

2017

Pittston School Exhibit at the Pittston Fair

Each year the historical society does an exhibit at the Pittston Fair. This year we created a one room school exhibit which included desks, chalk boards, slates, school photos and some student pictures. The purpose of the exhibit was to show what a one-room school looked like and to display how a one room school operated. Many young visitors stopped to play school! It was exciting to watch

One room schools were the norm in Pittston until early in the 1960s. As many as 19 schools were utilized in Pittston at various times. Population shifts might result in some schools being closed for a time period, only to be reopened later on. Pittston had eight schools operating until December 1st, 1961 when the new consolidated school opened. Many people have fond memories of their one-room school education. With the creation of MSAD 11 all Pittston elementary school children entered the new Pittston Elementary School on School Street. This new school was a considerable improvement, offering a cafeteria, gymnasium, outdoor playground, and a place for many social activities.

Many fair visitors shared their own one-room school memories. They talked about their favorite teachers, lugging buckets of water, and the education process. Many people commented about the multiple grades within one room. While the teacher had to divide her time teaching individual grades, it was not uncommon for students in higher grades to tutor pupils in the lower grades. Education was a co-operative process.

Many visitors to our exhibit talked about picture day. The historical society does have some pictures of some teachers and some students, but not very many. While Mrs. Ireland, (a longtime Pittston teacher) included many pictures in her 1988 Pittston book, there are many pictures we don't have.

To improve the society collection, we are asking anyone who has pictures of Pittston teachers and their pupils to please contact the historical society officers so that we may obtain copies of these pictures. Equally important will be identifying the individual scholars.