

Flower Garden is the Pattern for Shawano County's 353rd Barn Quilt

Gerald and Ann Pagenkopf are the proud and happy sponsors of Shawano County's 353rd barn quilt. Called Ann's Flower Garden, the quilt is on display on their beautiful white barn at N6614 County Road C, Cecil. "We had talked about getting a barn quilt for several years," Ann said. "And after we had the barn painted this summer, we knew it was time."

When Gerald and Ann met with project coordinator Jim Leuenberger to pick out a pattern, Jim had one he wanted to do for quite some time. When he showed it to them, they immediately agreed to do it. "We are glad we did," Ann said, "because it is beautiful."

Farm History

The Pagenkopf farm has been in the family name since it was homesteaded by Albert Pagenkopf in 1898. Albert had purchased 160 acres of land from the railroad to homestead.

In about 1908, the farm was split between Albert's two sons, William and August. William and his wife, Hulda, used horses to till the land. They had two sons, Sylvester and Arthur, and a daughter, Marcella.

In 1940, Arthur married Alvina and took over the reins of the farm. William and Hulda bought a house and moved to nearby Pulcifer. They had two daughters, Karen and Kay, and a son, Gerald.

After taking over the farm, Arthur decided to change his farming methods, purchasing an Allis Chalmers tractor and reducing his use of horses to till the soil.

Tragedy Strikes

On August 27, 1959, during an electrical storm, lightning struck the barn causing a fire that destroyed the barn. The mow and grainery of the barn were rebuilt with the help of neighbors and family, so fall crops could be stored in the barn to feed the livestock. In 1960, the floor area of the barn was cemented and new gutters and mangers built.

In 1978, eight years after his wife died, Arthur decided to quit farming and sold the farm to his son Gerald and Gerald's wife, Ann. Ten years later, they sold the cows and started renting the farm land. "Now we have more time to spend with our sons, Jake and Gerrod and our daughter, Jessica," Ann said.

The Pagenkopf barn quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put on display by LeRoy Raddant and his grandson, Keenan, of Raddant Electric of Shawano.