

## ***Garage Sale Gal***

# ***The Thing***

**THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC**



***Lynda Hammond***

It was an emotional sale for Laurie Clark.

Her father, Charles “Allan” Clark, died suddenly in September after suffering a heart attack. “It’s been really hard because he was only 49 years old.”

Laurie says her dad was a packrat which left the family with no other choice but to have a garage sale. They were selling tools, collectibles and antiques.

I zeroed in on a milk can and an old bow saw. The can was in rough shape—very rusty..but I still like those old things with their history on the farm—this one from a farm in Holbrook, Az. As for the bow saw..it’s perfect just the way it is. Scuffed up wood, old nails and rusting metal makes for a great wall hanging. Laurie says the items had been in her father’s home for as long as she can remember. So, I asked her. “Are you sure you want to sell them?” “Yeah. Selling these things don’t bother me much. It’s that. (She pointed) That’s going to hurt the most when it goes.”

When I looked in the direction she was pointing I was surprised. It wasn’t a picture or a collectible—standard things that remind us of our loved ones... it was a very large, well, thing.

Turns out her dad loved tinkering with stereo equipment and often combined parts to create his own stereo system. “This reminds me of my dad. Ever since I was a baby that stereo was always around. And I just remember him working on it all the time.”

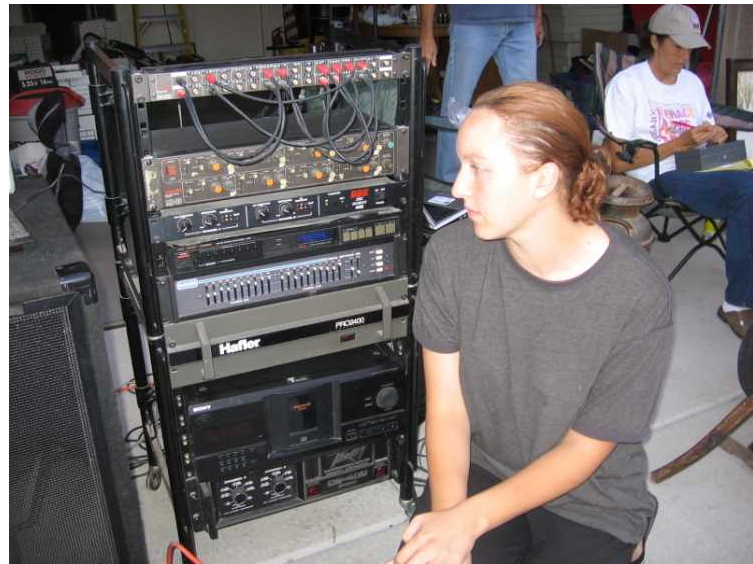
It’s amazing what sparks memories of our loved ones. Lots of things remind me of my grandma including a rooster cookie jar that’s always on my kitchen counter.

I bought the milk can and bow saw for just \$5 but I let Laurie know if she did wanted them back for sentimental reasons to let me know..although she assured me she would not.

As for the stereo invention, it sold for \$300. And what gives Laurie some comfort is where it went—to a church for use during services. “I’m just glad it went where it went--to the church that--makes me feel good.”

Laurie Clark, 27, sits beside two

## MY FAVORITE FIND



of my recent buys-- an old, rusted milk can and an antique bow saw.

But it was difficult for Laurie to put a price on this. What is it? Well, it's a stereo put together with spare parts by her dad who was constantly working on it. He died after suffering a heart attack on September 5.

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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](mailto:Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com). Watch for the story of your treasure in this column!*

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