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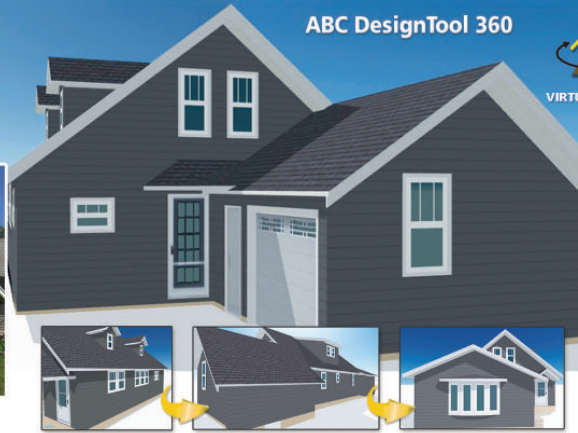
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Put The Old School On Your Fair Slate

Get a little taste of days gone by and even test your spelling and geography skills when you visit the one-room District 47 Schoolhouse. The visit will bring back memories for some. For others, it's a great hands-on opportunity to experience the early days of education in Clay County.

The building, formerly located in Humboldt Township one-half mile south of Minnesota Highway #34 on County Highway #31, closed down in the late 1950s. It was moved into Barnesville and later opened to the public on the fair grounds.

The one-room school will be open to visitors through the four days of the Clay County Fair.

Former students who attended rural, one-room schoolhouses will enjoy reminiscing about the bygone years. Artifacts from the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, as well as from teachers and students who have attended

country school will be featured.

Volunteers from the Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County, as well as other guest hosts, will be available to answer questions.

Elementary age boys and girls are invited to come to the schoolhouse on Thursday, July 12, at 5:00 p.m. for an old-fashioned spelling bee. The children will be grouped in similar age brackets from first grade to sixth grade.

Afterward, there will be a spelling bee for those age 60 and over. Come back on Friday, July 13, at 5:00 p.m. for a geography bee.

Today's children can stop by and learn what schoolhouses of the past were like. Pictures, memorabilia and artifacts will transport visitors to a time when the "school marm" taught the basics to multiple grades simultaneously.

The schoolhouse is home to a reed organ, which was donated to the Clay County

Fair by Phil Felde, a former Barnesville resident. The organ is ready to be played by anyone wishing to spread musical joy.

The reed organ, also referred to as a harmonium, produces its sound by air being blown through sets of free reeds, resulting in a sound similar to that of an accordion. In this case, the air is supplied by a bellows that is pumped by the player's feet.

During your day at the fair why not stop in for a rest and a bit of history at the schoolhouse? You just might learn something.



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