

County's 241st Barn Quilt is Starshadow

Shawano County's 241st barn quilt, called Starshadow, is on display on a barn owned by Darryll and Mary Olson at W6491 State Highway 156, Shiocton. It is on the last parcel of land the Olsons purchased from Otto and Toddy Kohls that is part of the Olsons' 425 acre farm.

The quilt is sponsored in memory of Larry and Beatrice Barclay. The colors used in the pattern were chosen because they were ones Beatrice liked to wear. "It is also in honor of all the mission quilts Beatrice sewed at her church," Mary said.

The barn on which the quilt is mounted was constructed differently than most in the area. The owner who built it used cedar block from his cedar swamp since there were no stones on his property and he didn't want to haul them from Lessor. Part of the cedar block walls are still intact. The Harvestore silo on the property was actually won by Toddy Kohls at the 1978 Wisconsin Farm Progress Days in Waupaca County.

Another unusual aspect of the barn is that the two rows of milking cows faced to the middle rather than to the outside walls as most others did. When the Olsons purchased the farm, the stalls were removed from the barn and it was converted to a loose housing heifer barn.

The barn quilt was painted by Mary Olson and the Shawano County barn quilt committee. It 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 by 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.