

Barn Quilt Tours and North Dakota

by Lynne Belluscio

The Historical Society will be offering several barn quilt bus tours this fall. We will be using a 16 passenger bus from Wilcox Bus Company. The tours last an hour and a half. You will be able to learn the stories behind the quilts, the barns, the farms, and also some local history as well. The schedule is listed below. You will need to call the Jell-O Gallery at 768-7433 to find out which tours have seats available or you can purchase tickets at the various sites listed.

Thursday, September 6 - 10 am, leaving from the Jell-O Gallery for an hour and a half tour of the LeRoy countryside, \$15 per person.

Thursday, September 13 - Breakfast at the Depot and an hour and a half tour of the LeRoy countryside. Meet for breakfast at 8:30 return at 10:45, \$25 per person.

Thursday, September 13 - Meet at the D & R Depot - Tour departs at 11 am and will travel the LeRoy countryside for an hour and a half tour, followed by lunch at the D & R Depot, \$27 per person.

Thursday, September 20 - Meet at G's on 7940 East Main Road (Route 5) - Tour departs at 10 am and will travel east and north along the barn quilt trails and return at 11:30, \$15 per person.

Thursday, September 27 - Meet at Crnkovich's Farm Market, 8041 East Main Rd. (Route 5) - Tour departs at 10 am and will visit over 50 of the LeRoy Barn Quilts and return at 11:30, \$15 per person.

Thursday, October 4 - Meet at McPherson Orchards, 7957 Oatka Trail - Tour departs at 10 am and will travel the LeRoy countryside and Oatka Trail returning at 11:30, \$15 per person.

Groups wishing to schedule private tours may contact the LeRoy Historical Society and are subject to the availability of the bus (no weekend dates are available this fall).

Now you are wondering what the barn quilts have to do with North Dakota and the truth is -- there is no connection, however, as of Tuesday, August 21, we have had visitors from all 50 states -- including North Dakota which was our last holdout.

Today, I walked Susanna Eberle and her husband and we discovered that they are students from the University of North Dakota. They live in Grand Forks. We presented them with Jell-O t-shirts and they willingly posed with the LeRoy cow on the front porch. We had wondered if the folks from North Dakota ever leave to go on vacation and of course there are not many North Dakotans - only 683,032



in the whole state. And because of the low unemployment rate -- everyone is working and probably not having time to go on vacation. I also discovered that North Dakota is the least visited state in America. Most people are better acquainted with South

Dakota and Mount Rushmore. The largest city is Fargo followed by the capital Bismarck. Notable people from North Dakota are Peggy Lee, Lawrence Welk and Eric Sevareide -- and of course now the Eberles.



G's Barn Quilt at 7940 East Main Rd., LeRoy.

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