

# Seeing Gizmo netted a Longaberger



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When you go to garage sales there are three things to keep in mind while searching for bargains: Keep your eyes open, be curious (nosy) and adore animals. Sounds a bit odd, I know, but all three helped lead me to quite a find at a recent sale.

It was cold - OK, freezing - on a recent Saturday morning in the Valley. But despite the low temperatures there were still a lot of garage sales. I pulled up to one in east Mesa and I knew right away I wasn't interested in buying anything, or so I thought.

I did, however, see something that will always coax me out of my car and up the driveway: A cute dog. The owners had a darling Shih Tzu-bichon mix named Gizmo. I bent down to Gizmo's level and we exchanged pleasantries. I was rising to go when I saw it. A darling Halloween basket.

This wasn't just any basket, though. It was a highly collectible Longaberger. These are handmade in Dresden, Ohio, and signed and dated by the artist. They eventually retire them and each one becomes quite the collectors' item.

The basket I spotted in the garage in a container was round and sported a lid on top with a darling handle in the shape of a ghost.

Plus, it came with a plastic protector inside and a cute Halloween fabric liner. It was tucked away in the garage in a container and didn't look like it was part of the sale. But I thought I'd take a shot anyway.

I asked the owner, Lisa Mills, how much she wanted for it. Twenty-five dollars. Ouch! But even at that price I knew it was a bargain. While writing the check a thought occurred to me. "Do you have anymore Longaberger baskets you want to get rid of?" I asked. "Come with me!" Lisa exclaimed.

So, we went inside her home where I was bombarded by baskets. Longabergers were everywhere.

"I sell them," Lisa told me.

She proceeded to show me the ones she would part with - four more aside from the Halloween basket. So for \$65 I walked away with five Longabergers.

I know that sounds like a high price, but considering the incredible craftsmanship that goes into the baskets it was really quite reasonable. As for Lisa's take on the sale?

"I get tired of them and want to change my look. In fact, I've ordered some new ones for my home."

I called Lisa after I got home just to chat with her about the baskets and my exciting find thanks to her. I asked if that first Halloween basket I saw in the garage was even for sale in the first place.

"No, it wasn't," she said. "But you sounded so interested, and I thought why not let someone else enjoy it."

Lisa adds that the baskets I bought are worth as much as \$300.

See, it does pay to keep your eyes open, be nosy and love animals!

If you would like to contact Lisa regarding Longaberger baskets, call Lisa at 480-357-4258

**Lynda Hammond runs the [www.GarageSaleGal.com](http://www.GarageSaleGal.com) Web site where you can list and look for garage sales online and read past columns. Contact her at [Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com](mailto:Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com).**