the newsletter, we acknowledged the 242 people who donated 300 engraved bricks for the Brick Walk of Fame at the Depot. In this issue we wish to acknowledge the the service donors (those who donated labor/services and/or product) and cash donors (cash donations ranged from \$4 to \$10,000) and all were greatly appreciated.

The Depot List

- Above All Hardwood Floors
- Allen's Towing, Inc.
- Anchor Iron Company
- BMSI-Building Material Supply, Inc.
- BNK Masonry
- Bohlen Surveying & Associates
- Bohn, Jens
- Bohn, Lance
- Bryan Rock Products, Inc.
- Cal's Market & Gardening Center
- Cascade Stone Products, Inc.
- CECO Ltd.
- Cemstone Concrete Solutions
- City of Savage
- Curbside Lawncare & Irrigation
- Davey Landscaping, Inc.
- Eagle Siding, Inc.
- FABCON
- Fendler Patterson Construction, Inc.
- General Waterproofing Company, Inc.
- Gopher Heating & Sheet Metal, Inc.
- Hallquist Design, Inc.
- Hering, Rich
- Home Exteriors
- Innovative Concrete Inc.
- J. D. Rynders, Inc.
- Jacobsen, Bud
- Jeff Scherer Plumbing
- Julius B. Nelson & Son, Inc.
- Karl Bohn Properties
- Lloyd's Construction Services, Inc.
- Lunak House Movers
- Master Electric Co., Inc.
- Minnesota Brick
- Quality Windows & Doors/Surplus Windows
- Reshetar Systems, Inc.
- Road Machinery & Supplies Co.
- Rubble Tile
- S.M. Hentges & Sons Inc.
- SDDI Sign Systems
- Select Millwork, Inc.
- Shelton Interior Construction, Inc.
- Siwek Lumber & Millwork, Inc.
- Southern Lights
- Southside Trophies
- Stocker Excavating
- Tamarack Materials, Inc.
- The Buckingham Companies
- The Garden Potter LLC
- Three Rivers Park District
- Turner Excavating Company
- Tushie Montgomery Architects
- Whiterock Construction Services
- Wilebski, Frank & Joan



“The Dan Patch historical Society wishes to thank all those who made the BRING THE DEPOT HOME project a reality with their generous contributions.”

Depot Cash Donors

- Jim & Nancy Allen
- Roger Applegate
- Bosshardt Corporation
- Grover Bradbury, Jr.
- Jose Chavez
- Bonnie Conrad
- Dan Patch Days Inc.
- Vivian Egan
- Ray & Shirley Egan
- FABCON
- Wes Fish
- First Community Bank
- Tom Friendshuh
- Tim & Rebecca Gillette
- Tom & Debra Markus
- Minnesota Valley Electric
- Mosaic Crop Nutrition
- Camille Niman
- Robert & Michelle Reid
- Larry Ross
- Savage Chamber of Commerce
- James & Rita Seifert
- Dorothy Sifferath
- Lynn Shafer Wedlund
- Will & Janet Williams

Bench Donors

The following donated \$1200 for each bench around the Brick Walk. Each bench has a plaque with the name of the donor:

- FABCON
- First Community Bank
- Savage Chamber of Commerce
- Dan Patch Days Inc.
- Road Machinery and Supplies & Eastlund, Solstad, Cade and Hutchinson
- Nancy and Janet

Special Thanks to Rob Fendler of Fendler Patterson Construction, Inc. who served as the general contractor for the entire project. Without his help and dedication this project would not have happened. Rob is a longtime member of the Dan Patch Historical Society. The Dan Patch Coffee Depot opened on July 6, 2007. The depot is now owned by the city and is rented to a private individual as a coffee shop that serves beverages, pastries, sandwiches, soups and gelato. They have computers and weekly entertainment. Stop in and catch a bit of history.

DONATIONS to the Dan Patch Historical Society for its Heritage Room at the Savage Public Library:

- City of Savage donated 5 murals from the Savage Municipal Liquor Store. One remains at City Hall, 3 are at the Depot and one at the library.
- John Culhane, Prescott WI, donated a M.W. Savage Catalog NO. 47, Fall & Winter, 1925-1926. He inherited it from his grandmother, Mary Culhane of Kilkenny, MN who passed away at the age of 107.
- Evelyn Wood of North Oaks, MN donated an original photo of Dan Patch acquired by her father Henry S. Wood in the early 1900's
- Judy Atwell of Charlotte, NC donated an International Stock Book and an original International Stock Food Farm poster.
- Dan Patch Bowling Alley donated a bowling ball and two bowling pins from the bowling alley upon its official closing.

The Parson & His Pacer

Architectural structures with ties to Marion W. Savage and his amazing pacer Dan Patch, buildings that have survived the much too harsh passage of time, are limited in number. His home at 2600 Portland Avenue in Minneapolis is long gone. His racetrack known as the Taj Mahal, succumbed to fire and neglect and in 1938 a demolition contract was awarded plowing under or removing the last traces of the racetrack. His mansion overlooking the Taj, Valley View, is also gone. The only remnants of this structure are four horseshoes worn by Dan placed in each cornerstone of the new Masonic lodge.

One structure to survive is the newly restored Savage Depot, relocated in downtown Savage, Minnesota and now open for business as a coffee shop. Still intact are the well-worn steps that carried M.W. and Charles Lindberg to the upper level. Another not oft noted yet beautiful structure exists that has very close ties to the Parson and his pacer. The Wesley United Methodist Church still towers over 1st Avenue at Grant Street in the heart of Minneapolis.

Savage was known as The Parson because he wore a long frock coat, didn't smoke, drink, or go to the track on Sundays. Marion and his wife Marietta were devout, prominent

members of the Wesley Church, which would have been a short wagon ride, mere blocks from where his once grand mansion stood on Portland. The Wesley Church is a magnificent structure and houses the first Methodist congregation to organize west of the Mississippi (1852) and has occupied the Grant Street site since 1891. The church was refurbished in 1909 and M.W. donated significant amounts of earnings from his beloved Pacer to the ornate church.

Savage was of course an envelope-holding member of the congregation, and the pastor and trustees also approved Dan joining the church and issued the horse numbered envelopes as well. Savage reportedly refused to have Dan race on Sundays citing his Methodist obligations. After church Dan would sometimes give wagon rides in the summer and sleigh rides in the winter to the neighborhood kids attending services.

At a cost of \$150,000 architect Warren Howard Hayes built a Romanesque pink granite structure with towers soaring to 137 feet, tallest in the city at the time. Features include a grand circular domed light above an auditorium accommodating up to 1200 faithful. Wilton velvet carpet was installed as well as skylights and 32 Tiffany windows. Finished in

deep oaks, maples and cherry woods the wide moldings, curved pews and thrust stage are dwarfed by the large façade of pipes of the historic Wesley pipe organ. As you gaze across the polished pews you can almost see the Parson and his bride kneeling in prayer, listen hard and you can catch the clip clopping of Dan's hooves off the cobblestones through the stained glass windows.

Classrooms surround a large hall adjacent to the auditorium. This is where you will find the Dan Patch Room, currently used as a nursery; a fact the former crooked legged foal may appreciate. A picture of Dan on the state fair racetrack still hangs in the church office. If you search all the nooks and crannies and take the grand staircase as far as you can go, in the dim light there you will eventually encounter the M.W. Savage Room. Locked. Unknown what lies within; the Parson didn't answer. In the distance I swear I heard the Pacer whinny from his hitchin post.

Jim Ross - Editor

References:

thewesleychurch.org,
americanheritage.com,
angelfire.com,
Star Tribune, The Great Dan Patch,
Tim Brady.

DPHS ANNUAL MEETING



2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Front row: Nancy Allen, George Augustinack, Jens Bohn, Janet Williams.
 Second row: Jim Ross, Joe Cade, Greg Lind, Will Williams, Rob Fendler,
 Tom Brennan, Tausha Chamberland, Jed Williams.*

On July 25, 2007 the members of the Dan Patch Historical Society held their annual meeting at the newly renovated Dan Patch Coffee Depot. Four directors were elected to the Board:

Rob Fendler, Tom Brennan, Jim Ross and Greg Lind. Dena Merwin decided not run for reelection and the Board thanked her for many years of service, especially for her

job as editor of the newsletter. Officers elected were: Jens Bohn, president; George Augustinack, vice president; Janet Williams, secretary; Nancy Allen, treasurer.

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

From the President



Our main mission is education. We feel that we have played a role in bringing the rich history of our community to the minds of our residents and surrounding area. We thank our member Diane Kleinsteiber of Watertown,

WI who had Dan Patch booth at the Wisconsin State Fair in August. Will Williams, George Augustinack and Greg Lind talked at the newly formed Dan Patch Masonic Chapter in Bloomington, MN. That group also came to Savage on a bus to tour the depot, the barber shop, Camp Savage and the Heritage Room at the Savage Library. They plan to

come back and bring their wives next time. Janet talked about the 15 years of DPHS at the meeting of the Burnsville Breakfast Rotary Club. Three classes of 5th graders from St. John the Baptist Catholic School came to my barber shop to hear Will and me talk about history for a MN history project. Will gave talks to two girl scout troops and the second graders at Harriet Bishop Elementary School in Savage.

I encourage everyone to stop at the depot, the Heritage Room at the library and my shop anytime. Don't forget to read the kiosk at the public square too.

Jens

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- | | |
|---|---|
| President Jens Bohn
12385 Ottawa Ave. S.
Savage, MN 55378
952-890-5260 | George Augustinack
Nancy Allen
Tom Brennan
Joe Cade
Tausha Chamberland
Rob Fendler
Greg Lind
Jim Ross
Janet Williams
Jed Williams
Will Williams |
|---|---|

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

Gregory P. Lind (exp. 3/08)
14916 Overlook Dr.
Savage, MN 55378

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

