

County's 246th Barn Quilt is Surprise Christmas Gift

Ruby Fandrey now has Shawano County's 246th barn quilt on her barn at N9255 Maplewood Road, Birnamwood. She describes her quilt, called Wheel of Fortune, as one of the prettiest in the county. "I've seen photos of most of the barn quilts in the newspaper and really think mine is one of the nicest," she said.

The quilt was a surprise Christmas present from her son Mike and his family, wife Carol and children Krystle, April and Shannon.

Ruby and her husband Albert, who died in June of 2011, purchased the 120-acre farm in 1962 from Charles and Meta Boettcher. "We were living in Rothschild and Albert was working at Marathon Electric in Wausau," Ruby said. "Albert wanted a farm and since he was raised just a short distance from this one he knew the farm well."

They purchased the farm in 1962 along with a herd of Black Angus beef cattle and some pigs. Later they started a dairy herd of about 30 Holstein cows, which they kept until Albert retired in 1992.

Later more land was purchased, bringing the farm's acreage to 208. New buildings and a silo were added and a new steel roof put on the barn in 2011. After Albert retired, the land was rented out. Ruby retired in 2011 from Homme Youth and Family programs.

The Fandrey 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.

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