

Garage Sale Gal

Show Low lady shows off Papoose

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Lynda Hammond

During the good ole Summertime in the Valley it's always fun to hit the garage sale trail but it's a nice adventure and a welcome break from the extreme heat to head to the High Country in search of sales. That's what I did one recent weekend when my travels led me to Show Low.

I was lucky when I happened by Fay Karstetter's sale. Born and raised in Show Low, she now lives just off the main road—Hwy. 60--through the Northeast Arizona town of 7700 residents.

Faye, an avid garage saler, was having a huge sale in her backyard getting rid of some of the buys she's made over the years. But it was a few things inside her home that Faye insisted on showing me. So, I got a quick tour. Her house is filled with antiques and collectibles—there was barely room to walk. "Oh gosh, I've been collecting all my life, that's why I'm such a mess," Faye says laughing.

In the corner of her living room she pulled out one of her prized possessions—an antique Indian papoose. A papoose or cradleboard was strapped to a mother's back with a baby cuddled inside in order to keep a woman's hands free.

Faye has several of them—all elaborately handmade out of sheepskin and decorated with beads. (Decoration and symbols told of a parents hopes and dreams for their babies.) She wants to sell them but doesn't dare until she's had an official appraisal. Sean Morton is an antiques appraiser in Scottsdale, he agrees, an expert should look at them. "I've seen papooses range in prices from \$50 to \$150,000. But I can tell you I've only seen a few that have been in that upper range."

Faye is smart in not selling her cradleboards at garage sale prices. Experts say if you have items you think are worth something, having them appraised can be invaluable.

Here are a few guidelines for getting collectibles appraised

!/Question? If there's any question in your mind on whether it's valuable, get an appraisal. Or if you aren't even sure what you have. "Sometimes people aren't sure what they own and if they're getting ready to sell it or give it away, they might want to have it appraised first," Sean advises.

2/Silver, paintings, jewelry Sean says silver sets, paintings and jewelry typically should be appraised before you liquidate them.

3/Rare collectibles If you have rare items, such as Faye's papooses, you'll want to get them appraised. There is likely a niche market for them which will force the price up and perhaps net you a good profit. An appraiser can also advise you on where it would sell best—at auction, to a dealer or a collector.

4/Certified appraiser Find an appraiser who is certified by the Antique Appraisers Association of America. Prices vary for appraisals. Sean charges \$100 an hour and up. You can reach him at 480-326-6885.

MY FAVORITE FIND

(Photo: by Lynda Hammond)



Show Low resident Faye Karstetter, 65, shows off one of her favorite finds. It's an old, antique Indian papoose. Faye bought the cradleboard for \$200 in Williams, Az. In the 70s. She has three of the baby papooses and plans to get them appraised by an expert before selling them.

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!

Lynda Hammond is a former television anchor who left the anchor desk for the love of garage sales. Contact her at Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Lynda also does garage sale segments on 3-TV's Good Morning Arizona.