

Shawano High School Class of 1970 Sponsors Shawano County's 71st Barn Quilt

After seeing barn quilts around Shawano County this summer, Liz Eberlein Redpath, a 1970 graduate of Shawano High School, approached her former classmate Sharrie Olson Schweitzer about their class sponsoring a quilt. Schweitzer put the suggestion on the SHS Class of 1970 Facebook page to see if there was interest.

“The response was very positive,” Schweitzer said, “and donations were received from fellow classmates to cover the cost. And since another classmate, Bruce Buettner, was an active Shawano County dairy and crop farmer, we felt it was appropriate to put the quilt on his barn.”

The quilt pattern class representatives chose is that of a “Country Schoolhouse” and is now on display on Buettner’s barn at N5596 Rangeline Road, a few miles west of Shawano. The Buettner family has operated the farm since 1883, with Bruce being the fourth generation. The farm consists of 500 acres of owned and rented land, most of which is cash cropped. The farm’s original owner was Fredrick Brawer, whose daughter Anna married Gerhardt Schuster. Schuster’s daughter Eleanor married Rudolph Buettner, Bruce’s dad.

As far as the quilt pattern, Bruce felt his mother would have liked an educational theme, so they settled on the “Country School House” pattern. “It brought back the nostalgia of the one room schoolhouse Bruce, I and many fellow classmates attended for grade school,” Schweitzer said. “And it pays tribute to the history of education in Shawano County.”

The quilt, Shawano County’s 71st, was painted by members of the Shawano Country barn quilt committee and was put up by Bruce Teetzen and Keith Raddant of Raddant Electric in Shawano.

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