

Special Memories is Barn Quilt Number 242

Shawano County's 242nd barn quilt is now on display on a barn owned by William and Carol Henselin at W13829 Henselin Road, Tigerton. The quilt was a surprise 40th wedding anniversary gift from three of their wedding attendants, Bill's sisters Jill Henselin and Debra Pingel, and his cousin and goddaughter Kay Weinig. "I had been dropping hints about wanting a barn quilt for a couple years," Carol said, "and when they surprised us with one, I couldn't believe it. I just love it."

The quilt pattern has been named Special Memories, for several reasons. The four burgundy squares represent Bill and Carol's parents, Irene and Jack Roth and Fred and Edna Henselin. The triangles coming off the squares represent Bill and Carol. The three diamonds are the "diamonds" in Bill and Carol's lives...their daughters Elizabeth, Melissa and Jennifer. Different shades of purple were used on the quilt because it is the official color for Alzheimers disease, which has deep roots in the Henselin family. And finally, the Hereford head in the center because Hereford cattle have been important in their lives for more than 60 years.

The original farm was started by the U.S. government in 1857. Sam Marsh was the original owner in 1866. Charles and Caroline Menzel owned the farm from 1881 to 1909. They passed it on to their four children, including son Frank, who bought the farm from his siblings in 1909.

Fred and Edna Henselin, Bill's parents, along with Fred's brother Walter, purchased the farm in 1947. At that time, they used some of their wedding anniversary money to buy five head of Hereford cattle, and Herefords have been on their farm ever since. The farmhouse was rented out until 1973, when Bill and Carol began living there. The barn, built in 1909, has been and continues to be used for storage of feed and machinery.

The Henselin family has always liked Hereford cattle. The herd, raised free range on several 40-acre plots, has numbered as many as 60 cows. Today the herd totals 39 cows, two bulls and over 20 calves.

The Henselin barn 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.