



Golden Wedding Ring 6

Irene Solecki

3454 S Route 115
Kankakee, IL

*Sponsored by Kankakee County
Convention & Visitors Bureau*

Original Owners and/or Builders: The house was built in 1891 by the Hay family.

Current Owners: Kenneth & Irene Solecki since November 1980

Original Use of Purpose of Structure: To store corn

Current Use or Purpose of Structure: Storage for lawn tractor.
There is a lovely grotto on the property, as well as, an apple orchard.
Solecki's have restored the house and property.

Interesting Information: When approached about the idea of participating in the barn quilt project, Irene Solecki, of Kankakee, was uncertain of what a barn quilt was, but she knew who she wanted to paint her quilt. Her daughter, Patricia Alcorn of Herscher,

has taught art to homeschool students, including her sons, for several years and Irene contacted her about the project. While Pat thought this would be a great project for her art students, the group needed to decide upon a quilt pattern and together they began searching for the right design.

Irene and her late husband, Ken, were just shy of celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary and when Irene and Pat discovered the Golden Anniversary Ring pattern. It seemed like a perfect choice for their barn quilt. Not only was the concept of the Golden Anniversary Ring ideal, but the quilt itself would adorn a building which Ken took pride in and had spent so many hours maintaining and working in.

With this much sentimental value built into the project already, it seems difficult to imagine that the quilt could take on more meaning to the family. However, when trying to determine the best color patterns and fabric designs for the quilt, Pat turned to a quilt that she and her mother had made together when Pat was a newlywed. The fabric colors and patterns which make up the finished barn quilt are directly from a quilt project that Irene and Pat shared nearly twenty years earlier.

The true joy and satisfaction of the barn quilt project was the actual work. With the help of her homeschool art students, Cameron and Trevor Alcorn; Matt Fitts; Austin, Brianna and Katelyn Glidewell; and Sara Gray, the Golden Anniversary Ring came to life in a grand scale. Coming together several times a week for approximately one month, the team was able to complete the project in time for the barn quilt kick-off and tour in September.

With inspiration from a mother and daughter's wedding quilt and brought to life by generations of his family and a group of talented young artists, the Golden Anniversary Ring barn quilt, mounted in a most appropriate location, will serve as a tribute to Ken Solecki and his many years of happy marriage to his wife Irene.