

## OUR COUNTY FAIR

Have you recently been to a county fair?  
There's so much for you to see and do there.  
There are exhibits to see and games you can play  
And good food to sample any time, any day.

There's the carnival rides for the young at heart,  
And races to run, get ready to start.  
There are various promotions to take up your time  
And any person who chooses to do so can shine.

You can box in the ring or sing on the stage,  
Enter contests galore, any time, any age.  
You can watch the parades or help build a float,  
Take your child to the baby contest to gloat.

You can be a queen if you're pretty enough,  
Or a princess who's learning to show off her stuff.  
You ~~even~~ be a clown if that is your thing,  
But you should get involved and appear on the scene.

You can enter your talents wherever you shine,  
Handy work, food or a painting devine.  
Sing, dance or play or just mill about  
And be a part of the fun with the crowd that comes out.

If you are not addicted to the county fair,  
You best change your ways and plan to get there.  
It's a glorious time for the young and the old,  
There's something for all at a fair, I've been told.

But wait, there's a side to the fair <sup>most</sup> folks don't see,  
It's the part of the fair that involves you and me.  
It's the countless hours we spend every year  
Planning and working to make things ~~see~~ more clear.

There are endless meetings and calls on the phone  
Before ever a picture or exhibit is shown.  
There's the set-up the take down, the arranging with care  
So everyone who's susposed to will surely be there.

Take the ribbon cutting, a short half hour show,  
But Jeanene fusses and plans for the full year we know.  
And her Look Alike Contest and Freckle & Twins,  
Must be carefully arranged so the right person wins.

Now the baby contest and childrens parade  
Have Mary- a few angry enemies made.  
The children's parade winners, let's see, who were they?  
By the way Mary Snow, where were you that day?

While were on the parade subject, Ed, our thanks goes to you,  
You don't get much thanks for all that you do.  
No matter how carefully the prade entries are planned,  
There'll be folks upset by the lack of a band.

There are books could be filled about Elna Rae  
And her side kick La Rae when it's nearing fair day.  
Watch out Hurricane for here they come,  
With their enthusiastic committee & work to be done.

Exhibits and trophies, ribbons and plaques,  
These gals have a stamina that most of us lacks,  
Who else would stay at the school for a week,  
Till they literally fall asleep on their feet.

And their right hand helper with hammer in toe,  
Wayne Shamo is constantly kept on the go.  
To set up the props and cart them around,  
No better helper could ever be found.

Our security officer, Janice Sanders is great,  
No one gets in or out at the gate. -  
Unless it's proper and right that they do,  
She's a tremendous lady with a big job to do.

At arranging the art work so perfect and neat,  
Harvey & Betty are a duo that just can't be beat.  
If we gave a blue ribbon for helpers, we know  
They would definitely be picked as the best of the show.

The floral displays Janice Law does up right,  
She works on exhibits far into the night.  
As she arranges the entrees for the judges to choose,  
Just a few of her many talents we use.

With the fights and the dances, a great part of the fair,  
Jay Ence and Wes Hinton are involved everywhere.  
From selling the tickets to setting it up,  
Jay and Wes do a job that is thankless & tough.

The information booth keeps us all in the know,  
LaVon and Wes Hinton keep it on the go.  
The lost and the found, both people and things  
Find their way in and out of this booth it seems.

Sue and the Princesses and Deb and her queens  
Stired up a bit of contraversary it seems,  
Instead of receiving the praise they deserve,  
They're continually plagued with "discouraging words"—

As the press has a hay day with comments galore,  
Such publicity for *the* queens we adore.  
But we value opinions, varied and rare  
As we strive to put on a near perfect fair.

Ed Sr. with pictures, adds class to our show  
He'll have them all ready for next year we know.  
His job is a big one, but one he does well  
As he tries the fair story in pictures to tell.

When we talk about Nick there is so much to say,  
But let's leave it unsaid, it's much better that way.  
He has learned how to deal with folks all irrate  
As commercial booth's seem to aggravate.

For the time and the place, the size and the kind  
Can't please everybody, just keep that in mind.  
But Nick tryed his best and he did a great job,  
And Cleo's strong shoulder is a good place to sob.

There was one little error, I guess on our part  
That gave the County Attorney a good place to start  
To write a harsh letter to clue us all in  
About where we are going and where we have been,

Are raffels illegal??? Why, we didn't know,  
But next year we will go just a little bit slow- -  
In allowing a raffel as part of the fair  
Without doing our research and planning with care.

The cute baby chicks were a hit with the crowd,  
Young folks and old folks voiced opinions aloud.  
But we were releaved when the fair days were ore  
And the SPCA hadn't called at the door.

(Me1 - SPCA stands for THE SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION  
OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS)

The horseshoe pitching contest is always a great hit  
And Lewis Brown's the person this year in charge of it.  
It really doesn't matter if the game you win or loose,  
Except for the unfortunate horse who forfeits all his shoes.

Marie, Zola and Susan who comprise our courthouse staff,  
Worked especially hard this summer in all of our behalf.  
The outstanding 4-H projects, including the livestock show,  
Added a lot of talent to this years fair we know.

Linda Hinton with decorations, Mickey Houston with the race  
Added color and demention as they each one took their place.  
The Betty's and the Lou's and Wenell from Windy Town (Enterprise)  
Working with the HomeArts, put the fair on solid ground.

To tally up the judges points and pay the money out,  
Wayne Everett did a tremendous job, of that we have no doubt.  
His mammer's rather quiet & you might not know he's there,  
But he spends a lot of hours paying premiums for the fair.

There are lots of other helpers not officially on the board,  
Who donate many hours when Cleo gives the word.  
Kay Peterson for example, wasn't on the fair board team,  
But spent coutless hours helping Debbie with the queen.

The donations she solicited helped the pagent right along,  
But all her good help to Mary Snow didn't stop things going wrong,  
The story of the children's parade is one we'll oft review,  
We certainly won't forget it. Mary, how about you??

We have to mention Ernie and the part in it all he plays,  
He MC's the Continuous Entertainment for the fair the  
whole three days.

The janitors too, deserve a note, they try so hard to please  
With plugs and cords and ladders and a set of extra keys.

The thank you's could go on and on, there's so many do a part  
To make the fair a big success from the finish to the start.  
It's effective delegation that makes the whole thing go  
And the lady who puts it together is Cleo Atkin, you all know.

With Commissioner Young behind her to lend a helping hand  
She calls together an ambitious group & plans a fair thats grand.  
Commissioner Young supports us in all we try to do,  
He helps the fair board do their job and considers the  
town folks too.

As a team, we all work together and the end result is great,  
We have a fair in our county that truly is first rate.  
Each year we have a few more folks that come to join the fun,  
And everyone agreed this year, the fair was nicely done.

Yes, a county fair is lots of fun and lots of hard work too,  
But we get a satisfaction when all of it is through.  
We know we must be crazy and we say we won't do it next year,  
But we take a few months of needed rest then get right back in  
gear.