

## Peruvian Horse is Focal Point of 159<sup>th</sup> Barn Quilt

Shawano County's 159<sup>th</sup> barn quilt has a colorful pattern of various earth tones that complement the horse barn it is mounted on. But the real focal point of the quilt is a silhouette of a Peruvian horse.

The quilt was sponsored by John Mondus and Rita Anello and is on display on their horse barn at N4415 Valley Road, Shawano, although it is most easily seen from highway 29 between Shawano and Bonduel.

Nine years ago, Rita and John attended a horse auction "just to look," John said. "Our plan was to see what was available and to someday get a horse for our granddaughter." By the end of the auction, they had purchased three Quarter horses. However, they had no trailer to haul them and no place to board them. Thanks to a friend, they found a place to board them until they could find a place of their own.

The next year, while walking around at the Midwest Horse Fair in Madison, Rita and John spotted a buckskin horse about 100 feet away. "There's my horse," Rita exclaimed. They talked to the owner, who told them the horse was for sale. It was a Peruvian stallion named Neon RR. They made an appointment to see the horse the following weekend, but the owner called and said she changed her mind.

Meanwhile, Rita did some research about the Peruvian breed and found they were considered to be the smoothest riding horses in the world. Since John was a novice in horse riding and didn't care for the bounce of the Quarter horse, they decided to give the Peruvians a try.

They contacted a breeder in Colorado, from whom they bought their first Peruvian. When they returned from Colorado, the woman with the stallion called to say she changed her mind again and asked if they were still interested in buying her horse. So in a matter of a week, Rita and John had their first two Peruvians.

Since getting their first two Peruvians, Rita and John have enjoyed buying, selling showing and training Peruvians. "They are a beautiful breed and we are so happy to have one featured on our barn quilt," John said. "The quilt really looks great," Rita added.

John and Rita own one of Shawano's most popular restaurants, Anello's Torchlight, featuring Italian and American cuisine at 1276 E. Green Bay Street in Shawano. They also have an abundance of zoo animals patrons can view while enjoying their meal.

The barn quilt, called "Hopscotch with Peruvian Horse," 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.

#