

# The Happy Pig Winter 2021

The Happy Pig Collector's Club

Volume 26, Issue 4



Photo by Patsy Waggoner



Pig virtually painted by Carol Blackman



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## A LETTER FROM THE NEW HEAD HOG

Oinks and Salutations Pig Lovers All,

As I write this, Christmas and a New Year will soon be upon us, and I hope and pray these events will bring you joy, love, and comfort. Some of you, your friends or family, may have been impacted by the recent storms, but we are a resilient people; strong in faith and with the determination to carry on no matter what new or enduring challenges we face. So, let us remember to stay positive, with compassion and love for all.

Now, for our club rundown of past events and the exciting plans for our next convention. We had a GREAT time in Cadiz, Kentucky. What a beautiful part of the country it is. I know I

enjoyed every moment, and the town is dedicated to the love of pigs! What could have been more apropos for our 25th Convention celebration? Well, let me tell you what I believe will be just as much, if not more exciting and fun than our 25th bash - our 26th Convention! Although we're just at the beginning of our plans, Becky Schneider, our Convention Hostess, has found us an interesting venue in the Amana Colonies of Iowa. We will communicate with more information in our next newsletter, so start your thinking engines pig people, the best is yet to come.

At our last Convention, several members said they would like their newsletters sent to them via e-mail instead of a hard copy via snail mail. For those of you who would like this option, please e-mail your request to Sheri McManus. Her email address is: [sheripa@aol.com](mailto:sheripa@aol.com). Please put HPCC in the subject so she can spot it easily.

To all of my fellow pig lovers, have a very Happy Hoglidays, and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! And, I will see you next time. Best wishes, oinks, and piggy kisses.

Your Head Hog,  
*Janet Booth*



## CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

**President:** Janet Booth (jcollinsbooth1@att.net)

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

**Secretary:** Glen Allen (cosmicpig@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Kerry Watters (kerry7525@gmail.com)

**Members of the Board:** Bobbie Mueller, George Collins, Mona Lewis, Jean Sharp & Marie Gage

**The Happy Pig Editor:** Sheri McManus (sheripa@aol.com)

**New Member Chair:** Janet Booth (jcollinsbooth1@att.net)

**Club Photographer:** Patsy Waggoner (pkwaggoner@aol.com)

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**Website Admin & HPCC Social Media Director:** Frank Yao (fyao@rogers.com)

**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 \$25 payable every July.** Dues include four news-letters (with postage).

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**

### NEWSLETTER ITEMS

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

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

Mail: Sheri McManus  
2827 Nature Road  
Philadelphia, PA 19154

## CLUB MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

New Head Hog, Janet Booth, was featured in the September 23, 2021 edition of the Kentucky Era newspaper. Janet proudly talks about the HPCC, our 25<sup>th</sup> annual convention and the Buy, Sell & Trade event. Sadly, no one from outside the club came to the Buy, Sell & Trade event. I blame it on the weather (it rained that morning) and the location. The resort is in a remote location. Nevertheless, making the newspaper was a good advertisement for our club.

# Pig club hosts convention in Cadiz

## Pigs of all kinds for sale at event through Saturday

BY TONYA S. GRACE  
NEW ERA STAFF WRITER

Members have an interest in all things pig, and everyone has a collection, says Janet Booth, president of the Happy Pig Collectors Club and hostess for the club's 25<sup>th</sup> Happy Pig Collectors Convention.

The upcoming convention is taking place in Cadiz, where Booth was driving through the community one day and happened to spot one of its concrete pigs standing outside the Cracker Barrel restaurant.

Since then the club has been to the community several times and attended its annual Trigg County Country Ham Festival. And this year, following a year without a convention because of COVID-19, the club is returning to the community for its annual gathering in celebration of all things pig-related.

"The interest of the pigs brought us all together, but it's really a great friendship," observes Booth, who lives in Nashville. "We look forward to seeing each other every year."

The club's members collect pigs of all kinds, from ceramic pigs to pictures of pigs and even piggy banks. Some members have pet pigs, Booth



Janet Booth is pictured with items from her pig collection.

Photo Provided

said, and some have the last names of Pigg or Hog.

The 2021 convention is slated for Thursday through Saturday at Lake Barkley Lodge and is kicking off with a dinner on Thursday night.

Members will have their yearly show and tell event during the convention, and the 2021 show and tell will honor the club's late founder, Gene Holt.

SEE PIGS/PAGE A5

### PIG SALE

Visitors may come to buy, sell or trade pigs from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday at the Lake Barkley Lodge.

## CLUB MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

### PIGS

FROM PAGE A1

Participants have been asked to share a pig or two from their collections that remind them of Holt.

A retired farmer who lived in Illinois, Holt had been collecting pigs for years when he decided that he wanted to connect with other people who had the same interest in pigs as he did, Booth notes.

He began the club in 1975, and it now has 120 members, not only from Holt's home state of Illinois, but from other states including Texas, Missouri and Kentucky and several other countries as well.

Some members hail from Canada, Italy and England.

Members collect their pigs for a variety of reasons. Booth's mother sent her "pig things" when she was attending college in Morehead. Booth had grown up on a pig farm and showed pigs in 4-H, she said.

Another member was gifted a pig by his child, jump-starting his interest in collecting.

Booth noted that Holt's affection for pigs began when he was a child and visited a larger town in the area for the first time. He took his dime and bought a piggy bank while visiting the town.

Holt died just a few months ago, Booth said, but his son still has that piggy bank.

Some collections number



Photo Provided

This spread, pillow and picture are all part of Janet Booth's pig collection.

in the hundreds, some in the thousands.

Holt had collected 4,500 pig-related items over a lifetime.

Booth has 2,500 pig items including a bedspread, pig portraits, a picture frame and ceramics.

"Most of us collect anything pig," she noted, adding that "I (have bought) very few pigs the last few years. But my family and friends give me pigs (for) birthday (or) Christmas. And when someone sees a pig

they buy it for me."

Booth said one member collects only piggy banks.

Many of the members' pig items will be on display at this weekend's convention, and the public is invited to a Buy, Sell & Trade event that is a part of the annual meeting.

This year's sale is slated for 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday on the balcony outside of the meeting room at Lake Barkley Lodge. Booth said prospective buyers must wear a face mask in the lodge but may come in from the out-



Photo Provided

Participants display some of their pigs at a previous convention.

side and not have to wear masks if they'd prefer to do so.

The convention also will include a Favorite (COVID) Mask contest at Friday night's dinner.

Diners are asked to bring a favorite pig-related mask they have worn during the pandemic for a chance to win a prize.

Saturday's dinner will feature a Best Pig contest, and in a nod to the convention's location at the lake this year, those attending are asked to bring anything pig- and water-related.

They were given examples, a pig on a boat, a pig surfing or a pig watering can, for instance.

Convention participants

are also encouraged to bring pig items for sale or trade.

Or if they have no items to sell, they may buy other members' pig items.

Additionally, during their visit in the community, they have been invited to look for the concrete pigs displayed around town and stop by the antique stores in Cadiz.

"Who wants to go pig shopping?" a list of convention activities posted on the Happy Pig Collectors Club website asked of its members.

Booth notes that her pig collection is larger because she joined the club.

A member since 1995, she began buying more pigs after she started going to the conventions and seeing

other collections.

"I showed pigs in 4-H so I always liked pigs," Booth said. "I started going to convention to see pigs. I now go to see pigs and then see my friends. We have developed some very close relationships."

"Pigs brought us together," she continued. "We've got some great friendships because of this club."

To learn more about the club, visit [happypigcollectors.com](http://happypigcollectors.com).

For information about the Buy, Sell & Trade event, text Booth at [jcollinsbooth1@att.net](mailto:jcollinsbooth1@att.net).

Reach Tonya S. Grace at 270-887-3240 or [tgrace@kentuckynewera.com](mailto:tgrace@kentuckynewera.com).



## 25TH ANNUAL CONVENTION PART I

The 25th annual convention was held on September 23-25, 2021 in Cadiz, KY. Members stayed at the Lake Barkley State Resort Park. There was a lot of shopping, eating and fun! More photos will be posted in the next newsletter. If you attended the convention and would like your photos to be in the next newsletter please send them to the Editor (see pg. 3)

I want to give a special “shout-out” to Dorothy Stone and her son Ron. Dorothy is a long-time member who attended the convention for the first time. Her son, Ron, drove from his home in Alaska to Texas to pick her up; then he drove from Texas to the convention and back home afterwards. That is a lot of driving. We were happy that Dorothy could finally attend a convention and appreciate Ron for driving her.



Dorothy Stone & her son, Ron Clauson



### The convention started with a group dinner on Thursday night at Triplets Barbeque Restaurant



# 25TH ANNUAL CONVENTION PART I

**Day one started with breakfast at Cadiz Family Restaurant**



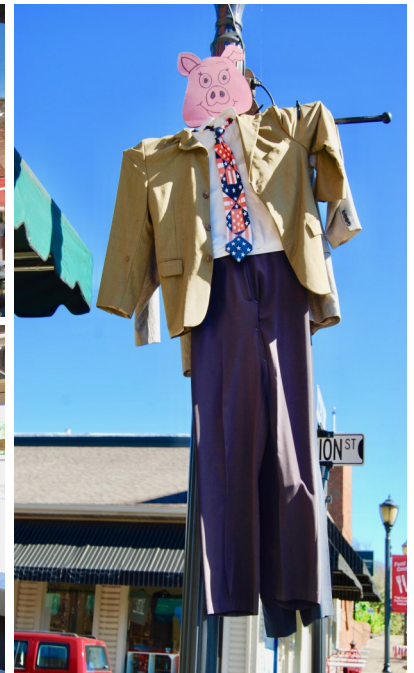
**We worked off breakfast while exploring downtown Cadiz searching for decorated pig statues & shopping!**



Janet Booth & Becky Schneider



John & Marie Gage



# 25TH ANNUAL CONVENTION PART I



Jean Jackson



Patsy Waggoner



Sue & Leonard Craft



Terry & Janet Booth



Melody McGrew &



Harold Waggoner



Jean & Terry Sharp & Family



# 25TH ANNUAL CONVENTION PART I



Becky Schneider



John & Marie Gage w/the famous pig mobile



Jason & Sheri McManus



## Lunch at Patti's Settlement



# 25TH ANNUAL CONVENTION PART I

## Lunch at Patti's Settlement (continued)



## Dinner in the Sunrise meeting room at the resort. Menu: fried catfish



# 25TH ANNUAL CONVENTION PART I

After dinner we had the Pig (Covid-19) Face Mask contest



Congratulations to Sheri McManus for winning the Pig Mask contest. The prize was an adorable piggy bank that is also wearing a mask.



## 25TH ANNUAL CONVENTION PART I

**Day 2 started with a continental breakfast and Buy, Sell & Trade!**



**SOLD**

After lunch was **Show & Tell** with an item that reminds us of Gene. An award was given for best Show & Tell. There were several club members that presented items. Each person told their story of why that particular item reminds them of Gene. In this newsletter, I will highlight the winner. In the next newsletter I will include details of the other participants.

**Congratulations to Becky Schneider for winning Show & Tell. Here is Becky's item and why it reminds her of Gene.**

# 25TH ANNUAL CONVENTION PART I

## Show & Tell Winner—Beck Schneider



Gene's sister Dorothy and her husband Bill lived next door to Becky. Becky had a yard sale and Bill bought some of the pigs she was selling. After Bill died, Dorothy and Becky became good friends and she told her about the pig club that Gene started. Becky took her to several conventions and also to many of her family gatherings. Dorothy had no family near her so Becky was the one who took care of her until she passed away. When Becky went to Illinois the day they buried Dorothy's ashes, Gene was thanking her for being a good friend to his sister and he grabbed this cast iron door stopper and told her he wanted her to have it. Becky told Gene she couldn't take it but he insisted. It means so much to Becky that he wanted her to have it. She will treasure this item always.



**Gene's family sent over a few of his items show & tell. Afterwards they went to When Pigs Fly Farm & Museum.**



## 25TH ANNUAL CONVENTION PART I

### More of Gene's items

**Each quilt-square was decorated from club members and sewn together to make this wonderful memory quilt. I am not sure what year this was given to Gene. I am sure he was blown away by this special gift.**



**This pillow was handmade by Dorothy Stone in 2009. What a happy coincidence that this item was chosen by Gene's family for Show & Tell for this convention which, Dorothy happened to be at.**



# 25TH ANNUAL CONVENTION PART I

After an afternoon of free time, we reconvened for dinner followed by the club meeting, Best Pig Contest, award presentation and raffle.

## BEST PIG CONTEST

Since our hotel is on the lake, this years Best Pig contest had something to do with water. Anything pig and water related qualified for this contest. There were a lot of great entries.



Congratulations Bobbie Mueller for winning Best Pig!



## 25TH ANNUAL CONVENTION PART I



Top Left: Jean Sharp & niece Mela; Top Right: Kerry Watters & Liz Gordan;  
Middle Right: George Collins & Marlene Censki  
Bottom Left: Kerry Watters; Bottom Right: Bobbie & Rano Mueller



## 25TH ANNUAL CONVENTION PART I



Photos by Patsy Waggoner

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## HAPPY PIG NEWSLETTER

As Gene mentioned in the 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 stories, pictures, and jokes. Send in your advice and ideas. Send them to the editor.

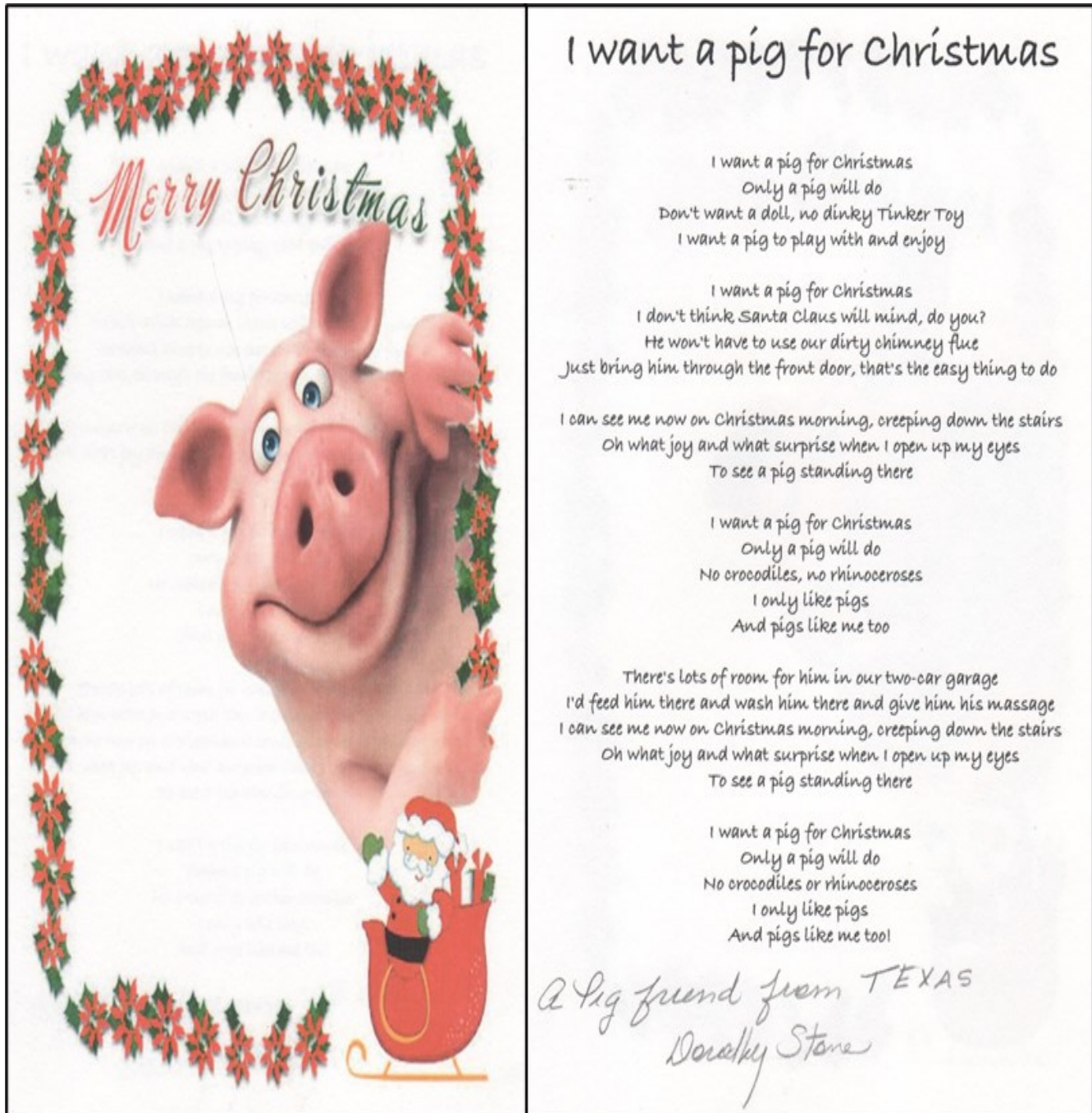


Mail to:  
Sheri McManus  
2827 Nature Road  
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Email to:  
sheripa@aol.com  
(please put HPCC in the

## MERRY PIGMAS!

Dorothy Stone cleverly replaced the word hippopotamus with pig in her version of the Christmas classic "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas". Who would want a hippo for Christmas anyway? I would take a pig over a hippo any day.



Submitted by Dorothy Stone

# HPCC COLECTOR'S CORNER PIGMAS EDITION



Janet Booth's Pig Christmas Tree



SuAnne Lopata Collection



Sheri McManus Collection



Carla Walker's Christmas Pigs

# HPCC COLLECTOR'S CORNER PIGMAS EDITION



Carla Walker's Pig Christmas Tree & Pigs



Top R to L: SuAnne. Lopata, Janet Booth , SuAnne Lopata Collections

Bottom: Sheri McManus Collection



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

31st Lloyd Breaden

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

7th Mona Lewis

8th Gins Hopkins

12th Michele Murphy

20th Joe Kennedy

25th Shirley Elligsen

29th Cheryl Rider

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1st Tresa Abney

27th Patsy Waggoner

29th Sue Craft

## 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](mailto:tykkledpynk@gmail.com).  
Mail: Cheryl Rider  
Box 588  
Mayo, MD 21106

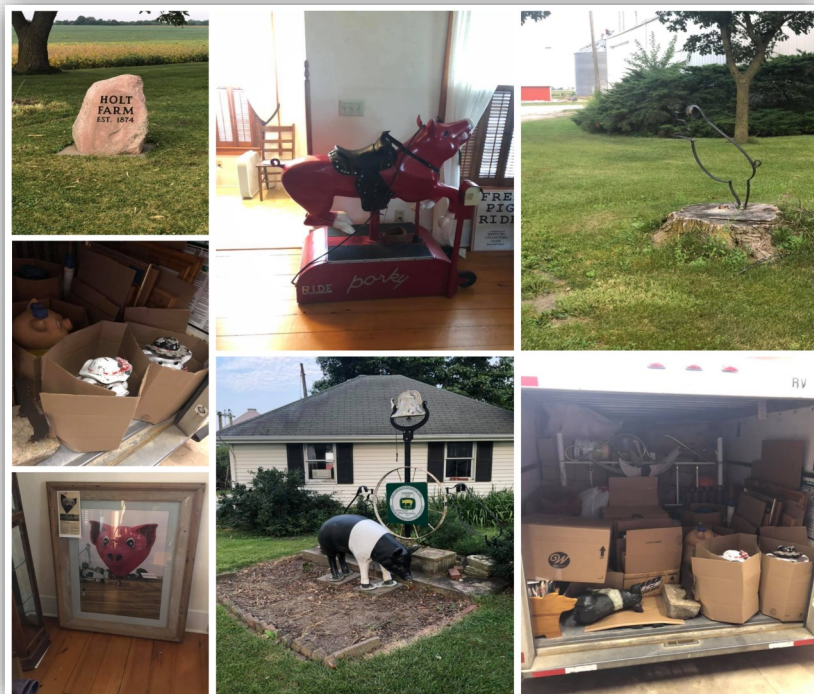
## WHERE PIGS FLY & GENE'S COLLECTION

The past September, Cindy Brenneke left Oneida, Illinois, with a loaded U-Haul of about 4400 pigs from Gene Holt's collection. For those of you who don't know, Cindy is a HPCC member and owner of Where Pigs Fly Farm & Pigs Aloft Museum in Linn, Missouri. HPCC members had the pleasure of visiting the farm/museum during the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual HPCC convention in July 2017. Cindy is dedicating the Old Milk Barn in Gene's memory and this is where his collection will be displayed.

In addition to a 62.7-acre farm with hundreds of rescued farm animals, there is a museum filled with over 43,000 pig items. The Pigs Aloft Museum is the only pig collection museum in the United States and houses the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest pig collection in the world. (The 1<sup>st</sup> largest is at the SchweineMuseum in Stuttgart Germany.) Over the years many people have donated their pig collections to be displayed in the museum. You can also spend the night at the farm/museum in a historic rock home built in 1882.

I am not sure when Gene's collection will be ready for the public to view. It takes time to unpack all those items and get everything set up, plus take care of all the animals. The farm and museum are run entirely by volunteers and can use your help. If you live near or will be in the area of Linn, MO and would like to help with the pig collections and/or the animals please contact Cindy by phone or text: 314-241-3488 or email: [cindy@wherepigsflyfarm.com](mailto:cindy@wherepigsflyfarm.com). Also contact Cindy if you have a collection you would like to donate.

I highly recommend visiting the farm and museum. It's a fun and unique experience for both children and adults. For more information, check out their website: [www.wherepigsflyfarm.com](http://www.wherepigsflyfarm.com).



Photos by Cindy Brenneke

## CLUB MEMBERS ON THE GO

In October, Jean Sharp and her family visited Georgia. They were hoping to ride the famous Pink Pig of Atlanta but sadly did not get the chance. The Pink Pig ride closed last year due to Covid-19 and in September 2021, Macy's decided to retire Priscilla The Pig effective immediately.

In 1953, Priscilla the Pink Pig debuted as a monorail ride at Rich's department store in downtown Atlanta and quickly became a Southern tradition. Children waited to ride on the Pink Pig that carried them high above the department store where they could look down on the toy department. A second pig, Percival, was added in 1964. The ride remained until the store closed in 1991. After the store closed the Pink Pigs had a brief stint at the Egleston Children's Hospitals Festive of Trees then they were put out to pasture at the Atlanta History Center. In 2003 Priscilla got a makeover and found a new home at Lenox Square in Macy's parking lot, operating as a train ride during the holiday season. A portion of the proceeds from each ride benefit Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Have you rode the Priscilla the Pig monorail in Rich's department store or the train at Lenox Square?



While in Georgia, Jean and her family were able to visit the Pig Monument.

In 1933, during the great depression, a group of neighbors joined together to help a farmer rescue his pig from a collapsed well. The monument is located near the town of Oconee.

Read the heartwarming story behind this monument on the next page.



Photo by Jean Sharp

## CLUB MEMBERS ON THE GO

# THE PIG MONUMENT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

WILLIAM RAWLINGS  
AND KAYLA JACKSON

A mile or so south of the tiny hamlet of Oconee, Georgia, a small green sign reading "Pig Monument" points off into the forest beside the road. A hundred feet or so inside the woods stands an impressive granite stele some six feet high and four feet across. Under the bas-relief carving of the image of a pig, the following inscription is found:

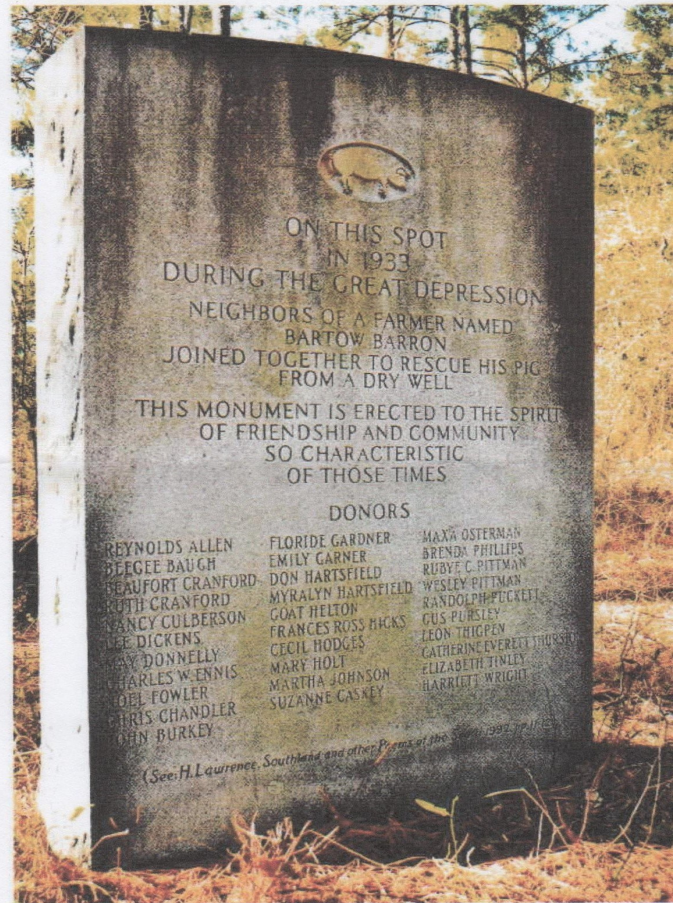
*On this spot in 1933 during the Great Depression neighbors of a farmer named Bartow Barron joined together to rescue his pig from a dry well. This monument is erected to the spirit of friendship and community so characteristic of those times.*

The story, as recounted by a newspaper article two-thirds of a century later, has it that Bartow Barron was a poor but honest farmer who one day discovered his pig missing. For two weeks he searched fruitlessly, unwilling to give in to the apparent loss of his prized animal. The pig, so the story goes, represented Barron's meat for the entire winter. There was a deep dry well on the place. He had looked in it before, but retracing his steps, decided to take one last look. There, from forty feet below at the bottom of the narrow pit, his pig stared back at him.

Determined to recover his pig, Barron began the arduous task of filling the well a shovelful at a time, waiting for the animal to trample down the earth before depositing another scoop of dirt. As one man working alone, it would have taken weeks to fill the hole enough to allow the pig to climb out. In the meantime, it would need to be fed and watered.

Barron was a respected member of the community, having helped others in time of need. On becoming aware of his plight, his neighbors banded together to take turns filling the well. In a matter of days the pig was rescued.

This oft-repeated tale, perhaps apocryphal, but inspiring none the less, attracted the interest of the Rev. Harold Lawrence, at the time pastor of the First United Methodist Church in nearby Milledgeville. Lawrence penned a poem, "The Depression Pig," and organized an effort to erect a memorial to the event. In 1992, the monument, bearing the inscription above and the names of donors to the effort, was erected at the site of the former dry well. It remains there for all to see, a unique snippet of Georgia history. ■



**Important Information:** The Pig Monument is located on the west side of Ga. Highway 272, approximately 1.8 miles south of the railway crossing in Oconee, Georgia, and approximately 0.7 miles south of the city limits. The GPS coordinates are Latitude 32.83502 and Longitude -82.93998.



## MEET OUR YOUNGEST MEMBER

In the last newsletter we welcomed our youngest member – Lily Swanson. If you missed the last newsletter, Lily is Gene Holt's great granddaughter. We thought it would be fun to get to know more about Lily. Her mom, Megan, asked her a few questions for the newsletter. (Lily's answers are in purple.)

**Name?** Lily Swanson

**How old are you?** 10

**How many pigs do you have in your collection?** Over 25 pigs so far.

**What is the first pig item you received?** A pig flashlight from my grandma when I was 3. It opens its mouth and oinks when you turn it on.

**What is your favorite pig item?** My favorite pig is a small glass pig with colorful specks through the glass. It is special to me because I picked it out from my Great Grandpa Pete's Pig collection.

**Why did you start collecting pigs?** Because I wanted to do something that would keep me thinking about my great grandpa.

**What is your favorite pig character?** My favorite pig character is Miss Piggy. I love watching her on the new Muppet show and in a Muppet Christmas Carol.

Lily hopes that she will get a pig under her Christmas tree this year. We hope she gets many.



Photo by Megan Swanson

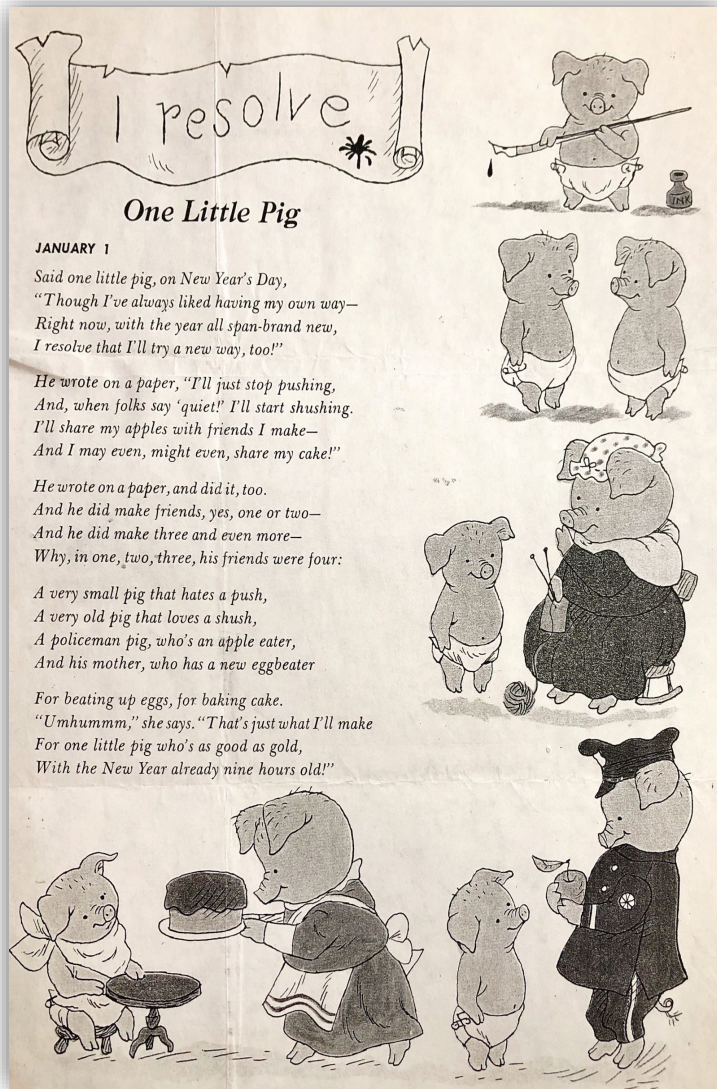
## PIGKINS

A few of our members created a Pigkin (pig pumpkin). They did a great job!



Left Pigkin by Carla Walker; Top Middle Pigkin by Becky Schneider; Bottom Middle Pigkin by Janet Booth; Right Pigkin by SuAnne Lopata

# PIG ASSORTMENTS

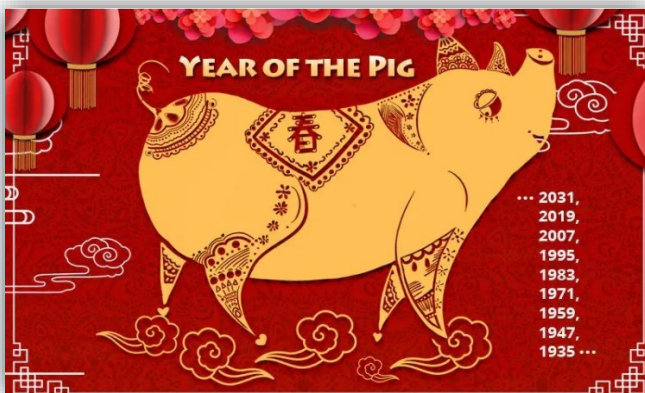


Submitted by Carol Blackman via Mona Lewis



Submitted by Carol Blackman via Mona Lewis

## When is the Next Year of the Pig? 2031!

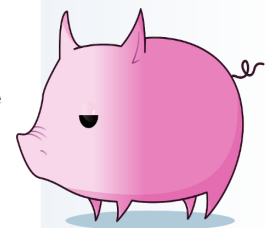


Submitted by Sheri McManus

## Why is the Pig the twelfth (and last) in the 12-year Chinese zodiac animal cycle?

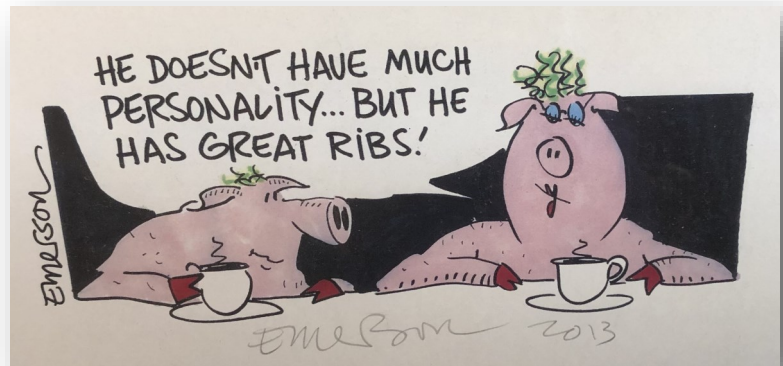
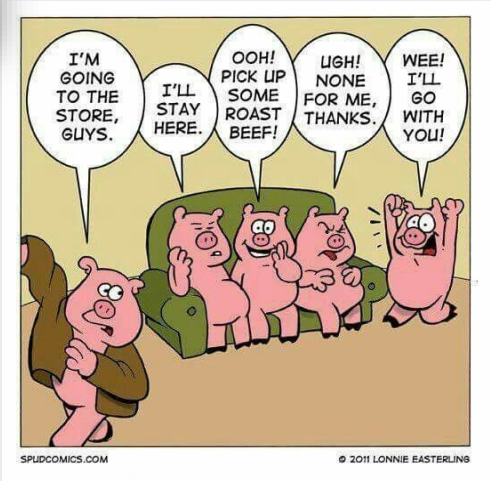
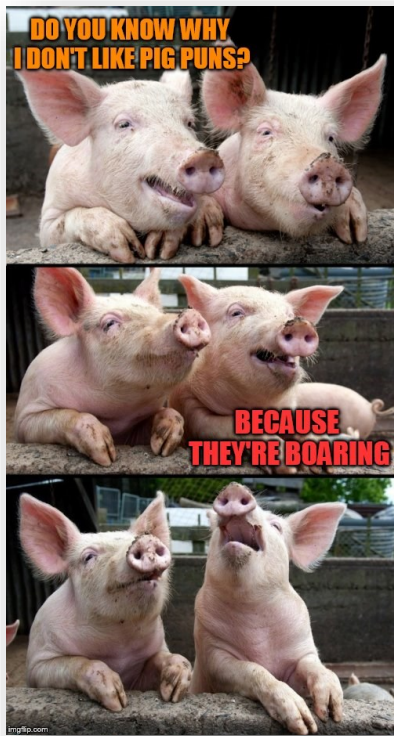
According to myth, the Jade Emperor held a race with the animal kingdom. The first 12 animals would be given a zodiac year, but the order of their arrival determined their place in the zodiac cycle.

**The Pig was last of course... apparently, he had overslept.**



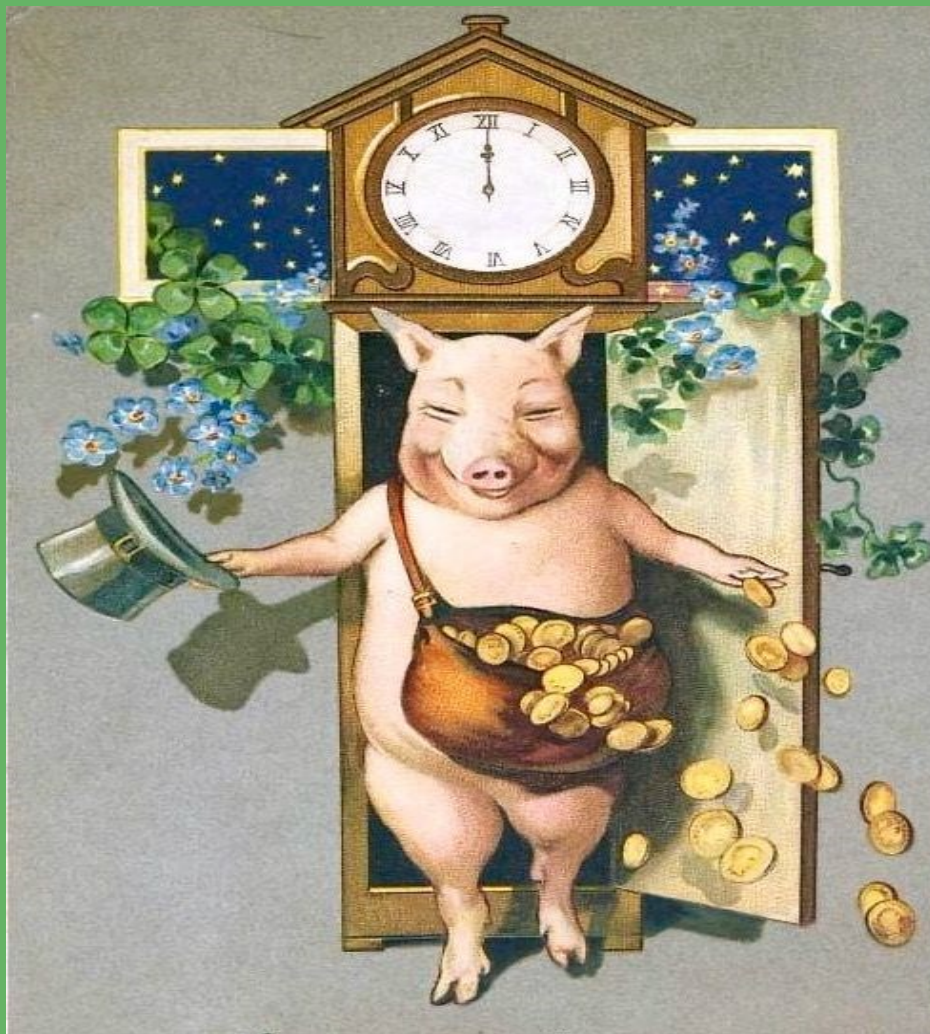
Submitted by Sheri McManus

# OINKIN' HILARIOUS



# 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.”



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**