

Kruegers Sponsor County's 190th Barn Quilt

Shawano County's 190th barn quilt has been sponsored by Dan and Shirley Krueger, W8398 Oak Avenue, Shawano. The pattern they chose for their barn quilt is called School Days and includes a little red schoolhouse in the center. "The schoolhouse signifies the importance education has played in the life of our family," Shirley Krueger said. "The colors in the quilt reflect the pride we have in our country and our thanks to God for the freedoms we enjoy in a nation that was founded on Christian principles."

Dan Krueger was born in the farm's present farmhouse and has worked on the farm his entire life as well as having several off-the-farm jobs. The original barn on the farm was built in 1908 by August Blunk. Dan's grandparents, Frank and Minnie Krueger, purchased the 120-acre farm from Blunk in 1922. In 1928, they sold the farm to their sons Leonhardt and Paul and Paul's wife Erna. A section of one of the fields was owned by Carl and Anna Peters, who operated a cheese factory there until it burned down in 1931.

In 1951, Leonhardt sold his half of the farm to Paul and Erna. They and their children, Rudy, Dan, Alice and Eilene operated it as a dairy farm. In 1960, Paul and Erna sold the farm to their son Dan and his wife Shirley. That year the south addition of the barn on which the quilt is displayed was built by Dan with the help of his parents and uncle. Over the years, they expanded the dairy herd and put several additions on the barn, including a small milking parlor that was designed by Dan and built by him with the help of his dad and uncle.

Shirley and their daughters, Jody and Wendy, helped operate the dairy farm, milking about 36 cows until 1977. In addition to the dairy cattle, they had horses, dogs and cats. The farm was also the home base for their custom round baling business until 2007.

Shirley continued to teach through most of these years, having begun her teaching career in a one-room country schoolhouse in the Pulaski School District. Jody and Wendy, Dan and Shirley's daughters, are both elementary school teachers. Jody and her husband Andi and their sons Logan and Evan live in Thornton. Wendy and her husband Scott live on a farm near Arthur, North Dakota with their sons Jacob, Nathan and Ben.

The barn quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee with the help of the Kruegers' grandson Evan Siahaan. It 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 jamesmleuenberger@yahoo.com or by phone at 715-524-5685. 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.