



DAN PATCH

Historical Society

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 60 / SPRING 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, and also all history about the city of Savage.

IN THIS EDITION

Sulky Move

From The President

120th Anniversary

DAN PATCH



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dan Patch Days

GET YOUR 2024 BUTTON

PRICE: \$5.00

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

DRAWING: Saturday, June 22, 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: Acknowledges the 120-year anniversary of our city's name, and the long tradition of Dan Patch Days.

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 / Museum, and some are still for sale!

Come and see us at our booth on Saturday from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. to learn more about how we're preserving the city's history and how you can help support our nonprofit organization.



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



(continued on page 2)

Dan Patch Days (continued)



HORSESHOE HUNT

Clues released FOUR WEEKS before Dan Patch Days, and if needed a fifth clue will be released!

The annual horseshoe hunt is sponsored by the DPHS and 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 or at the Savage Library.

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

Rules:

- Clues are given out each week that will lead to the location of a special horseshoe hidden somewhere on public property within the city of Savage boundaries.
- Whoever finds the horseshoe MUST have purchased a 2024 Dan Patch Days button in order to win \$100.
- The lucky winner also gets to keep the commemorative horseshoe.

Remember: To win the \$100 prize, you must have purchased a Dan Patch Days button. Five dollars is a great investment, not only for the prize money, but also for bragging rights! The winner has the opportunity to ride with the Dan Patch Historical Society in the parade.

VISIT THE DAN PATCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOTH

Saturday, June 22 – 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, keychains, and candy; plus, get famous on Instagram by taking your picture with the Dan Patch cutout. We also might have a sweet surprise treat for you to enjoy!

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.



OTHER EVENTS

Most Dan Patch Days 2024 activities take place at Savage Community Park, 13500 Dakota Ave., unless otherwise noted. For more detailed information, go to www.danpatchdays.org.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

- Savage Rotary Craft Beer and Wine Tasting Fundraiser, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. under the Big Tent. Cost: \$25 per ticket.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

- Adult Night at Dan Patch Days: Music/Food Trucks/Vendors: Gates open at 5:00 p.m. Cost: Entrance fee (\$25 in advance and \$30 at the door) + \$7 each for alcoholic beverages and drink tickets.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

- Dan Patch Days Grand Day Parade: Lineup is at 10:00 a.m. Parade starts at 11:00 a.m. in downtown Savage. No cost.
- Family Day at Dan Patch Days: Noon – 11:00 p.m. No entrance fees. A variety of family friendly activities and music topped off by fireworks. (No outside coolers/food allowed)

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

- Savage Fire Department Pancake Breakfast: 7:00 a.m. – noon at Fire Station #2, 13105 Dakota Ave. Cost: Free-will donation.

Rising to New Heights

Dan Patch's Sulky Is On The Move

By Nancy Huddleston

An important part of Savage's history is reaching new heights.

An early-1900s sulky that was used by Dan Patch is being moved to the tall vestibule above the Savage Library's interior doors to preserve it and draw attention to the racing legend, and his owner and city's namesake, Marion W. Savage.

Ward Holasek of Waconia owned the sulky and always maintained that it was used by Dan Patch at the International Stock Food Farm racetrack in Savage. In 2016, the sulky was bequeathed to the Carver County Historical Society, and subsequently donated to the Dan Patch Historical Society.

When the sulky arrived in Savage, Board members Will Williams and Jed Williams used paint brushes with "minute amounts of water as needed to clean the dirt and other accumulated crud."

Next, Williams and DPHS Board members Tausha Chamberland and the late George Augustinack went to work authenticating the sulky as one used by Dan Patch. The key was measuring the distance between the left wheel and axle mount to make sure it was a ½ inch greater than the right side. The significance of the ½ inch difference was to accommodate Dan Patch's tendency to kick his left leg into the wheel, and "lo and behold, it was!" said Williams.

"Then we had to use our vast knowledge of geometry to get the dang thing into the front display case!" Williams recalled.

With library renovations underway to allow for extended access to the building, city staff and DPHS agreed that because the sulky is an important part of the city's history, it made sense to allocate funds and resources to keep it and other artifacts secure in the library.

Phillip Skluzacek, city of Savage building inspector, is overseeing transferring the approximately 100-pound sulky from the display case to its new home. City staff and DPHS Board members considered several options, but the idea of placing the sulky in the tall vestibule rose to the top.

Skluzacek said two 4-inch-by-4-inch metal beams will be installed through the brick walls in the front vestibule to span parallel with the doors. The beams will match other metal inside the library, provide a great resting spot for the sulky, and if anything changes in the future, the beams can be functional for other purposes.

Once the platform is constructed, a scissor lift will be used to lift the artifact up and workers on tall ladders will carefully position the sulky in place and fasten it down.

The front display case will continue to be used for rotating historical displays from the DPHS collection. And the Heritage Room / Museum space is doubling in size, too, making it easier to learn about the city's rich history.



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).

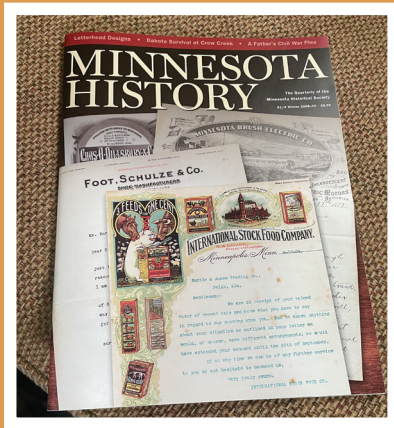


From The President Stock Food Company's Business Style Endures

By Jim Ross

On a recent visit to the Minnesota History Museum to see The Life & Art of Charles M. Schulz exhibit, the 2008-09 cover of the Minnesota Historical Society's quarterly magazine, Minnesota History, caught my eye in the gift shop. On the cover, front and center, is a letter from the International Stock Food Company as an example of the elaborate letterheads used at the time.

Graphic representations of the Stock Food business products ran up the left edge of the page and spanned across the top, which included an engraving of their large three-story Minneapolis factory – the height of which meant a successful enterprise. The article called out the unique design: "Rather than creating a symbolic corporate image, it included trademarks, selling slogans, and products, especially in the border – another popular advertising technique adopted for both letterheads and invoices."



M.W. Savage is noted as the manager and proprietor on the letterhead and the letter is dated August 16, 1904 – the same year the Glendale Post Office changed its name to Savage due to the high volume of packages arriving for him. (See related article).

The 16-page article chronicled how the Minnesota letterhead designs mirrored the national business culture. Author Karin McGinnis said the International Stock Food Company letterhead was an "exuberant" design, "In an era when people were not overwhelmed by mail and pictorial information, the attraction of such detailed illustration was potent."

Paging through the magazine article made me wonder what the late George Augustinack, our long-time vice president, might say. Although George was never at a loss for words, we can imagine his delight as the ink in his printer's veins raced when he launched into a story about the design choices related to Mr. Savage's advertising prowess, which transformed Dan Patch into a bona fide celebrity.

Bottom line: Trips to museums seldom disappoint and I invite you to visit our newly remodeled Heritage Room / Museum and Savage Public Library.



Savage celebrates 120th Anniversary

By Jim Ross

On March 26, 1904 - 120 years ago - the Glendale Post Office was renamed Savage since M.W. Savage, a manufacturing tycoon with a rather large horse farm nearby, received mega amounts of mail and packages. A railway agent suggested it would just be easier if they named the joint Savage. The town council adopted the name in 1919.

In the beginning, Mother Nature developed the junction of the Minnesota River Valley and the Credit River. The Mdewakanton camped, fished, and traversed here. In the mid-1800s, fur traders and explorers established a small post on the river. William Byrne and other Scottish and Irish immigrants from Hamilton, Ontario, built Hamilton Landing.

The growing port was incorporated in 1892 as the Village of Hamilton. The railroad arrived in 1865, and a post office in 1894. The office was renamed Glendale Post Station when Glendale Township was formed west of Hamilton (Glendale Township was consolidated with Savage in 1969).

With the arrival of Mr. Savage and his prized pacer, Dan Patch, came notoriety, commerce, and the town's current name. Many reminders of our past names include M.W. Savage Elementary, Glendale Elementary School, and Hamilton Senior Apartments.

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.

DAN PATCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW & RETURNING MEMBERSHIP

Rick Nash, New Prague
Karen Smith, Apple Valley
Barry & Lorna Stock, Savage

Bonnie Conrad, Glendale, AZ
Dawn Bergman, Wilsonville, OR
Mike & Nancy Huddleston, Burnsville

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

IN THE NEWS

Presentation at The Meadows

In February, DPHS Board members Will and Janet Williams made a presentation at the Meadows Senior Living (the old Loftus farm by water tower at the intersection of county roads 27/42). Will talked about Dan Patch and Mr. Savage. Janet talked about how we preserve the city's history and how membership and monetary donations help fund our nonprofit organization. It was a standing-room only event, as there were over 50 people in attendance.

Coming Up

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Dan Patch Historical Society's Annual Meeting will be July 18, at 6:00 p.m. at Casa Deli in the Savage Depot.

SAVAGE LIBRARY GRAND RE-OPENING

The Savage Library is scheduled to have its grand re-opening on Saturday, June 1. Come out to see our new and larger Heritage Room / Museum and check out all of the other great renovations to the 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 / Museum 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 2024 City of Savage Parks and Recreation Catalog, or check the website: www.cityofsavage.com/parks-recreation.

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 Access Service begins June 1. 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

DAN PATCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Savage, MN 55378

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