

Tom and Lois Aumann Sponsor Shawano County's 73rd Barn Quilt

For more than 50 years, Tom Aumann, Edward Jones agent in Shawano, has had a fascination with barns. As a youth, he played in the hay mow where he could see the framework of hand hewn beams of ironwood, oak or elm. The names of the craftsmen who built these barns with only hand tools, ropes and pulleys, have faded, but the barns they built have lasted for generations.

"Now these stately barns that are left need a little help," Aumann said. "That's why Lois and I agreed to sponsor a barn quilt for Shawano County. Hopefully the hugs of these colorful quilts, representing the handiwork of women for generations, will help protect them so the work of those craftsmen can be seen for generations to come."

The barn quilt the Aumanns sponsored is on a barn owned by John and Stephanie Boyles, W8966 Beech Road, Shawano, actually located just outside of Red River. The pattern the Boyles chose is called "Nine Patch Star." The quilt, Shawano County's 73rd, was put up by LeRoy Raddant and Bruce Teetzen of Raddant Electric in Shawano.

The original land abstract for the Boyles' farm dates back to 1856. Frank Luedtke lived and farmed there until 1954, when he sold the property to Theodore Jeske. Stephanie's grandparents, Salty and Gert Szucs, who owned Salty's Tavern, bought the farm in 1962, although they did not live there at the time. Instead, they rented out the house to local newlyweds until the couples could find a place of their own.

On New Year's Day in 1971, Salty and Gert moved into the house and sold the tavern to Roger "Rip" and Marcia Buettner. Salty and Gert lived there for years, close to family and good neighbors, until Salty died in the spring of 1997. Gert moved into an apartment in Shawano in the fall of 2001.

John, born and raised in Pennsylvania, and Stephanie, born and raised in Red River, moved from Wausau into the house in 2002. John and Steph purchased the property in 2006 and are raising their four daughters there. "We love living in the country," Stephanie said, "and hope to have horses and cattle someday for our girls to enjoy."