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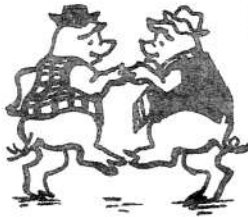
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# The Happy Pig

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*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  
Just for the Nonsense of it All, and to Give Respect to  
"When I See a Pig I Think of You"*



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Volume 2, Issue 1

Summer Sojourns 1996

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## **IT CAME TRUE**

It's Monday morning, July 8th. I'm still on a high from our great first convention. My mind wanders back to a year ago when I was very frustrated with the government expense and red tape and wondering if I could put out a halfway acceptable newsletter.

At that time my dream was to start a fun club for pig collectors and have an annual convention.

Hey! My dream has come true.

Some comments we heard were: "I never saw a bunch of strangers come together and enjoy themselves like this before." "I belong to several hobby clubs and this one of the - no, the best I've ever attended." Kelly Ellenberg and Karen Horn said it was definitely worth the 12 hour drive from Perhan, MN. With a start like that, there are high hopes for the future.

Heather Hampton, who is Director of Public Relations for the Illinois Pork Producers Association, told us during the business meeting that they had been searching for ideas to enhance the image of pork and pigs in general. They are wondering if pig collectors would be interested in bringing their pigs for display at the

Illinois Pork Expo in Peoria, IL., next February. We would be in a secure room. (Locked at night.) This is in the early stages being planned. I personally and everyone at our meeting thought it is a great idea for our club. The Happy Pig will keep you posted on this. If this idea jells and comes to be, you'll see me and I hope to see you there.

I'm always forgetting to do something I've planned. I was going to say Grace before our evening meal. So at this time I'm thanking God for the beautiful weather, the way everything came together, for the wonderful fellowship, the excellent unselfish help from my family and pray that everyone had a safe journey home.

— Gene Holt

**Convention  
coverage  
continues  
through  
page 5 and  
pages 10 - 16**

## **Happy Pig's First Annual Meeting**

Question? Who has more fun than one Happy Pig Collectors Club member?

Answer: 31 Happy Pig Collectors Club members at their first annual convention held recently at Gene and Betty Lou Holt's farm in rural Oneida and at the Ramanda Inn in Galesburg.

Early birds got a chance to experience the fun of getting up close and personal with a baby pig at the farm, then Gene and Betty Lou hosted a pork chop and pork patty lunch under the big old trees on the lawn at their lovely farm. Pigs were everywhere, even a bright red mechanical riding pig that drew more than a few adults to sneak a ride.

While most of the collectors had pigs which could be stored in cases or boxes, a crowd gathered around Richard Bostic, Logans Port, Indiana and his display of items used on an active hog farm beginning from the 1920's through 1960's. The display featured part of his unique pig oiler collection with additives for the large oilers, and 100-pound burlap feed

*(Continued on page 2)*

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

### Founder and Chief Storyteller

Gene Holt

### Editor

Mary Bjorling

### Layout

Betsy J. Holt

### Art Editor

Michelina Nicotera

### Officers of the Happy Pig Collectors Club

Gene Holt, President

Bill Rowland, Vice President

Betty Lou Holt, Treasurer

Loralee Adam, Secretary

### Directors

Lowell Bjorling

Mary Bjorling

Arlene McNaught

Desi Nicotera

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. Hopefully, we will all get together again, and get to know each other better, 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



Granddaughter Sara Karbeling with her back hall art welcoming collectors to the Holt's

*(Continued from page 1)*

balancer sacks, hog rings and ringers, hog catchers and much more.

The delicious food was grilled and served by the Holt family, including Gary and Marilyn Holt, Jerry and Margaret Karbeling, Dan and Barbara Snyder, Mike and Kitty Holt, Desi and Betsy Holt Nicotera. Perhaps this was the first convention where the conversation and the lunch menu was the same - Pigs!

Gene appreciated the effort made by people to attend. The youngest Happy Pig Collector also came the farthest. Kelly Ellenberg and her sister Karen Horn of Perhan, Minnesota, drove 12 hours to attend. Kelly is 17 and began collecting about 8 years and 450 pigs ago when Karen gave her the first pig. She now keeps them in a special room. Karen lives on a hog farm says all her relatives "give me pigs for presents."

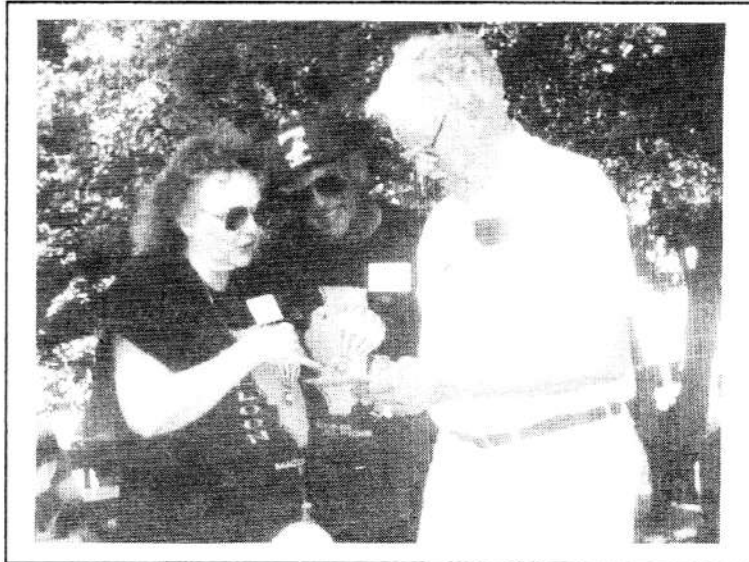
After lunch the group moved to the Ramada Inn in Galesburg where more pig stories were swapped and "a show and tell" segment of the program was held. The business

meeting was also held and officers elected. Gene Holt was named president; Bill Rowland, vice president; Loralee Adam, secretary and Betty Lou Holt, treasurer.

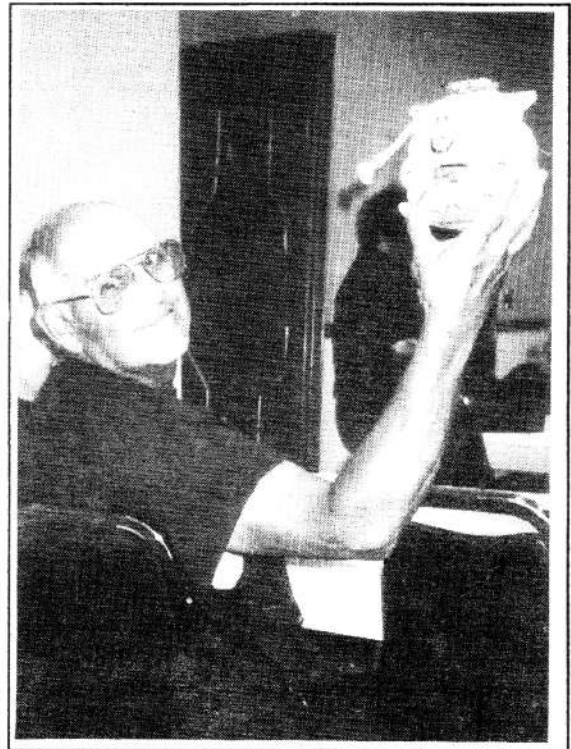
It seems each collector has a special story on how they were led into collecting pigs.

Margene and Keith Cordell of Moline, IL., began early in their married life 23 years ago. Keith was a retired motorcycle policeman and after their marriage, Margene, an antique buff, gave him a pipe shaped like the head of a pig fashioned from man-made stone. He has collected the German pink and green pigs, jade pigs, bronze pigs, silver Disney "Three Little Pigs" and "The Big Bad Wolf". He cites his special ones as a "Moline" pig from the foundry and a 1910 postcard mailed to Margene's father. He also wore three pig pendants, one with diamonds and ruby eyes. Today his collection is so large he only collects the truly unique pigs, usually antique ones.

Janiece and Jim Hammond, Macomb, IL., brought two really



*Above: Janiece Hammond shows Keith Cordell a picture of the tattoo of three pigs that cover a lady's leg. This we didn't expect!  
Right: Jim Hammond shows the coconut shell pig that "should be voted the ugliest" of the show.*



different selections. One, a pig head made out of a coconut which Janiece said, "Should have won a prize for the ugliest pig," but perhaps the most unusual was a picture of a woman's thigh with pigs tattooed on it.

The Hammonds go for pigs in a big way and have a cement pig sitting outside their home they decorate the pig for fairs with a blue ribbon, and the first day of school with a little desk and a backpack. The pig wears an umbrella over its head during hot weather. Their driveway sports the street sign of "Hog Wild Road and 1110 Pig Lane". Their collection began with a macramé wreath, but reached the ultimate when Jim had a heart operation which put a pig valve to replace his own damaged valve.

Susan Craft from Liberty, IL., has been collecting for 15 years. She collects whatever takes her fancy, but says she seems to have more banks. "My collection is pretty simple," she says modestly. She

brought a baby rattle for the "show and tell" part of the program and also brought pictures of her pig costume she used for her bowling team's dress-up. She has a "pig wall" in her kitchen and to top it off her husband, Leonard, is a pig farmer.

Closer to home, Harold and Helen Munson, Rio, IL., got their first piggy bank on their honeymoon in Chicago 52 years ago. She also received salt and pepper pigs for a bridal shower. "I only have about 100," Helen said, "but they have sentimental value."

It was Mother's Day and Lorelee Adam's hog farmer husband, Alan, was in a bind for a last minute gift. Through a long chain of circumstances he heard about Gene Holt's Happy Pig Collectors Club and Lorelee's membership in the club served as her Mother's Day gift. The couple, from Vandalia, MO., are globetrotters and have picked up pigs in some far-flung corners of the world. Their

collecting days began when Lorelee's mother gave her a pig when she and Alan began dating. In Australia while on a Rotary exchange, she picked up a pig with opal eyes. She also has a Lowell Davis porcelain pig bell and showed a round pig head ball on wheels, a trucker pig hat, and box covered with pig wrapping paper. Lorelee was voted as secretary of the Happy Pig Collectors Club.

Arlene McNaught and Shorty Phillis, of Kewanee, gave the club a look at the area of membership. Shorty made a map of the U.S. with pig pins stuck in each area where a member lives. Arlene has been collecting pigs for the past 15 years and estimates she has about 1,000 pigs in her collection. She showed an afghan featuring pink pigs and a most unusual Adolph Hitler pig gourd she found at a backyard sale. She was named as a new director of the club and will do publicity in the Kewanee area.

*(Continued on page 4)*



*At Left, Vicki Brothers, our t-shirt lady, center, Gene's bride, Betty Lou, and at right, Heather Hampton*



*Bud and Beulah Behringer. She collects skunks, and he finds a nice pig for Gene every time they take a trip.*

*(Continued from page 3)*

Vicki Brothers, Springfield, IL., began collecting 8 years ago and interest began when she began raising the runt baby pigs for a neighbor. "Ace" was her first baby pig and she has named all 38 of them. She still raises them and bottle feeds them in the middle of the night. "Everyone began giving me pigs," she says, and thus her collection began. She saw Gene's letter in Successful Farming magazine and joined the club. She is also making T-shirts with the club logo for

members.

Vickie was accompanied by Heather Hampton, Springfield, of the Illinois Pork Producers Association, who suggested that pig collectors may want to participate in the Illinois Pork Conference in Peoria by showing their collections in a special room.

Jill Johnson and her friend, Jim Wych from Sharon, WI., attended. She started collecting when she was about 10-years-old and today she guesses, "I have about 1,000 or more, but I've never counted." She

first became interested in collecting pigs because her family raised purebred Durocs as a child and bought 50 pigs at a flea market.

Jean Sutton of Lake Warren near Monmouth, IL., shows off her pig collection with pins on her purse. She said she also has a piggy bank which says "More Money! More Money!" when fed. She has two glass-doored cupboards filled with her collection and a stone pig in her gazebo. At one time she also had a potbellied pig, but it reached 90 pounds and had to go.

Bud and Beulah Behringer from Oneida also attended, and while not true pig collectors, they have added to Gene's collection and pick up items of interest when they travel. Beulah collects skunks.

Uncle Bill Rowland from Iowa City, IA., also is a collector's helper. He likes to go to flea markets and antique shops and collects mice. He picked up pigs and would pass them along to his brother-in-law, Gene. His prize, however, is a goblet named "Pigs and Corn" which Gene wrote about in an earlier newsletter. Uncle Bill was named vice president of the club at the meeting.

Gene termed the conference a "success" and said "I'm still on a high. Everything turned out real well."

Those attending think so, too, Gene, and we're looking forward to meeting our new-found friends again next year.

— Mary Bjorling

**More  
Convention  
Pictures pages  
10 - 15**


# IS THE BIG BAD WOLF STILL OUT THERE?

A note came in the mail on the letterhead of an antique gallery in Philadelphia. Enclosed was a sharp photo of a piggy bank. The message was: Hi / any interest in early pig bank? \$295.00. They didn't sign their name legibly enough for me to know for sure what it was. A week later after my blood pressure had come down, I wrote asking what the

pig was made of. How early is early. What size is it and what history does this pig have to make it worth \$295. After two months there has been no reply. It makes you wonder. How do you know you're getting the genuine article, and not a reproduction? Do they think I'm foolhardy enough to believe just because they set a price that's the true value? Did that Big

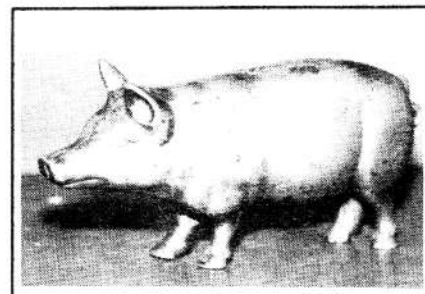
Bad Wolf become reincarnated as an antique dealer in Philadelphia? I have two pink pigs in a purse, made in Germany. They're nice. I paid quite a bit for them several years ago. There are lots of variations of these pink pigs. I used to correspond with an old man in Ohio. He collected nothing else. At recent antique shows I've seen more and more pink pigs and the prices are higher than ever. Where are they all coming from? Does someone have a pig factory in their basement? Let's all be smart like the like "the third little pig".

— Gene Holt



**Good-Bye Mr. Louse!**

**Hog Oilers  
Plus  
An Illustrated Guide**



...Tell me what it's worth

This interesting 43 page book has just been finished by Robert Rauhauser. He's been a collector for more than 40 years. It contains 157 patents of hog oilers with an illustration with each, also many pictures of ads from old farm magazines.

Would you believe they even had oilers for chickens? At this point, I don't anticipate owning any hog oilers but still became fascinated with this book. The price is \$14.95 which included shipment. Write directly to:

Robert Rauhauser  
Box 766 RR#2  
Thomasville, PA. 17364-9622

There is also a supplement for \$4.95. It has 9 legal size pages which include: more hog oiler patents and ads, a chart that tells you the year of a patent if you only have the patent number, a perpetual calendar from 1753 to 2100. I found out that I was born on a Thursday. Also a list of manufacturers from the old Farm Implement Buyers Guide. A great deal of farm history can be learned from this book.

— Gene Holt

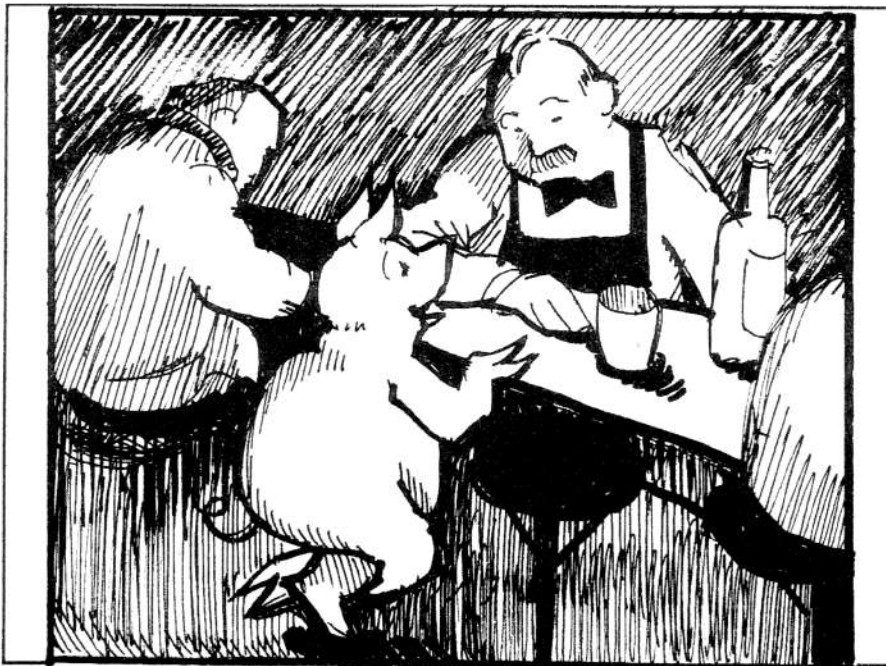
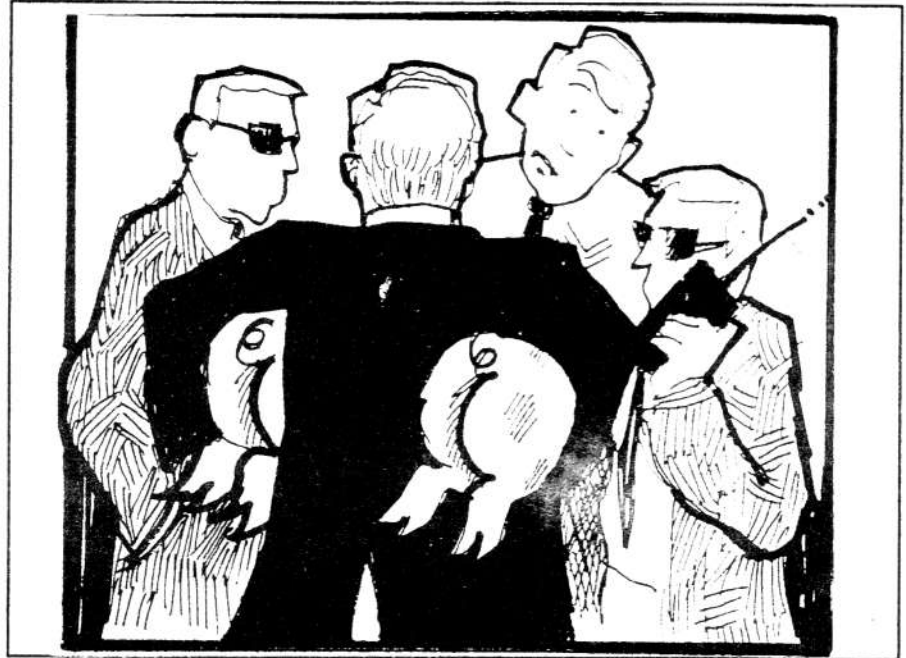
## QUICK SALE

Going, going, gone to a lady on the west coast. There was a letter from Teri Ashe (page 69, Spring '96 issue) saying her entire pig collection was "For Sale". Of course, I would have to say the circumstances were despicable. They went from hogs to sheep. I had filed a note to check back with her before the summer issue. Teri was glad to tell me all her pigs have found a new home. I'm sure the new owner is pleased also.

—Gene Holt

## Just for Laughs

Richard Bostic (who claims to be a good Democrat) told this joke at the convention: "President Clinton flew on Air Force One to Arkansas. When he returned to the plane for the trip back to Washington he was holding a big pig under each arm. The pilot told him he couldn't get on the plane unless the pigs were in cages. The President made a fuss and pilot gave in. Then he asked the President, "Why he had those pigs anyway?" President Clinton said, "I got this one for Hillary and that one for Chelsea." The pilot said, "Hey, you made a good trade."



### **IT HAD TO HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER**

A little pig came into the bar, ordered a beer, drank it and then asked the bartender where the restroom was. Then a 2nd little pig came in, ordered a beer, drank it and asked where the restroom was. The exact same thing happened with 2 more little pigs. Then a 5th came in, ordered a beer, drank it and started to leave. The bartender asked the little pig if he wasn't going to the restroom first. The little pig said, "No, I'm the one who goes Wee Wee Wee all the way home."

## HARD LARD

*A continuation of  
"No Lard On This Big Porker"  
Volume 1, Issue 3 Page 38*

I didn't give up. I kept pestering Glenn and Marge Kasparie to sell the big cast iron pig sign. I told them that the club was going to have a convention and a lot of pig collectors would be there and how good that pig would look leaning against my house and how I planned to set it up on a big 6 foot long limestone rock that was once the front doorstep of an old house not far away. Glenn said, "I could borrow it." I said, "OK" but he'd have a hard time getting it back. Then Marge said they'd talk it over and she'd call me. They told me about a man who stopped by and said he had helped cast the signs. I called and went to see him.

Robert DeCrane is an easy going gentleman. He's still active with farm work at his place east of Woodhull. In the early '50's he was employed by the John H. Best foundry in Galva, IL. An old molder named Frank Hampton spent most of

the day getting everything ready. Then because the casting was so large it was poured from both ends at the same time. Some were not perfect and had to be done over again.

Robert remembered Deet Cain, the foreman, one of those rare individuals who could get the help to work hard without telling them what they had to do. The Best Foundry stayed in operation till '69. Then the EPA came in and told them what they had to change to comply with all their regulations. They said "No, thanks, I guess we won't."

A big pig sign was made for every state highway entrance to Henry Co. I spot 13 on my map. Two large pipes were set upright in a concrete slab and the pigs were bolted to them. Foundries sold their castings by the pound. In a short visit with Roger Hultgren, he said, "The Henry Co. Bankers Federation president sort of railroaded this through. Some of the members were rather unhappy because of the expense."

This all took place when Henry

Co., IL., was first proclaimed 'Hog Capital of the World' and Kewanee soon started their Labor Day Pork Chop Bar B Q. This has grown into a monstrous celebration.

Marge was good on her word. She called for me to come back and after a good visit we came to an agreement. After the pig was loaded into my truck, Glenn gave me instructions to keep it well fed. Promised to come check on it and if I hadn't done right, he was going to buy it back. There were two concrete pigs each about the size of a grapefruit sitting close to their big buddy. Marge thought they should go with it...

I'll always feel a debt of gratitude to Glenn and Marge Kasparie for parting with the big porker that stood by the corner of their garage for over 30 years.

— Gene Holt



### Confidential Membership List

An insert will be placed in the next *The Happy Pig* newsletter with the names and addresses of all Club members. This would be sent to Club members only. If you want your name withheld, please let us know.

## Letters From All Around

Dear Mr. Holt,

How can there be any question about it? Of course, I want every single issue of "Happy Pig", past and future. Enclosed is my check for \$20 for the fall '95 & winter '95 & Spring '96 issues; then I'll renew my subscription when that time comes.

Thank you very much for your business card for my pig album! Would you consider sending me a duplicate so that I can turn one over to display the cartoon?

I want to wish you tremendous luck with your wonderful newsletter. I feel extremely lucky to even know about it. I have a subscription to "Pot-Bellied Pigs" magazine I have been writing to breeders & advertisers in "Pot-Bellied Pigs" to get their business cards to add to my album. One of them, Pot-Bellied Registry Service in Pleasant Grove, CA., sent me a copy of the back page of your newsletter! Being a pig fanatic, it breaks my heart to imagine not ever having known about your club. Whoever in their office sent me that page is one more proof that pig people are the best!

Patti Feagans  
Albany, GA.

### WANTED

I am looking for an inexpensive Pig Cane.

Vickie Brothers  
3359 S. 3rd. Street  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(207) 529-7420



*Hamlet  
one of  
Amy  
Stong's  
two pot  
bellied  
pigs*

Dear Gene,

Enclosed on a separate sheet of paper is the information on the Pot-Bellied Pig publications that I subscribe to.

I hope it helps to get new members for the Happy Pig Collectors Club.

I have also enclosed two pictures of my pot bellies pigs, Hamlet & Ebony. Hamlet is the big one, lying on the couch. Needless to say, they are spoiled.

Hamlet & Ebony were both throw-away pigs. Their original owners got them when they were very young. The novelty of having them soon wore off. I was very grateful to give them a good home.

Hamlet will be 3 years old in May 1996. Ebony will be 2 years old in June 1996. I've had Hamlet for about 2- 1/2 yrs & Ebony for about 6 months. Hamlet wasn't very thrilled about sharing his home with another pig at first, but he has learned to accept Ebony a little more.

Happy Pig Tails,  
Amy Stong  
Wellsville, PA.

### **IT HAS EVERYTHING ABOUT THE LIVE ONES**

*Fifty-six pages, full color and slick paper. \$30 for 6 issues per year.*

*No, this isn't the "HAPPY PIG".*

*Not yet. It's the "POT-BELLIED PIGS", a journal for breeders and owners. Someone asked for their address and I got it from our member, Amy Stong*

**West Coast Office**

*Sarnan Publications*

*P.O. Box 768*

*Pleasant Grove, CA. 95668*

*Phone 916-655-1649*

*Fax 916-991-3049*

**East Coast Office:**

*Sarnan Publications*

*RR 1, Box 1691*

*Fort Edward, NY. 12828*

*Phone 518-757-3494*

*I talked on the phone with Jenny Blaney of the East Coast office. As I recall we hit it off pretty well, solving a lot of the world's problems that morning. I think they have a newsletter for \$20 per year. I asked for a sample. What they sent was "Pot-Bellied Pigs" their big high-class magazine. I'll finish reading it after this newsletter is out.*

—Gene Holt



## ROSS PEROT CRACKED ME UP

*This is part of a letter from the ambitious lady who started and is taking care of our T-shirt and Sweat-shirt sales.*

Dear Gene:

Now a little about myself and my HAPPY PIG DAYS. It all began 9/11/89 when I went to a farmer friends house. He was taking a little piglet out of the pen which he thought was dead. When he picked him up, he moved. He gave him to me to hold and warm up. We gave him a drink of milk and watched him come around. I took this piglet home and nursed him to a healthy pig. We named him ACE" #1 pig. Little did I know this would become a hobby of mine. Since that time I have nursed and saved 38 baby piglets. They are so special, each in their own way. Each has a personality that is unique to them. The way I name them is by personality and/or their actions. Here are a few examples:

Ace: #1 boy piglet

Queenie: The next piglet I and she was a girl

Sorefoot: He had a (you guessed it) a sore foot

Doc: We had to take him to the vet as he had a lump on his shoulder

PeeWee: He was so little and there was so much snow on the ground we had to scoop him a path to stay on or we would lose him

April, May & June: These girls are sisters born in April and their mom died the day they were born

Sammy: She was found in the barn sandwiched between two boards and she couldn't get out

Skittles: She was shy and would skit away from people. She

eventually came around and became quite a pet

Inky: Short for stinky because he sure was when I first got him

Little Bit: She was such a small little piglet and cuddly

Chester and Mr. Matt Dillion: These two came as a pair, Chester had a broken leg and walked with a limp, nothing got past Mr. Dillion, he was always on guard

Olive: She reminded us of Olive Oil on Popeye and she was really skinny

Ross Perot: He had real big ears and campaigned alot. He has since grown into his ears but still campaigns

We now have a Molly and Polly and the next two girls will be Dolly and Holly.

My truck's license plate is 1 PIG DR (short for Doctor), it used to be RUNT but I'm short and people referred to me instead of my pigs. I'm frequently referred to as the PIGLADY which I consider very becoming.

*(Vickie then names 57 different things or categories of her pig collection)*

The most unique pigs are a music box, the pigs are on a teeter totter, a tea set, a Lennox sitting pig and a Bank from the Chicago Stockyards. Write soon, let me know if I can be of any help. Like I said, I don't have a lot of time but want to see the Club grow.

Oink,  
Vickie Brothers  
Springfield, IL.

Dear Mr. Holt,

I read, with genuine interest, your article about starting The Happy Pig Collectors Club. I honestly thought no one would have such a strange habit of collecting pigs -- the kinds that only need to be dusted now and then. I've been collecting them for approximately five or six years now and am still going strong. It used to be that I would buy any old pig figurine when I saw one, but now I've become quite selective in what I choose. The habit has also carried to my place of employment, where I work as a legal secretary at a large law firm in downtown Minneapolis.

When people I know see cute pig figurines while out shopping, they tell me they think of me. What a way to be thought of-- when people see pigs, they think of me! When pot-bellied pigs first became popular, my husband and I went to a pet store and saw the cutest pot-bellied pig, named Roseanne. However, my "addiction" only consists of the kind that need little attention -- except to admire them and be proud of my collection.

When my collection started getting too big to set just anywhere, we started looking for shelves to display them. We looked and looked and looked and couldn't find what we really wanted. Finally, we ended up having someone specially make two-foot, three-foot, and four-foot shelves. They are now nearly full. There are a couple of larger pigs (one with a 44-inch waist) sitting on the floor, below the shelves. I have even named some of my favorite ones.

I could go on and on, but instead will close by saying I look forward to receiving your newsletters. A check for \$20 is enclosed for the dues.

Forever a Pig Lover,  
Marilyn J Wilkinson  
Minnetonka, MN.

## Happy Pig Collectors Have

### **A Happy Reminder**

*Happy Pig members spread over the map  
Were you wise or fell in a trap  
Send an old portrait of Jackson  
Keep the Happy Pig in action  
To help soothe your strange handicap*

This is a reminder that we are starting the 2nd Year of The Happy Pig Collectors Club and your dues, if not previously paid are due.

The Fall issue will not be sent unless you are on the 2nd Year Membership List.

*Mary Bjorling, editor and Lowell Bjorling, director. They're great helpers.*



*Kelly Ellenberg, on the left, and Karen Horn said the party was well worth the 12-hour drive.*

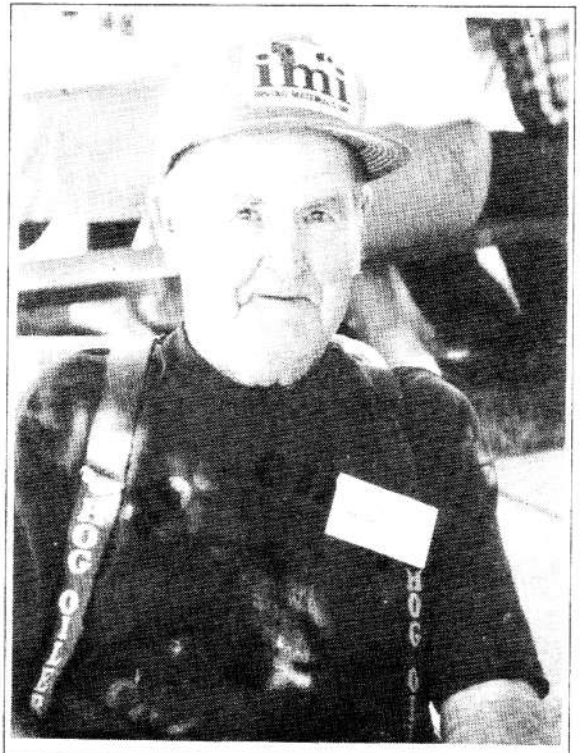


*Susan and Leonard Craft. A good looking couple!*



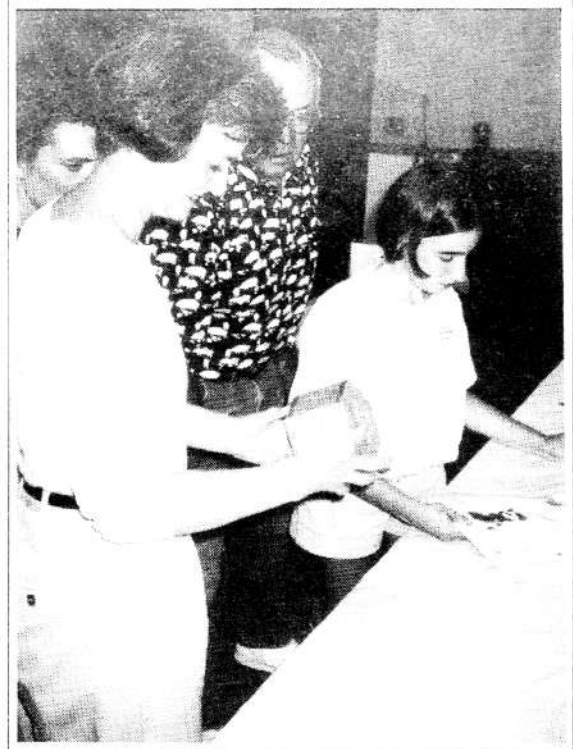
*Opposite page, clockwise from upper left. George and Catherine Glass. She is Gene Holt's big sister. Next, Barb and Dr. Dan Snyder. Barb cooked up the delicious lunch time beans. Dan travels the world and brings home pigs for me. Below Dan and Barb is Richard Bostic, who displayed a pick-up load in the front yard. His shirt tells his story. Then, another good-looking couple. Lorelee and Alan have collected pigs for 31 years. Finally, Keith and Margene Cordell are a grand couple from Moline, IL.*

# Fun Together at Convention





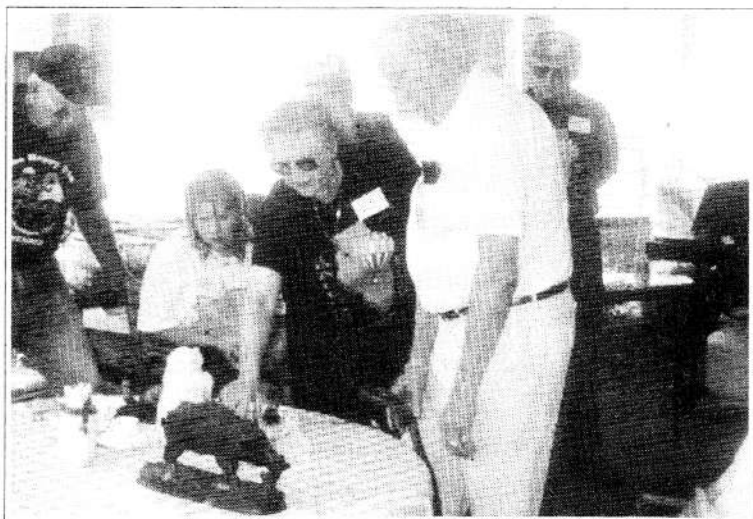
*Above: First charter member Arlene McNaught, left, with boyfriend Shorty Phillis and her daughter Mary Jo Folger*



*Above, Margaret Karbeling (at left) looks at the box carved by Alice Porter, while Sara Karbeling adds to Grandpa's collection. Below, Betsy Holt, Allison and Desi Nicotera. The greatest; what more can I say?*



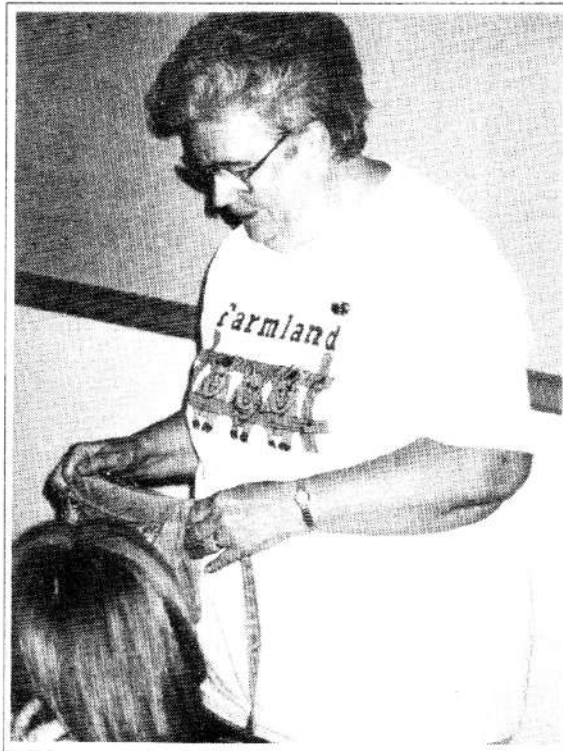
*Gary Holt, center, explains the farrowing house to collectors.*



*Keith Cordell displayed several rare pigs in the morning. Janiece Hammond and Kelly Ellenberg look on.*



*Above, my bride. She still rings a bell with me.  
Below, Jean Sutton had oodles of pig pins on her purse.*



*Helen and Harold Munson showing a piggy bank bought on their honeymoon in Chicago, 52 years ago.*



*Right is Uncle Bill Rowland. Center front, my big sister Dorothy Rowland.*



*Jim Wych looks on as Jill Johnson shows a pair of her favorite pigs.*

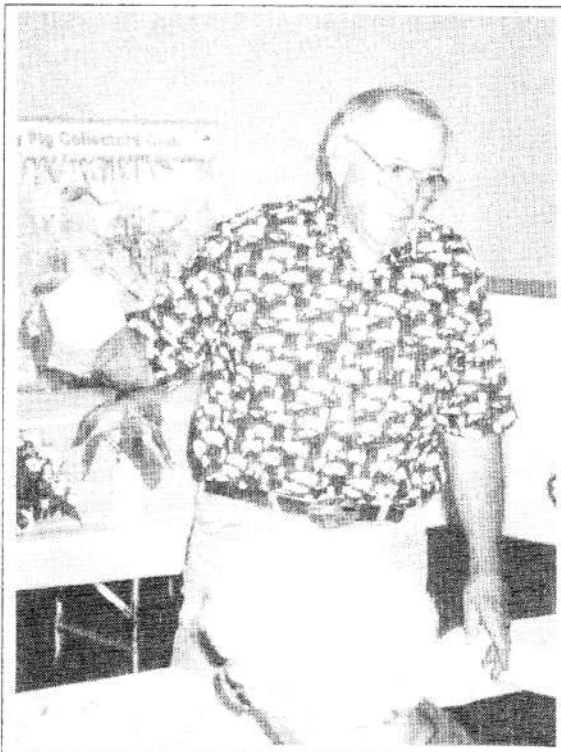


*Kelly Ellenberg with her windchime she made at school.*

*Above, Lorelee Adam and her amorous pigs. Below, Gene Holt tells about the box Alice Porter carved. Note Arlene McNaught's member placement map in the background.*



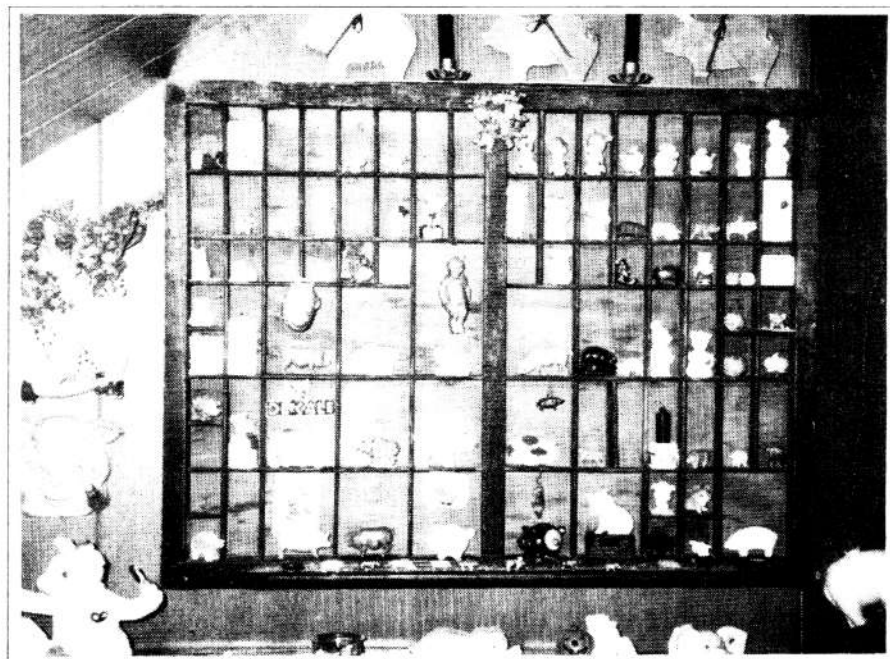
*Vicki Brothers shows a ringer that dings nicely when hit with the little rod.*



*Susan Craft shows a frustrated pig who can't decide where to put its bra on.*



*Clockwise from upper left. I made the cabinets so the pigs won't need dusting so often. Dave Simpson from Alexis, II, provided excellent entertainment after supper., and below are my little ones.*



*Photographs by Jerry Karbeling*

## JULY 6, 1996 MINUTES FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Happy Pig Collectors Club met for its first annual convention July 6, 1996, in the meeting room of the Galesburg, Illinois, Ramada Inn. Founder of the Happy Pig Collectors Club, Gene Holt, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. There were 31 members and guests in attendance. Gene Holt displayed a pig weed plant and recognized Arlene McNaught, the first dues paying member of the club who had prepared a United States map with pig banners pin pointing each member's hometown.

A financial report prepared by Betty Lou Holt was given. It showed total income of \$4781. and total expenses of \$2989.73. The checkbook balance to date before convention expenses was \$1791.27. Additionally, accounts payable to Gene Holt included an initial input of \$1000.00, an Internal Revenue not-for-profit fee of \$150.00, and a State of Illinois incorporation fee of \$50.00 for total accounts payable to Gene Holt of \$1,200.00.

Vicki Brothers was recognized for developing The Happy Pig Collectors Club T-shirt. She had an assortment of colors and sizes available printed with the Happy Pig Collectors Club logo. Additional shirts may be ordered directly from her.

Lowell Bjorling conducted an election of officers. Elected were: Gene Holt (IL), president; Bill Rowland (IA), vice president; Loralee Adam (MO), secretary; Betty Lou Holt (IL), treasurer. Two board of director's positions were also established and elected. Directors

elected were: Arlene McNaught (IL) and Lowell Bjorling (IL).

Gene Holt, president, conducting the business meeting asked the group what direction the club wanted to go. It was decided to have three general committees. Arlene McNaught agreed to chair the Events and Promotion Committee with Sheila Dominick (IL), although unable to attend this year had written offering to be on this committee, and Gene Holt. This committee will be responsible for selecting the convention site and coordinating all club events. Vicki Brothers (IL) agreed to chair a nomination committee which will select officers for consideration at next year's convention. Other members of the nominating committee are Jean Sutton (IL) and Kelly Ellenberg (MN). Betty Lou Holt agreed to chair membership committee which also includes every member of the club (obtaining new members).

Gene Holt recognized the newsletter staff which has printed 4 issues of Volume 1. The newsletter staff includes editor, Mary Bjorling (IL); layout, Betsy Holt (CO); art editor, Michelina Nicotera (CO); founder and storyteller, Gene Holt. Appreciation for this endeavor was shown by the group.

Heather Hampton, Public Relations Director of the Illinois Pork Producer's magazine, spoke briefly to the group. She announced the Illinois Pork Expo will be held in Peoria, Illinois, February 5 and 6, 1997 at the Peoria Civic Center. The Events and Promotion Committee will consider coordinating a pig collection display and advertisement of the Happy Pig Collectors Club at the Illinois Pork Expo.

The date for next year's convention was discussed. Saturday, July 5,

1997, was the date decided upon with each year's convention date being discussed at the previous convention.

Gene Holt announced there were 165 paid memberships. A membership was defined as a family unit paying \$20.00 per year dues with half price memberships available to youth under the age of 16 years.

The business meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

The group participated in a show and tell hour of their pig collections. A buffet meal of chicken and roast beef was served at 6:00 p.m. at the Ramada Inn Meeting room. Hand-crafted pig favors by Judy J Daily were at each place setting. Voice and guitar entertainment by Dave Simpson of Alexis, Illinois, concluded the evening.

Gene and Betty Lou Holt, the five Holt children and their spouses and the twelve Holt grandchildren were thanked for the delicious pork chop lunch that was served at the Holt farm previous to the business meeting. Name tags and registration was hosted by the Holt family. An informative tour of the hog facilities by Gary Holt and viewing of Gene Holt's pig collection was enjoyed. Richard Bostic (IN) had on display at the Holt farm a small part of his collection of hog oilers. Jerry Karbeling (IA) photographed the day's events.

Loralee Adam  
Secretary

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR  
NOW FOR  
JULY 5,  
1997**



## More Letters



*Julie Hoffman is proud of her license plate.*

Dear Gene,

I enjoyed hearing from you very much and look forward to every issue of your newsletter. I am enclosing a photo of myself with my license plate. It draws lots of inquiries and of course I'm willing to chat about my collection at great length.

The flea market season is in full swing here in the upper states. I've already been to several in North Dakota, Montana and Minnesota this year. The pigbank collection has grown, needless to say!

A few words about myself. My husband's name is Tim and he's a lineman for the local electric cooperative. His collections consist of the old cast iron waffle irons and saws. We have five kids and at this point they are all teenagers. I work at a bank here in town. (The job came after the license plate) We also run a tree service in our spare time. So you can see we have a busy household. I'm enclosing an article (*see page 23*) I've had on my fridge for years now. Just thought it should be shared with other pig fans around the country. You'll also find my dues for the next year.

Keep up the good work, Gene!

Julie Hoffman  
Mohall, ND.

Dear Mr. Holt:

I tore out an article about your club, The Happy Pig Collectors Club, from some farm magazine.

I, myself, like pigs, and where I don't actually collect them, I do enjoy receiving them as gifts from friends that do know I like pigs.

I was just writing to see if you knew, or could run an ad in your newsletter, if anyone had a cross-stitch pattern for a pig.

I like to do cross-stitching, and I have kept my eye open for any cute patterns. They have patterns for cows, ducks, cats, etc. but not pigs. I work in a factory and like to spice up my sweatshirts and t-shirts with inexpensive cute patterns and I'd love to show off pigs.

If you could be of any help, I would certainly appreciate it. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,  
Debbie Moore  
R.R. 1, Box 63  
Blanchard, IA. 51630

Dear Gene,

Just a little note to tell you that you've done it again - blown our sox off - with the Spring 1996 issue of The Happy Pig! We've read every word from cover to cover and we've learned some, laughed alot, blushed brightly at a few words, and have started checking the accommodations at the Illinois (you should excuse the expression) Pen. Why you may ask? Read on. Never having dreamt there was such a thing as a hog oiler, that article was a great "read", so much so that we asked friends if they had ever heard of this, new to us, object. To our amazement, a gray haired elegant lady friend (a no nonsense upright "pillar" in our community) broke into a kid-like grin and happily described oiling her Dad's pigs with a corn cob and a bucket of grease! She also reminisced about taking a nap with her head cuddled on the warm side of a sleeping sow. Few days later, a young architect grimaced as he recalled that neither he nor his older brother enjoyed the chore of hog oiling, but they managed to endure it by greasing each other liberally. Hoping we might have found a source of hog oilers for collecting brethren, we asked if any were to be found around here; but alas, not only are the oilers gone, but so are the hogs and the farms. They live only in memory now.

Pat and Frank Panettiere  
Rogers, Arkansas

## PAT PUTS UP WITH HER PIGS..... .....AND THEN SOME

By Pat Stepan-Fairview, Montana

Several years ago a friend from Canada and I went shopping our little neighboring town (much bigger than Fairview). She said, "Pat, why don't you start a collection of something?" At the same moment I picked up a little refrigerator pig made of dough. HE WAS SO CUTE!

In the winter my husband, Louie, and I live in Arizona where half or more of my collection lives. If I should get duplicates, I just take one home TO Montana or another back to Arizona. It really has helped to keep a record.

So far I have only a few antiques or collectibles... some are three-fourths of an inch tall and three babies are five-eighths of an inch. They are metal and painted black and white. They are in a glass display cabinet with 45 other little rascals.

They are of all kinds of material from wood, metal, glass, cloth, clay and ceramics...to clothing including slippers, jewelry, pictures, dishes, ornaments, banks, tea kettles, teapots, yard pigs, sun catchers, etc., etc. I also have a large pig flag.

One of my favorites is a stuffed one who oinks "Jingle Bells" when you squeeze his foot. And the refrigerator pig who oinks when you open the door. (I need one who will slap my hand!).

There is also a set of bowls in the shape of pigs that I got in an antique shop and haven't found out what they are for. I use them for ice cream to the delight of my grandchildren.

I have friends who think I'm crazy to like pigs, but they have fun giving

them to me and, of course, I love getting them.

Looking for them is fun too, like the time we were in a Scottsdale, (Ariz.) pet shop and rocked a baby pig to sleep.

I want a sign made that says "Pat's Pig Pen" but so far I'm having trouble convincing my husband.

One day our granddaughter (age 6) was visiting, and we were discussing my pigs. I told her, very seriously, of course, "Anna, what am I going to do? The pigs are starting to sneak into the living room and bedrooms."

Taking a deep breath, she said, "Gramma, I guess you just have to put up with it." And "putting up with it" has been more fun than I ever thought it could be!

Dear Gene,  
I am back home in Montana now after my wintering Arizona. With my mail going to both places I can't remember if I'm paid up to date or not. If not, let me know. I came home to a surprise! My son got into making weather vanes and he had made one for me and put it up on my garage. Do I need to tell you what it is? Ha! I've been waiting to take a picture, but haven't had a nice blue sky yet.

Sincerely,  
Pat Stepan

Oh, yes, I did get my sign that reads:  
PAT'S PIG PEN!!!



Pat Stepan rocking a baby pig to sleep

### KEWANEE HOG DAYS

Labor Day Weekend

Do you like:

Pork Chop Sandwiches

A Gigantic Parade

Finding Neat Pigs

New & Different T-shirts

There will be everything there  
from Mud Volley Ball to Roller

Hockey,

Beauty Queens to an

OOM-PAH PAH Band and a

Model T Ford Race.

It would take less space to tell you  
what they don't do. These people  
know how to have a celebration.  
They've been doing it since 1947.

For a complete schedule of events

for the 4-day festival, Write:

HOG CAPITAL BARBECUE

306 Main St.

KEWANEE, ILLINOIS 61443

## ***A Pig From Way Back There***

When I walked to grade school across God's beautiful gently rolling prairie, there was a battered and rusty tin sign tied to the woven wire fence beside a neighbor's driveway. A black pig stood out on an orange background. The message painted on the pig said "We Feed MoorMan's Minerals". Many old signs are being delightfully reproduced. When an identical sign caught my eye at a show, needless to say, it came home with me and has it's spot in the back hallway.

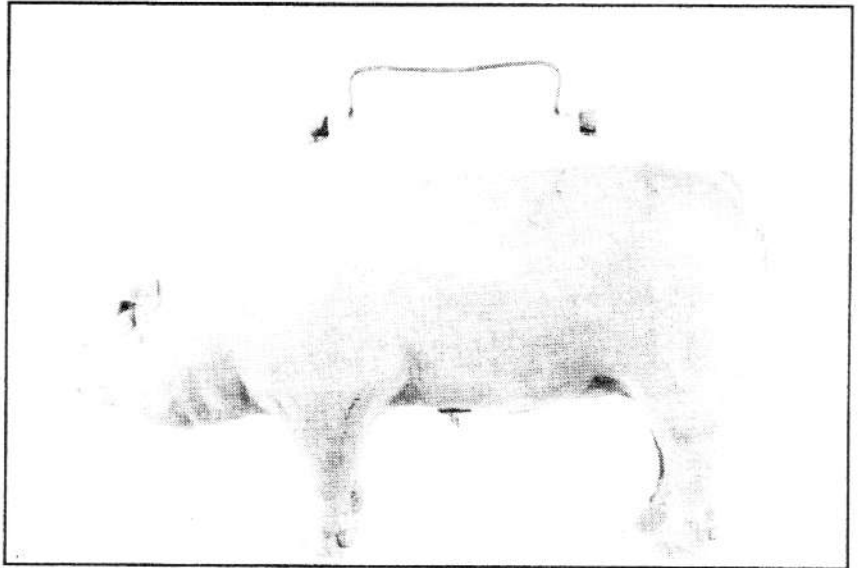
The MoorMan Co. started in 1885. Quincy, IL., is the location of the main office and research farm. Many times we go to flea markets or antique shows and come home empty handed. Not so one day in Peoria.

My day was made by finding a farmer's pocket notebook in the shape of a pig, no less! Inside the back cover a calendar is dated 1927. There are 20 pages where the farmer could keep his notes.

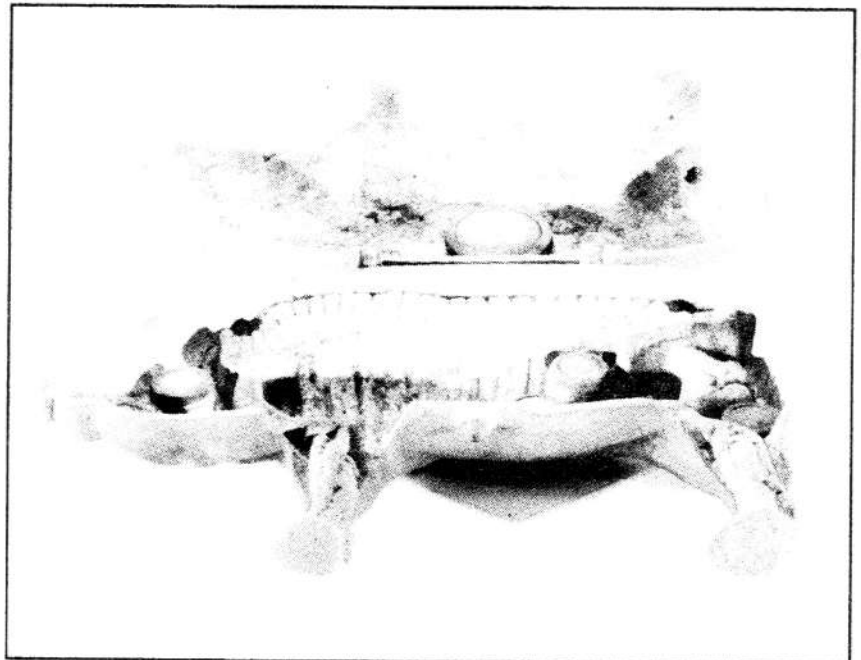
At the top of these pages are testimonials from farmers in eight states. Example: "I am feeding 300 head of hogs and feel like I can't feed successfully without your goods."-C.T. Walters, Butler Co. KY. and "Those hogs which had free access to MoorMan's Minerals averaged slightly over 40 lbs. per hog more than those which did not receive minerals, but received the same feed otherwise."-Grunkemeyer and Lafferty, McLean Co IL. The center 4 pages were used by the company to toot their horn about MoorMan's Minerals and Clean Sweep Worm Expleller.

This notebook had never been used. If it's a reproduction, someone

*(Continued on page 20)*



*A sure-shot gimmick for the MoorMan's feed salesman.*



*Inside the Moorman's pig.*

*(Continued from page 19)*

did a beautiful job. The ruled note pages are yellowish.

In my collection are two cast aluminum things. One is a flat happy pig face, it's front feet sticking out to hang things on when the face is fastened to the wall. MoorMan's is printed between the front feet.

The other must be a paperweight. It's a pig on a rectangular cube base that say "Pig Champ" on one side and "MoorMan's" on the other side. These may have been convention giveaways or maybe someone was smart enough to make them knowing old pig farmers would buy them.

Several years ago at a show a man from Iowa had a unique MoorMan pig for sale. He said it was used by a local feed salesman. It is split lengthwise from top to bottom. The handle at the top serves as hinge pins. I thought it was made of cast aluminum, I may be wrong. When it is opened some internal organs and part of the pigs skeleton are prominently shown. The salesman could tell the farmer, -Look, MoorMan's does a better job here or there or however the sales pitch might have gone.

The price that day was \$300. We had 3 kids in college. One day the man's card popped up and I tried to make a contact for a *Happy Pig* story. No luck.

My luck changed when Merle Glick, a curator at the Lake View Museum in Peoria, sent a note including an auction advertisement card. The auction was to be held by Joy Luke in Bloomington, IL. It was fairly large and included most everything except Alfred Meakin Tea Leaf for my bride. A Rare Iron Pig Box was one of the main items, it's picture being featured on the front of the card.

On the phone, they told me: The pig was lot #60 and would sell at 6:30. There had been alot of interest in the pig. It did say Moorman's on it. They had found it in the Antique Trade Price Guide and it could be worth \$3500. It's age was around World War I.

They had also called the MoorMan Co. who were interested because originally the outside had not been painted. They had one that was painted and wanted one that wasn't. I remember the man from Iowa saying his would have been worth more if the original paint on the outside had been in better condition. Who do you believe?

We got to Bloomington early so we could find The Gallery at 300 East Grove St. Joy Luke and those who work with her are very pleasant and professional people. I inquired about the pig and if it was O.K. to take pictures. They already had pictures and I picked out two. Then they opened the pig and laid it on the dark green carpet so I could take more pictures. The sale started on time and I was amazed. Although they didn't seem to rush, when I checked my watch they were selling an average of two lots per minute. I was also amazed at the prices paid for Match Box cars. The opening bid on the pig was \$1000. It sold for \$1400 to an absentee bidder. My bid card was #92. It didn't get out of my pocket. If you stumble onto one of these maybe now you'll know alittle more about it.

—Gene Holt

## TATTOO ME

by Dale Koppel

*Oh boy, do I want a tattoo  
of a pig.*

*Maybe he'll be saying, "oink".  
The "oink" 'll be in a balloon over  
his head*

*like a cartoon.*

*I really want a tattoo.*

*I don't care where.*

*It could be on my butt,  
but then no one would see it except  
my husband*

*who doesn't want me to get a tattoo.  
He doesn't care where.*

*Or what.*

*Not even a heart with his name  
inside.*

*He can't stop me from getting the  
tattoo*

*I really want.*

*And he knows it.*

*And wouldn't.*

*But I know how badly he doesn't  
want me to get  
the pig with the "oink" inside the  
balloon.*

*His "doesn't" is stronger than my  
"do".*

*So I don't think I'll get the tattoo.*

### Our Latest Laugh

It was Saturday night and the two old pig farmers, who hadn't been to town for two months, sat in the tavern too long and got pretty drunk. When they did go outside they got into a big argument about whether it was the sun or the moon up in the sky.

They just couldn't settle it and were still at it when another old pig farmer came staggering up the street. They asked him whether that was the sun or the moon up there. He said, "How do you expect me to know, I'm not from around here."

## WHAT'S GOIN' ON

Shirley and Hugh Herlihy stopped for a visit on their trip home to Jupiter, FL., from the Wauke, IA., swap meet. What do you swap at a swap meet? Everything from a Cushman motor scooter to a hand-cranked corn sheller and in-between things like old gasoline motors and hog oilers. The ultimate dream hog oiler to find is "THE SWINE-EZER" made by LISLE MFG. CO., CLARINDA, IA. If you've thrown one into that ditch down by the creek, tell Shirley and she'll come dig it out. If it might be broken, Hugh can weld it back together again. Richard Bostic of Logansport, IN. also dreams of owning a Swine-Ezer. Miniature hog oilers are being reproduced in limited editions. If you're in on the deal, you get first

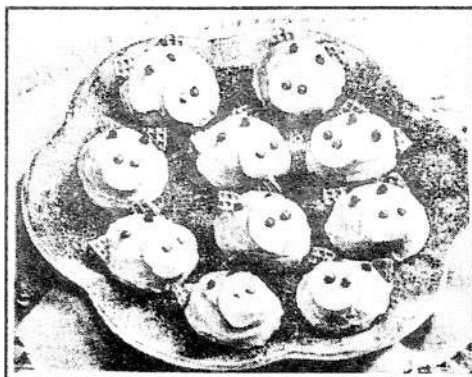
choice on the latest yearly model. I've seen a few at flea markets and antique shows. Now I'd like to take in a swap meet. There's no end. The enjoyable visit with the Herlihy's included showing them my pig collection and a walk out to the farrowing hose to see the sows and their new litters. They took several pictures as this was all new to them. One piglet did us the favor of being born while we were there. A couple of sows had milk dripping from their teats, an indication that they were about as ready as could be. Before they left Hugh opened his trailer to show me his loot. He had acquired a unique gas engine air compressor combination. Also a hog oiler, patented April 11, 1916, made by the former Rowe Mfg Co. in



Galesburg, IL. I didn't know these existed before reading Robert Rauhauser's book.

When my bride and I moved to this farm in the mid 50's, the barn lots were in dire need of being tidied up. There were two broken hog oilers that went to town in the first load of old iron. I had no idea they would ever be of any real value.

—Gene Holt



## CUTE PIG COOKIES

BAKE AT 375° FOR 10-12 MIN

- 1 cup soft butter or margarine
- 1-1/2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup (8 ounces) sour cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs, sour cream and vanilla; mix well; combine dry ingredients. Add to creamed mixture and mix well. Drop by tablespoonfuls onto Ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 10-12 min. until edges are lightly brown. Cool on wire racks.

## FROSTING/DECORATING

- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 4 cups confectioners' sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 6 Tablespoons milk
- 3 to 4 drops red food coloring
- Pink sugar wafer cookies
- 36 large marshmallows, halved
- Reese's candy bar sprinkles

Melt butter. Add sugar, vanilla, milk and food color. Mix until smooth. Frost the cookies. Cut sugar wafers into triangles; place 2 on each cookie for ears. With a toothpick punch 2 holes in each marshmallow half for nostrils; press light brown candy bar sprinkles into nostrils. Place noses on cookies. Add dark brown candy bar sprinkles for eyes.

Yield: 6 dozen

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**T-SHIRTS OR SWEATSHIRTS**

This design with our Happy Pig logo has been developed for us and is available to anyone who is interested in purchasing T-shirts or sweatshirts. They are a 50/50 blend. (Note that the "Y" in Happy is a pig's tail.) The choice of colors are: White Ash Black, Royal, Navy, Red or Green.

T-shirts  
S thru XL  
XXL  
XXXL

Long Sleeve T-shirts  
S thru XL  
XXL

Sweatshirts  
S thru XL  
XXL

\$10.00  
\$12.00  
\$14.00

\$16.00  
\$19.00

\$20.00  
\$25.00

These prices include Shipping and Handling

Anyone interested in ordering can do so by sending a check to:

Vicki Brothers  
3359 S. 3rd St.  
Springfield, Illinois 62703  
(217) 529 7420

Please include your name and address when ordering and the items,

## **A QUICK TRIP TO IOWA**

The World Pork Expo was at the Iowa State Fairgrounds, in Des Moines, June 6th-8th. It's the big pork industry trade show. I hadn't seen it for a year or two. We went on the 7th, it was still too muddy to plant beans.

Some of the worlds best barbecuers will vie for \$17,000 in prizes in the "The Great Pork BarbeQlossal" contest. Contestants will bring their custom-made grills and sauces to compete in the categories of whole hog, ribs, loin, shoulder and showmanship. The over-all grand prize winner will receive \$4,000. (This paragraph was stolen from the summer '96 Pork Press magazine.) One of the Bar B-Q grills was designed to look like a pig. It was too large for our patio and too rich for my checkbook.

The Pigcasso Art and Craft contest is one of my favorite things. I have two pictures from that show. One is an old time barnyard scene and the other was featured on page 4 of the summer '95 Happy Pig. It's a

wonderful place for pig collectors to browse. Some things are pricey, some very reasonable. Under the grandstand is more like a high class flea market. Lots of pigs for sale there. Virginia Builta and her husband were in the Varied Industries Building selling that beautiful pewter she has designed.

The noon meal is included in the price of admission. Generally it's a big butterfly porkchop. That day it was ribs and they were perfect. My bride loves to sit in on the sessions when a chef demonstrates easy ways to prepare pork. I hung around and shot a couple of T-shirt pictures, got in line for a free Bar-B-Q snack and then bought a chance to win a new pickup truck. The gal who sold me the ticket promised to go for a ride with me if I won. My bride asked where am I supposed to ride? I said there would always be room in the back. Her retort was short and to the point.

—Gene Holt



*Lunchtime at the home of Sheila Domenick, Ridot, IL*

### *All I Need To Know About Life I Learned From a Pig*

*Live high on the hog*

*Wallow in mud, not self pity*

*If life gives you slop, then  
pig out*

*The sty's the limit*

*Always keep a little  
something  
in the piggy bank*

*Don't hog the conversation*

*Oink, wallow and be merry*

*Don't squeal on your  
friends*

*Using your snout can get  
you  
in truffles*

*Pig tails are always in style*

*Think pig and you'll go far*

*Go "Wee wee wee" all the  
way home*

*Author Unknown  
Sent by Julie Hoffman*

## THANKS, EVER SO MUCH

We more mature members can remember when Bob Hope used to sing, "Thanks for the Memories" to sign off his radio show. I want to say "Thanks," but I'm not signing off. Thanks to my bride for all her help, telling me how to spell and putting up with me.

Thanks to Betsy for saying, "I can help you, Dad, by doing the *Happy Pig* layout."

Thanks to Desi for being a great Dad for Allison all those weekends Betsy was helping Grandpa.

Thanks to Michelina for allowing us to draft her as art editor and sharing her gifted talent.

Thanks to Kurt Hoberg, our family attorney, for knowing the ropes and doing the legal stuff free.

Thanks to Sheila Spickerman, a lady I've yet to meet. She works for Meriwether-Wilson, Tipton, Iowa, our family accountants. They also put in their time free.

Thanks to Mary Bjorling, our award winning editor, for her ever-cheerful attitude and many times saying, "Yes, you can do it."

Thanks to Lowell Bjorling, Suzanne and Gary Main, for saying "OK" when I needed more names for the legal red tape.

Thanks to Janet Gallagher, my never failing cheerleader. She had started a pig collectors club in Minnesota, but put it on hold because of her health. She gave me pointers and good advice.

Thanks to Andrea Blessum, a

bright North Dakota schoolgirl, who sent stories and poems when I needed them most.

Thanks to Elaine McGraw at the Anderson State Bank in Oneida, a true lady. When I asked to open an account for the Happy Pig Collectors Club, she didn't even giggle.

Thanks to Lori Davis at the Oneida Post Office. She wouldn't give me a hard time, not even when I forgot to give her a check.

Thanks to everyone who has written or called with help and encouragement. I didn't do this alone.

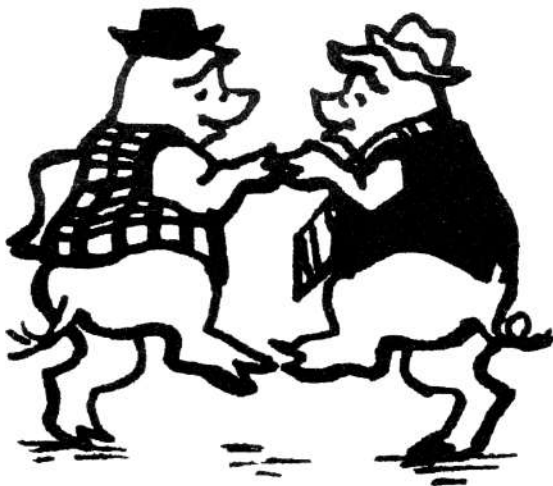
Thanks and Best Wishes  
Gene Holt

### *The Happy Pig Collectors Club*

c/o Gene Holt

P.O. Box 17

Oneida, IL 61467



copyright 1995

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