

*Garage Sale Gal*  
**THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC**

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*Lynda Hammond*

## **Garage sales can be fun viewed from afar**

**Lynda Hammond**

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The Garage Sale Gal's plan of attack:

Here's my modus operandi when I see a garage sale: I'm like a mouse spotting the last piece of cheese in a home that's been vacant for months. I pounce. While maneuvering through other cars coming and going, I find a place to park, scurry out of the car, scan the items, chat with the owner, keep my eyes and ears open for column ideas and move on if nothing strikes my fancy.

I go through this routine about 50 times each Friday and Saturday. The other day while heading back to my car, I saw something I witness all the time but it just now piques my interest: two people who garage-sale together but only one gets out while the other stays in the car.

This is how Diana and Kenny Johnson have been garage-saling for the past few years. "He likes to come along and tell me what to buy and what not to buy, but it doesn't work. I usually buy what I want," Diana said, laughing.

The reasons folks sit in cars at garage sales vary. Some act as the chauffeur while the shopper looks for bargains. Some prefer stay in the car, thereby foregoing the hustle and bustle of sales. But, you see, Kenny can't get out of the car. He has a muscular disease that makes it tough to walk. He's perfectly happy, though, watching the action from the sidelines. "I just like sitting there watching folks. As long as I have my coffee and doughnuts, why, I'm all right."

The Mesa couple have been garage-saling together for 30 years. When they started hitting garage sales, it was out of necessity because of their small budget. But they got hooked - just like a lot of us do. And nowadays, they don't let anything get in the way of hitting Saturday garage sales - not even Kenny's

recent illness.

"I like to just get out. And I like to make sure she doesn't buy too much that'll clutter up the house," Kenny tells me from their pickup.

At this sale, Diana finds some clothes for her grandchildren. She grabs two pairs of shorts for 25 cents each. Kenny approves. "Beats going to Dillard's." But Diana quickly adds, "Well, we do that, too."

Kenny is still able to see the merchandise from the car. If he spots something he must have, he asks Diana to grab it for him.

So, whether you're shopping at them up close or from your car, it's obvious - nothing beats garage sales. So, get out there and enjoy them any way you can.

**Lynda Hammond can be reached at [Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com](mailto:Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com). She also does garage sale segments on 3-TV's Good Morning Arizona.**

(PHOTO BY LYNDA HAMMOND):



Diana and Kenny Johnson garage sale together every Saturday morning. She shops while he watches from their pick-up truck---which can be just as entertaining. "You see all the people and how some of them react to the items. They'll look at the price and then put it down..that's kind of funny." Kenny has a muscular disease which makes it tough for him to get around. So, when Diana pulls up to a sale he stays in the pick-up and watches the action from there.

**MY FAVORITE FIND**

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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. 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!

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