

# The Happy Pig

Summer 2021



The Happy Pig Collectors Club

Volume 25, Issue 3

Gene Holt

1930-2021



2000 Cincinnati Convention / Photo submitted by Laura Townsend



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## A Letter From the New Head Hog

Well, here we are. It's been a tough year. But there is hope on the horizon, and it is growing stronger with every passing day. We were all disappointed at missing the chance to share our annual pig passion at convention last summer. It was just one more reminder of the seriousness of the pandemic that devastated lives, families, our country, and the world. But enough of these dark thoughts. Help has arrived to brighten our lives once more.

I am announcing a return to normalcy. We are having our Happy Pig Collector's Convention! Come join us in Cadiz, Kentucky to see old friends and make some new ones who share our common affliction...pigs!

The event takes place in September on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th, 2021. It will be held at the spectacular Lake Barkley State Resort Park in Western Kentucky, just a short distance from Cadiz. What makes Cadiz particularly attractive is they are dedicated to the pig with an annual October Ham Festival. People come from far and wide to attend the festivities so, we will miss the crowds, but we can still have fun looking at pigs that line the street and inhabit the shops before the mass of people arrive.

This year we will have a "Show and Tell" on Saturday. Bring a pig or two that reminds you of Gene Holt, and tell us all about them. Gene always loved the chance to see some pigs in your collection so we will honour his memory this way.

Make plans to attend as soon as you can, and let me know. We need to get a count so we can better plan the convention. My email is: [pigtoys@sharongtelephone.com](mailto:pigtoys@sharongtelephone.com). Or, you can contact Janet Booth, our hostess. Her email is: [jcollinsbooth1@att.net](mailto:jcollinsbooth1@att.net).

I am looking forward seeing you at Convention in September...I am positively squealing with excitement!

*Jill*  
Your Head Hog



## Club Officers & Board Members

**President:** Jill Johnson ([pigtoys@sharontelephone.com](mailto:pigtoys@sharontelephone.com))

**Secretary:** Glenn Allen ([cosmicpig@gmail.com](mailto:cosmicpig@gmail.com))

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**Club Email:** [info@happypigcollectors.com](mailto:info@happypigcollectors.com)

**Website:** [www.happypigcollectors.com](http://www.happypigcollectors.com)

**JOIN US ON FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/groups/happypigcollectorsclub/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/happypigcollectorsclub/)

## Club Info

The Happy Pig Collectors Club is a non-profit corporation registered in the state of Illinois.

**Membership dues are \$25.00 payable every July.** Dues include four news-letters (with postage).

All members are invited to contribute articles, photos and information. Newsletter items can be sent to the editor via:

Email: [sheripa@aol.com](mailto:sheripa@aol.com) (Please put HPCC as the subject.)

Mail: Sheri McManus

2827 Nature Road

Philadelphia, PA 19154

## REMEMBERING GENE

On May 14, 2021, Gene Holt, the founder of The Happy Pig Collectors Club, passed away peacefully at his home. Words cannot express the sorrow and sadness we feel at the loss of Gene. He was an amazing person and will be sorely missed by everyone that knew him. He might be gone, but will never be forgotten.



2003 Chicago Convention—Gene, Janiece Hammond & Betsy Williamson / Photo submitted by Laura Townsend



2004 Convention / Photo submitted by Laura Townsend



2007 Nashville Convention  
Photo submitted by Laura Townsend



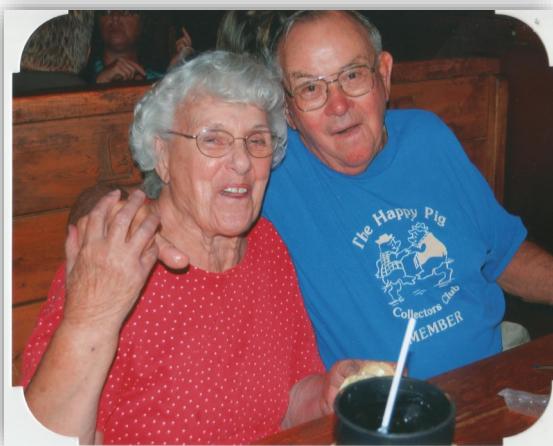
Gene & Betty Lou at 1998 Convention in Kewanee  
Photo submitted by Jill Johnson

*Your life  
was a blessing,  
Your memory  
a treasure.  
You are loved  
Beyond words.  
Missed  
beyond measure.*



2009 Convention "Down on the Farm" - Betty Lou, Gene, Sue, Glenn, Rano & Bobbie  
Photo submitted by Jill Johnson

## REMEMBERING GENE



Gene & Betty Lou / Photo submitted by Janet Booth



Gene in Pig Hat Contest at Springfield Convention  
Photo submitted by Janet Booth



Gene & Brother-in-Law at Second Convention  
Photo submitted by Janet Booth



Gene & Betty Lou at 2008 Convention in Toronto  
Photo Submitted by Laura Townsend



2006 Convention / Photo submitted by Laura Townsend



Gene with his show & tell at the Nashville Convention  
Photo submitted by Janet Booth

## REMEMBERING GENE



Gene & Betty Lou at 2006 Convention in Peoria  
Photo submitted by Laura Townsend



1998 Convention in Kewanee / Photo submitted by Jill Johnson



2005 Convention in Maine / Left to Right:  
Kathy Holt, D. Hamm, Betty Lou, Gene &  
Glenn/Photo submitted by M'Liss Hay



Handmade quilt gifted to Gene &  
Betty Lou / Photo submitted by Janet Booth



1998 Convention in Kewanee - "Porky" (Gene's Prized Possession) / Photo submitted by Jill Johnson

## SUCCESSFUL FARMING

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SEPTEMBER 1997/\$2.95

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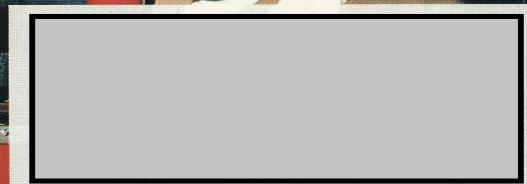
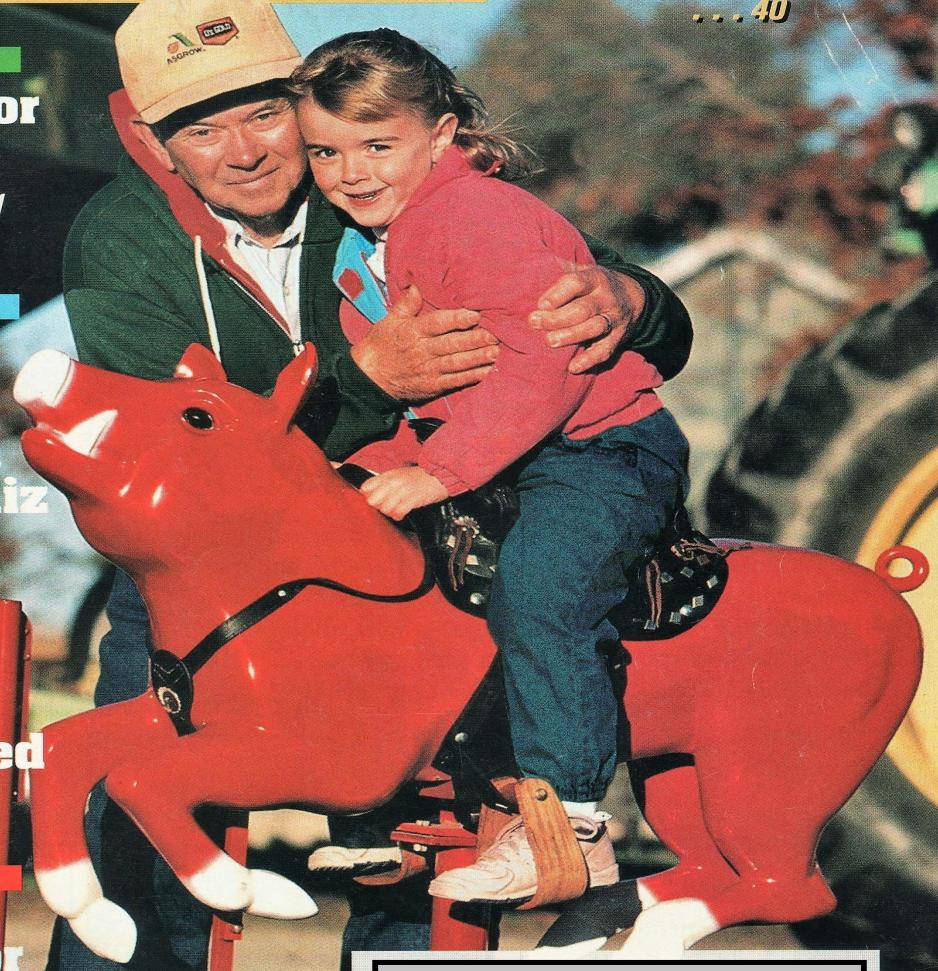
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borky

## SUCCESSFUL FARMING



### Holt's happy pigs

Pig collecting and pig producing are hits on this Illinois farm

By Betsy Freese  
*Livestock Editor*

**W**hen Gene Holt was 10, he bought his first pig. "There was a dime in my pocket and it was the first time I had ever gotten loose by myself in Galesburg (Illinois).

I ended up at the W.T. Grant Five and Dime. I looked over everything until I found a ceramic piggy bank for 10 cents. Good-bye dime."

Sixty years later, Holt has built a legacy of pigs, both those that collect dust and those that eat feed. His two sons, Gary and Mike, have taken over

the progressive 600-sow farm now, and Gene is happily dedicated to his hobby of pig collecting. He is founder of the Happy Pig Collectors Club (150 members throughout the nation) and editor of *The Happy Pig* newsletter. His second pig collectors' convention in Kewanee, Illinois, this July attracted 50 enthusiasts.



**COVER STORY**

#### Cursed with strange affliction

His club is dedicated to people "cursed with the same strange affliction" of collecting pigs, says Holt. His first dime-store pig has led to thousands of others in a collection that fills his Oneida, Illinois, farmhouse.

After his first buy, "I should have been taken to a shrink to have this nipped in the bud," laughs Gene as he reflects on his pig collection. He doesn't want to guess how much he's spent on his hobby over the years, but he's never paid as much for a pig as the person who bought an 1880 salt-glazed stoneware pig at an auction for \$5,500.



## SUCCESSFUL FARMING

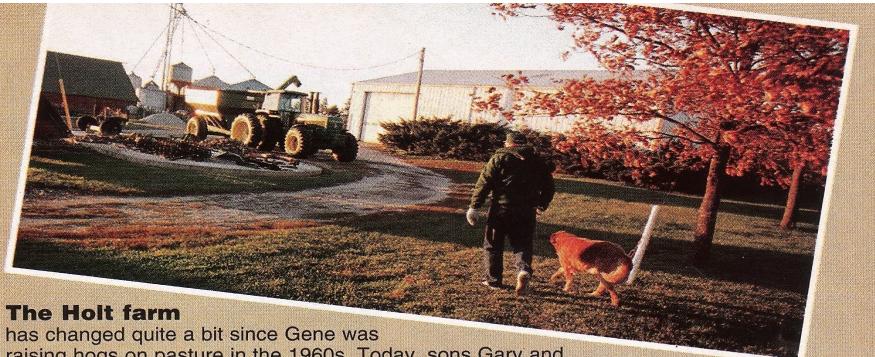
"If you sold hogs for \$10/cwt over your breakeven cost, it would take 220 head weighing 250 pounds to pay for that little blue pig," says Gene. His analysis shows his background on a hardworking hog operation.

### Started on pasture

The area around Oneida, Illinois, historically was big on pasture farrowing. Henry County to the north still has many pasture farrowing operations, but most hog farms in Knox County have made the switch to confinement. The Holts converted a chicken house to farrowing in 1972, then gradually made the switch from pasture. Pasture farrowing is not easy, and Gene's aching back and arthritis today is testament to the years he spent with pasture sows.

Sons Gary and Mike Holt came back to the farm in the mid '70s, and a gestation/breeding barn for 200 sows was built in 1979. Four years ago, Gene retired and the boys formed the farm corporation, Holt, Inc. Today, they run 600 sows and farm 1,250 acres of corn and soybeans with three full-time employees. Gary is the hog man, Mike is the crop man.

The Holts have remained independent pork producers with the help of



### The Holt farm

has changed quite a bit since Gene was raising hogs on pasture in the 1960s. Today, sons Gary and Mike run a large, modern crop and hog farm, and plan more expansion.

some strategic networks and alliances. All their hogs are marketed through the farmer network Hog, Inc. They are also part of Prairie State Gilt Co-op, a grandparent herd for PIC that produces F1 females. The Holts get their replacement gilts from the co-op when the pigs weigh 40 pounds. The co-op was started by Carthage, Illinois, veterinarian Joe Connor.

The Holts have also taken advantage of contracting, and contract with neighbors to finish all the pigs their sows produce. This arrangement works well, says Gary, and allows him to concentrate on the sows.

As with any farm, the Holts' opera-

tion has had its share of troubles. In 1989 they broke with one of the first cases of what was then "Mystery Pig Disease." They had a 25% drop in production. A couple years later, the disease was renamed PRRS (porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome). With the help of vaccinations, the Holt herd is now PRRS negative.

The fall day our *Successful Farming* photographer showed up to take photos for this story, the Holts were busy with another crisis. Here is Gene's account:

"We sure were in a mess the day Mitch Kezar was here. We had high winds the night before and leaves covered the air intake screen on the fan of (the)



**Once the crops** are harvested, the Holts love to have a bonfire. This party was in celebration of a grandson's birthday (Gene and Betty Lou have 12 grandchildren). Earlier in the day, a grain bin fire toasted a few hundred bushels of corn before being put out. The family was relieved nobody got hurt.

"Our harvest concluded without any more stress," reports Gene. "A couple of grandsons thought they were big stuff getting to run the chisel plow."

"I love to listen to our kids and their families visit with each other about their jobs and lives."



**The Happy Pig** newsletter is a family production, with daughter Betsy doing the layout and wife Betty Lou taking care of the club's finances. Betty Lou visits with two pig-loving granddaughters in her kitchen, at right.



Photographs: Mitch Kezar

## SUCCESSFUL FARMING



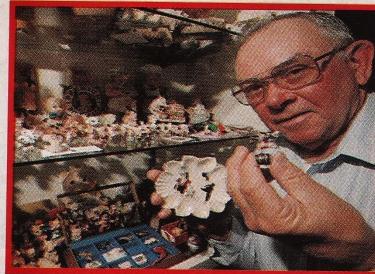
a full 5,000-bushel dryer bin. The gas burner didn't shut off and set the corn on fire. Gary found it at 6 a.m. when he came out of his house. The part of the bin near the burner was red hot.

"The fire department was called, and soon had it cooled down, but they wanted to empty the bin to make sure the fire was out.

"Gary called for me to bring the big truck with a couple of wagons behind. When I arrived, wagons were coming from all directions. One neighbor brought a large tractor and vacuum machine which sucked the corn out (the regular bin unloading mechanism wouldn't work).

"We feel very grateful to everyone who left their own work and came to help. At one time, I counted 17 loads in Gary's yard.

"It could have been a lot worse. Thank God no one was hurt. What



**Gene shows** off a few of the pigs in his huge collection. Some are rare, some are common. Every now and then Betty Lou hands him the dust cloth and tells him to clean up his act.

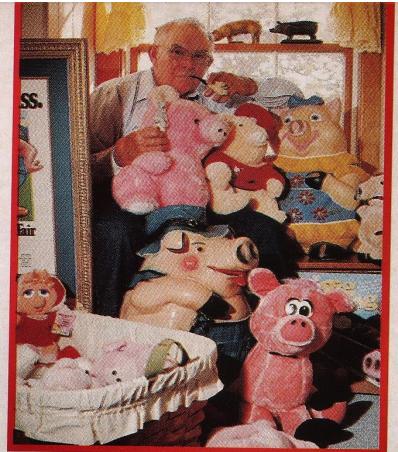
would have happened if it had been a bin full of popcorn?"

That last line is typical Gene Holt, always looking for the humor in life. His newsletter, *The Happy Pig*, is peppered with funny little poems about pigs and farming.

"Do you have pigs you never feed? Is this some strange eccentric need? Do you wonder if you're crazy? Do you wonder if you're lazy? Say, not to worry, just proceed," he advises fellow pig collectors. His business card as President/CEO of the Happy Pig Collector Club says he's a "soon-to-be-famous pig collector."

"That could be argued, but it's a catchy phrase and a good way to get some attention," Gene says.

When the local newspaper began printing stories and letters about con-



troversies over large hog farms (Murphy Family Farms is building a sow unit near Galesburg) Gene sent the newspaper a letter.

"My pigs don't stink. I've had hundreds of them in my house for years and have not noticed a bit of foul odor," he wrote.

Gene Holt's basic philosophy is that everyone needs a few more happy pigs. Who can argue with that? SF

### For more information

Gene and Betty Lou Holt  
The Happy Pig Collector Club  
P.O. Box 17  
Oneida, IL 61467  
(Annual dues are \$20 for four newsletters.)



**Gene helps** Mike with the crop operation at harvest, but "stays out of the way" unless he's asked. He doesn't mind taking a back seat on the farm today after years of hard work. He and Betty Lou enjoy the time they have to travel now.

### Farm at a glance

The Holt family raises corn and soybeans on 1,250 acres and has 600 sows near Oneida (Knox County), Illinois. Gene and Betty Lou are retired from active farming, although they help out when asked. Sons Gary and Mike run the farm corporation, Holt, Inc.

### Hobbies and family

Gene is an avid pig collector and started the Happy Pig Collector Club and *The Happy Pig* newsletter. Daughter Betsy Holt does the layout for the newsletter. Other daughters include Margaret Karbeling in Iowa, and Barb Snyder in Indiana. The Holts have 12 grandchildren. ■



## SEASONS OF LIFE

Several members of the HPCC attended Gene's funeral on Saturday, May 29. They wore t-shirts with the club logo to honor Gene.



On the left: Sue Craft (front), Marie Gage & John Gage

On the right: Becky Schneider (front), Mona Lewis & Willis Lewis

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For those that could not attend Gene's funeral, Megan Holt Swanson, Gene's Granddaughter, thoughtfully shared this heartfelt eulogy.

### **Seasons of Life**

Farming is truly the world's oldest profession, going all the way back to the creation. In order to be a successful farmer, you accept that you are governed by the seasons. The season tells you what you will be doing - when you prepare for the future, when you work your hardest and when to reap the rewards of your labors, and even when you rest.

### **Winter**

Eugene [Putnam] Holt was born December 26, 1929, in the oldest part of Cottage Hospital in Galesburg, Illinois. He came into the world during a massive snowstorm, so bad the trains couldn't come down from Chicago. He was the last of 8 children and grew up surrounded by love, with one of his earliest memories being of a storm; "*Boom, bang, lots of bright lighting. The soft maple trees in the North yard were swaying all over the place. Quickly, Dad got me and slipped me in between him and Mom. The storm passed in no time; and in less time, I was back in my crib.*"

## SEASONS OF LIFE

In 2009, Grandpa wrote down a series of memories including those growing up on the farm, playing with kids at school, and the lessons he learned from the teachers at his country school. He recalled being a bit of a mischievous student, but expressed genuine appreciation for the dedication of the teachers that were nonetheless committed to his success.

### **Spring**

After his graduation from Oneida High School, grandpa worked for his uncles George and Bob, where "The work was fine but the pay was lousy."

Not long after, he met the girl who would become his bride, Betty Lou Clark. While they were dating, they zipped around in his pretty blue 1950 Ford. Aside from her wit and beauty, Grandpa shared that "Another reason I hung around was because her mother was a wonderful cook and I was invited to many Sunday dinners."

Grandpa proposed to Betty Lou in the fall of 1950 and they were married on January 4, 1951. (BRIDE) They were married for 68 years. Grandma followed him to Norfolk VA after he was drafted into the Army, and shortly thereafter, they started their family with Gary being born back in Galesburg just before Grandpa shipped out. Margaret, Barb, Mike and Betsy followed in quick succession.

### **Summer**

During the Korean Conflict, Grandpa served in France, helping rebuild Europe.

When Grandpa was in the army he drove a duck, an amphibious truck. His crew would take troops and supplies from ship to shore. One day, he had to take a big rig to the shore despite poor weather conditions. After some time a big fog rolled in and made it impossible to navigate the duck. Grandpa recalled feeling lost and afraid that they would not make it back to shore, drift out to sea, or be struck by a ship. Grandpa thought only of his bride and baby boy. He said a prayer and immediately caught a glimpse of a lighthouse towards which he was able to sail safely to shore. Once back on land he realized that what he thought he saw, he could not have seen. Grandpa believed it was angels guiding him to shore so that he could return home to take care of his family.

Once back in Illinois, he began his career as a farmer, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. He worked tirelessly, building a farm enterprise that continues on to this day.

Grandpa was a phenomenal farmer and community organizer, but his proudest accomplishment was his family. He was an extraordinary grandpa and father. His children remember his work ethic, patient instruction, and quality time.

Celebrating his 75th birthday, family members recorded memories of grandpa in their own words. These stories from his children are a beautiful illustration of his role as a father: *"I remember when Dad drove into the driveway with the new 4020 tractor, a proud look on his face. What a machine! And it had a button to blow the horn."*

## SEASONS OF LIFE

*"Of course, Christmas is one of the best times of the year for our family. One of the things that makes it so special in my memory is how on Christmas Eve, after supper and before bed, we would all gather in the living room, with the tree lights and a few lamps illuminating the scene. (Dad) would open up the big old family bible and read the Christmas story from the book of Luke. Listening to (him) read, I could imagine it all. It was a moment of pure serenity and love."*

*"My earliest memory is when (Dad) poured the basement floor in the little house. I remember (him) always working very hard and doing a lot of work in the different garage/shops that we've had. I can still remember quite vividly a night in the house up on the hill. I had been in bed for a while and had come back down the stairs for something. Mom was ironing in the front room and I could see (him) welding out in the garage and how intensely bright the light from the welding was."*

*"I remember a family picnic one summertime at Aunt Isabel and Uncle Virgil's house. Everyone was there... All the aunts and uncles and cousins. The barn across the road from the house was a special attraction for the cousins that day because it was home to a litter of the cutest little puppies. I remember so vividly our family's crowding into the car at the end of the day to head home and asking if we couldn't PLEASE take home one of those puppies. (Somehow, I think the same scene must have been played in each of the other families' cars.) (Dad), was staunch in (his) refusal until (he) saw my tears. And, probably against (his) better judgement, agreed to bring home Peanuts (or was it Bruno?) just because I wanted him so much."*

*"Memories of an occasional Sunday after church driving over to Rio so Dad could get a Sunday paper and all us kids getting a piece of bubble gum, trying to blow bubbles and reading Bazooka Joe."*

From the time he returned from France, Grandpa was an active member of the American Legion Post #727 - serving as commander, a tireless promoter of their fish-frys, and later as the leader in fundraising and planning for the veteran's memorial in Oneida, IL. Beyond that, he instilled in all of his children and grandchildren a deep pride in our country and recognition for veterans.

Grandpa took several of us grandchildren along with him one Memorial Day to join the Legion troop at Ed's Family Restaurant in Rio, IL for an early breakfast before they started the circuit of memorial ceremonies. I remember a sign on the wall read, "Take what you want--Eat what you take." After breakfast, Grandpa took us all over the Knox county to different cemeteries to honor the veterans who have passed away. This year and for years to come, Memorial Day will be even more significant to us all.

### Fall

In 1995, after retiring, Grandpa started this passion project, The Happy Pig Collectors Club, dedicated to giving respect to the phrase "when I see a pig, I think of you." Grandpa started his pig collection as a child, with a piggy bank from the 5 and Dime. He knew that there were others who were, in his words, "cursed with the same strange affliction," and decided to start a club of his own. He reached out to

## SEASONS OF LIFE

friends and family to help, and got notices put into farming magazines. The Happy Pig grew and grew, and now has members not only in the US, but around the world. Even as the club grew, it didn't rival the growth of his personal pig collection, which has filled every room of his house. He even had a pink faced, long eared, 80 foot, 8 story tall "Hog Heaven" hot air balloon come to the farm one summer, creating great memories for the whole family.

For years, grandpa was obsessed with finding a riding pig, like you would see at the grocery store. He searched and searched, saying that the pig was "calling, calling", and finally found it in Arkansas... Once he found Porky The Riding Pig, it was a hit with all grandkids and visitors to the farm. Riding the pig became a rite of passage for grandchildrens' suitors.

His founding of the Happy Pig Club, which is still active in its 26th year, truly highlighted his ability to make real connections with everyone he met. He wasn't much for small talk, but was always quick with a story, or joke, or even a little limerick that often he wrote himself. Grandpa was creative and a hard worker, always coming up with something to do, or make, or write - to read or research.

As Grandma's health started to fade, Grandpa told everyone that God had left him on the earth to take care of Grandma as she had spent so many years caring for him. When Grandma moved into Seminary Manor, Grandpa followed her, taking a room at the Estates. As one of the residents of the Estates remembered, "*He lived out a promise folks often carelessly make; In sickness and in health. Till death do us part.*" He let his light shine brightly during those days.

### **Winter again**

After his loving care and companionship with Grandma, he came back to the farm - home - the day after his Bride passed away.

After coming home, he enjoyed spending time talking with his oldest grandson and next door neighbor Nick. The guys would have a beer and talk about the progress of the crops, watch Antiques Roadshow and Wheel of Fortune.

His children worked to bring some of his pigs downstairs so that he could enjoy them, and helped to keep his bird feeder full so that he could look to the east and watch the birds come and go.

His humor and ornery streak was with him to the end, as any time he would have a new nurses aide report for duty, he would ask her "Is it okay if I call you sweetheart?" We wonder how many of them were fooled into trying to pick up the dime that he had glued to the kitchen floor, as so many of us did.

Eugene Holt, our grandpa, passed through the winter of his life and took his last breath in the Spring, when the farmers were putting seeds into the ground for the next season of growth. And just like all crops, the seeds of steadfast love, hard work, and humor that he planted in his family will continue to grow on and on, through the seasons of the lives of his 5 children, 12 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

And for the rest of our lives, Grandpa, when we see a pig, we'll think of you.

## CONVENTION NEWS!

It's time to squeal with excitement! The Happy Pig Collectors Convention is back! Come celebrate the club's 25th convention in September in Cadiz, Kentucky. Convention dates are **September 23, 24 & 25, 2021**.

Cadiz Kentucky is known for their annual Ham Festival. 2021 marks the 45th year of the Ham Festival. All around Cadiz and especially downtown, you can see pigs decorated and painted all different colors and designs. More than



50 pigs can be spotted all around town and their numbers are growing. They aren't in pens and they aren't tied up. They are out for our enjoyment.

Although the festival is in the beginning of October, the pigs will be out in time for our convention.

Cadiz and Trigg County celebrate the pig and genuine local delicious country ham.

Cadiz also has many antique malls. Who wants to go pig shopping?

### 2021 HPCC 25th Convention Registration & Fee

**Janet Booth will be hosting this years convention.**

**Convention fee will be**

**\$125.00 per person for two days**

**\$65 per person for 1 day**

**(Fee includes breakfast, lunch & dinner on Friday & Saturday.)**

**Send your registration and fees by September 1, 2021 to**

**The Happy Pig Collectors Club**

**P.O. Box 8081**

**Gurnee, IL 60031**

(If paying by check or money order, please make payable to The Happy Pigs Collectors Club)

**We need to get a count so we can better plan the convention. If you are attending, please email Jill Johnson to let her know. Her email is [pigtoys@sharontetelephone.com](mailto:pigtoys@sharontetelephone.com). Or, you can email Janet Booth, our hostess. Her email is: [jcollinsbooth1@att.net](mailto:jcollinsbooth1@att.net).**



## CONVENTION HOTEL INFORMATION

**Convention dates: September 23, 24 & 25**

Plan to stay at the beautiful  
**Lake Barkley State Resort Park**  
3500 State Park Road  
Cadiz, KY 42211  
Phone: 270-924-1131



**Rooms are \$79.95 per night, plus tax**

**\*\*\*Reservations must be made by August 2, 2021 to get our special rate.\*\*\***

Rooms are down a few steps and our room block includes two handicap-accessible rooms for those that may need it.

*When you call to make your reservation, make sure to tell the hotel you are with The Happy Pig Collectors Club to get our special rate.*

Cabins are available to rent if you want to bring your family.



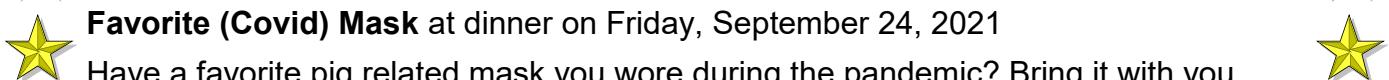
## CONVENTION AGENDA

The convention agenda is in the process of being finalized. A more detailed agenda, including meals, will be published in the September newsletter.

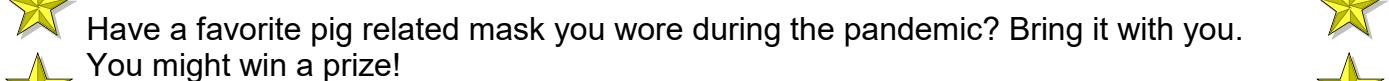
The convention will start with dinner on **Thursday, September 23, 2021**. This meal is not included in the convention fee. You will be responsible for paying for this dinner.



### PIG CONTESTS



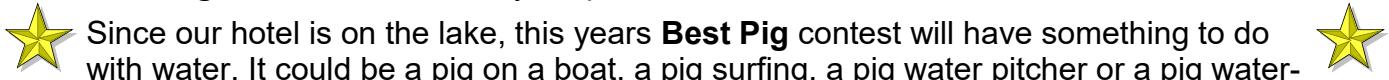
**Favorite (Covid) Mask** at dinner on Friday, September 24, 2021



Have a favorite pig related mask you wore during the pandemic? Bring it with you. You might win a prize!



**Best Pig** at dinner on Saturday, September 25, 2021



Since our hotel is on the lake, this years **Best Pig** contest will have something to do with water. It could be a pig on a boat, a pig surfing, a pig water pitcher or a pig watering can. Anything pig and water related. I know you will come up with some great ideas!



## CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

### BUY, SELL & TRADE



Have pig items you don't have room for or no longer want? Bring them with you and participate in our **Buy, Sell & Trade** event. Don't worry if you do not have items to sell or trade; you can always buy pig items sold by other HPCC members.

### SHOW & TELL

This year for **Show and Tell** we are asking you to bring a pig or two that reminds you of Gene. If you don't have an item that reminds you of Gene, perhaps you have a fun, interesting, or unique pig item that you would like to share. Gene always loved the chance to see some pigs in your collection so we will honor his memory this way.



**SEE YOU IN CADIZ!**





Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- |      |               |
|------|---------------|
| 11th | Denise Gates  |
| 12th | Terry Sharp   |
| 15th | Janet Booth   |
| 25th | SuAnne Lopata |

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

- |      |                 |
|------|-----------------|
| 2nd  | Terry Booth     |
| 9th  | Bud Bort        |
| 10th | Marlene Breaden |
| 15th | Dave Lane       |
| 16th | M'Liss Hay      |
| 16th | Carole Backman  |
| 22nd | Sandy Hammond   |
| 31st | Clarice Cecchi  |

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- |      |                 |
|------|-----------------|
| 6th  | Lynn Lane       |
| 6th  | Amy West        |
| 7th  | Rano Mueller    |
| 10th | Kerry Watters   |
| 13th | Barbara Pigg    |
| 21st | Madge Blackburn |
| 28th | Jean Sharp      |

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

## COLLECTIONS

For those of you that joined our **Happy Pig Collectors Club Facebook Group**, every Thursday is Triple Thursday. Members are encouraged to share photos of 3 pig items from their collection. The photo can include all 3 items or you can share 3 separate photos of individual items. Items can be random. They don't have to be part of a set. Here are some photos that were shared on Facebook.



Sheri McManus Collection



M'Liss Hay Collection



Sheri McManus Collection



Janet Booth Collection



Janet Booth Collection



M'Liss Hay Collection



Carol Blackman Collection



Gene Holt Collection



Janet Booth Collection



M'Liss Hay Collection



Sheri McManus Collection



Sheri McManus Collection

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

Here is the first ever newsletter. Twenty-six years later, the fun is continuing.

**The Happy Pig**

*The Official Publication of the Happy Pig Collectors Club*

*A Club Dedicated to People Who Collect Pigs,  
So That They May Gain More Enjoyment from Their Hobby  
and to Meet and Mingle with Others  
Cursed with the Same Strange Affliction*

Volume 1, Issue 1      Summer 1995

**The Fun is Just Beginning!**

Welcome to the premier issue of *The Happy Pig*! I've been thinking about doing this for some time and am very excited that we've finally completed the first issue. Because you're a crazy pig fan like me, I probably don't need really to explain why I decided to do this, but somehow I didn't think we'd have a proper beginning if there wasn't some sort of foreword—so here goes:

*Why Bother With a Club?*

Ten or more years ago, my bride started collecting Tea Leaf Ironstone China. She had memories of some way back in her childhood and was fascinated with it. Then, my bride heard about a club for Tea Leaf collectors and we joined. We met a load of interesting people and had a lot of fun. I kept thinking it was a dirty shame that there wasn't a fun club for pig nuts like me.



*But, Officer! I did take the pig to the zoo and we had so much fun that now we're going to Six Flags!*

So, now that I'm retired, there is no excuse not to do the things I want to do. I've had lots of help and encouragement. If this venture survives, this newsletter will be the glue that holds it together. To have a good newsletter, every member will have to send in stories and pictures and jokes and advice and ideas! If you're like me and think you could never write a story, then just write down the facts about yourself and your special pigs and we will run it by our award-winning editor (Mary Bjorling) and see what she comes up with. If it wasn't for her positive attitude, unfailing good humor, and constant encouragement, this club would never have hatched. Betsy is also one of the main reasons. She doesn't need the extra work, but from the first has agreed to do the layout. It must be great to have talent. I also plan to use my bride with her new computer. It will keep her off the streets.

We'll need lots of members, too. Everyone knows somebody who collects pigs. So how do we reach everyone? The plans are to do some advertising, but that could get expensive. I hope you'll enjoy the "Happy Pig Collectors Club" enough to get actively involved — and get your friends involved, too.

Let's see where it goes and how it grows. Is this what all red-blooded American Pig Collectors need? I think so!!

— Gene Holt

## HAPPY PIG NEWSLETTER

As Gene mentions in the first newsletter (see previous page) "If this venture survives, *this newsletter* will be the glue that holds it together. To have a good newsletter, every member will have to send in stories and pictures and jokes and advice and ideas."

Let's honor Gene. Send in your stories and pictures and jokes. Send in your advice and ideas. Send them to the editor.

Mail to:  
Sheri McManus  
2827 Nature Road  
Philadelphia, PA 19154

Email to:  
[sheripa@aol.com](mailto:sheripa@aol.com)  
(please put HPCC in the subject line)



\*If you have photos of Gene or a story you would like to share about him please mail or email them to Sheri McManus at the above address.

## HAPPY PIG CARD EXCHANGE

Do you like getting pig cards in the mail?

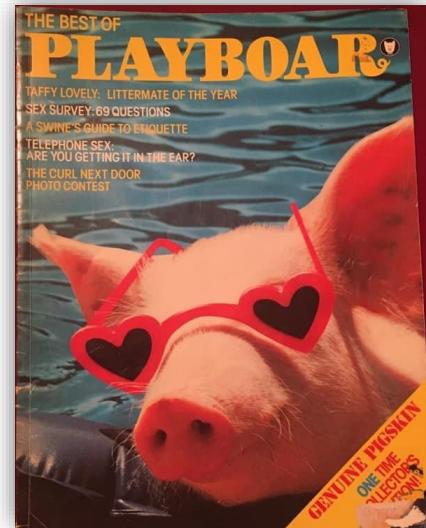
Do you like sending pig cards?

If you answered yes to the above questions, you need to join our card exchange! Send a piggy card to a member for their birthday, holiday or just because. If you would like to join the **Happy Pig Card Exchange** send your name, address and birthday to **Cheryl Rider**. You can send Cheryl an email: [tykkledpynk@gmail.com](mailto:tykkledpynk@gmail.com). You can also send her a letter with your information:

Cheryl Rider  
Box 588  
Mayo, MD 21106



## OINKIN' HILARIOUS



**Do you see a pig in curlers?**



## The Happy Pig

A Club dedicated to people who collect pigs,  
So that they may gain more enjoyment from their hobby  
And to meet and mingle with others  
Cursed with the same strange affliction.  
Just for the nonsense of it all, and to give respect to  
“When I see a pig I think of you.”

HELLO !  
SUMMER

