

# Strikingly-Colorful Barn Quilt is County's 345<sup>th</sup>

Pete and Cindy Fannin have sponsored Shawano County's 345<sup>th</sup> barn quilt that is on display on their barn at N4756 North Branch Road, Caroline, just south of Leopolis. Pete and Cindy's sons, Brian and Andy Ziegler, knew their mom wanted a barn quilt, so they designed the pattern and chose the bright colors for the quilt, thus the name Sons' Carpenter Star. "I just love it," Cindy said. "Every time I look at it I think of them."

The farm was originally homesteaded in 1885 by Joseph and Katarina Assenbrenner. Joseph sold it to his son, Matthew, in 1894. The original part of the existing house was built around 1895 and an addition built in 1927 to accommodate a growing family. Matthew and his wife, Anna, raised 13 children. The barn on which the quilt is displayed was built sometime shortly after the house was finished.

Somewhere along the way, the last name of Assenbrenner was changed to Aschenbrenner. The farm stayed in the family until 2006, when Pete and Cindy bought the buildings and 10 acres from Mike Mijal, an Assenbrenner descendant.

When Pete and Cindy purchased the property, both the house and barn needed a great deal of work since they hadn't been used for many years. The buildings have now been completely restored by Pete and Cindy's sons, Brian and Andy, who are builders/contractors in the Fox Valley area.

Pete and Cindy raise a breed of hair sheep called Katahdin, a breed of domestic sheep developed in Maine. The breed is named after the state's highest peak, Mount Katahdin. The sheep are known for their mild meat and docile nature and are raised for breeding stock and for meat. The Fannins also have a "guard" llama named Dolly, raise laying hens and have two "barn" cats named Minnie and Marty.

The quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put on display by LeRoy and Keith Raddant of Raddant Electric in Shawano.

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