



# DAN PATCH *Newsletter*

**A Publication of the Dan Patch Historical Society**

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[www.danpatch.com](http://www.danpatch.com)

## DAN PATCH DAYS



2014 Dan Patch Days  
Button

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**For more information about our organization, visit our website [www.danpatch.com](http://www.danpatch.com)**



Board members at the Dan Patch Historical Society booth on Saturday, June 21, 2014. From left to right: Janet Williams, Jens Bohn, Nancy Allen and Jed Williams

Dan Patch Days was a big success this year and the DPHS participated as usual. We had our collector button sale, Horseshoe Hunt, booth on Saturday and parade on Sunday.

Our informational booth was on Saturday at Community Park. We had our storyboards telling the story of Mr. Savage and Dan Patch, items for sale and members present to answer questions.

This year we took a different approach and had an eight foot banner of the timeline of the City of Savage from the early 1800's until today. With Marion W. Savage and Dan Patch playing a significant role in our history, it interesting to see where they fit into the timeline. This is particularly important for our new residents

to learn the history of our city. The banner is on display in the Heritage Room at the Savage Public Library.



Timeline of the City of Savage's History starting from the early 1800's

*Dan Patch Days Continued on page 2*

**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 it's owner, M.W. Savage.

## DAN PATCH DAYS...continued



Dan Patch and Mr. Savage on the Dan Patch Historical Society Float

### DAN PATCH IN THE DAN PATCH DAYS PARADE

A life size replica of Dan Patch owned by George Augustinack, VP of the Dan Patch Historical Society, was on a professionally done float near the front of the parade. Riding next to Dan Patch was Mr. Savage (Jed Williams, Board Member), Tausha Chamberland board member, her daughters and the granddaughters of Mayor Janet Williams.

### THE WINNERS ARE ANNOUNCED

Announcing the winners on Saturday, June 21 was Jed Williams, Will Williams and Jens Bohn with help from April Chamberland.



From left to right: Jed Williams, Will Williams and Jens Bohn



President Bohn presenting the \$100 check to horseshoe hunt winners Tammy and Liz Watson



Grove Bradbury Jr. winner of the intarsia

### AND THE WINNERS ARE

The winner of the intarsia was Grove Bradbury Jr. from St. Paul, MN. Grove is a long time member of DPHS and button collector. The horseshoe hunt winners were Tammy and Liz Watson of Savage. They found the horseshoe after two clues. The winner of the blanket was Deb Severson from Savage, MN.



## Dan Patch Historical Society New/Renewing Membership

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 or visit our website at danpatch.com**

*Annual renewal date is listed on the address label of your newsletter*



# Record Crowds Attend State Fair to Watch Dan Patch Race

by Jim Ross

This headline was just as true this year at the Minnesota State Fair as it was in 1906 when Dan raced on opening day, where more than 100,000 people showed up to watch him. Racing against the clock again on September 8, the last day of the fair, he set the world record in pacing at 1:55.

This year, after the State Fair board approved of demolishing Heritage Square, which housed the story and memorabilia of Dan Patch, the new state of the art History and Heritage Center opened in what is now called the West End Market. In collaboration with the Minnesota Historical Society and after fundraising nearly 3 million dollars, an interactive, temperature controlled, ultra modern facility opened to much anticipation.



2014 MN State Fair Pin number 3, part of a 12 pin collection this year that when put together forms the shape of MN



Part of the MN State Fair display of Dan Patch History



Jim Ross with his daughter Nicole at the display

Dan plays a prominent role in the new center with a display, memorabilia, digital photo reproductions, text on rotating polygons and even a video of Dan racing re-tell his prominent role in the history of the fair. When you leave the Center you take Dan Patch Avenue to see the rest of the fair. The street was re-named in 1995 to honor Dan and recognize his significance. New State Fair collector pins were also available one of which was Dan's likeness. Curiosity about the redevelopments combined with good weather equaled another record - record attendance as more than 1.8 million people attended the fair this year.

At the turn of the century nothing was bigger in the sporting world than horse racing; and nobody was a bigger star than Dan Patch. In 1906 the United States was moving from a rural to a more urban society and the state fair venue was perfect for country to meet city. Dan appealed to both groups. His owner understood his popularity and for weeks prior to the fair the advertising department of his International Stock Farm blitzed most of the state. M. W. Savage, a hugely successful Minneapolis businessman, was a marketing genius and guaranteed a world record time for Dan's race.

Dan was so good no other horseman would race him, so he raced against the clock. This was Dan's third appearance at the fair, having raced there in 1903 & 1905. When Dan failed to break the record on the opening day in '06, Savage brought him back 5 days later.

With the double-decker grandstand full and the crowd tight to the rail, many more held a view from Machinery Hill and the infield of the track. After a trial run and then another practice run, Dan hit the pole and the race was on. A Minneapolis Journal reporter describes the scene: "...watches clicked and the assault upon the world's record was on...eating up the ground in mighty bounds,...Dan pacing in a style more suggestive of a machine than flesh and blood.

*Record Crowds....continued on page 4*

“They flashed by the quarter in :28 ¼...the half in :57 and on they rushed to the far corner.” With the record within reach, in a cloud of Minnesota topsoil and on a fast track, they turned into a head wind and hit the third pole at 1:26 1/2. “The crowd came to its feet, the horses rushed down the stretch, an avalanche of speed...hoofs and the cries of the drivers...transforming the panorama into a living spectacle.” With the crowd chanting and whipped into lather as much as the horse, the great mahogany bay crossed the finish line.



Necks craned, judges clicked again, and breath was held. Finally an announcer put lips to megaphone and proclaimed a new world...before he could finish, pandemonium reigned and fans swarmed the track. Men in Derby's or straw Boaters threw them in the air, women in big hats with plumes and even bigger dress, waved their hankies. Dan surely turned his handsome head and nods, acknowledging their praise.

No mention is made of a run on the all you can drink milk stand after the race, but some were noted sneaking nips from flasks and passing it around. Tim Brady notes in his book *The Great Dan Patch* "...love was heaped on Dan Patch like a thick stack of warming blankets. As he was taken...back to his stable, a cheering mob accompanied him all the way. Fans...lingered around the stable until long after sunset..."

The State Fairgrounds in Hamline had just become ground zero for the biggest sports story in the nation.



This story and so much more was all available at the new History and Heritage Center at the great Minnesota Get together – where the famed Dan Patch is still drawing crowds.

*This article was researched and written by Jim Ross, lifelong resident of Savage, MN and board member of DPHS.*

## Computer Savvy?

The Dan Patch Historical Society is looking to rebuild their website and is looking for someone that is interested in volunteering their time to help us out. If you are interested, please contact us at [webmaster@danpatch.com](mailto:webmaster@danpatch.com)



## DUES TO INCREASE

The DPHS board members decided to raise dues by \$5 as of January, 2015. We have never increased our dues and we are supported by are dues. We want to thank our members for there support.

## NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Nancy Allen, Savage, MN  
 Roger Applegate, Wilmington, OH  
 George Augustinack, Savage, MN  
 Jack/Cindy Bergman, Francisville, LA  
 Jens/Joyce Bohn, Savage, MN  
 Tom Brennan, Savage, MN  
 Joe Cade, Mendota Heights, MN  
 David Christopherson, Farmington, MN  
 Rob/Lori Fendler, Savage, MN  
 Carl Hanson, Savage, MN  
 Drema Huston, Anderson, IN

Carrie Johnson, Perham, MN  
 Anne Masis, Burnsville, MN  
 Charles/ Helen Moriyama, Mililani, HI  
 Alan Prince Derrfield Beach, FL  
 Dr. Alfred Savage, Mt. Pleasant, IA  
 Maureen Smith, Lynnwood, WA  
 Michael Simpson/Sharon Allen, Savage, MN  
 Barry/Lorna Stock, Savage, MN  
 Jed/Jennifer Williams, Savage, MN  
 Will/Janet Williams, Savage, MN  
 John Zugschwert, Middleburg, VA

## ITEMS FOR SALE

- 2008 Dan Patch Pewter 2-1/2" diameter Holiday Ornament.....\$20



- Dan Patch Postcard.....\$1
- 2014 Dan Patch Days Button.....\$5  
 Previous years buttons also available
- M.W. Savage Storyboard.....\$75
- Dan Patch Storyboard.....\$75  
 Storyboards are perfect for homes, offices and waiting rooms



- International Stock Food Farm Book.....\$25 (non-members).....\$15 (members)
- The Great Dan Patch and the Remarkable Mr. Savage Book....\$24.95  
 DVD also available for \$10
- Images of America, Savage Book.....\$23.50
- Dan Patch Electric Railroad Book...\$15 (non-members).....\$12 (members)

\*Items available at The Razor's Edge Barbershop, through the website [www.danpatch.com](http://www.danpatch.com) or call 952-890-1669. Shipping and handling fees apply.



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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President** Jens Bohn  
**Vice President** George Augustinack  
**Treasurer** Sharon Allen  
**Secretary** Janet Williams  
**Webmaster** Greg Lind  
**Newsletter Editor** Tausha Chamberland  
Tom Brennan  
Joe Cade  
Rob Fendler  
Jim Ross  
Jed Williams  
Will Williams

**Contact us at: 952-890-1669  
Email: [questions@danpatch.com](mailto:questions@danpatch.com)**

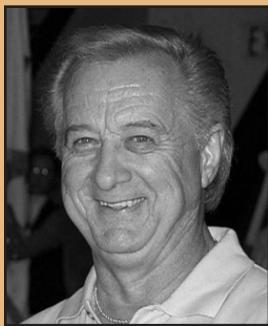
**[www.danpatch.com](http://www.danpatch.com)**

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

Hours of Operation:  
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 10am-8pm  
Wednesday 1pm-8pm  
Friday 10am-5pm  
Saturday 10am-4pm  
Sunday 1pm-5pm

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

## ***FROM THE PRESIDENT...***



Jens Bohn

At our annual meeting in July we elected our officers as reflected in our new Board of Directors list above. We decided to raise the annual dues in 2015 by \$5 as we have not raised our dues since we started. We are supported by our dues and thank our members for being so faithful through the years.

We continue to look for someone to rebuild our website. It is very popular and weekly we receive inquiries from all over the country so we really need help.

We will be at Winterfest Dec. 4 for the tree lighting and the parade.

Thanks to all who participated in the Horseshoe Hunt and Dan Patch Days, We still have collector buttons for \$5 if you need one. The button was designed by board members George Augustinack and Tausha Chamberland with special thanks to Savage resident Jim Ryan who created and donated the intarsia of the button for the prize drawing.

*Jens*

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