

County's 235th Barn Quilt called Trail of the Lonesome Pine

Shawano County's 235th barn quilt has special meaning and symbolism. It is displayed on a barn owned by Bill Miller at N4858 County G, Leopolis. The quilt was sponsored by Shawano Pathways with funds from the Harold Pevonka estate.

Harold Pevonka was a reclusive individual who was born and died in the same house in Leopolis. He loved his pine trees. Both Harold and his sister suffered from heart disease, so when he became ill, he conferred with attorney Jim Aschenbrener about his estate, asking that money be donated to organizations that are making a positive impact on improving the heart health of Shawano County.

Shawano Pathways was one of the organizations selected for this matching fund. "We wanted to create a barn quilt in honor of Harold," Matty Mathison, Shawano Pathways member, said. "So when I was looking through quilt patterns, I found one called 'Trail of the Lonesome Pine'. I thought the pattern was perfect for Harold."

A heart was added to the original pattern to remind people of Harold's contribution to a healthier lifestyle in Shawano County. The \$20,000 matching fund is still accepting contributions through the end of the year. Checks can be made payable to Shawano Pathways/Healthy Heart, P.O. Box 95, Shawano, WI 54166. All contributions are tax deductible.

The Miller farm where the quilt is displayed was originally homesteaded by Joseph Brunner in 1873. The farm was later taken over by Joseph's son Frank, and Frank's wife, Anna in 1910. The barn was built in the 1920s. Their daughter Margaret and her husband Earl Miller bought the farm in 1948 and their son William has owned it since 1999.

The farm was always a dairy farm until Bill dispersed his 40-cow Holstein herd in March of this year.

Bill said he had thought about getting a barn quilt since he started seeing them popping up around the county three years ago. "I am happy to have been asked to host this special quilt," Bill said. "It was very thoughtful of Shawano Pathways to sponsor the quilt for me and I'm pleased to be part of this wonderful project."

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