

Preserving the past, with paint

A couple in Adams County paint and protect barns for work and fun.

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There's a saying that you shouldn't mix business with pleasure.

But a couple in Adams County definitely mixed the two to create a thriving business and a happy marriage.

Husband and wife Tim and Christine Barnes own Barn Painting and Advertising, a business that specializes in painting and preserving quintessential rural buildings.

"I couldn't imagine not owning this company," Christine Barnes said.

The idea for the business stems from black and white photographs of barns the couple took while traveling.

The pictures hung on the walls of their East Berlin home, becoming a focal of the décor and a reminder of the trips they took together.

"Each barn represented those memories of what we have done and where we were,"



An shot of the Cherry Hill Farms barn after it was painted. (Submitted)



A before shot of a barn at Cherry Hill Farms in Ludington, Mich., left, is transformed with a little paint by Tim and Christine Barnes of Barn Painting and Advertising in Adams County. (Submitted)

Christine Barnes said.

From those pictures and memories, the Barneses saw a need to preserve barns across the country and opened their company in 2006.

While Tim Barnes worked full time as a flight nurse and Christine Barnes stayed with her job as an accountant, the couple ran the business part time, spending weekends painting barns.

But now, both have taken on barns full time, and business is booming.

"About 90 percent of the barns you pass need paint," Tim Barnes said.

The company not only paints barns, but they also can apply a paint to metal roofs to extend how long they last. Presently, they are being

trained to use a fire-retardant coating that could potentially save the mainly wooden structures.

The company also paints silos, farm houses, fences and grain bins, and does commercial painting.

Using barns as a giant billboard to advertise products, services and even a restaurant's menu was once the norm, Christine Barnes said. Now, she's hoping to resurrect that.

The Barneses' company works with advertising firms to find barns that could serve as advertising space.

"Corporate America gets a unique way to advertise and farmers get some extra money for use of their barn," she said.

The company has offices in East Berlin and Eaton Rapids, Mich., which is Christine Barnes' home state, but as business continues to boom, Christine Barnes said they are looking to expand further.

"By this time next year, we'll be franchising," Christine Barnes said.

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For more information about Barn Painting and Advertising, check out its Web site, barnpaintadvertising.com.