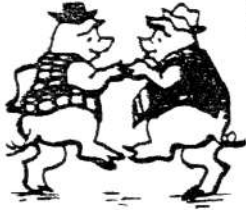


# The Happy Pig

*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 3

Winter Wonders 1996

## **Y'ALL COME!**

As I write this there are 54 dues-paying members in **THE HAPPY PIG COLLECTORS CLUB**.

One of the basic reasons behind all this is to get to know others cursed with the same strange affliction. So

if we're going to do it, let's do it.

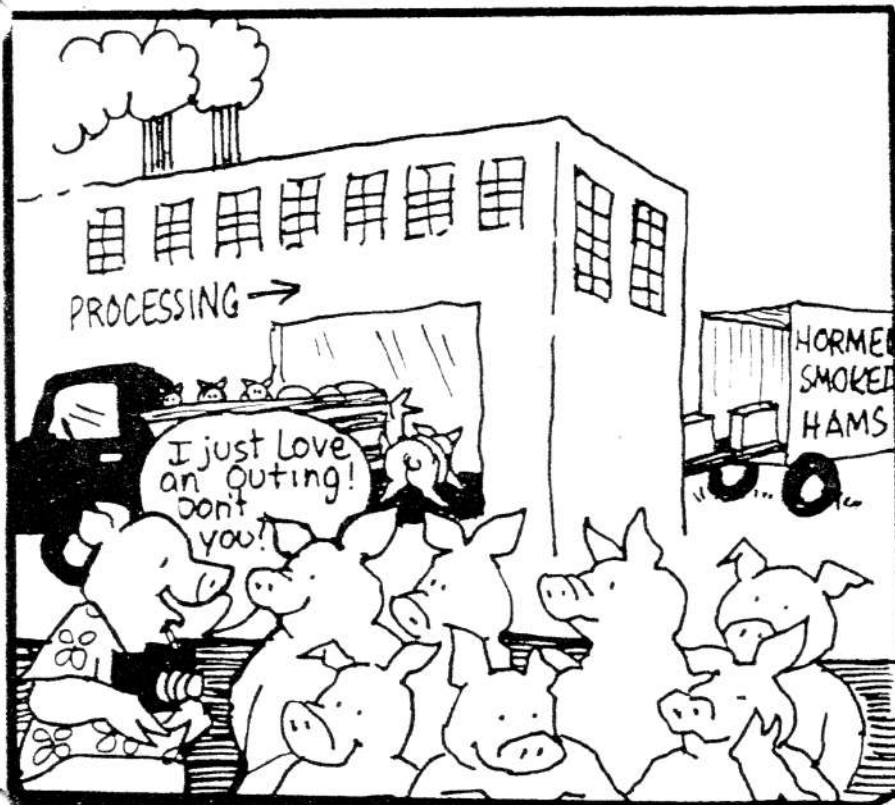
We'll have an annual meeting/convention **July 6, 1996**, at my house or in Galesburg, Il., depending on how many of y'all come.

So mark your calendar and tell

your in-laws that you'll be gone. If you wish, bring along some of your special pigs for a show-and-tell session or bring lots of pictures. It would be great to have a nice supper and some entertainment.

All of this is definitely open to your advice and suggestions. I feel it is necessary to have a date set, so you can make plans to attend. If you come by air, fly to either Peoria or Moline. We will pick you up or if you prefer to have your own wheels, rental cars are available. Amtrak comes to Galesburg. We'll keep you informed as plans become more solid.

Let's have a good time. Do ya hear?  
- Gene Holt



*The pig, if I am not  
mistaken,  
Gives us ham and pork and  
bacon.  
Let others think his heart is  
big,  
I think it stupid of the pig.  
Ogden Nash*

## Who's Who and What's What at The Happy Pig

### Founder and Chief Storyteller

Gene Holt

### Editor

Mary Bjorling

### Chief Typist

Betty Lou Holt

### Layout

Betsy J. Holt

### Art Editor

Michelina Nicotera

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Gene Holt, President

Desi Nicotera, Vice President

Betty Lou Holt, Treasurer

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### Directors

Lowell Bjorling

Mary Bjorling

Gary Main

Susan Main

The Happy Pig Collectors Club is a not-for-profit corporation in the State of Illinois. Annual dues are \$20 and they entitle the member to newsletters and laughs. Maybe someday in the future we can all get together and know each other personally, but until then we can share through this newsletter.

Please send your dues and stories and photos and ideas and advice and comments to The Happy Pig Collectors Club, c/o Gene Holt, P.O. Box 17, Oneida, IL 61467

## NO LARD ON THIS BIG PORKER

Glenn Kasparie has good memories of all the years he's been in Woodhull. He served our country in the Army (1944-46). Being originally trained as an engineer, he ended up as an M.P. in the Philippines. For 16 years he was a livestock trucker, owning his own rig, hauling hogs and cattle into Chicago. He was fortunate to have an agreement with a Galesburg tavern owner/liquor dealer to haul booze on the return trip. He's best known for spending 22 years as the Clover Township road commissioner. About 30 years ago he was employed as a bulldozer operator. One job was to clean out a hedge fence row on the Mercer-Henry County line. Located at state route 17 at the east edge of New Windsor, Ill., standing there on the south side of the road, bolted to posts, was a large cast iron sign in the shape of very fat pig. Raised letters on it's body spelled:

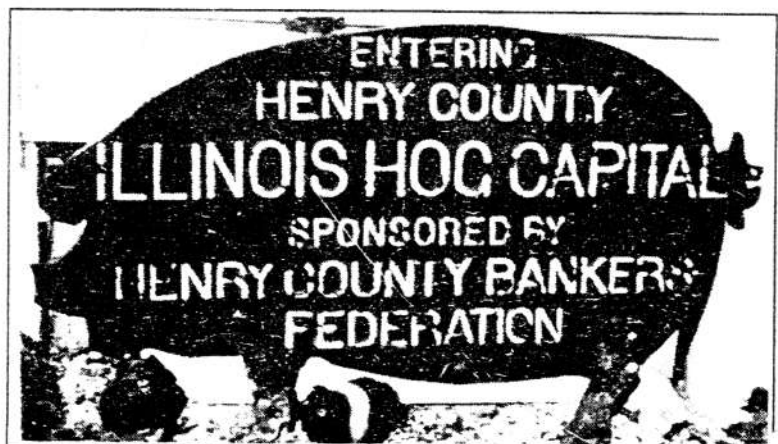
Entering Henry County  
Illinois Hog Capital  
Sponsored by Henry Co. Bankers  
Federation

John Spivey owned the land and

told Glenn to bury the pig. Glenn hated to do that and asked permission to take the pig home. John said, "Sure, sell it for old iron if you want to." It now stands at the corner of his garage next to a pretty flower bed. It measures 44" long, 26" high and 1" thick. There's not much risk in anyone carrying it away in the night. It weighs well over 100 lbs. An occasional paint job by his wife is the only upkeep expense. Glenn says it doesn't eat much. Understandably, this pig isn't for sale.

In my quest for information about this unusual porker, my attorney, Kurt Horberg put me in touch with Roger Hultgren, a retired Cambridge banker. He remembered the signs well, saying one was placed at every main road entrance to Henry Co. He suggested I contact Charles Sheesly, the long time main man at the Orion Bank. My nephew, Tim Fritz, is a loan officer there. Tim is trying to locate the old Bankers Federation books. It would be interesting to know when and how many were purchased and the cost, etc. I hope this story will be continued.

- Gene Holt



*Does anyone know what happened to his buddies?*

## A LITTLE BLUE PIG FROM ANNA

Maxwell's Market in Woodhull, Il., was the location, Sat. March 31 and Sun. April 1, 1990, was the time in history. A big two-day auction was the occasion. An old pig made in Anna, Il., was the attraction for me. To quote the sale bill: "RARE 1880 ANNA pottery pig flask (railroad & river guide)."

Stenzel Bros., auctioneers, of Osco, Il. were in charge. I like them because they don't waste any time.

They were selling the estate of some old guy from Davenport, Ia. The pig was to be sold on Sunday. I couldn't go because of previous family plans, so I went to Woodhull early on Saturday. I couldn't find the pig so asked one of the clerks for help. She said, "We have it back here" and took it out of wrappings on a nearby table. I held it in my hands looking it over. It had a light blue glaze with a hole for a cork under its tail. The clerk invited me to leave a bid on it. I hemmed and hawed and finally said, "I'd go to \$135.00." She politely told me there already was a bid for \$300.00, so I was out of the race before it started. A couple months later an old friend and pig collector told me he was there and watched them sell that pig for \$5,500.00!

This lit a fire under my curiosity. What made that pig so valuable? Kyle Husfloen helped me locate some information that had been printed in the Antique Trader, (he's one of their editors). The pig was described as: a salt glazed stoneware flask, about 8 inches long. Made by Wallace Kirkpatrick family of Anna, Il. in 1880. The flask is marked with roads, rivers and railroads, to and from midwest cities like Cincinnati and St. Louis. It was probably filled

*To the right,  
a note  
from the  
auctioneers*

*Railroad  
and River  
Guide by  
Anna  
Pottery,  
1883, below.*

### Stenzel Bros. Auction Service

OSCO, ILLINOIS 61274 — PHONE 522-5560

AL STENZEL — ELMER STENZEL — RON STENZEL  
526-8690 526-3774 944-4169

*To Mr Gene Holt,*

*The Anna pottery pig flask we sold  
March/April 1990, brought \$5500.00.*

*Signed  
Al Stenzel  
Stenzel Bros Auction Service Inc.  
Osco, Ill.*



with whiskey and given as a favor at a convention.

This family of potters made some real weird stuff as a sideline, like snakes all over a jug to depict the evils of whiskey. Another book shows the pig in beige. These articles and books don't tell me what I'd really like to know. Like how many are out there and where do they call home?

If you could raise hogs and sell

them for \$10.00 per 100 lbs over your break even cost, it would take 220 head weighing 250 lbs each to pay for that little blue pig from Anna.

*I saw an old pig from Anna  
About as long as a banana.  
Its price was sky high  
Didn't really know why.  
It turned out to be Americana.*

-Gene Holt

## FEATURED ARTIST

My sister, Michelina, who does the art work for the "Happy Pig" has been making people smile with her work since she could hold a crayon. She is currently finishing up her art degree at the Rocky Mountain Institute of Art in Denver. Ever since she was very young she has doodled with cute animal cartoon characters and once in high school we tried to partner on an animal cartoon for the newspapers. That's when we learned how competitive the art industry can be.

Mick has worked on several pigs for my father-in-law, Gene Holt, since I married Betsy Holt, and entered into the Holt pig collecting family. Much earlier, however, she created her first pig, back when we were growing up in Salt Lake City. I was 9 and she was 7 at the time. I wanted to give our mother a pig cutting board for Mother's Day, but I had no idea how to draw a pig on the board. I asked Mick to trace out the pig for me and she quickly put it down on the pine board. I now have that cutting board in my kitchen. It was a great beginning to Mick's pig-art portfolio.

Mick's first pig for Gene came at

my wife's and my request. We are always trying to find new and unique pigs to give Gene for his birthday and Christmas. Once he described in great detail a pig picture to go with the slogan "Promote Pork, Run over a Chicken." (See story on page 54) Well, that was all we needed. My wife and I commissioned Mick to create the artwork as a Christmas present for Gene and he loved it. Later, Gene enlisted Mick to simplify the artwork for a new business card he was working on. It has the farmer-pig after the chicken on one side and Gene's vital information on the other. That business card with Mick's artwork has been left around the world, and in just about every antique store from Denver to Oneida.

Mick enjoys using her art talent to make others happy. We are lucky enough to have a book she wrote and illustrated for our daughter's two-year-old birthday. It's all about the little piggies nursery rhyme and the pigs on Grandpa's farm. (Gene got a color copy edition for his collection). She loves creating greeting cards for family and friends and we love receiving them on any occasion. A real treat on my birthday is getting one of her custom made cards. I still

have every birthday card she has made for me. One day, when she is a famous artist, I know that collection will be worth some money. In the meantime, it's worth a lot to me.

Mick is single and loves to travel. She has made several trips to Central America and sketched some wonderful drawings of people there (sorry Gene, no pigs). Her latest project for school was a 30 foot by 10 foot mural in a Denver hotel depicting people from many cultures dancing. (Gene said it was great but that it could have used a pig.) Mick does freelance art work in Denver whenever she can. She currently works full time for a Denver printer as a customer service representative but hopes to change careers after graduation this spring to work as an illustrator. Meanwhile, enjoy her pig art and if you have any custom pig art requests, just let her know.

By the way, I'm Desi Nicotera, Vice-President of the Happy Pig Collectors Club. I have to say that the pig cutting board and one Christmas ornament comprise my entire pig collection. When Gene asked me to be vice-president for incorporation I agreed to it as long as there was no work involved, and so far, this story about my sister has been the extent of it.

-Desi Nicotera



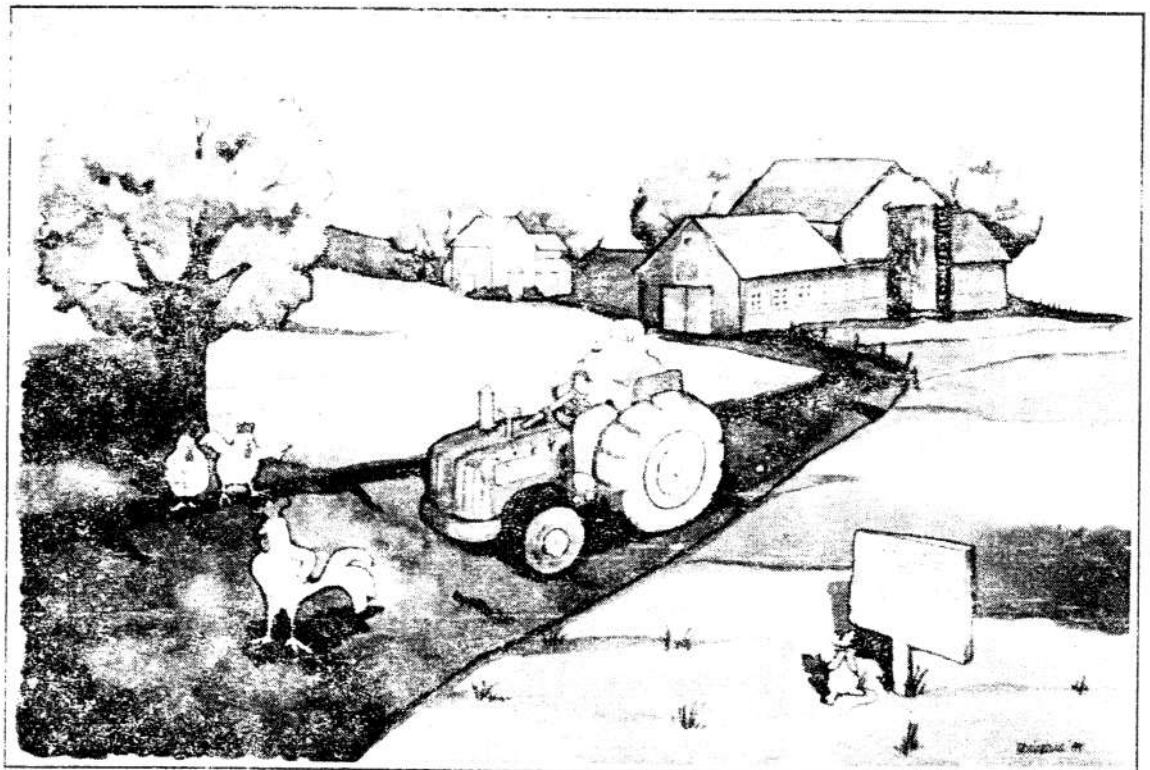
*To the left: Mick with Desi's cutting board; and to the right, the mural in the hotel.*







*To the right, a self portrait of the artist at work for the Happy Pig and below, Mick's watercolor. You can see why she was drafted to be our art editor!!*



## WHAT A PRIZE

A lucky flip of the coin while on an Indiana trip a few years ago, netted Hugh and Sylvia McMaster, intrepid pig collectors of Altona, Il., the prize of their sizable collection.

The special paperweight is made of clear glass with a pig in the center, surrounded by rust-colored leaves. A bird is perched on the pig's back and there is probably not another like it in the world.

Hugh and Sylvia, who live on a farm in Hugh's lovely old family home, were wandering around Indiana when a toss of the coin took them past the Zimmerman Art Glass Co., at Corydon, Ind. where various glass art works were made.

The glass company, housed in a Quonset hut-type building was very unpretentious at first, and even at second look. But, as with many things in life, looks were deceiving.

They found the company run by two "middle-aged geezers," Hugh said, "and they were making glass strawberries." Since Sylvia's kitchen has a strawberry theme, they asked about buying a strawberry paperweight. "We were told the strawberries were all booked up," Hugh said.

*The cherished paperweight from the Zimmerman Art Glass Co.*



Moving on to their pig interest the couple asked if the artists ever made pig paperweights. "No, but I think I could if I had the spare time," one replied.

Hugh and Sylvia were told to draw a picture of their proposed paperweight pig on a pad of paper, but curious as to what would turn out, they opted for the "geezers" to make their own design.

"We'll send it to you whenever we get in the mood," the artists said.

While this business attitude seemed strange they found out that indeed the two really didn't have to work unless they wanted to.

Seems that a few years before, the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. had commissioned them to make paperweights that represented American art. The paperweights were put on sale in the Smithsonian gift shop and proved to be very profitable for the glass company.

"We worked day and night, so now if we feel like it we work on whatever we want to work on," the artists told Hugh and Sylvia.

"We offered to pay in advance," Hugh said, "but one of them asked

*These music boxes reside with the McMasters*



"Are you a relative of ours?" We told them no, so he said he didn't want any advance payment."

Time passed and the McMasters thought their pig paperweight was probably forgotten, then about six months later a package arrived with both a strawberry and a pig paperweight inside.

The pig paperweight was marked "flawed", so there was no charge. "We looked and looked, but never found the flaw," Hugh said.

Both men have since died and so today the Zimmerman pig paperweight is a unique memento of the kindness of "two geezers," who left a wonderful example of their art behind.

### THEY DO IT RIGHT

When two such knowledgeable people as Hugh and Sylvia McMaster give advice it is well worth listening closely. The couple have been collecting pigs since the early 1960's and have some tips, not only for pig collectors, but any collector.

They first began collecting pig salt and pepper shakers, but soon

*Our award winning editor with her "good Swede" husband. The world needs more people like them*



branched out into generalized pig collecting because it was more interesting.

They have "provenienced" their nearly 1,000 item collection. An enormous task! Each item has been photographed with a ruler to give size and proportion, the sales slip, information on when, where and how it was obtained and proof of description.

This complete information has been put in albums and stored case of fire or any other type of destruction.

Proveniencing also helps to go back and jog memories with a collection of this size, the McMasters say.

Hugh and Sylvia have noted that some pieces are harder to find than others. Porky Pig and The Three Little Pig and Big Bad Wolf character are hard to find, they said.

When they are traveling they stop at antique stores and always ask for specific items, but browse just in case something was overlooked or there are undiscovered treasures.

Each type of collecting has its tricks of the trade. With pigs it's tails.

They say when collecting pigs it is necessary to carefully check tails. "If the tail is not curly," Sylvia said, "it could be a dog." She has a deep, dark suspicion one specimen she picked up is a mouse, not a pig.

Collectors items change as time goes by, Hugh and Sylvia said. Today pigs are not as common as in the past few years, but they say there seems to be more animals in general than in the past.

Today, with their extensive collection, the McMasters say they don't pick up just any old pig. "It has to grunt at us."

- Mary Bjorling

## PIGGY PIGGY BANK HUNTERS

December 26, 1995

Dear Gene,

We attended a meeting in San Antonio in the second week of December and just want to let you know that antique/flea marketing is absolutely great around the area of the Alamo. We marketed driving north through Texas and Oklahoma and arrived home with 21 new piggy piggy banks! Waco and Muskogee each have wonderful hunting grounds, but the prices are a tad higher than similar items in northwest Arkansas.

Because of the overflowing desk and appointment book facing us, we did not get to read the Happy Pig until the evening of Christmas Day. Three things really knocked our sox off:

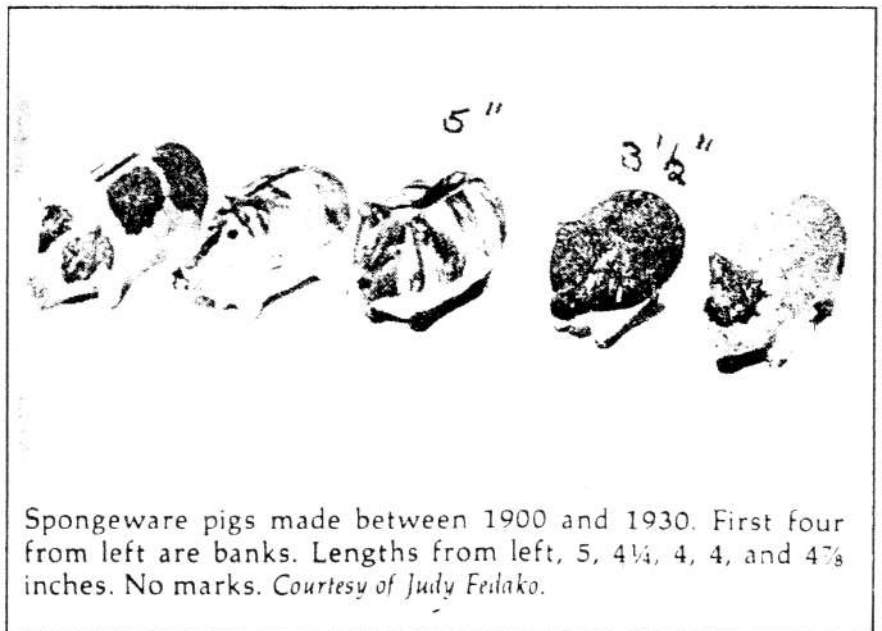
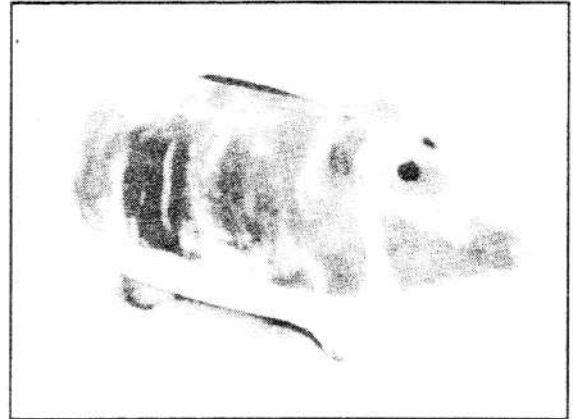
On page 20 Sylvia

*Top: Sylvia McMaster's St. Louis World's Fair*

*piggy bank Below: the xerox from Mike Schneider's Animal Figurines book.*

McMaster is shown holding the piggy bank her Dad got at the St. Louis World's Fair. I may be 'way wide of the mark, but I think it may be what is called a "spongeware" or "yellow two tone" pig. I have xeroxed the picture of them from Mike Schneider's Animal Figurines book, page 171. Gene, if you think this is Sylvia's piggy, could you possibly send this on to her? I have the two in the sizes

*(Continued on page 44)*



Spongeware pigs made between 1900 and 1930. First four from left are banks. Lengths from left, 5, 4 1/4, 4, 4, and 4 3/8 inches. No marks. Courtesy of Judy Feilako.

(Continued from page 43)

### PIGGY PIGY BANK HUNTERS

marked in the picture. The man I obtained them from told me they were made in Europe - Austria, Czechoslovakia, or Germany - from 1880 to the early 1900s and he thought some might have been made in the USA from the early 1900s to the 1920s from the same molds. He was reticent to reveal his source, but mentioned he obtained his from an auction in New England.

Then on page 25 we saw the most compelling reason yet to abscond with part of your collection - a whistle/piggy piggy bank!! We had never even envisioned such a combination, let alone actually seen one. So now we will add that to our "keep your eyes open for..." list. Of course, if our quest proves fruitless and we become unable to sleep or egads, even to eat (!!) over this, we do know where one might be found on Snoopy's, "It was a dark and stormy night".

Finally on pages 26 through 28, what an absolutely delightful story!! We agree that this is probably the original Three Little Pigs and are very much looking forward to The History of Five Little Pigs. By the way, did you know that furze (second little pig's house material) in Europe is a kind of gorse used for fuel and fodder and in the US is wheat? Tee-hee, now how do I work that into polite conversation?

Pat and Frank Panettiere  
Rogers, AR.

*A note from Hugh McMaster says he has seen the spongeware pigs in an old catalogue priced at 10 cents*

*Gene Holt.*

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

I'm still enjoying that warm, grateful feeling. Our 5 kids, their mates and all 12 grandkids spent Christmas Day with us. Some arrived early or stayed on an extra day. Still the time was too soon gone.

One of our favorite friends is Sally Root of Galesburg, IL. She does so many nice things for us. We try to be good to her but she is one of those people you don't seem to be able to get even with. She's always giving me pigs. Some of the neatest ones I have, came from her. One example: an old grade school flash card with PIG printed on one side and a picture of a pig on the other. This time she gave me a nice pig cut from an old barn board. We've found one soft spot, Sally loves fruit cake flavored with Amaretto. So we take one to her at Christmas time. She claims she won't share it with anyone but us. Then we get to marvel at the exceptional way her house is decorated. For many years she worked at a top notch gift shop on Main Street and did all the window trim, etc. Loads of thanks, Sally.

Tracie Clark is the daughter of my bride's brother, Ed. She honored us with a visit in December. Six days. Never a dull moment with that girl around. She is a student at Auburn University and has one more year to graduate with a BS in nursing. She works in the small animal lab and also has a waitress job. One thing really surprised me. I love jalopena peppers and that cute little blond with her southern drawl ate just as many as I did. There's a special place in our hearts for Tracie.

A few days before Christmas my bride tactfully suggested that my pig collection needed dusting. What

better time to get this, she said. The shelf that seems to draw the most dust is where my Christmas pigs and ornaments are kept. I'd been thinking a small Christmas tree would be a nice way to display these trinkets. I made a "Charlie Brown" tree using a half-inch dowel, 32 inches long and sticks from an old piano. I'd bought the piano on a sale for \$1.00 and then picked it apart for the lumber. The sticks were the extension of the black keys and had a bend in them. A hole was drilled in one end to slip over the dowel. They were cut to different lengths and pointed. It doesn't look too bad considering that I didn't really know what I was doing.

Kelly, my 4-year old grand-daughter was feeling a bit bummed out because the older girls weren't paying any attention to her ideas, so the two of us finished decorating my pig tree. She enjoyed telling me what to hang where and her crisis was soon forgotten.

December 24th, the mailman delivered a big box from East Harwich, MA. My friend there had been accumulating pigs and pig things at yard sales all summer, also a big stuffed pig that "oinks" Jingle Bells when it's paw is pressed. It didn't look like it had ever seen a yard sale.

I had an "IN" with Santa this year. My bride and I attended a high-class antique show in Peoria and she spotted a pig punch board. If you're too young to remember punch boards, they were an illegal gambling device. There are a lot of little holes with a piece of paper inside. Pay your money, punch the paper out the back with a stylus, and it would tell you what you'd won. Maybe cigarettes or money or even a rifle,



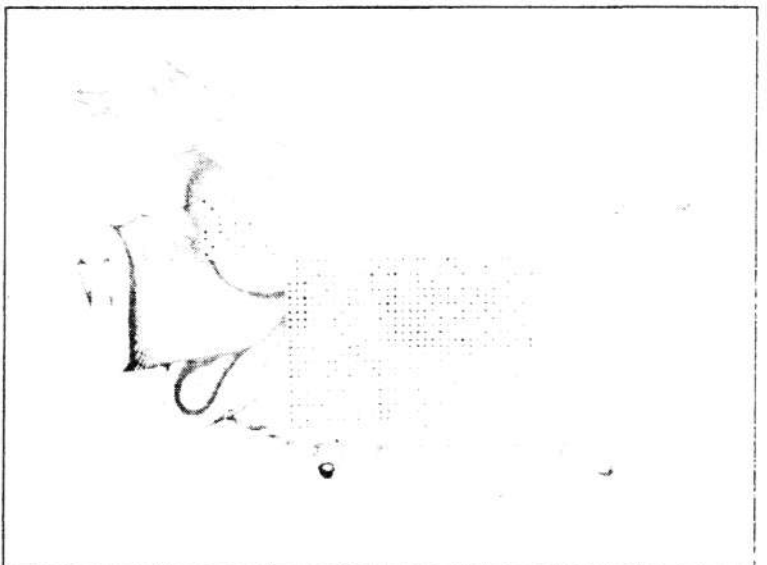
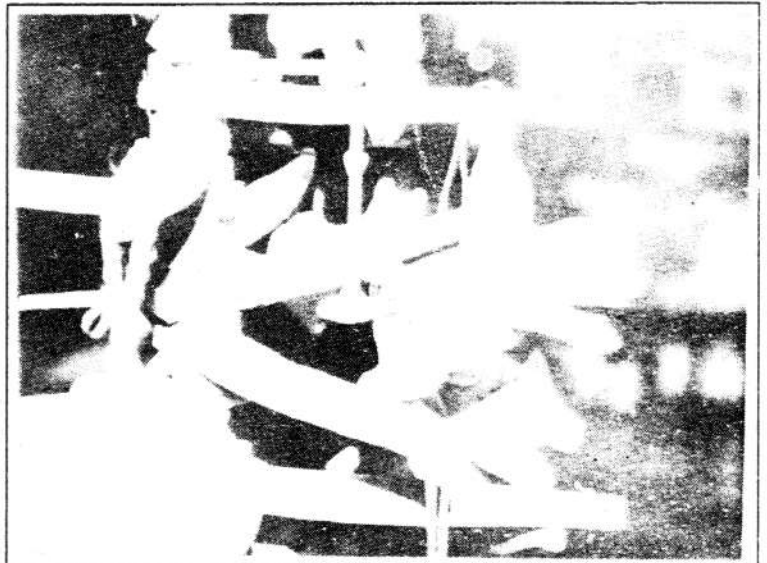
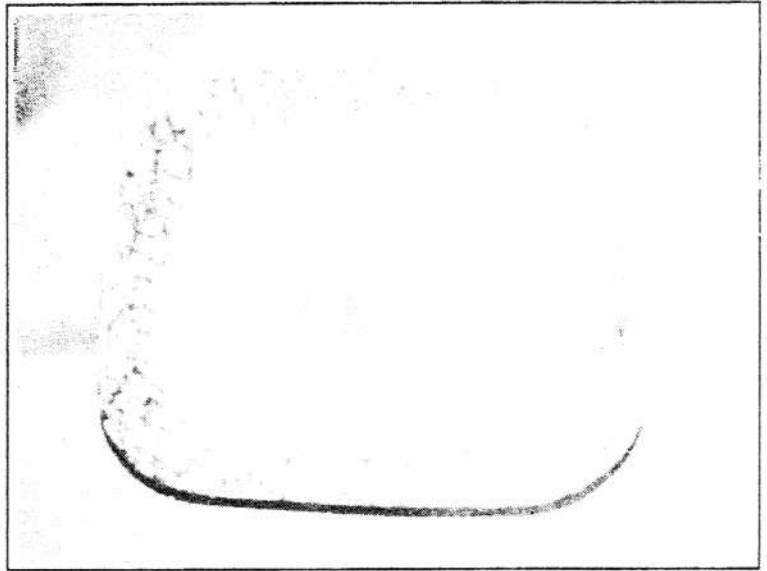
usually nothing. I talked Santa into writing a check for it.

Christmas Eve, our three daughters and a granddaughter all went to church with us. Our son and family, who attends the same church, also was there.

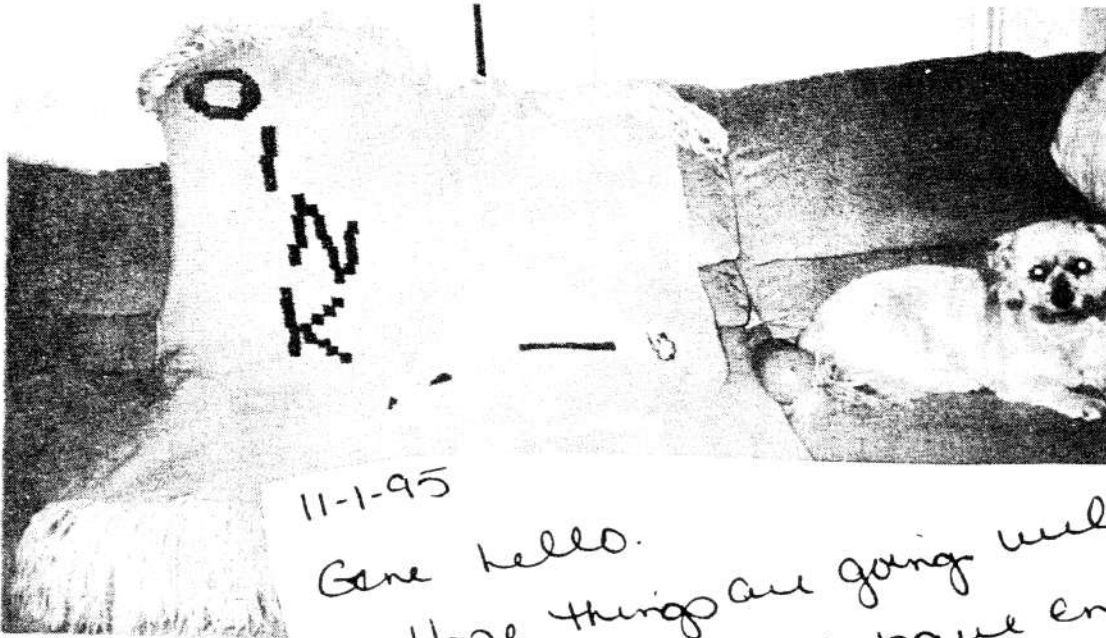
When it was finally time to open presents, Christmas Day, I found nothing but pigs, even money to spend on pigs or my pig club — that's "serendipity". One present was rectangular blue salt glazed dish, 9x7x1-1/2 inches deep with an old fashioned pig in the bottom, made in Indiana. Another was the "Impossible" jigsaw puzzle, 750 pieces plus 5 extra that do not fit anywhere and no borders. The picture is several pink pigs flying through a blue sky. A video of "Gordy," which I hadn't seen in the theater. A story book, "Chester, the Worldly Pig", all about the adventures of a pig who wanted to join the circus. A cute figurine of 2 pigs eating popcorn together. A neat flying angel pig and a miniature "Merry-go-round" pig. They are now on my tree. Also Elwood, a battery operated, walking, oinking pig that wiggles it's nose and raises it's sunglasses. He can even dance when set on his bottom. A good haul like this makes it easier being born on December 26th. My birthday was no lost cause, though, I got a fat sassy little pewter pig. It's solid, a heavyweight and my bride gave me a cute, sort of mushy, pig card stuck on a pale yellow dress shirt.

I truly had a Merry Christmas Season. Hope you did, too.

- Gene Holt



*At left, Tracie Clark and this "soon to be famous" pig collector. Top to bottom at the right: Blue salt-glazed dish, ornaments on my Charlie Brown tree, and a punch board.*

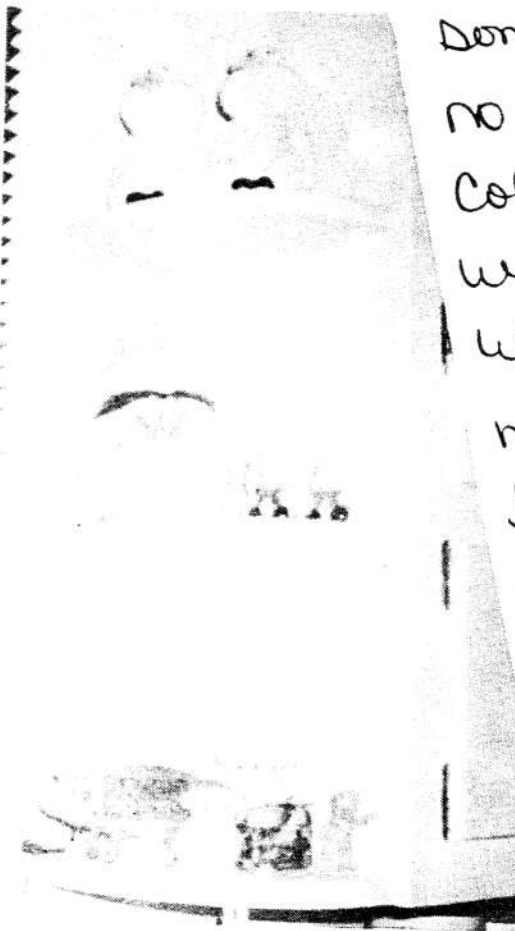


My pig blanket my mom (Bertha) made & my dog Raggs

11-1-95

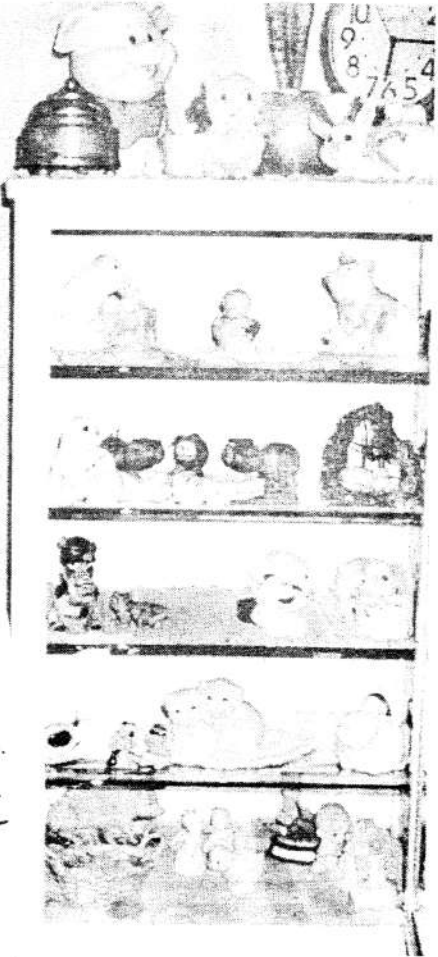
Gene Hello.

Hope things are going well they are here. I have enclosed a few pictures of my car & some of the few pigs I have no need to return them. I have collected for 10 to 15 yrs. My start was with a Red plastic standing up piggy bank (I wish I still had) I have had my license plate for 8 years & would never get rid of it. It's worth the \$10<sup>00</sup> extra a year just for the looks I get! kids love it & it is quite the conversation piece. The car is a 92 GEO metro convertible & it's ↑

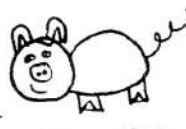


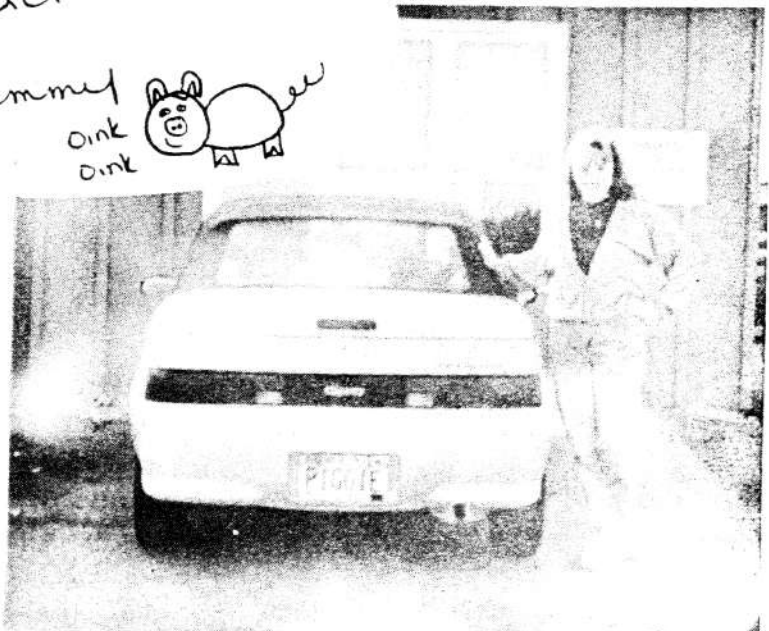
Cookie Jar and Salt & Pepper Shakers

Some of my pigs.  
The cabinet I found in my basement when I moved in.  
It's an old DR's Showcase for glasses.



a lot of fun. I always have  
a Pig Stuck on my front window  
too. Hope the membership drive  
is going well. I was fun  
Reading the 1st news letter. I  
am 27 yrs old & I am a Parts Mgr  
for a Compressor Company. I grew  
up in Green Bay & love the Packers.  
Every one knows I like Piggs so I  
got a lot of contributions !! Hope  
you can use the pictures. take care  
of yourself. Jammy

oink  
oink 



My car and Me

## Notes from our friends

### DEDICATION!

Gene,

Hi! I got your letter but I'm sorry I didn't take note as to when because we were on vacation when it came. But I can tell you it was postmarked on Oct 7. In your letter, you wondered where Ridott was. We moved from Northbrook, IL, two years ago (32,000 people) to Ridott (168 people). Due to the low population, I sometimes wonder where it's at, too. Actually, I'm in Illinois about 1/2 hour south of Monroe, Wisconsin.

The pigs we have are Vietnamese Pot Belly miniature pigs. It started out with my husband and I exchanging china pigs and as usual, I got carried away and bought him two pot-bellies. At that time we lived in a very populated town and to make matters worse, we lived on the main street in the business district. Needless to say, we had to move. My husband was not going to give up his "babies". We have been collecting "pig" things ever since. I'm excited to be in your club and loved the newsletter. I am very happy that you took the time to write me. I will send you pictures and some of the jokes I have collected over the years.

Keep up the good work!

Sheila Domenick



### Thanks, Ida

11-1-95

Dear Mr. Holt,

I enjoyed your newsletter very much and wish you the best of luck in your new adventure. I've been collecting pigs for a few years now. There is nearly 200 different ones in my collection.

I have a string of 10 pig lights I really enjoy. One of my really different ones is a stainless steel one made from an artificial semen tank with legs, eyes, and ears added, which sits in my flower garden. Others I have are cookie jars, book shelves, statues, pictures, trivets, baskets, clocks, slippers, stuffed toys, banks, salt and pepper shakers, butter dishes, inflatables, paintings, shirts and even a toilet set with the verse this little piggie went to market on it. And many more. Please add me as a club member. Dues are enclosed. Also send a letter to my friend who is a pig collector, too. I'm sending some pictures.

Thank you.

Ida Arneson  
Donnelly, MN

*At right, part  
of Ida's  
collection.  
below right  
pigs dressed  
in clothes in  
her garden.  
and below left,  
the tank that  
became a pig.*





## MEMORIES OF A RACE FAN

This past June, my husband and I went to the county fair in Del Mar, California. I had to go--I had heard about the pig races. Of course I was the first audience member at about 45 minutes to showtime. After all, I wanted the best seat in the house! There were about 5 different races with different types and sizes of pigs. The baby potbellies were cutest and I was picked as official cheerleader for one (yes, she won!). I'll tell you...those pigs really flew around

that small race track. What got them running so fast? Oreo cookies! The winning pig got first snuffle at a plate of oreo cookies! To ease our pig-loving minds, the race master gave us a peek at the piggy-accommodations: fully air conditioned trailer with television, stereo and big, roomy pens for the racers to lounge around in. It was a great day at the races!

Polly S. vonRichter  
San Diego, Ca.

Hmmm . .

What's the origin of the saying "pork barrel politics?" The phrase is derived from the pre-Civil War practice of distributing salt pork to the slaves from huge barrels. By the 1870's congressmen were referring to regularly dipping into the "pork barrel" to obtain funds for popular projects in the home districts.

*From Large Animal Veterinarian-  
Sept Oct 1995*

## Andrea Blessum writes:

### *Goldy Morrow*

Goldy Morrow has been collecting pigs for 35 years. She has three potbellied pigs: Porky, Petunia, and Piglet. She received two for Mother's Day presents and one day, one of them had six piglets! One of the piglets had blue eyes. Goldy kept him and named him Piglet. He is now in the house with the poodle!

No one else in the family collects pigs, but Goldy used to raise them! That got her collection going. She now has hundreds of pigs, and also a unique set of dishes with pigs on them!

-Andrea Blessum

### *Patricia Paul*

Patricia Paul, her husband, and their three children are from Rugby, ND.

Patricia has lots of different pigs. Sweatshirts, T-shirts, mugs, clocks, and outside thermometer, all with pigs on them! She says she doesn't have a pig room, she just puts them wherever they are appropriate.

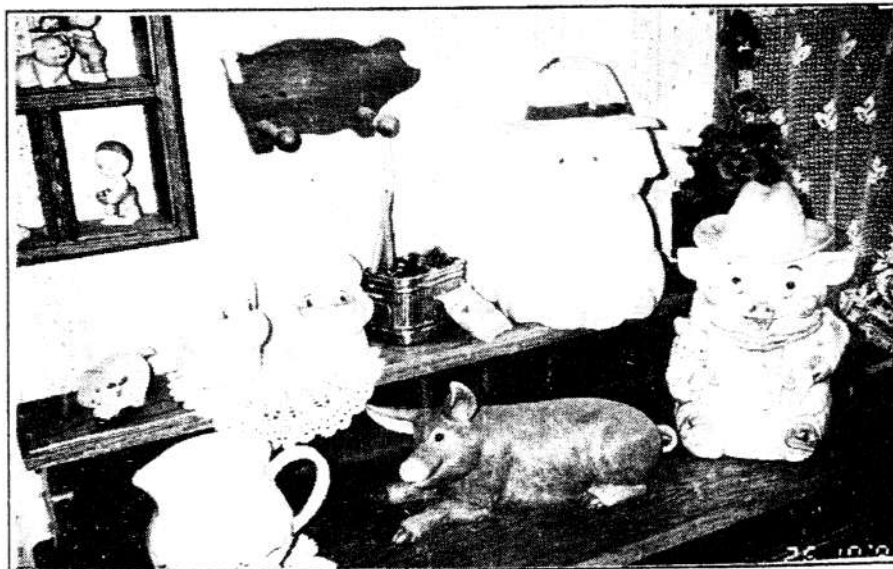
She doesn't really know anyone else that collects pigs. She collects them just because she likes them. Her

family lives on a farm. In addition to raising grains, they also raise a few pigs each year. Her children enjoy feeding the pigs and watching them get bigger and bigger by the end of the summer. She writes- "They are a fun animal to watch. They are alot like a pet dog. They can each have some different characteristic about them that makes them unique."

When I asked if anyone had ever said to her "When I see a pig I think of you" she replied, "Several times!" She has also been referred to as the "pig lady".

Her collection, counting every pig, totals about 250! She has two antique cast iron pig door stops in her collection. Most of her pigs are gifts, but she also buys a few herself.

-Andrea Blessum



*Patricia Paul's Pigs*

## THE HISTORY OF FIVE LITTLE PIGS

### *The Little Pig Who Went to Market*

There was once a family of Five Little Pigs, and Mrs. Pig, their mother, loved them all very dearly. Some of these little pigs were very good, and took a great deal of trouble to please her. The eldest pig was so

active and useful that he was called Mr. Pig. One day he went to market with his cart full of vegetables, but Rusty, the donkey, began to show his bad temper before he had gone very far on the road. All the coaxing and whipping would not make him move.

So Mr. Pig took him out of the shafts, and being very strong, drew the cart to market himself. When he got there, all the other pigs began to laugh. But they did not laugh so loudly when Mr. Pig told them all his struggles on the road. Mr. Pig lost no time in selling his vegetables, and very soon after Rusty came trotting into the market-place, and as he now seemed willing to take his place in the cart, Mr. Pig started for home without delay. When he got there, he told Mrs. Pig his story, and she called him her best and most worthy son.

### *The Little Pig Who Stayed Home*

This little pig very much wanted to go with his brother, but as he was so mischievous that he could not be trusted far away, his mother made him stay at home, and told him to keep a good fire while she went to the miller's to buy some flour. But as soon as he was alone, instead of learning his lessons, he began to tease the poor cat. Then he got the bellows, and cut the leather with a knife, to see where the wind came from; and when he could not find this, he began to cry. After this he broke all his brother's toys; he forced the drum-stick through the drum, he tore off the tail from the kite, and then pulled off the horse's head. And then he went to the cupboard and ate the jam. When Mrs. Pig came home, she sat down by the fire, and being very tired, she soon fell asleep. No sooner had she done so, than this bad little pig got a long handkerchief and tied her in her chair. But soon she awoke and found out all the mischief that he had been doing. She saw at once the damage that he had done to his brother's playthings. So she quickly brought out her thickest and heaviest birch, and gave this naughty



Front cover: *The little pig who stayed home*

little pig such a beating as he did not forget for long time.

*The Little Pig who had Roast Beef*

This little pig was a very good and careful fellow. He gave his mother scarcely any trouble, and always took pleasure in doing all she bade him. Here you see him sitting down with clean hands and face, to some nice roast beef, while his brother, the idle pig, who is standing on a stool in the corner, with the dunce's cap on, has none. He sat down and quietly learned his lesson, and asked his mother to hear him repeat it. And this he did so well that Mrs. Pig stroked him on the ears and forehead, and called him a good little pig. After this he asked her to allow him to help her make tea. He brought

every thing she wanted, and lifted off the kettle from the fire, without spilling a drop either on his toes or the carpet. By-and-by he went out, after asking his mother's leave, to play with his hoop. He had not gone far when he saw an old blind pig, who, with his hat in his hand, was crying at the loss of his dog; so he put his hand in his pocket and found a half-penny, which he gave to the poor old pig. It was such thoughtful conduct as this that his mother often gave this little pig roast beef. We now come to the little pig who had none, and whose conduct was so different from that of his good brother.

*The Little Pig Who Had None*  
This was a most obstinate and self-willed pig, and gave his mother a great deal of trouble because he would not mind what she told him. She set him one day to learn his lesson, but no sooner had she turned her back to go out into the garden, than the wicked little fellow tore his book into pieces and threw it away. When he saw his mother coming back, he ran off into the streets to play with other idle little pigs, as bad as himself. He had not been playing with them very long before he began to quarrel with one of them, and pretty soon they came to blows, and, as the other pig was the biggest and strongest, before they were through he got a most awful thrashing. He

*The little pig who went to market*



*The naughty little pig gets a beating*





was so bruised and dirty that he was afraid to go home, so he stayed out till it was quite dark and caught a severe cold.

When it got to be late his mother, of course, began to be worried about him, and sent his brothers out to look for him. They found him after a long search and took him home. By that time he had become so ill that he had to be put to bed, and the doctor sent for. He ordered a lot of nasty medicine to be taken by the little pig, who was then very sorry for the bad conduct which had brought this hardship upon him.

*The Little Pig Who Cried "Wee, Wee," All the Way Home*

This little pig liked to fish above all things, and went every chance he

could get. The best fishing was in the river, where it ran through Farmer Grumpey's land, close by; but the Farmer was a mean, cross, old fellow who would not allow any one to fish in his part of the river. The little pig had been warned, time after time, by his mother, that he must not go there to fish, but, in spite of all that she had said, this foolish little fellow made up his mind one day to go. When he got there, he sat down on the bank and cast in his line, and before long he caught quite a big fish. He started off at once to carry the fish home, but before he had got very far, the old Farmer, who was always on the watch for such folk, caught sight of him, and came running after him with his great big

whip. The little pig started to run too, but finding the fish too heavy to run very fast with, he dropped it, thinking that might satisfy the Farmer. But the old fellow was very angry, and still followed him. Pretty soon he caught him, and laid his whip over the poor little pig's back so hard and so long, that when he did let him go, he ran off, crying, "wee, wee, wee," very pitifully all the way home.

*FOOT NOTE-(Not Bare Foot)*

I never knew the Five Little Pigs was a real story. I thought it was just a rhyme to play with a baby's toes. I have an enamel plate with the picture of a child's hand and the five little pigs depicting the rhyme.

-Gene Holt

*The little pig who gets roast beef*



*The naughty little ties his mama to a chair*







*The little pig that went wee wee wee all the way home*

## CORRECTION

### *SORRY WE GOOFED*

Audrey Shaw's recipe "Little Pig Soufflé" was printed in the Fall's Fun Filled Fables or I should say part of it was printed. Sally Root asked, "How many eggs and how much milk?" My bride says it was her fault. She typed it up, but I'm to blame for not being a good proof reader. Let's lay the omission onto the computer, it's feelings won't be hurt. Oh, I almost forgot. Use 6 eggs and 3 cups of milk.

## LITTLE PIG SOUFFLÉ

6 slices bread (cubed or not),  
 2 cups shredded cheese (Cheddar)  
 1 tsp. dry mustard,  
 1/2 lb. sausage (cooked and drained)  
 6 eggs and 3 cups of milk.

Beat eggs. Add milk and mustard. Spray 9x13 inch pan with nonstick cooking spray. Mix bread cubes and cheese together. (I just cover the bottom with slices of bread and sprinkle the cheese on top.) Layer the sausage next. Pour milk & eggs over next. Refrigerate overnight. Bake 1 hour at 325 degrees. Serves 8.

*Try this! You'll like it!*

## MY BUSINESS CARD

*There was a fat pig on a tractor.  
He was plain mean not an actor.  
Other chickens would pray.  
Yell "Get out of the way".  
That rooster is gone. it's a factor.*

I saw a bumper sticker on a farmer's pickup which read: "Promote Pork Run Over a Chicken." That stuck in my mind. Michelina Nicotera is Betsy's sister-in-law and a natural artist. I mentioned to Betsy and Desi that I would like to have Mick paint a picture of a pig on a tractor running down a chicken. What I had in mind was chicken running for its life just inches in front of a speeding tractor, spinning up clods as it was driven by the meanest looking hog you ever saw. I didn't know anything was in the works. We went to Denver for Christmas that year and the picture was under the tree. It's a lot cuter the way Mick painted it instead of using my idea. (See page 41)

The longer I have it the better I like it. Soon after, I decided to have it printed on the back of my card. Bill Harding, the printer in downtown Rio, hadn't done much of this type of

work but wouldn't let me take the job anywhere else. Other printers have told me Bill did a beautiful job. The picture had to go back to Mick to be modified. In the process, the praying chicken and the mouse with its eyes covered up got eliminated and the yelling/waving chicken crossed the road. When my granddaughter who was in 8th grade saw it, she said, "That's cool, Grandpa." With that kind of support I didn't hesitate to pass it out.

My card also states that I am a soon-to-be-famous pig collector. This could be argued but that's no fun. To me it's a catchy phrase and a good way for an old man to get some attention.

At the Illinois Pork Expo in Peoria, a large display of tee-shirts caught my eye, especially one of them. It had the picture Mick painted on it. I asked the saleslady "Where did that picture come from?" She said, "Oh, one of my friends gave me a card with that on it." She was a bit dumbfounded when I took one out of my billfold to show her. I had decided to buy one of the tee-shirts, but, she insisted on giving me one.

This enterprising lady was from a little bitty southern Illinois town near the Indiana line. She was welcome to use the picture and I was glad that she did. It looked great. Later, I did get it copyrighted, just in case someone made a million using it. So, at the least excuse, I give people my card. They seem to enjoy it and it always starts a conversation.

My old cards stated that I was a partner in Holt Pork Farm. But, since I have started this club and am retired from Holt Pork Farm, it was time to return to down-town Rio and order new cards. They now say Pres & CEO of the Happy Pig Collector Club. How's that for making it to the top.

There are parts of this story and the one Desi wrote about his sister that are similar. I hope you're not bored with the repetition.

*Lots of people get my card.  
To see they're pleased isn't hard.  
It starts friendly conversation  
And gives ample clarification  
My love for pigs is unmarred.*

-Gene Holt

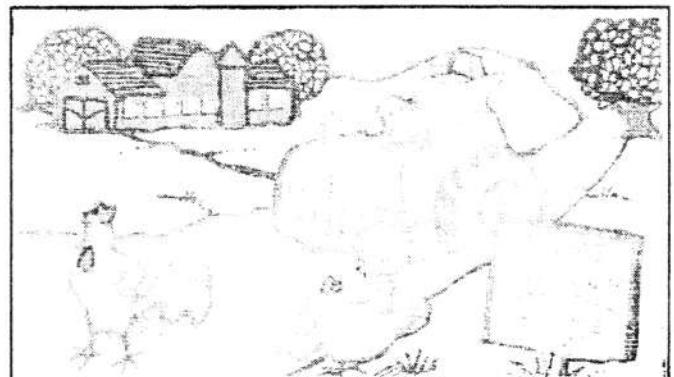
PRES. C.E.O. THE HAPPY PIG COLLECTOR CLUB

### Gene Holt

*Soon-to-be-famous Pig Collector  
P.O. Box 17 - ONEIDA, IL 61467*

*On the beautiful gently rolling prairies  
of Knox County -- Truly God's Country*

Promote Pork - Run Over A Chicken



## IS THERE A PIG HIDING IN YOUR HOUSE?

Denver, Co -Nov 20, 1995 Here's the scoop On the back page of the summer issue 1 *Happy Pig* is a picture of my pig that isn't really a pig. I requested your help identifying what it was used for or was a part of. The mystery has been solved.

It started to unwind when Angel Shoemaker of the Puffably Station antique store in McLean, Il, called on the phone and talked with my bride. Angel told her that things are patented once a week, always on Tuesday, then all the information is published in a gazette and later combined into a book. All large libraries keep copies of these books. As suggested by Angel, we called the public library in Chicago. They said that for some reason the gazette for that week was missing. Our librarian in Oneida contacted Springfield, Il, using her computer and found that we would have to go there to look it up because we only had the date and not the patent number.

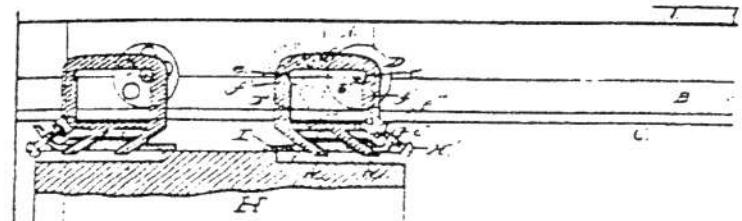
We had been invited to Denver to spend Thanksgiving with Betsy, Desi and Allison. My bride said, "I bet they have that patent record here." So one day Allison skipped pre-school and we all went downtown to the big public library. The woman at the desk was amused when I told her I was looking for a thing that looked like a pig. She said, "Fourth floor, east end and come back and tell me if you find it."

I started leafing through the May 24, 1881, portion of the book. There was a drawing and description of 283 things that had been patented that day. It was amazing to find common things that are still being used today,

such as suspenders to hold your pants up and castors for furniture, a picture of a sickle bar for a harvester looked almost identical to ones found on a modern combine. There were 2 "monkey" wrenches (the word "monkey" wasn't used). One was adjusted by pressing a thumb lever. The other with the same screw system used today. A sulky plow; old farmers know what they are. Also a universal tool that stumped me. I couldn't see how it would be good for anything. There were several sewing machines and washing machines, a cigar lighter, a snowplow for a steam locomotive and a dental chair spittoon.

My pig is part of door hanger, invented by Henry E. Richards of Ottawa, Il, Patent No 241882. The patent application was filed Oct. 23, 1880, so you see the government has always been slow. As soon as I saw the drawing, I knew that had to be it.

241,882. DOOR-HANGER. HENRY E. RICHARDS, Ottawa, Ill.  
Filed Oct. 23, 1880. (Model.)



*Claim.*—1. The combination of door H, plate I, having slots *i i*, rider-bar F, having slides *n n*, and set-screw H', substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

2. The combination of the tracks C, roller D, composed of two portions, *b b*, connected by an axle, *b'*, rider-bar F, having bearings *e c*, slides *n n*, and lug *f'*, plate I, having slots *i i* and lug *f'*, set-screw, H', and a door, H, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

*From the Patent Gazette*

I looked on through to make sure. So if you live in an old house that has big pocket doors between the living room and parlor, you may have things that look like pigs as part of the roller system for those doors. I'll keep mine for a Good Luck charm.

- Gene Holt

### Dad's Limerick

*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.*

- Gene Holt

## ***Odds, Ends, and Ads***

### *We Need You!*

If you would like to be an officer or director or serve on a committee, start your campaign, now. We'll have an election during the meeting, scheduled for July 6, 1996

*Your free ad could be printed here  
Make your message nice and clear  
A great service, it should work  
Take advantage of this perk  
You'll be glad as results appear!*

### *Wanted: A big bun*

The longest single sausage was over a mile long. A single sausage measuring 5,917 ft in length was cooked in Barcelona, Spain on September 22, 1986.

*From Large Animal Veterinarian-  
Sept Oct 1995*

### *Did you know...*

The ancient Chinese were so loath to be separated from fresh pork that the departed were sometimes accompanied to the grave with their herd of hogs.

As popular as pork is in America, it is not the United States, but China, which is the number one producer and consumer of fresh pork in the world.

In ancient China fresh pork enjoyed royal status. Around 4000BC, the Chinese people were ordered to raise and breed hogs--by a royal decree from the Emperor of China.

*From Large Animal Veterinarian-  
Sept Oct 1995*

### *Uncle Sam*

How did "Uncle Sam" come to represent the US Government? During the War of 1812, a New York pork packer named Uncle Sam Wilson shipped a boatload of several hundred barrels of pork to US troops. Each barrel was stamped "US" on the docks, it quickly became bantered about the US stood for "Uncle Sam," whose large pork shipment looked to be enough to feed the entire army.

Thus did Uncle Sam come to represent the US Government itself.  
*From Large Animal Veterinarian-  
Sept Oct 1995*

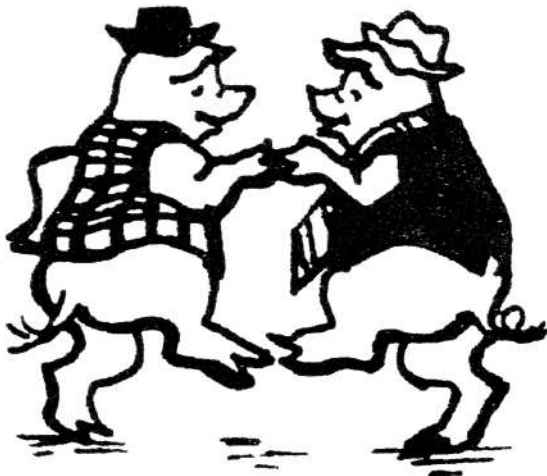
*Don't forget to send your dues, your stories, and the names of other similarly afflicted friends!*

### ***The Happy Pig Collectors Club***

c/o Gene Holt

P.O. Box 17

Oneida, IL 61467



copyright 1995

***Hope to see you July 6, 1996 as we get together for the  
First Annual Happy Pig Collectors Club Convention!!***