

## Texas Couple Sponsors 79<sup>th</sup> Shawano Area Barn Quilt

Since she was seven years old, Donna Sheridan of Fort Worth, Texas has been coming to Shawano regularly on fishing trips with her dad and his two brothers. “My dad just loved it here and everything about Wisconsin,” Donna said. “He had planned to retire here, but died in 1997.” Donna’s mother has a cottage near the Cotton Patch supper club and her sister and her family vacation in a condo near Huckleberry Harbor.

Paul works for the Federal Aviation Administration in Texas, being responsible for all air traffic control towers from Minnesota to Texas. He and Donna hope to retire within the next year and move to Shawano. “We really hope to be involved in the Shawano community once we move here,” Donna said.

As a way to start their involvement in the area, the Sheridans have sponsored Shawano County’s 79<sup>th</sup> barn quilt as part of the countywide project started by local photographer Jim Leuenberger a year ago in September. The quilt they sponsored is on a barn owned by Ron and Colleen Urban at W5090 Sunrise Road, Bonduel. The pattern the Urbans chose for the quilt is called Starship Command and is a combination of red, blue, yellow and white.

The barn the quilt is displayed on was built in 1897, with original owners being Benjamin and Hannah Wanner. They owned the farm until selling it to Herman and Ella Wanner in 1929. The farm changed hands several times over the years, with the Urbans purchasing it in 1986. They have two children, Ashley and Collin. “As we saw more and more barn quilts in Shawano County, we really thought it would be nice to have one for our barn,” Colleen said. “We really appreciate the Sheridans sponsoring it for us.”

“What I like best about the Shawano area,” Donna Sheridan said, “is that even with all the things that have changed over the years, many have stayed the same. Just like our old barns. I think it’s wonderful that the barn quilt program is promoting their restoration. It’s important for the history of the county.”

“Quilting itself is all about fellowship and passing keepsakes on from one generation to the next,” Donna added. “Plus, it’s great for encouraging people to explore our beautiful countryside. When Paul and I were out looking at the Shawano County quilts, we found back roads we didn’t even know existed.”

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