



# DAN PATCH

## Historical Society

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 57 / FALL 2022

### 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.

### IN THIS EDITION

30 Years of Success

Dan Patch Days

Lifetime Benefactor

Events

## DAN PATCH



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Dan Patch Historical Society Celebrates 30 Years of Success

The first meeting of the Dan Patch Historical Society was in Savage, MN on March 24, 1992. The DPHS 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. Dan Patch achieved national fame in the early 1900's and the city of Savage is named after its owner Marion W. Savage. The goal was education. This continues to be the mission of the DPHS. The following is a list of events that the DPHS has achieved in the last 30 years.

**1994** Reprinted *International Stock Food Farm Book & Dan Patch Electric Railroad Book*

**1996** Published *The Great Dan Patch and Remarkable Mr. Savage*

**1997** The Savage Public Library and Heritage Room/Museum opened

**1998** Launched our website [www.danpatch.com](http://www.danpatch.com)

**2006** Raised funds and returned the depot to Savage

**2006** Display at the MN State Fair to commemorate 100th anniversary of Dan Patch setting 1:55 record at the fair

**2012** *Images of Savage* published

**2017** MN Legislature awarded DPHS/City of Savage \$75,000 with \$25,000 match from us for a statue of Mr. Savage & Dan Patch

**2018** Statue unveiled

**2019** Attended the induction of Dan Patch in Canadian Hall of Fame

**2020** Letter to the city recommending increased space for the museum

## For Sale

### THESE MAKE GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS

2022 Dan Patch Days Button \$5

(Previous years buttons also available)



*Images of America, Savage* book by Nancy Huddleston \$24

*The Great Dan Patch and the Remarkable Mr. Savage* book by Tim Brady \$15

*Dan Patch Electric Railroad* book \$15

*International Stock Food Farm* book \$25

Postcards \$1

2008 Pewter Holiday Ornament \$10

Items available for purchase at Savage City Hall or by mail. Cash or check, tax included. Mail orders to DPHS, P.O. Box 155, Savage, MN 55378 (\$5 S&H apply) To view these items, visit [danpatch.com/store](http://danpatch.com/store). Fundraising helps the DPHS fulfill its mission. Proceeds from sales, as well as membership dues, are used to purchase our brochures, newsletters, membership cards and anything else that is essential to our mission. We thank you for your continued support of the Dan Patch Historical Society.

# Dan Patch Days

**JUNE 2022**

After a two-year hiatus Dan Patch Days was back in full swing. The Horseshoe Hunt was intense. Every year, weeks before the event, a horseshoe is hidden on public property within the city. Historical clues written by our very own clue master appear weekly on our website. This year's winners, Nick, Laur, Christina & Evan Weisensel and Charlie the dog were repeat winners from a couple years ago. Winners receive \$100 and an opportunity to ride in the grand parade on a beautiful float with a life size replica of Dan Patch and Mr. Savage aka Jed Williams. We had a booth at the business expo displaying our items for sale and some of our information on the history of our city. We answered questions from the public.



Nick, Evan & Charlie Weisensel with Mr. Savage

DPHS button winners were announced on the main stage on Saturday night. The main prize was a quilt designed and created by member Cathy Allen Bloomquist who made the presentation to Rob and Linda Ampe of Savage. Rob and Linda Ampe were also the silent auction winners of the Dan Patch burnt wood wall art. Winner of the book and DVD, "The Great Dan Path and Remarkable Mr. Savage " was Bob Lattery from Burnsville. The antique Dan patch glass was won by Kaylee Fischer of Virginia who was in MN visiting her grandparents, Joel and Patty McColl.



Button Drawing



Cathy Allen Bloomquist  
& Linda Ampe



Rob & Linda Ampe

## Lifetime Benefactor

**JACK KENNELLY**

Jack Kennelly of the Burnsville Historical Society was presented with a Lifetime Benefactor membership for his work on the Dell Stelling donation of historic negatives.

Del Stelling was a beloved founding member and first president of the Dan Patch Historical Society ([www.danpatch.com](http://www.danpatch.com)) and publisher of its newsletter. He worked in many capacities as an editor, reporter, writer, photographer or publisher for either the Sun Newspapers or The Savage Review. For over 30 years he accumulated negatives of pictures that chronicled the lives and events of Savage, Burnsville, Eagan and the surrounding communities. After his death in 2011, his family donated shoe box after shoe box and metal file after metal file of thousands of negatives; many people and places that are long gone.

Enter Jack Kennelly. A retired lover of history with deep roots in Burnsville, he basically created the Burnsville Historical Society online archives ([www.burnsvillehistory.org](http://www.burnsvillehistory.org)), and he couldn't wait to dig into this collection. He

took on a 2 plus year labor of love that kept him busy during the pandemic. The project involved identifying and labeling people, places and events; labeling over 4500 negatives and posting to their web site (access free of charge) and producing a database of content. Many images were accepted by the Minnesota Historical Society ([www.mndigital.org](http://www.mndigital.org)) for their digital collection. Original negatives are in the archives of the Dan Patch Historical Society at the Savage Public Library.

While steadily whittling away at the boxes, Jack discovered some "real gems" related to his own family history, some with a link back to contacts in Eire. The Dan Patch Historical Society is grateful to Jack for his efforts and has awarded him lifetime membership in the society and gifted him a logoed glass from the Dan Patch Lounge.



Jack Kennelly & Jim Ross

# 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 on the address label of your newsletter. Thank you for your support.

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

## ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

Our annual board meeting was July 21 at the Heritage Room. Tom Brennan, Greg Lind, Jim Ross and Barry Stock were reelected for 4-year terms. New board members, Joyce Bohn and Nancy Huddleston were elected to 2-year terms. Officers remained the same.



## BOOK READING

DPHS and the Savage Public Library hosted author Amber Sawyer who read her children's book, "Love to Race" the story of a harness racehorse who raced in New Zealand and was shipped to California to begin a racing career in the United States.



## CITY OF SAVAGE HISTORY TOUR

DPHS and the Savage Park and Recreation partnered for a two-hour narrated bus tour of historic locations in Savage. Thirty-five people signed up for the sold-out tour and a visit to the Heritage Room/Museum at the Savage Public Library. Historical society members were available to answer questions.



## DAN PATCH DAY AT RUNNING ACES



Running Aces, the harness racing track in Columbus, MN hosted their annual Dan Patch Day on Sunday July 24 and gave away a puzzle with purchase of a program.

## HISTORICAL PRESENTATION

DPHS board member Will Williams gave a presentation on Mr. Savage and Dan Patch to 30 residents of the Senior Living at Fen Pointe. They were fascinated by the story of how the city of Savage got its name. If any local organizations are interested in having the DPHS host a presentation on the history of Dan Patch and Mr. Savage, contact Will at 952-890-1669.

## **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**

*Tom Brennan, President*

*Jim Ross, Vice President*

*Barry Stock, Secretary*

*Vern Bloomquist, Treasurer*

*Greg Lind, Webmaster*

*Tausha Chamberland*

*Jon Allen*

*Janet Williams*

*Will Williams*

*Joyce Bohn*

*Nancy Huddleston*