

## **“Lucky Star” is 44<sup>th</sup> Barn Quilt**

The Magee Family Farm at 111 Highway 22 on the south edge of Shawano has sponsored the 44<sup>th</sup> barn quilt as part of Shawano’s county wide barn quilt project. Called “Lucky Star,” the bright red and white star pattern has a horseshoe in the center, thus the name “Lucky Star.”

The quilt was painted by members of the Magee family with the help of Becky Krubsack of Shawano and members of the barn quilt committee. It is best viewed from south Lincoln Street across from Shawano High School, although it is also visible from Highway 29.

Gary and Donna Magee, along with Gary’s mom, Elva, currently live on the 80-acre farm that has been in the Magee family since Gary’s grandparents bought it in 1951.

Horse racing has been a big part of the Magee family for many years. Gary’s granddad was a cheesemaker near Angelica, but also trained and raced Standardbred horses at Seymour. Gary’s dad, Elwood, followed suit and made a living racing Standardbreds professionally. Gary had a career as an architecture teacher in Green Bay for 19 years, then in Rice Lake for 16 before he and Donna moved back to Shawano in 1989. During that time, however, Gary participated in harness racing throughout the Midwest. “I was one of the lucky ones,” Gary said, “having two ‘jobs’ I truly loved. And now, after retiring as a teacher, I can still enjoy harness racing.”

Gary and Donna now have four Standardbreds, although only two are still racing. Fox Valley Bunn and Get Physical are doing well and Gary hopes to race them through this fall and next year as well. “Get Physical is a well-bred horse,” Gary said, “and we are optimistic that he will do well.”

The Magees decided to participate in Shawano County’s barn quilt project because they thought it was something special for Shawano County. They chose to have a horseshoe on their pattern for obvious reasons – their love of harness racing. They chose red and white for the main colors of their quilt because those are the colors of their racing silks.

“We’ve received lots of nice comments about the quilt,” Donna said. “We think the project is just great because it is something that is unifying the whole county.”