

# StarTribune

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## **Savage: Named after the owner of a famous horse**

By Larry Werner, Associated Press

Last update: September 23, 2003 – 11:00 PM

Savage is a fast-growing suburb named after the owner of a famous racehorse. And the guy didn't even live in the community.

M.W. Savage lived across the Minnesota River from Savage, but he owned a horse farm in what was then known as Hamilton. In the early years of the 20th Century, that farm housed a horse named Dan Patch, a pacer that Savage had purchased. Dan Patch set the racing world on fire, setting records and charming race fans up until his death in 1916.

Because the horse was so well known and loved by racing fans all over the world, city officials decided to rename Hamilton after the owner of Dan Patch. Today, Savage is better known for the explosive growth that turned it into a bedroom suburb of the Twin Cities and for its grain-loading facilities on the Minnesota River.

While some river cities are trying to replace riverfront industrial facilities with housing and recreational amenities, Savage has maintained its riverfront as a freight-loading asset for commerce that still moves most efficiently by water. Four facilities in Savage accept grain brought from rural areas by truck and load barges for transport up the Minnesota River and down the Mississippi. The largest facility is operated by Cargill, the giant food company.

If the community's riverfront has a blue-collar mission, its growing residential areas, with large houses in lush, natural settings, suggest that Savage has attracted many professionals. The growth has been explosive, more than doubling from 1990's 9,906 to 21,115 in 2000. As the rooftops have multiplied in the neighborhoods, the retailers have followed with big-box stores that have turned Hwy. 13, the city's major east-west highway, into a destination for shoppers.

The largest employer is Fabcon, which makes cement and concrete products and employs 470. Continental Machines, with 310 workers, is in second place among private employers. The school district, which serves Savage and Prior Lake, employs 329.

In surveys done for the city each year, the residents suggest that among the city's most attractive features is its location on the river bluffs of Scott County. But that location and other amenities have resulted in the things that residents say they like least about Savage – its growth and traffic congestion.