

Quilt Number 59 reflects couple's love for farm

Eldor and Pat Erdmann, N6108 Maple Avenue, Shawano, look to leave their mark on their property with their barn quilt, called "Patchwork Heart." It is Shawano County's 59th barn quilt.

"When we saw this pattern, it just made us both smile," Pat said. "It reminds us of the quilts Grandma Emelia Erdmann made for Eldor's family. When we must leave this farm, which we love so much, we like to think our hearts will always be here with our beautiful heart barn quilt."

The first entry for the Erdmann farm in the Abstract of Title compiled by Shawano County was a Land Grant between the United States to Chicago, St. Paul and Fond du Lac Railway Company dated July 2, 1859. The property changed hands a number of times before Fred Erdmann purchased it on November 11, 1886, which by then had grown to 80 acres.

The barn on which the quilt is displayed is about 120 years old. A milking barn next to it was built before 1886.

By the age of 14, Eldor, one of 14 children, was responsible for most of the farm work. He especially enjoyed plowing nearly 65 acres with his three horses. Eldor has lived his whole life on the farm except for three years of service in the Army. He purchased the homestead from his grandmother, Emelia Erdmann, in 1957. Cash crops were wheat, rye, oats, barley and timothy hay.

Eldor milked 27 cows and was awarded several citations of merit for the purity of the milk his cows produced.