

County's 228th Barn Quilt has a "Lucky" Pattern

Shawano County's 228th barn quilt, called The Good Luck Reiner, is now on display on a horse barn at W13774 County GG, Tigerton. It has been sponsored by John and Kris Henselin. Kris got the idea for the pattern from a clock she has with a horseshoe in each corner and the reiner (horse) in the center.

John and Kris started their farm seven years ago and have built, fixed, changed or added to it ever since. Kris was born and raised in Milwaukee and lived there for 25 years. She moved to the Marion area with her parents and met John, who is from Tigerton, in 1992. They were married in 1996.

Kris had first seen the sport of reining at the Packer City Reining Show in West Allis in the early 1980s and has been hooked on it ever since. The first Quarter horse she trained was named Joel's Tailwind. Another reiner she had was named Superstition Nate. Both have died, but are remembered fondly. "We really miss them," Kris said, "as they were just like members of our family."

The two horses in the picture are the two older of the four Kris and John now own. At left, Kris is holding CCC Bonita's Shadow, called "Ben," who is 22 and at right, King JacSan, called "King," who is 18, being held by John. Both are trained reining horses.

"I wanted a barn quilt for a while now," Kris said, "and I can't believe there is one *awesome* quilt hanging on our barn door. It's so much fun for us to drive around Shawano County and see the quilts that are popping up all over the place. They really are neat. We especially like the cat quilts on Highway 29 west of Shawano and the Owl on Lake Road."

Kris said the whole process of getting a barn quilt went smoothly and she encourages anyone who has been thinking about getting a barn quilt to contact Jim Leuenberger, the project coordinator, to get one. "We just feel they add character and distinction to your place and make living in Shawano County something special," Kris said.

The Henselin 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.

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