



DAN PATCH *Historical Society*

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 61 / FALL 2024

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

New Officers

Lights! Camera! Action!

Dan Patch Days Recap

DAN PATCH



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Heritage Room Expansion

NEW TREASURES TRANSFORM HISTORY DISPLAYS

By Nancy Huddleston

New historical treasures about Savage have been dusted off, organized, and put on display in the expanded Heritage Room at the Library.

Now visitors can find class pictures and memorabilia from the old M.W. Savage Elementary School, books that include company newsletters from Cargill, Dan Patch Days programs from the early days, and new books full of information about M.W. Savage's businesses.

"The new space has given us more room to display the things we've had in storage," said Dan Patch Historical Society Board Member Janet Williams. "It has always been our goal to display these items, but we just haven't had the space. Now we do."

Janet said the donated items from the old elementary school are getting a lot of attention. "What really makes the school collection unique is we have all the class pictures that have each student that went through M.W. Savage, and their names, from the day the school opened to the day it closed," she said.

There are also posters made by students for the school's 50th anniversary, which chronicled the city's growth from the 1940s to 2000s, a green-fringed school banner, index cards where students detailed their most memorable moments, and a list of items in a buried time capsule on the school grounds.

In addition to the school memorabilia, items donated by the late George Augustinack's collection have come to life.

"I wanted to figure out a way to display his collection without taking up a lot of room, so that's where I got the idea of the books," said George's daughter, DPHS Board Member Tausha Chamberland. "There is a lot of crossovers with Mr. Savage's companies, factories, advertising, catalogues – they are all intertwined."

The result is a collection that showcases George's appetite for collecting and gives people insight into Mr. Savage's business acumen. "My dad was so passionate about Mr. Savage, always using words like 'genius', 'before his time', and 'pioneer' to describe the way he did business and promoted his company," she said. "I just want these things to be enjoyed by people who appreciate the years and years of collecting my dad did."



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Dan Patch Days

JUNE 2024

For the second year in a row, Saturday events for Dan Patch Days were cancelled, this time due to soggy field conditions at Community Park from the large amounts of rain that fell during the week before the event. Although we didn't get to meet and greet everyone at our booth, we had fun waving from our float to everyone in Sunday's parade; button prize winners were drawn by Janet and Joyce at the library; and the DPHS horseshoe hunt provided great momentum leading up to the weekend.

DPHS HORSESHOE HUNT WINNERS – THE WESTRUM FAMILY

The 2024 horseshoe was found in Hollywood Park, under some mulch around the ivy in the butterfly garden.

The Westrum family has been searching for the horseshoe since 2012 and have been close to finding it a couple of times. The team includes Tanner, Colin, and Drew, and their parents Carrie and Brad. The family has lived in Savage since 2006.

"Our search took us to Redtail Ridge, Hidden Valley Park, Warren Butler Park, and finally Hollywood Park," explained Tanner, "We were able to nail down Hollywood Park from the fourth clue mentioning oak and vines. From research done in the Heritage Room at the Savage Library, we had an old map of Hamilton showing that Ottawa and Natchez Avenues were previously named Vine and Oak Streets which both lead into Hollywood Park."



Dan Patch Collector Plates Winner
Jeremie Bresnahan



Savage Blanket Winner
Patricia Goodall



1970 Dan Patch
Whiskey Decanter Winner
Emily Gunderson



Joyce Bohn (left) and Janet Williams
drew the winning tickets for the button
prizes in the Heritage Room.



Heritage Room Expansion Continued

Both Janet and Tausha point out there is more to do, including creating more scrapbooks to display different collections, labeling new and existing items in the display cases, and helping Cathy Bloomquist, one of our members, update the historic files in the file cabinets.



In addition to the new items on display in the Heritage Room, the Camp Savage information and artifacts, Dan Patch collectable items, bound volumes of the Savage Pacer and Savage Review, the Dan Patch Avenue sign donated by the State Fair Board, historic items and photographs from the Savage Depot, and much, much more are also still on display. "There is a lot here, and now with the extra space, we are figuring out the best use," Janet said, noting it's going to take time.

New DPHS Officers

In July, we unanimously elected a new slate of officers:

- President: Joe Cade
- Vice President: Tausha Chamberland
- Secretary: Barry Stock
- Treasurer: Vern Bloomquist

Also, Board members Joyce Bohn, Nancy Huddleston, and Will Williams were each elected to three-year terms.

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.

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Jon Allen, Savage	Tausha Chamberland, Savage
Jack/Cindy Bergman, Wintersmet, MI	Dave Christopherson, Farmington
Vern/Cathy Bloomquist, Farmington	Kathleen Dempsey, Pompano Beach, FL
Joyce Bohn/Christina Christiansen, Savage	Lisa Jemtrud, Savage
Marc Bohn, Savage	Tom/Deb Markus, Milwaukee, WI
Bernadette Bonsell, Mt. Vernon, OH	Daniel/Laurie Stock, Maple Grove
Joe Cade, Prior Lake	Will/Janet Williams, Savage

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR SUCCESS

They say the main reason members of an organization volunteer is because someone asked them. So, we're asking. We have a variety of tasks that contribute to the overall success of the Dan Patch Historical Society. Or, if you'd rather make a monetary donation, we would be grateful for your assistance to help us fulfill our mission of preserving Savage's history. If you're interested, we'd love to hear from you. Send us an email at questions@danpatch.com.

In the News

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!

Did you know there are two videos on YouTube about the city's history and featuring DPHS board members? Scan the QR codes next to each description to view them at your leisure!



• In 2023, Board Members Barry Stock and Will Williams sat down with the video team from the city to record a historical tour about Savage. Their discussion covers everything from Camp Savage, to Cargill, to Dan Patch and Mr. Savage, and everything else in between.



• 2024 marks the 120th anniversary of the city of Savage. To celebrate this milestone, the city has been sharing a video featuring Board Member Will Williams. This link is to a short 2-minute video about Dan Patch Days.

DAN PATCH AT THE FAIR

Just in time for the 2024 State Fair, *Minneapolis-St. Paul Magazine* published "5 Things to Know About Dan Patch."

"Sure, you may recognize the name from the State Fair avenue or Savage's annual festival, but there's so much more to learn about Minnesota's most beloved horse," the article began. It details information under the listings:

1. Dan Patch is known as the "World's Champion Harness Horse."
2. "... But he almost didn't live long enough to receive the honor."
3. "He's (obviously) a State Fair legend."
4. "For a time, his face was everywhere."
5. "The town Savage is named after his owner."

To read the full article, go to: mspmag.com/arts-and-culture/5-things-to-know-about-dan-patch/

**DAN PATCH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

PO Box 1:55
Savage, MN 55378

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joe Cade, President

Tausha Chamberland, Vice President

Barry Stock, Secretary

Vern Bloomquist, Treasurer

Greg Lind, Webmaster

Nancy Huddleston, Newsletter Editor

Jon Allen

Janet Williams

Will Williams

Joyce Bohn

VISIT US

Heritage Room / Museum
SAVAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

13090 Alabama Avenue
Savage, MN 55378

HOURS

Monday	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Tuesday	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Wednesday	12 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Extended Service Hours: Anytime the library is open, you can visit our museum. Extended Access allows residents and other Scott County Library Services cardholders aged 16 and older to use the Savage Library anytime from 6 a.m. – 10 p.m. every day. Enrollment is required and can be completed with library staff during regular business hours.

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

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

CONTACT US

questions@danpatch.com

www.danpatch.com

Library Phone: 952.707.1770