

The Happy Pig

Winter 2022

The Happy Pig Collector's Club

Volume 28, Issue 3

Merry Pigmias



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A LETTER FROM THE HEAD HOG

Oinks and Salutations Pig Lovers All,

I wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I hope you enjoy this Christmas Story written by Terry Booth.

Your Head Hog,
Janet Booth

T'was the day before Christmas
And what do you know
The Earth was covered in snow all aglow

A beautiful sight it was to be sure
But a problem was brewing at the North Pole
The reindeer were restive and did not want to fly
They hadn't a Christmas night off in ages gone by

You see, the reindeer had young ones now too
And it would be the first Christmas for these little deers
With mommies' and daddies' holding them near
One day off is not too much to ask
Then we'll go back to our Christmas delivery task

But Santa did not know what to do
How to get presents to each one of you
What am I to do Santa mused
It will be Christmas Eve so very very soon

Santa sat down on a bale of hay
Hoping that someone would come save the day
He felt a nudge and then another one
We can help said a voice, we can run!

Santa looked down at a cute little nose
Oh no little one you would be too cold

And alas you can't run through the deep deep snow

But we can fly if you help us to
Several little piglets squealed up in a group

Yes Santa we can yes yes yes
Sprinkle your magic and we'll do the rest
We will save Christmas and it will be the best

So Santa got up and turned with a grin
I do have some left if I can find my old bin
It has been many many years you know
Ah here it is and it still glows

Christmas was saved and all the children too
They will get presents from Santa and you

Look up into the sky this next Christmas Eve
And you will be witness for all to believe
The miracle of love can overcome all
Christmas is there if you answer the call

So, if anyone asks you
Can pigs really fly
You'll know the answer
And so will I



Image is from the book *It's A Merry Christmas When Pigs Fly*
Written by George Wells & Patsy Trigg. Illustrated by Bonnie Shields

CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

President: Janet Booth (jcollinsbooth1@att.net)

Vice President: Becky Schneider (bschne@hotmail.com)

Secretary: Glen Allen (cosmicpig@gmail.com)

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Club Email: info@happypigcollectors.com

Website: www.happypigcollectors.com

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/groups/happypigcollectorsclub/

CLUB & NEWSLETTER INFO

MEMBERSHIP INFO

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

Membership dues are \$35 payable every July. Dues include four news-letters (with post-age).

Send a check or money order payable to the Happy Pig Collectors Club to:

Happy Pig Collector's Club
P.O. Box 8081
Gurnee, IL 60031

Moving? Moved? Please let us know so we can make sure your newsletter arrives safely at your new home. Send a letter with your new address to the address listed above or via email: kerry7525@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

All members are invited to contribute articles, photos and information. Items can be sent to the editor via email, regular mail or Facebook.

Email: sheripa@aol.com (please put HPCC as the subject.)

Mail: Sheri McManus
 2827 Nature Road
 Philadelphia, PA 19154

Facebook PM: Sheri McManus (Siegel)

27TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

July 27, 28 & 29, 2023

If you haven't already done so, mark these dates on your calendar! The 27th annual convention will be hosted by HPCC members, Rob and Clarice Cecci in **Feeding Hills, Massachusetts**.



HOTEL INFO:

Red Roof Inn

5 Hazard Avenue
 Enfield, Connecticut 06082
 Phone: 937.328.1476



RATES:

Thursday Night: **\$89.99 +tax**

Friday & Saturday Night: **\$99.99 +tax**

*****Let the hotel know you are with the Happy Pig Collectors Club to get this special rate.*****



NOTE: There are two floors but no elevator. They do not reserve the first floor but if you can't go up steps let them know why you cannot and they will try to put you on the first floor. Let them know this when making reservations.

Here is a list of large cities closest to Feeding Hills, MA.

85 miles to Boston, MA	242 miles to Montreal, Canada
116 miles to New York, NY	243 miles to Longueuil, Canada
116 miles to Jersey City, NJ	250 miles to Laval, Canada
120 miles to Newark, NJ	264 miles to Rochester, NY
194 miles to Philadelphia, PA	278 miles to Baltimore, MD

Note: Info is from travelmath.com and might not be exact

PIG HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

What US city has an annual tradition at Christmastime using tiny hammers to smash pink peppermint candy shaped like a pig? If you guessed Saratoga Springs, New York, you are correct.

In Saratoga Springs, New York, after Christmas dinner, a family member puts a pink pig made of peppermint candy, into a small sack. Using a tiny hammer or small metal mallet, each person at the table hits the pig and shares a story of something good that happened to them that year. After everyone has had a turn, the sack is emptied and the piggy pieces is shared in the hopes of ushering in another year of happiness and good fortune in the new year.

According to the New York Times, in the 1880s, European chefs who worked at hotels in Saratoga Springs wanted to find a substitute for the popular Marzipan pigs as Marzipan wasn't easy to find in that area. A local man had access to peppermint oil from this father's apothecary and used it to make pig-shaped candies. Shortly after, the peppermint pig found its way into local holiday traditions. This tradition almost died out during World War II due to sugar rationing. In 1988 a local candy maker revived the peppermint pig using all the original ingredients. They are also made using casts of the century-old molds. Today, you can buy the peppermint pig in select stores along the East Coast and online.



A Golden Pig?

In the Czech Republic, there is a popular custom: those that fast on Christmas Eve will see a golden pig in the evening. Their pagan ancestors celebrated the shortest day of the year, December 21, which was considered the birth of the sun god and arrival of the fertile season. At the end of this day, they ate roasted pork that was roasted until it was golden. They believed this gave them some of the sun's strength. Christian priests wanted people to break this habit and started their own tradition and commanded that people fast on Christmas Eve. Parents would cut out shapes of pigs and projected them onto the wall, using various glasses, to amuse their children and reward them for fasting. People started making golden pig ornaments which became part of their tradition.



PIG TRADITIONS



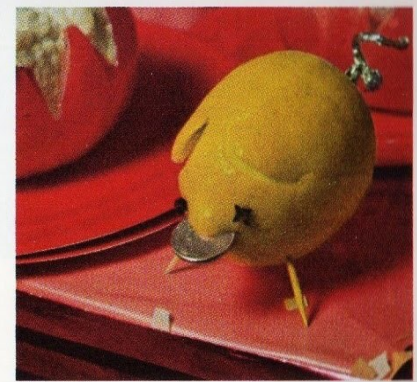
Marzipan Pigs are a traditional German confection. At Christmastime, one tradition is to eat porridge, known as Risalamande, and a single almond is hidden in the porridge. Whoever finds the almond, gets a marzipan pig as a prize, which is a symbol of good luck.

Getting a German Marzipan Pig as a gift helps to insure good luck for the New Year, so its often given as a gift between Christmas and New Years. Some children are lucky to find on of these yummy piggies in their shoes on St. Nicholas Day.

Want good luck in the new year? Make a lemon pig.

There are many well-known New Year's and New Year's Eve traditions that are supposed to bring good luck. In the last few years a new tradition has surfaced, a lemon pig.

You carve a lemon to resemble a pig and put a coin in its mouth. It turns out that this is not a new tradition at all. According to www.atlasobscura.com, lemon pigs go all the way back to the 1800s. In a magazine from 1882, there is a story describing lemon pigs. Newspapers in the 1890's had instructions on how to make lemon pigs. Neither mentioned them being good luck. They were more like inexpensive and easy to make craft projects for kids. A few years ago, an author of a retro food book, posted on Twitter, a snapshot from a 1971 book on entertaining and they became popular again. Although, there is no evidence of the lemon pig being lucky, it can't hurt, right? If nothing else, it will make your kitchen smell good for a few days.



Lemon Piglet (11) For good luck in the New Year, a lemon piglet is a must! Insert four toothpicks into a lemon for legs. Slit pointed end for mouth to hold shiny penny, and two cuts for the ears. Eyes are cloves. Crush and curl foil for silly tail.

Below are instructions from cnn.com on how to make your own lemon pig. If you make one please send a photo of it to the editor. (See page 2 on ways to submit items to the editor.)

How to make your own lemon pig

1. Select a plump lemon you wouldn't mind poking some holes into.
2. With a knife, slit a mouth on one end of the lemon (this is where you'll stick that penny).
3. Above both sides of the mouth, shave two round ears into the rind with a knife.
4. Jab two black peppercorns or cloves into the rind above the mouth – these are its fragrant eyes.
5. Stick four toothpicks into the bottom of its lemon body for its legs.
6. Twist a piece of aluminum foil into a curly pig tail and push it into the other end of the lemon.
7. Place the penny in its slit mouth, and wish for good luck in 2023.

HPCC COLLECTORS CORNER PIGMAS EDITION

Here is HPCC Member Carla Walker's wonderful Christmas piggies on display. Check out the adorable pig tree skirt!



Have you heard of The Christmas Pig?



THE CHRISTMAS PIG
Over many centuries, pigs have been honored throughout the holidays. Pigs help to symbolize good fortune, thrift and savings. Legend says when the pig is placed upon the Christmas tree it will keep away bad fortune and bring prosperity to the home.



CLUB MEMBERS ON THE GO



While touring the Biltmore Estates in North Carolina, M'liss Hay noticed this pig (boar) on the wall.



M'liss spotted this cool sign at the Pig on Beale restaurant in Memphis.



While out shopping for piggy banks, Sheri McManus came across this piggy at an antique shop in Lancaster, PA. Sadly, it did not go home with her.



Sheri McManus saw this cool piggy display at Lucciano's at the American Dream Mall. Lucciano's is known for their gelato and ice pops. They have a piggy pop called the Tonio.



OINK ALERT

VOLUNTEER AT WHERE PIGS FLY FARM!

Calling all piggy people! We are looking for volunteers to go to "Where Pigs Fly Farm" to help set up the Gene Holt Pig Collection Museum in Linn, Missouri during the week of March 21st - 26th, 2023. You can come for the day, an afternoon, or the entire week.

You'll get to see the vast collection of pigs at the farm while honoring our founder and the club we all hold so dear. Gene's collection will be viewed by thousands of people over the years. Add your name to the list of people honoring him and our club. So, go down in history. This is your chance for immortality!

If you wish to stay at the farm house call Cindy, the museum curator, and become an archivist (very important and iconic preservationist of history). You'll have some fun, see the sights, and do the right thing. Imagine being surrounded by pigs as you sleep the night away!

Cindy's phone number is: 314-247-3488 to check for availability. If you can't get Cindy (she's a very busy curator), call your Head Hog, Janet Booth, at 615-926-6277, and she'll arrange your stay.

We need You! as Uncle Sam would say.



THE HAPPY PIG NEWSLETTER

Do you news you want to share? Want to share photos of your pig collection? Photos of your pet pig? Looking for a rare pig item? Want to sell a rare pig item? Do you display your pig collection in a unique way? As Gene mentioned in the very first newsletter "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 your news, stories, photos, advice, jokes, puzzles, anything else you might think of to the editor.

MAIL TO:

Sheri McManus
2827 Nature Road
Philadelphia, PA 19154

EMAIL TO: sheripa@aol.com*

Please put HPCC in the subject line

FACEBOOK PM: Sheri McManus (Siegel)





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

7th Mona Lewis
 8th Gins Hopkins
 12th Michele Murphy
 20th Joe Kennedy
 25th Shirley Elligsen
 29th Cheryl Rider

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

27th Patsy Waggoner
 29th Sue Craft

Happy Birthday!

Did we miss your birthday? Send your birth month and day to the editor (see page 2) to be added to our list.

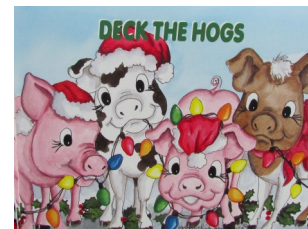
HAPPY PIG CARD EXCHANGE



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**.

Email: tykkledpynk@gmail.com.
 Mail: Cheryl Rider
 Box 588
 Mayo, MD 21106



HAPPY HOGIDAYS



OINKIN' HILARIOUS

From Glen Allen: "Now that they fly other projects are in progress..."



The fourth little pig's house was made of wolf skulls. They aren't very sturdy, but they send a message.



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.”



In Memory of Gene Holt