

Sumnacht Sponsors Barn Quilt in Memory of Husband and Mother-In-Law

Rene Sumnacht, 614 W. Green Bay St., Bonduel, has sponsored Shawano County's 86th barn quilt as part of the countywide barn quilt project. The pattern she chose is called "Bowl of Flowers" and is displayed on her farm just west of Bonduel on a barn that was built in the early 1900s and where she has lived for over 50 years.

"This beautiful farm was a wonderful place for Dennis and me to raise our three children," Rene said. "We had white face cattle and raised strawberries, sweet corn and even made maple syrup. When our kids were growing up, town kids came here a lot. And photographers have used it many times for wedding photos as well as family and high school senior portraits."

"I really wanted to sponsor a barn quilt in memory of Dennis, who died in 1995, and to my mother-in-law, Alvina," Rene added. "Alvina was one of the last of the old breed of farm women who milked cows, had a big garden, raised strawberries and loved flowers. She was a very important part of our family."

Dennis' great grandfather, Charles Sumnacht, was one of the founders of the Village of Bonduel in the late 1800s. Dennis' dad, Arthur, bought the farm from William Sumnacht in 1938. He later donated the land to the Village of Bonduel where Bonduel High School is now located. They also sold the land to the Village where Cedar Park is located.

Called Hillside Dairy Farm, Dennis and his parents farmed the land and had a dairy herd. They pasteurized their own milk and had a milk route in Bonduel. The herd was sold in 1967 when Dennis went to work for Wisconsin Electric Company as a lineman.