

Garage Sale Gal

Getting into the spirit of the season at garage sales



Lynda Hammond

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas everywhere you go...including garage sales. That's right, visit garage sales these days in the Valley and you'll find some folks reveling in the spirit of the season.



“It makes it more fun for us and the customers,” says Bev Anderson. She and her sister, Sue Frandson, had a garage sale recently in the East Valley where the mood was quite jolly.

They had classic Christmas music playing, coffee brewing and muffins for noshing. And if that didn't get you in a cheerful mood perhaps Bev and Sue could do that. Dressed as Santa's helpers..with huge red hats, red and green clothing covered by red aprons and topped off with black belts—they greeted garage sale customers with huge smiles and friendly conversation.

“You know we were cleaning out the attics and the garage and we were going to get rid of a lot of Christmas stuff so we said ‘let's do a Christmas theme’.”

Sue and Bev--both retired teachers-- have played dress up at their garage sales for the past five years. Last year, they chose a prison theme-- Sue was the prisoner and Bev was the jailer. Another year they

were chickens. “You know it does attract more people. We get more people to stop and get out of the car instead of driving on by,” Sue says.

The sisters sold mostly small items—kitchen gadgets, candle holders and they had a lot of Christmas items on hand. I bought a gold, bell wreath for a dollar. Sue says the original price was \$18 and she got it for half that at an after-Christmas sale last year. I bought it for several reasons; for one, I like them but I’m also getting ready to make one for my garage sale/craft project on 3-TV’s Good Morning Arizona later this month. “Oh, I can’t imagine making one of these. That would take a lot of work,” Sue says. No—it really doesn’t. Look for the instructions on making a fun bell wreath on my website.

There’s no doubt having a positive attitude translates into a lucrative sale. Bev and Sue say even though most items sold for only a dime or quarter they were able to rake in \$200 at their one-day sale. Now, they have some extra spending money for Christmas this year.

Happy Holidays!

(Suggested caption for picture): Sisters Sue Frandson (left) and Bev Anderson get into the holiday spirit by dressing up as Santa’s helpers for their garage sale. They played Christmas tunes, served coffee and muffins and sold Christmas items. Sue holds a bell wreath that I bought for just \$1!

MY FAVORITE FIND

Do you have a garage sale find you love? Something that makes you smile when you look at it? Share it with us. Send us your picture. Tell us a little bit about it. Include your name, email address and phone number and email it to: Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Watch for the story of *your* treasure in this column!

Lynda Hammond is a former television anchor who runs the website www.GarageSaleGal.com where you can list and look for garage sales on-line. Contact her at Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Lynda also does garage sale segments on 3-TV's Good Morning Arizona.

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