

County's 208th Barn Quilt Features Colorful Maple Leaf

Jim and Diane Kryll have sponsored Shawano County's 208th barn quilt that adorns their beautifully restored barn at W17201 Two Mile Road, Tigerton. The pattern they selected for their barn quilt is called Maple Leaf. "We picked the maple leaf because it reminds us of the beauty of the maple trees in the fall and the brightly colored landscape we are surrounded by on our farm," Diane said. "God dipped His paintbrush in gorgeous fall colors and created a beautiful backdrop for our recently painted red barn with its new, white metal roof."

Diane has dedicated the barn quilt to her Aunt, Edna Newbury, sister of her dad, who grew up on the farm with her dad and two sisters. Now 96 years old, she lives in West Bend with her daughter and family. Two years ago, Diane's family had a 'cousinfest' on the farm and Edna and her two daughters were among those who attended. "My siblings and other cousins enjoyed recalling fond memories of the farm when they were growing up," Diane said.

During that get-together, Edna's daughters decided the barn needed to be painted and offered to pay for it from Edna's funds. "The barn quilt is a fine finishing touch, soaking in the morning sun and brightening our day," Diane said. "Jim and I will enjoy it every time we sit at our kitchen table and look out the window. It will be a constant reminder of the beauty of fall through all seasons."

Diane fondly recalls her dad's maple syrup operation, including one year when they tapped over 2,000 trees. "I remember helping gather sap, first in five pound cherry tins, then aluminum pails and finally, in sap sacks," she said. "It was especially exciting to watch the sparks flying out of the tall smokestacks like fireworks on the fourth of July when he had a roaring fire going at night."

Diane's grandparents, Henry and Amalie Dilge, purchased the farm in 1908. Soon thereafter, Henry's uncle, Ludwig Diem, built a house and log barn for them. The current barn was built in 1921, replacing the original log barn. During the time they were on the farm, Henry and Amalie had a small dairy herd.

In 1945, Henry and Amalie sold the farm to their son, Elmer, and his wife, Loreen. Elmer continued to raise Holsteins and farmed until 1966. After that, he cash cropped the land.

Elmer's daughter, Diane, and her husband, Jim Kryll, purchased the buildings and about 40 acres of the farm in 1988. In 1991, they built a house on the western end of the property and moved to the farm from Milwaukee. Elmer lived in the house in which he was born until his death in 1995. The house was rented for about eight years and then Jim and Diane had it remodeled. They moved to the farm in October 2004. For a few years, they raised some beef cattle and at one time had 25 head of Barbados Blackbelly sheep. "They were a neat breed," Diane said, "and one day, three of the ewes gave birth to ten lambs."

A few years ago, Diane and Jim started a new hobby, making wine. They make their 'Kryll Hill Still' wine with various fruits, including blackberries, blueberries, rhubarb, and cranberries. The wine is not sold retail, but most is given away as gifts or donated.

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

Anyone who would like to participate in Shawano County's barn quilt project can contact project coordinator Jim Leuenberger at 715-524-5685 or via email at jamesmleuenberger@yahoo.com. You can also contact Patti Peterson, tourism manager at the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce at 715-524-2139 or tourism@shawano.com. A link on the Shawano Chamber Web site includes photos and information on every barn quilt on display in Shawano County. Just go to www.shawanocountry.com and click on the barn quilt icon.