

## Irish Heritage is Focus of County's 166<sup>th</sup> Barn Quilt

Ken Dunlavy is Irish. In fact, he stills goes to Ireland to visit his cousins who live there. With that heritage, it seems logical that when Ken and his wife, Stephanie, decided to get a barn quilt for their barn at N3914 Krueger Road, Caroline, they wanted the focal point in the center of the quilt to be a shamrock. The quilt pattern is called Diamond Star and was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee. It is the 166<sup>th</sup> barn quilt to be put on display in Shawano County. The quilt was given to Ken by Stephanie as a gift for their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Ken grew up on a farm west of Clintonville and Stephanie grew up near Chicago. They have a home at Cloverleaf Lakes.

Being a farm boy, Ken has accumulated a collection of over 150 antique tractors. The first one he bought was a 1925 Model 1020 McCormick-Deering. He occasionally drives one of his tractors in local parades, but mainly he just enjoys collecting them.

Ken was a pilot for over 30 years, but "you can take the boy off the farm, but you can't take the farm out of the boy," he said. Since retiring as a pilot in 2000, Ken has purchased 11 farms within a 25 mile radius in Shawano, Outagamie and Waupaca counties. The farm on which the quilt is mounted was purchased from Gordon Krueger in 1999. Most of the 235 acres are rented out, but the buildings are used to store his tractors. The barn was built in 1905.

Ken and Stephanie have six children and 19 grandchildren. Their son Ken Jr. and his wife Dawn and their five children live on the farm.

The Dunlavy quilt was put up by LeRoy Raddant and Bruce Teetzen of Raddant Electric of Shawano.

Anyone who would like to participate in Shawano County's barn quilt project can contact Jim Leuenberger, project coordinator, at 715-524-5685 or via email at [jamesmleuenberger@yahoo.com](mailto:jamesmleuenberger@yahoo.com). You can also contact Patti Peterson, tourism manager at the Shawano Chamber of Commerce at 715-524-2139 or [tourism@shawano.com](mailto: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](http://www.shawanocountry.com) and click on the barn quilt icon.

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