

Garage Sale Gal **THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC**



Garage Sale Gal

The Poodle Skirt

Lynda Hammond

When most of us are in a hurry to find that perfect outfit for a party we usually go to the mall but not Helen Peterson. She heads to garage sales. “I walked up to a sale and I saw this blue thing sticking out. I pulled it out and it was exactly what I needed. I yelled out to Bob ‘Look what I found’!”

Helen and her husband Bob go garage saling in the Valley every Saturday. They both keep their eyes open for rare and unusual finds—brass things for him—anything elephant related for her. It’s also a chance for the retirees to spend some quality time together.

When their east Valley retirement community posted the announcement about an upcoming 50s party the couple made plans to go. Helen wasn’t sure what to wear but plenty of people had a suggestion. “Everyone told me I needed to wear a poodle skirt but I said ‘I don’t have a poodle skirt. Where am I going to find a poodle skirt?’” Helen has been to thousands of garage sales but she’d never seen a skirt with a big poodle on it so finding one at a sale didn’t even cross her mind. She was resigned to simply wearing jeans and a blouse.

But just hours before the party a morning of garage saling would change her costume plans. She and Bob spotted a community sale (where an entire neighborhood holds a sale on the same day), pulled in and started scoping out the sales. As Helen was walking up the driveway of one sale she spotted something blue and puffy on a rack of clothing. It was a poodle skirt. “I thought how can this be? How could I possibly go to a garage sale and find a poodle skirt the day before the party?”

The man selling the skirt says his daughter had made it for a school function a few years ago and didn’t need it anymore.

Helen paired the skirt with a black top, white socks and sandals. She was a big hit the next night at the party. “All the women came up to me and asked me about the skirt. They wanted to know where I got it. So I got to tell my garage sale story all night long.”

And one of the highlights of the story: The skirt cost just \$1!

Don’t you just *love* garage sales!

(PHOTO BY Bob Peterson):



Helen Peterson of east Mesa models her garage sale find. She found the poodle skirt at a garage sale just one day before a costume party with a 1950s theme at her retirement community. After the party Helen tucked it away in her closet. “I’m going to keep it. You never know—I might wear it again.”

MY FAVORITE FIND

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 broadcasting 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.

#####