

Pattern for County's 172nd Barn Quilt was Mother's Favorite

The pattern for Shawano County's 172nd barn quilt is called Wedding Rings and is on a barn owned by Michael and Candra Kielblock at N4421 Kielblock Road, Tigerton. The pattern was chosen because it was one of the favorite patterns of Mike's mother, Hildegard, who was a quilter herself.

The quilt, one of the brightest among the 172 on display throughout Shawano County, was the third one sponsored by the Woven Hearts Quilt Guild of Tigerton. Over the years, members of the Guild organized many quilt shows, from which they accumulated some money. "Since we had enough money in our treasury, our group thought sponsoring four barn quilts would be something special we could do," said Guild member Ann Becker. "The barn quilt project is just amazing and makes you proud to live in Shawano County."

Mike's grandfather, William Kielblock, arrived in the United States and settled at the farm in 1892. The barn was built in 1895. William built his own log cabin as well. Mike's parents, Wilbert and Hildegard, took over the farm in 1961 and had a dairy herd of 70-75 cows. Over the years, they hauled and bottled milk, which was provided to local schools. The cows were sold in the 1980s and the 200+ acres of cropland is rented out.

Mike and Candra moved to the farm in 1996. "We are so pleased we were chosen by the Quilt Guild for one of their four barn quilts," Candra said. "It really is beautiful and is a wonderful tribute to Mike's mom."

The 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 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 quilt on display in Shawano County. Just go to www.shawanocountry.com and click on the barn quilt icon.