



Friends of Minnesota Barns  
www.mnbarns.org

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## Message from the Chairman

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### Greetings!!

These are very trying times. It started out looking like a very eventful season was coming up for FoMB before the COVID-19 virus struck! First, we were planning our annual meeting at the Historic John P. Furber Farm in Cottage Grove, featuring Garrison Keillor as our speaker and the announcement of the FoMB photo contest winners with their photos featured on the 2021 calendar. Events in the works also included a restoration workshop and Coffee Chats throughout the spring and summer. This summer FoMB was also planning an event at the Sky Rock Farm that promised to be a interesting afternoon tour and luncheon. Many of our members, including me, are in the high-risk category and we will be very responsible in resuming our social activities.

As Governor Walz takes gradual steps to reopen Minnesota's economy and ensure the safety of all, I feel that FoMB needs to be cautious in our decisions to resume our organization's activities. There is still much uncertainty about this year's threshing shows and events and our participation hinges on these decisions. When the Board makes decisions on events, we will put them on the FoMB website and all members will be notified. Our hope is we can resume some activities by late summer or early fall.

We are fortunate to have a number of new members. Our board members are anxious to get them involved and meet others in the organization with similar interests, issues with their barns, and to

see barn projects. Our events are great for networking with others as most of the challenges faced have been experienced by others and they will be happy to share how they resolved them. We encourage all members, but especially new members, to share the story of their barn as every barn has a story! You may have had an experience growing up on a farm or visiting grandpa's barn as well. Please submit to the Barn Door editor, Clare Hoelderle, for our next newsletter.

Last year was another busy year for FoMB with many interesting events topped off with the Fall Barn Tour which has become FoMB's most popular event featuring visits to 4-5 barns, some still be used as traditional barns while many have been repurposed to serve the needs of the owners. Clare has organized recent FoMB Fall Barn Tours and does an outstanding job. Repurposing is probably the most important hope in saving a barn. With many of these old barns, it is hard to justify spending the money and effort for the up-keep if it is just sitting there without a use.

Keep in mind the most important thing in preserving an old barn is the roof, once water starts infiltrating the building, deterioration happens quickly. Many times there is hay left on the loft floor which acts like a sponge and holds the moisture that promotes rotting.

Lets hope and pray the COVID-19 virus can be brought under control in the near future.

Stay safe and healthy, Bill Bruentrup

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## The Boars Abode – Donnelly, MN

### The Boars Abode:

*Noun.*

1. A place to enjoy an extended period of leisure and recreation.
2. Where one experiences a state of freedom, amusement, and light-hearted pleasure

The Boars Abode is a vacation barn rental in Donnelly, Minnesota. Aaron and Kayla Erdahl, along with their 3 boys, Bruce, Royce and Randy (ages 7, 6 and 4) operate the business as a family.

### *What was the original use of the building and site for the Boars Abode?*

In 1946, Clarence and Martha Erdahl built the barn that is now known as ‘The Boars Abode.’ They started out raising cattle in it. Shortly thereafter, Lawrence and Bernice Erdahl built a house next door and began farming with them. Long-time Stevens County resident, Bernice Erdahl, remembers hauling hay into the loft of the barn using baskets and milking cows in what is now the recreational area of The Boars Abode.

In 1975, Bruce and Sue Erdahl began raising hogs in the barn. They continued farming together with their children and raising hogs for many years. Aaron still remembers as a young boy helping load the hogs and shooting birds in the loft with his BB gun. In the early 90’s, some difficult years in the farming industry, resulted in the barn becoming vacant. It remained that way until Aaron and I obtained ownership of the homestead in 2009 and began working on rejuvenating the property and giving new life to ‘The Boars Abode.’



Erdahl Family



2016: start of renovation process

### *How did you come up with the idea to make this barn into a place for gathering or staying?*

The idea was an evolutionary process. Shortly after becoming newlyweds and purchasing the fixer-upper of our dreams, hunting season began. It only took one weekend for me to realize that our humble home was in reality, a hunting shack. Aaron thought I was crazy, but fueled by pure determination to get the hunters out of my house, I began tossing hay out of the loft using an old pitchfork that I had found in the barn (a job I will never do again!). The mounds were over 5 feet ball in most of the loft. Once cleared out, we minimally furnished the space and that following fall our family’s hunting crew stayed in the barn for the first time.

Soon enough, we discovered we were using the space in the loft every time we got together with friends or family, and after making a career change to a family childcare provider, I wanted the kids I was taking care of to be able to use the space as well. So, at first our goal was to renovate the barn in order to get it licensed for daycare. Becoming a vacation rental property was an afterthought, and we stumbled upon it by randomly meeting a group of duck hunters from the metro area. They expressed an interest in renting the barn from us when they came to the area to hunt. It was then that the idea to become a vacation rental property was ignited and The Boars Abode was born. They became our first guests in the fall of 2017.



Left: 1987 - what is now the front entry-way of The Boars Abode

Right: 2009 - The Boars Abode



The Boars Abode  
Summer 2009

## The Boars Abode, continued

### *When did you open?*

Since officially opening in September 2017, we've hosted guests as close as a minute away to as far away as Zimbabwe! We've been honored to be able to provide a service that brings new people to our community and support local businesses. Our community is without a doubt a tremendous contributor to the success we've had with The Boars Abode.

### *What were your biggest obstacles along the way?*

Being told "no". At the time we started our renovation, barn weddings were beginning to trend but our purpose was unique and there were not a lot of resources available. I learned quickly that when all you have is a dream, you need to be resourceful, creative, and persistent in order to make your dream a reality.

Finding a lender to help us with financing was our first hurdle because we wanted to convert an agricultural building into a building with residential living quarters. This can be a very difficult process. Another hurdle was passing inspections at the state level. Each time I called the state, waiting to be transferred or redirected yet again, someone would say, "Oh yeah, you're the lady wanting to raise the kids in the barn." Yes. I was "that" lady. Eventually, the head state fire marshal came to inspect and approve our structure. To anyone looking at starting a business through this process, I've learned that you may not be able to control the number of times you're rejected, but you can always control the number of times you try again.



### *What does the building include for a stay?*

We tried to maintain the rustic charm by recycling artifacts we found and the original barnwood and barn doors, yet include modern amenities for our guests. Today, 'The Boars Abode' is an ideal setting for outdoor enthusiasts, hobbyists,

and special family events. The quaint retreat is situated across the dirt road from 300 acres of public wildlife land. It has a recreational room on the main level with heated floors and a half bath. The space works nicely for outdoor enthusiasts to unload their gear quickly, or for crafters to set up shop.

The upper level has a fully stocked kitchen, one full bath, laundry room, a loft with 2 queen beds, a cozy bunk room with two twin-over-twin bunk beds, and a living room with a large sectional sofa.

There is plenty of outdoor space for guests to set up their favorite yard games, grill out, or relax with a picnic and bonfire. 'The Boars Abode' also has a large playground, swing set, 21' x 41' pool, a hot tub, and whimsical walking trails through the woods.



2018: Bridal prep area added

## The Boars Abode, continued

### *Do you have any plans for future changes or additions?*

We are currently in the process of finishing up an addition on the ground level. It will include two handicap accessible bedrooms that will be furnished with 3 additional queen beds, a full bathroom, and an outdoor shower near the pool that was newly installed last summer.

### *How are reservations accepted?*

Guests can book direct by calling (320) 287-2667 (ask for Kayla) or book 24/7 online at: <https://evolvevacationrental.com/vacation-rentals/419372>



Late summer 2019: Pool added



# Annual Membership



## Annual Membership

**FoMB membership levels and rates will not change but there are other changes and clarifications reflected here to make our membership tracking more accurate:**

- Memberships are due by March 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. Those joining after December 31st of each year will have benefits start immediately and run through March 30th of the *following* year (will cover 15 months).
- Payments not received by April 15<sup>th</sup> will be considered past due.
- If your payment is not received by April 15, the 2nd qtr issue of the *Barn Door* newsletter will be your last copy.

## Benefits of Membership

- Subscription to the quarterly *Barn Door* newsletter with interesting articles, barn photos, and news of upcoming events. Delivered by email, unless a request is made to send it by regular mail.
- Discounted rates on events, workshops, Fall Barn Tour and other events. These discounts will be determined on a per event basis.
- Free “Coffee Chats” that offer networking gatherings at a particular property. These gatherings provide opportunities to learn more the property history, current use, construction ideas and how others have solved similar barn problems. FoMB furnishes light refreshments.

## Membership Levels

- **Individual Membership: \$25** (discounts for the member only)
- **Household Membership: \$35** (discounts for the member and immediate family)
- **Corporate / Organizational Membership: \$50** (Includes a listing and business description on the “Resources” page of FoMB website as well as discounts for member and immediate family)
- **Gift Membership: \$35**
- **In Honor of Membership: \$35**

# Skyrock Farm - Medina, MN

By: Jon Nelson



Thirty minutes west of Minneapolis in rural Medina is a hidden gem called Skyrock Farm, operated by Bill and Stacy Nunn. Like a number of other properties in the surrounding area, Skyrock Farm's primary enterprise is focused on horses – stabling as well as teaching horsemanship, riding, and equestrian performance. Their specialty is training and showing hunters and jumpers.

However, this operation has a unique and rather unexpected attraction. Bill has a world class collection of restored and working antique pneumatic organs. These remarkable machines and works of art called dance or fair organs date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century and have been acquired, restored, and maintained by Bill. It is likely that our parents and grandparents experienced these at fairs and dances back in the day. A working carousel highlights the collection, along with many hundreds of related smaller period items, all of which are housed in a climate controlled museum including an event space that Bill converted and expanded from a building whose original purpose was hay storage.



I attended a fascinating tour and demonstration of the collection by Bill last fall, and brought up the idea to the FoMB board members about planning an event at Skyrock Farm. The response was favorable, and we had a late May date booked just before the statewide virus restrictions were put in place, and plans had to be put on hold.

The property, which has a long history as an operating farm, was purchased by Bill in 1982. Bill and Stacy live in the updated original farmhouse. The barn dating from the late 1800's is still used for hay storage and is now part of a horse stable and arena facility. The farm also includes several children's amusement park rides, including a model train that encircles the farmplace. These are operational and used primarily for kids party events.

FoMB fully intends to re-schedule a special event at Skyrock Farm when conditions permit. The event plans to include the organ museum tour and demonstration, full meal, tour of the legacy barn and stable/arena complex, and an equestrian performance demonstration. In the meantime, here are links to Skyrock Farm's website and a couple of videos that will give a good feel for the activities and attractions offered.

[www.skyrockcarousel.com](http://www.skyrockcarousel.com)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTegU8eJEDI&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTegU8eJEDI&feature=youtu.be)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=wj4CULWBkk0&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wj4CULWBkk0&feature=youtu.be)



## 2021 Photo Calendar Contest

FRIENDS OF



**MINNESOTA BARNs**

# Annual Barn Photography Contest

- Contest categories: Adult Open and Youth/Student Open. Photographs must include an identifiable part of a barn (inside or out). **Barns must be located in Minnesota.**
- Photos may be taken with any type of camera, phone, tablet, etc. Filters and other camera accessories may be used. **Photos need to be high resolution AND horizontal format.**
- Photographs can be enhanced using computer software.
- By entering the contest, you allow the Friends of Minnesota Barns (FoMB) to use your photograph in the barn calendar as well as in other promotions, advertisements, products, websites, social media sites, and any other way the group sees fit. The photographer will be credited if the photograph is used.
- A photographer may enter three (3) unique photographs into the Adult Open category. Youth/students may enter one (1) unique photograph into Youth/student category. Youth/students may submit photos to the "Adult" category. The same photograph may not be entered into multiple categories.
- A total of 12 winners will be selected and will receive a 2022 calendar.
- Winners will be announced in spring 2021 at the FoMB Annual Meeting.
- Judges will have the final decision on if a photograph meets the criteria.

**Updates about the contest will be posted to our website and Facebook page.**

## Barn Photography Contest

### 2020 Contest Categories

1. Adult Open (up to 3 entries per person)
2. Youth/Student Open (16 years old and under. One entry per person)

**Entry Deadline:** Monday, February 15, 2021

**Entry Fee:** FREE for youth/students and members of FoMB **or** \$25 yearly membership for adults. Yearly membership includes a quarterly newsletter, discounts on tours and barn coffee chat gatherings, great group of people to get to know and so much more!

### Submission Information to Include:

1. Name
2. Email Address
3. Home Address
4. Phone Number
5. Category Entering

**Email:** .jpg digital image (high resolution) and horizontal format to: [redbenchvintage@hotmail.com](mailto:redbenchvintage@hotmail.com)

**Mail:** 8 x 10 printed photograph to: Clare Hoelderle, 19685 Oak Grove Avenue, Prior Lake, MN 55372. Must be postmarked by entry deadline.

## Free Range Film Barn – Wrenshall, MN



*Article written by Joshua Carlon for Atlas Obscura (www.atlasobscura)*

On an idyllic crossroads in rural Minnesota, you'll find a hundred-year old barn that's home to a homey and eclectic film festival.

The Free Range Film Festival is the barn's raison d'être (since the farm closed, anyway). The documentary-heavy festival screens films from around the world, with an emphasis on Minnesota filmmakers and unusual subject matter.

Past films screened have covered topics like competitive jigsaw puzzling, erotic pirate music videos, Japanese pro wrestling, celebrity death pools, cereal box lore, modern blacksmithing and more.

The three-story barn, built in 1916, was first used for horses, then turned into a dairy farm in the 1960s. It was abandoned for 16 years before its purchase and resurrection by the Free Range organizers. The main loft movie screen and speakers were leftovers of the Cinema 8, a closed theater in nearby Hermantown. The traditional theater seating in the main room was rescued from Duluth's Nor-Shor Theatre following its ill-conceived (and doomed) foray as a strip club in the mid-'00s.

The barn also features a camera obscura room, community events, poetry readings, interactive art shows, and concerts.

### ***Know Before You Go***

The Free Range Barn is located near the intersection of County Road 1 and County Road 4 just outside of Wrenshall, MN. Visitors take note—the barn is not open to the public outside of events, so check their website for details. The Free Range Film Festival takes place the last weekend of every June (*the 2020 Film Festival has been postponed*)

Though the festival is not Academy-Award qualifying, participating filmmakers receive a swag bag full of organic produce from the nearby farm.





## Free Range Film Festival, continued

### **You run movies in a barn? Seriously?**

Seriously. The films we select for our festival are projected on a 24-foot wide screen inside the hayloft of a barn built in 1916. It's kind of a one-of-a-kind movie-going experience.

### **When is this Free Range Film Festival?**

Plant yourself here for the weekend. Because the Free Range Film Festival lasts two big days! The festivities is the last full weekend in June (*2020 Festival has been postponed*)

### **Where is this big old barn, anyway?**

The Free Range Film Festival will be held at the corner of County Roads 1 & 4 just one mile south of Wrenshall, Minnesota. The venue is two hours north of the Twin Cities and just 30 minutes south of Duluth.

### **What is a Free Range Film?**

A Free Range Film is any film, video or kinescope nurtured without the use of pesticides, growth hormones or a distribution deal from a fancy-pants Hollywood studio.



### **Hey! I think I might have a Free Range Film in my closet! What should I do with it?**

Whatever you got, we're going to want it. After you send your film to our official selection committee, they'll take it for a test run and see how it holds together.

### **How can I be sure my film will run in the festival?**

Send us a good film. That's all we ask.

### **Will there be any prizes at the Free Range Film Festival?**

We like to think the thrill of seeing your Free Range Film projected in a big old barn is reward enough.

### **How much does it cost to enter this Free Range Film Festival?**

Only ten bucks! But we're pretty easy going about the entry fee. If you're a poor college student or short on funds, we can let you slide for old time's sake. But any money you can share will be used to repair the barn and maintain the festival.

Festival Website:  
[www.freerangefilm.com](http://www.freerangefilm.com)



## Photo Calendar Contest Winners

We typically announce the photo calendar contest winners at our annual meeting. We were not able to host our meeting this spring so I would like to announce our 2021 calendar winners!!

### **Youth Category**

Angel Apenhorst  
Taylor Bushman  
Karalee Christensen

### **Adult Open Category**

Mark Johnson  
Joni Mehus (2 winning entries)  
Calvin Mulumba  
Susan Rafian  
Steve Taylor  
Helen Zuelch  
Wayne Zuelch (2 winning entries)



Photo by Joni Mehus

**Here are a few of the winning photos. Thank you to everyone who entered a photo! Congratulations to all the winners this year!**



Photo by Wayne Zuelch



Photo by Karalee Christensen



Photo by Clare Hoelderle

The former "Culver's Barn" off I-35 close to the Northfield/Lonsdale exit. I drove by a while ago and saw the new sign. I went home, grabbed my camera and drove back to take a picture. We all need a little **HOPE** right now.

# “Minnesota’s Round Barns”

Book By: John Roscoe

## Round Barn Styles

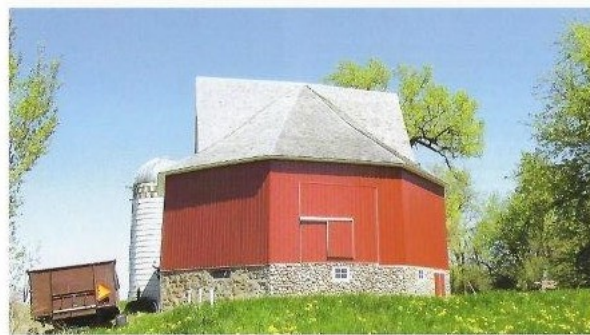
Minnesota’s round barns represent a variety of architectural styles based mainly on their shape. The three main types are the circular, sometimes called true round, polygonal, and the hybrid.

Two other round barn styles, the exhibition barn and the bank barn, distinguish themselves because of their functionality.

### **Polygonal (or many-sided) barns**

In the evolution of the round barn style in America, the polygonal form came first, built mainly from the 1850’s through the 1890’s.

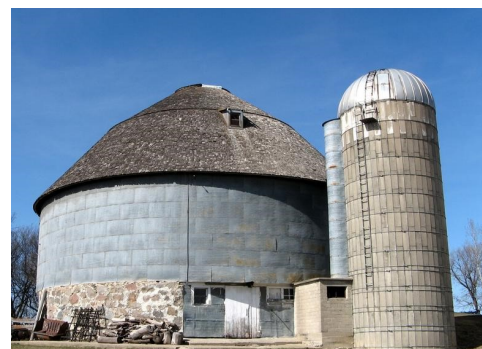
In Minnesota, several polygonal barns were built after 1900, probably because they were easier to construct and less expensive than true round barns. The octagonal style is the most common polygonal in Minnesota. In all, nine polygonals are still standing in the state. Virtually all of them utilize vertical wood siding and have cone shaped roofs that need the support that post and bean construction offers.



Polygonal, LeSueur County Barn

### **True Round Barns**

The true round style represents the majority of round barns that have survived in the state. Thirty-five barns are still standing. Most of the true round barns in Minnesota are sixty feet in diameter, although a few are seventy feet or more. Most of these barns have horizontal lap siding, but some have the vertical board and batten type. The majority of the circular barns were built after 1910.



True Round Barn, Sibley County

### **Hybrid Barns**

This form consists of a round or polygonal structure with an attached rectangular section that has a traditional gambrel roof. Minnesota is home to four hybrid barns. In some cases, the rectangular extension was added after the original round barn was built, but most were part of the original construction.



Hybrid, Becker County Barn

### **Exhibition Barns**

All four exhibition barns in Minnesota were built onsite. The defining characteristic of these barns is that they have large octagonal cupolas or clerestory levels with numerous windows that let in abundant natural light. Looking back at the origins of this style in America, I discovered that octagonal exhibition buildings were prominent at many large state fairs in the mid-nineteenth century. Others were located at world fairs in New York and St. Louis but were



Exhibition, Wright County Barn

much larger and grander in style. I suspect that this form in Minnesota has its roots in the earlier fair structures.



Bank Barn, Goodhue County Barn

### **Bank Barns**

Bank barns were known for their accessibility. They are built into a hill or embankment in such a way that both levels of the barn can be accessed on grade. The cows enter the lower level at the base of the hill, while the hay mow is accessed on level at the top of the hill. Round barns not built into a slope often employ ramps to access the hay mow. Several of Minnesota’s round barns are bank barns.

## “Minnesota’s Round Barns”, continued

### Stylistic Variation in Round Barns

Although round barns have great similarities in their shape, they have a large number of differences. One of the biggest variations is the roof style. The main roof styles are the conical (cone), the dome, and the gambrel.

Interior central silos are characteristic of true round barns built after 1910. Polygonals seldom have them. Before tile silos became the norm, most were made of wood. Many owners have removed the interior silos, but a few remain. Most of the silos built adjacent to the barns are constructed of tile, but a few wood silos remain in Minnesota.

The most common building material for round barns in Minnesota is wood. Most true round barns have horizontal siding, while the majority of polygonals utilize vertical board and batten siding. Several of Minnesota’s round barns are sided with metal, and a few are constructed of block or tile. Four barns, three of which were built by the same contractor, have poured concrete walls.

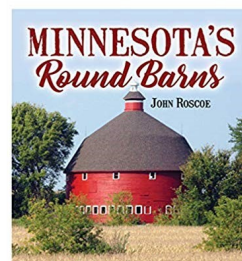
Today, cupolas adorn many types of structures both urban and rural and are considered decorative items. For most barns of the past, cupolas served a very important purpose, that of ventilation. Barn odors were carried away through the cupola. In addition, the draft created by incoming air at the ground level and the upward draft created by the cupola helped to dry the hay in the hay mow. On some barns, the cupola is octagonal with louvers on all sides while on others it is round. Most cupolas are made of wood, although some are metal.

Early round barns were criticized by many farm experts who believed light coming into the center of the structure was inadequate. Over time, round barn designers incorporated more and larger windows into their plans. A round barn with a small number of windows is probably older, dating to the late 19th or early 20th century. After 1910, most barns featured large windows regularly spaced around the lower level as well as a smaller number high on the walls to light the upper level. On a few barns, dormers built into the roof serve the same purpose.

The various styles of Minnesota’s round barns reflect the progression in barn building from the octagonal to the true round. The oldest surviving barn in Minnesota is in LeSueur County, built in 1889. The newest, also in LeSueur County, was constructed in the 1980’s.



*Article information used with permission from the book:  
“Minnesota’s Round Barns” by John Roscoe  
Books can be purchased from Lakeside Press [www.lakesidecreates.com](http://www.lakesidecreates.com)*



## One Tough Old Farmer

It's the only barn left on 8-Mile Road. There used to be 18-20 barns, sometimes two on a farm. They're all gone now, blown down, rotted, torn down- just memories now Except for the Roy and Donna Cowen barn located on the Jefferson-Van Buren County Line Road South of Fairfield, close to Birmingham. Roy calls it the 8-Mile Road because it's 8 miles between Highway 1 and the road just to the west of the Cowen farm.

The barn was built by Will McKee in 1895, same as the house, placed on rock dug from a nearby quarry. Remember the Parable of the House built on Rock? Roy's parents bought the 160-acre farm in 1938 for \$23 an acre, which was high. One year later, land surrendering the farm dropped to \$12 an acre.

When Roy was 8-years old, and going to school in Packwood, he was coming up the steps of the schoolhouse basement, when a pipe fell and hit him on the head. He was knocked unconscious for three days. During that three days without water and food, he came to for a few seconds and saw his grandfather sitting by his bed. His grandfather looked worried. Roy survived, but his grandparents and parents never talked about the accident. Farm folk keep things close to their chest.

As Roy grew older, he rode a horse five miles to school in Libertyville. On Armistice Day 1940, it was a balmy 70 degrees when Roy rode to school. When he got out of school at 3:30, the roads were frozen solid. The only thing that saved him was a Mackinaw Tied to the back of his saddle.

Once Roy was breaking a colt when it started bucking. Roy held on, knowing a horse wouldn't go over backwards. The colt went straight up and fell over backwards on Roy. Fortunately it was the first of March and the top couple inches of ground was wet and soft. Roy was indented into the ground, Roy thought his spine was broken, but he could move his feet. Miracle of miracles, the colt returned! Roy had always been taught to get up and get back on. He did. Rode out to the pasture and rounded up a hundred ewes that were ready to lamb.

With World War II looming, Roy could have been awarded a deferment because he took care of his parents. However, he asked the draft board if his parents could be declared as his dependents.

Coming home to the farm, challenges never ceased. In 1947, it rained and rained, and Roy and his dad couldn't put up hay. On July 3, it rained three more inches, and then only two-tenths over the next 90 days. The first cutting of hay was chest high and tough. They let it cure for four days. When they loaded hay in the afternoon all the leaves fell off the stems. Roy told his dad to stop the hay loader, they would put the hay up at night when it was cooler. "At night?! his father hollered. "You can't do that!" Roy said, Dad I'm an Ex-Marine. There's no such word as can't". The leaves stayed on. It was the finest hay they ever put up, and Roy and his dad filled the barn, the absence of electric lights being only another obstacle to overcome. On March 7<sup>th</sup>, 1977, Roy came in late from planting oats. He still had milking to do. About 10 pm that night, Roy noticed dirt forming on the milk in his bucket. He looked up and the barn was shaking. The wind blew so hard he thought the barn was going to come down. He crawled under the tractor, other buildings were destroyed, but not the barn, because it was built on rock.

The Cowen farm is a livestock farm, not grain. In Roy's prime he had 100 ewes, 500 head of hogs, and 30 or so "nurse cows". He bought thousands of bushels of corn and hundreds of tons of supplement. Roy was told that was no way to farm. Roy said "Watch Me". Taking better care of his live-stock was the key to success.

One spring Roy had 18 "nurse-cows" with 36 calves. Three cows nursed three calves each, 12 nursed two, and three nursed only one. Roy never could figure out the why and wherefore, but the cows knew.

The barn is so old; all the wood siding was worn off and replaced with tin. It cost half as much to have a new roof on the barn by the Amish as the whole farm cost. Roy has built or rebuilt every building on the farm, plus put in fences for the first time, or two or three times for others. The farm is his life.

At 94, Roy has slowed down some, but not much. He still does chores twice a day, but gave up baling hay at 90. He still prefers pitching hay with a pitchfork rather than tossing bales. He watches the news every night at 5:30 and takes care of his wife who uses a walker. He's only missed one day of doing winter chores in 73 years, when he had hernia surgery. With 100 or so barns disappearing from the state of Iowa every month, Roy and his barn are locked in a dead-heat rivalry—which one will outlast the other.

*Article From: Spring 2020 Iowa Barn Foundation Magazine*

## Found on Facebook - "Friends of Minnesota Barns"



Each newsletter we will feature some barns posted on our Facebook page that caught our attention!

Right: photo by Jessica Sharon  
Barn in Central Minnesota



Left: photo by Don Burke  
Barn near Jacobs Prairie



Photo by Heidi Bacon  
Barn near Grand Rapids



Photo by Jamie Gohn  
Barn overlooking Minnesota River

### Small Barn For Sale

This is an early 1910 era barn that measures 28' x 48' with 12 ft. sidewalls which has been professionally tagged, mapped and dismantled. The bents are all mortised and tenoned and are spaced 16 ft. on center with only two interior post for maximum use of the floor space. The posts, plates and cross beams are 6x8's cut from Northern pine and the rafters are 2x6 spaced 2 ft on center.

This barn has been redesigned to be erected on a slab with other options available for use on a knee wall with a hayloft added. The price of \$8,900 includes tax and delivery up to 200 miles from Mankato plus free advice on how to erect the barn with your crew. If you can't pull together a crew, I may be able to assist with that also.

There are no roof boards or siding included but these items can be purchased locally or added later.

Call Mark at (507) 469-0474 for more information.



## Friends of Minnesota Barns

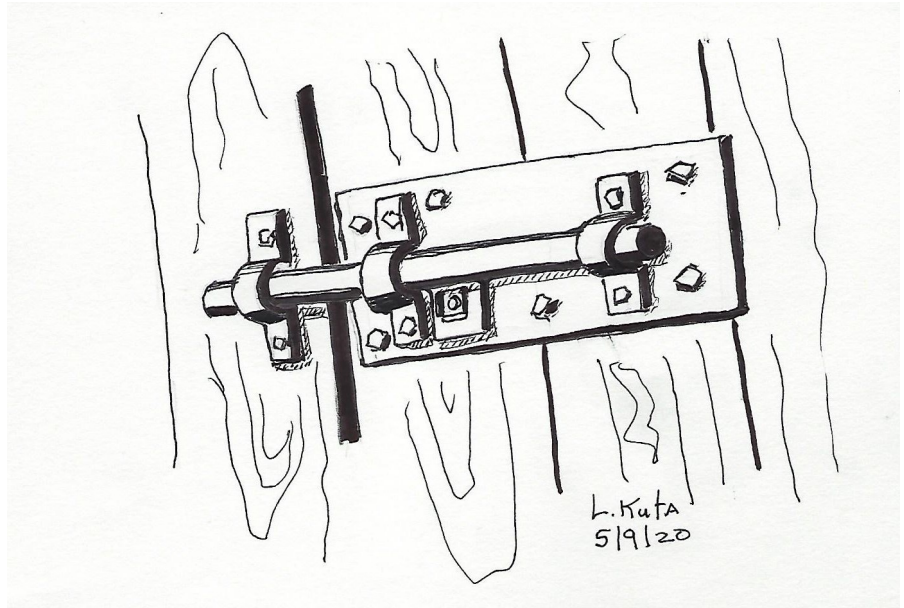
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Website:  
www.mnbarns.org

Our mission is to educate the public and raise awareness to the importance of historic barns and farmsteads in Minnesota, and to help advocate for barn preservation. We offer educational workshops and assist others in finding resources for preservation and/or restoration of historic barns and farmsteads.



Thank you LeRoy Kuta for the beautiful drawing!

## General Announcements

**\* We have had questions about whether people are allowed to photograph private barns. The general rule is, as long as you are on public property, you can photograph what you like, at least as far as barns go. If you wish to enter the property for photography, you must get permission from the owner. You do not need a release to publish photographs, even with people in them. There are exceptions to these rules, but most wouldn't apply to barn photography.**

**Public places are for the public. We pay for them with our taxes, so they are a shared and common ground. As long as your feet are on public property, you are within your rights to photograph what you wish. That is why roads and sidewalks are built in the "right of way."**

**\* The Barn Restoration Workshop which was scheduled for July near Lonsdale, MN has been postponed. Watch our Facebook page for further details on this event.**

**\* Please note that our mailing address has changed to:  
10605 Joliet Avenue North, Stillwater, MN 55082**

**\* We are always looking for barn articles, pictures, personal stories and interesting facts to be used in upcoming newsletters.**

**If you would like to contribute, please contact newsletter editor and board member, Clare Hoelderle at [redbenchvintage@hotmail.com](mailto:redbenchvintage@hotmail.com).**