

Shawano's 63rd Barn Quilt is Second Sponsored by Ray and Jean Klebasadel

Ray and Jean Klebasadel have sponsored their second barn quilt, and Shawano County's 63rd, as part of the countywide barn quilt project started just over a year ago. Their second quilt, on display at W8281 County M just west of Shawano, is on a barn built in 1894 and is a pattern the Klebasadels have called Gamma Ray Burst.

Ray's dad died when he was 15 months old. His stepdad, George Derby, and mom Elsa (Habeck), lived on the 101-acre farm and had a small dairy herd and a large flock of chickens. Elsa lived on the farm until 1991 and lived to be nearly 101 years old. The farm was originally purchased by Ray's grandfather, George, in 1890.

Ray served three years in the Air Force, then attended UW-Madison for four years. After college, he went to work for the Los Alamos National Lab in New Mexico. The lab is where the atomic bomb was developed and one of Ray's professors actually worked on the project.

Ray spent 30 years at the lab, working on satellite-borne detectors for nuclear test ban monitoring. He was responsible for Gamma Ray Detectors intended to detect nuclear bursts, thus the name of their barn quilt pattern, Gamma Ray Burst.

Ray and Jean sponsored the quilt in memory of their forebears. Ray was an only child, while Jean, whose parents Dave and Aurelia Beversdorf farmed just west of the Klebasadels, had four sisters. Delores, married to John Bain, lives in Menomonee Falls; Dorothy is in a nursing home; and Phyllis and Marilyn are deceased.

Ray's great grandfather, Carl Erich Gotthilf, emigrated to the U.S. in 1855 from Pomerania and was the leader of a group that established the Town of Pella.