



**BARN TOUR.** Jason Arnott, pictured at top left, guided a tour through the historic barns located on Mound Road between 30 and 31 Mile Roads in Washington Township. Arnott showed tour-goers aerial photos of the 180 acre farm. At top right, Leo and Jennifer Hudson found some of the farm implements displayed on their barn on their property. Below right, examples of utilizing a barn as a "man cave" and a "Lady Cave" were offered on the tour by Randy and Caroline Seidel and Tom and Lori Brubaker, respectively.

(Observer photos by Debi Martone)

## Society hits home run with 1st annual Barn Tour

270 show up to see what people do with their barns

by **DEBI MARTONE**  
Observer Special Writer

The Romeo Historical Society (RHS) posed the question, "What can you do with a barn?" So, nine residents, organizations and barn owners offered some ideas to the society and over 270 guests on Saturday, Sept. 21, as they took part in the first annual RHS Barn Tour.

If you are Randy and Caroline Seidel, you would have the Amish build a 2-story addition to your barn and use the upstairs as a "man cave," complete with comfortable seating and a large, flat screen TV.

"I bet it will be packed up here when hockey season starts," said a tour-goer as he proceeded down the steps.

The Seidel's have lived in their Turner Street home for 22 years. Their barn, which dates back to 1860, sits at the rear of their property and has been impeccably restored and maintained.

"I'd like to say I work on my cars out here, but I really hate to have stuff all over the place," Randy said. "But my son fixes bikes as a side job out here."

If you are Leo and Jennifer Hudson, you would use the barn behind your Main Street home to host fall harvest gatherings and Halloween parties in the upstairs loft.

When the Hudson's moved into their 1850 home seven years ago, the barn was in need of some work.

"The barn was built in 1905, 55 years after the house was built. It was always kept in pristine condition, but when we bought it, it was filled to the ceiling with old metal and things," Leo said.

Old farm implements were among the items the Hudson's found and they are now hung on display on the south side of the barn.

The Hudsons also discovered that their barn, which Leo refers to as being a "classic carriage

barn that once held carriages up front and has stalls for horses in the back," also has the original door rollers on all of the sliding doors. The rollers were made in Romeo by Eugene Mack.

"The Historical Society thinks I am the only one in town who still has them," Leo said.

Ed and Lucille Walla's answer to the question is to use your barn to restore old cars and tractors.

Ed has restored a number of historic vehicles, including three Ford Model T's, in his large pole barn, which he constructed in 2003 for the purpose of housing his cars and the trophies and ribbons he has earned from showing them. He also collects old car-related memorabilia, including a gas pump and signs from gas stations and car companies.

The Wallas use other smaller barns on their 31 Mile Road property to house three cows and a handful of sheep.

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