



2015

*Johnson County*

5592 Sharon Center Road, Kalona

**A barn of many uses.** “Joe P. Gingrich, 1931” is still visible on this barn in Sharon Township, Section 29.

Joe was a brick layer, plasterer, and stonemason who purchased the clay tiles for the barn in Kalona at a special price because they were left over from another customer. He hauled them to this site to build the two barns and their home, covering the barn on the right, as well as the home, with stucco.

Joe and his wife Lulu lived on this farm for many years and raised eight children. He was a dairy farmer, but later also raised hogs and cattle. Lulu died in 1972 and Joe in 1976.

Ken and Wanda Yoder owned the barns for 35 years, raising pigs on two floors of the larger barn.

How did the pigs get to the loft level? Good question. Ken recalls that they just lifted the baby pigs up to the loft. When they were ready to be sold, a loader was used to bring them down to the ground level.

Another owner raised dogs for a few years before Daniel and Ellen Miller purchased the barns, house, and acreage in 2015.

In the spring of 2015 they raised over 50 goats in the barn.

The Millers have plans to remodel the tile barn to raise more goats and also utilize it for other livestock.

The stucco barn was used for hogs by former owners but currently houses the Miller’s horses.



*Stucco barn*

1983