

## Horse Pattern is Shawano County's 360<sup>th</sup> Barn Quilt

Shawano County's 360<sup>th</sup> barn quilt is now on display on a barn owned by Gary and Barb Behnke, N2827 County Road F, just east of Bonduel, Wis. The quilt pattern they chose is of a horse because Barb has always liked horses. "When I was younger, I used to ride horses with some of my friends, but I never had one of my own," Barb said. "Now I do, and I love it!"

Gary and Barb have named their quilt "Emma" in honor of Barb's mom, who will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 1, 2020. "She is just amazing," Barb said. "She still lives in her own house, has her own little garden and is just doing great. So it's appropriate that we name our quilt in her honor. We are really anxious for her to see it."

Gary and Barb both grew up in Green Bay and moved to the Bonduel area after buying 40 acres and the barn in 1993. The barn was built by Ed Elm in the late 1940s or early 1950s and previous owners included Alfred Peterson and F. Deininger, who used it as a dairy barn for their milking herd.

After the Behnkes purchased the property, they built a new house in 1995-96 and put a new roof on the barn in 1998. Another unique feature is that Gary built a wooden spiral staircase inside the 40-foot tall silo and put windows at the top. "It's a great place to go and look at the beautiful countryside and just relax," Gary said.

The barn on which the barn quilt is mounted has been photographed many times because of its picturesque appearance and the American flag displayed on its side. "Now, with this beautiful barn quilt, I expect even more people will be stopping to take pictures," Gary said.

The quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put on display by LeRoy Raddant and Jerry Timm of Raddant Electric in Shawano.

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