

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



### ***Garage Saling improves mood*** ***Lynda Hammond***

It was five when my alarm went off one recent Saturday morning.

It was dark, cold and I was feeling grumpy. That's right, the Garage Sale Gal just wasn't her chipper self.

"I'm not going garage saling," I told my husband.

"What?! This is your work day you have to go out," he told me insistently.

He's right. Friday and Saturday *are* my work days. When I garage sale I find a lot of material for these columns, I find projects for my television segments on *Good Morning Arizona* on 3-TV and I discover fabulous objects that can no longer be found in stores. What a great job!!

So, I had my coffee, dressed and—still in a bad mood--hit the road anyway. After all I can't call in "sick". First off, who would I call—everyone having a sale? But, seriously, just think of all the stories and fabulous treasures I'd miss.

Within the first few sales I had perked up. It's tough to stay negative when I walk up to sales and see fun items up for grabs and all the people mingling.

Take for instance, Greg Yerkes' sale in East Mesa. He was having a good time talking with neighbors and selling items swiftly. And check out what I bought from him (see picture). It was a 5 ft. long wooden gecko. Greg made it himself by laying another one he purchased on a piece of plywood, tracing it, then cutting it with a jigsaw.

The gecko was just the beginning.

I then went to a sale where—before I even got out of my car-- an old washboard caught my eye—you know the small wooden boards where you'd rub your clothes over a section of metal—the kind your grandma used. As I got closer I knew I had to have it. The company logo on the antique was the clincher: "Maid Rite of Columbus, Oh." Well, this was just meant to be. You see—that's my hometown. The seller says she bought it at an antique store in Strawberry, Az. I was excited because I've *never* seen a washboard at a garage sale and since it was from my birthplace—that made it irresistible.

I paid \$7 for it and headed for the next sale where I simply couldn't believe my eyes. There sitting in the driveway was another washboard! And, yes, it was produced by the same company in Columbus.

“It’s strange—you should go buy a lottery ticket,” Marg Schumacher told me after I explained my incredible washboard coincidence. She bought hers at an antique store in Apache Junction. And, of course, I bought that one, too, for just \$5.

Both now hang in my laundry room.

So, next time you’re not quite feeling yourself, try garage saling it just might lift your mood, too.

**MY FAVORITE FIND**



I bought Greg Yerkes’ handmade Gecko for just \$1. It took him about 3 hours to make.  
(photo of man and woman sitting down) Fritz and Marg Schumacher show off one of the washboards I bought. This wasn’t as old as the first one I nabbed but still quite the mood booster!

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