

Garage Sale Gal
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC



The Baby Book: Mine
Lynda Hammond

The holidays are here. It's always a great time to reminisce about days gone by. I was doing that the other day when I came across some truly fascinating reading. Okay, so maybe it's entertaining to just me and my mom but I'll tell you about anyway.

It was my baby book. You know the kind that has preprinted areas for parents to fill in key dates and events, such as, baby's first step and baby's first birthday? Well, I had to laugh when I saw baby's first word. Mine was "mine". That's right, it wasn't "mommy" or "bye-bye", it was simply "mine".

It sounds a bit selfish so, I'm a little embarrassed to share it with you but I have an excuse and mom is my witness. "Well, you had two brothers (both older). And they were always taking things from you and you had to fight to get them back." So mom's not surprised "mine" was my first word.

And I guess when I think about it I'm not surprised either. In fact, it's an appropriate word for me as a grown up, too. You see when I go to a garage sale, pick something up and pay for it I think "mine". I see a table or a rare butter pat I must have—mine! No, I don't come out and actually say the word but I'm *thinking* it.

I'm happy--- and feeling quite possessive, I might add--- when I'm walking away from a garage sale carrying something I know someone else would've snapped up in a second. It's a real thrill slinging my gently used \$1 designer bag over my shoulder, knowing I likely beat another buyer by mere seconds. And I just can't help but feel a bit smug when others ask "Wow, how much did you pay for that?" as I carry my heavy wrought iron side table down the driveway— (Come on, what else would you expect from a woman who's first word was "mine"). Now, don't get me wrong. I'm happy for others when they find great garage sale treasures too...after all we have to spread this joy around a bit.

And making sure you do walk away with a real treasure brings me to one of my favorite and most important garage saling tips:

If you see something you like at a garage sale pick it up right away. (You might even want to yell out "mine!"). Walk around with it, if you decide you don't want it you can always put it down. But any hesitation and someone else will get to it first.

Mine. Something you might also need to proclaim today as you head out on the busiest shopping day of the year!



This is me—the Garage Sale Gal-- back in 1963. This would've been right around the time I spoke my first word-- "mine". A perfect word for a garage sale treasure hunter where competition is fierce and we're forced to quickly claim what's ours. I'm smiling—I must have been thinking about garage sales!

MY FAVORITE FIND

Do you have a garage sale find you love—something that you claim as “mine”?! 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.

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