

Don and Jana Dreier Sponsor 83rd Shawano County Barn Quilt

Sitting up on a hill overlooking the beautiful countryside at N6818 Cherry Road is a brown barn that was built in 1908. It is owned by Don and Jana Dreier of Shawano and now sports a beautiful multi-colored barn quilt called "Indian Paint Brush." It is Shawano County's 83rd barn quilt that was painted by the Shawano Country Barn Quilt Committee and was put up by LeRoy and Keith Raddant of Raddant Electric in Shawano.

On a cool summer day in the 1950s, Don Dreier and two of his friends, Art Cantwell and Bill Gansen, went tubing down the nearby Red River at a well-known spot called "The Rock." The tubes used back then were small, so Don and his friends "got pretty banged up and cold," Don recalls. Being wet and cold, they walked up the hill to the farmhouse then owned by Charlie Ziemer and his wife. The Ziemers gave them towels with which to dry off along with some "Kool-aid" as Don called it.

Don was so impressed with their hospitality, as well as their home and its proximity to the Red River, that he told them if they ever decided to sell the farm to give him a call. Just over 40 years later, in 1993, Charlie called Don and two days later, the deal was done. The land is an "L" shaped 80 acres that borders the Red River.

The Ziemers had a herd of eight dairy cows along with three horses. "Mrs. Ziemer told me once that they weren't rich," Don said, "but we always had food to eat."

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