

Schmidts Honor Mother with 153rd Barn Quilt

Shawano County's 153rd barn quilt has been sponsored by Earl and Judy Schmidt in memory of Earl's mother, Erma, who was a quilter until she was 95 years old. The quilt, called Pumpkin Star, is on a barn owned by Earl's daughter, Karen, and her husband, Cory Schairer at 194 Western Avenue, Birnamwood.

Erma Schmidt was a farm wife with 11 children and made hundreds of quilts for family and friends. She also made over 1000 quilts for Lutheran World Relief and made a quilt in 1932 that she entered in the World's Fair in Chicago that was awarded a green ribbon.

The homestead where the quilt is located was once owned by Melvin and Ella Brumm. It was purchased by Rex Mortenson around 1965 and then sold to his son Craig Mortenson several years later. In 2011, the 37-acre property was purchased by Schairer's Farms Inc. for cropping. Currently the property is rented to Schairer's Autumn Acres, which is owned and operated by Cory and Karen Schairer and their four children.

This fall, Schairer's Autumn Acres will be opening to the public a Corn Maze, a "Pick Your Own" pumpkin patch and other fall activities for families to enjoy. You can check out their progress and fall activities on their Web site at www.schairersautumnacres.com.

"We are working on restoring the beautiful old barn," Karen said, "and think the barn quilt really adds to its character."

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