

County's 157th Barn Quilt Celebrates Golden Anniversary

Gale and Betty Zimmel of Shawano have sponsored Shawano County's 157th barn quilt in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary. The quilt they sponsored is on a dairy barn owned by Marty and Heather Krueger, W9660 River Bank Road, Clintonville. The quilt pattern is called "Golden Anniversary Star," and the gold color in the quilt represents the Zimmels' 50 years of marriage.

The Zimmels have wanted to sponsor a barn quilt ever since they saw the article in the Shawano Leader when the first one was put up almost two years ago. "I've loved quilts since I was very young," Betty said. "My grandmother was sick and unable to do much, but she was able to quilt."

The farm now owned by Marty and Heather Krueger was homesteaded by Christian and Wilhelmine Teetzen in 1877. At that time, it consisted of two 40-acre parcels. In 1881, they sold the farm to their son, August Teetzen. In 1883, August sold the farm to Marty Krueger's great grandparents, Louisa (Teetzen) and William J. Krueger. Horses were part of the operation while William farmed.

The barn on which the quilt is displayed was the horse barn and is now used to house dairy heifers. The farm was sold to Bertholdt H. and Sylvia Krueger and Ervin Krueger in 1940. Bert and Verdell Krueger purchased the farm in 1961 from Bert's mother, Sylvia, and uncle, Ervin. When Bert and Verdell purchased the farm, they milked 25 Holsteins, eventually increasing the herd to 70 milking cows and 248 tillable acres.

In September 2000, Marty and Heather purchased the farm from Marty's parents. Marty and Heather have a nine-year-old son, Kyle.

Since Marty and Heather took over the farm, part of the barn has been converted into a milking parlor and the other part is for housing young calves. Building improvements have also included a new free stall barn and a calf barn.

"We really appreciate Gale and Betty sponsoring the barn quilt for us," Heather said. "It really is beautiful. I just love it!"

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