

County's 290th Barn Quilt Symbolizes Generations of Sumner Family

Shawano County's 290th barn quilt was a 50th wedding anniversary gift to John and Paulette Sumner from their three children, Brent, Ellorie and Ryan, and their six grandchildren. Designed and painted by John, it is mounted on their barn at N4470 Hill Road, Shawano. In addition to celebrating John and Paulette's 50 years of marriage, the colors in the quilt were their wedding colors as well as the school colors of Colorado State University, which both attended.

The barn on which the quilt is mounted was built in 1904 by Julius Gruenewald. It was always a dairy barn until John and Paulette purchased the farm from Carl and Anna Winkler in 1977. Since then, the Sumners have used the barn for a variety of their childrens' 4-H projects, including swine, beef, horses, sheep and poultry.

"We had talked about getting a barn quilt," John said, "but I guess the kids got tired of waiting for us to make a decision. It was a great surprise gift and most appreciated." The quilt pattern is called Generations, representing the generations of the Sumner family.

The quilt 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.

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