

Barn Quilt Number 101 is a Family Star

Margaret Leidel's 11 children have sponsored a barn quilt on her barn at N1664 Highway 55, Seymour. The quilt pattern they chose is called "Family Affair" and features an eight-pointed star and three corner diamonds. The eight points in the star represent Margaret's eight daughters, Toni, Stephanie, Gail, Jeanine, Roxane, Janet, April and Rene. The three diamonds represent her three sons, Alan, Paul and Todd.

There are also two diamonds at the top of the quilt, which represent Margaret and her deceased husband, Ralph. Since Margaret's favorite color is purple, the quilt is painted in light and dark purple with a white accent.

The first owner of the farm in 1883 was a man named J.J. Hoff. He built the barn in 1905. It was later sold to Roman and Gertrude Baranczyk, who sold it to Ralph and Margaret Leidel in 1957. At the time, the farm totaled 80 acres. The farm was always a dairy operation. Ralph and Margaret had a herd of 80 Holstein cows.

The Leidels sold the dairy herd in 2000. The farm, which now totals 180 acres, is rented out for cash cropping.

"I just love the quilt," Margaret said, "because it represents our family and was given to me by my children. When I look at it, I'll always think of them and my husband Ralph."

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