

Garage Sale Gal

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC



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Pet Peeves

Lynda Hammond

“Lynda, I really need to talk to you. I need to get something off my chest.”

That’s what Jean Logosz said when we bumped into each other recently at a Gilbert garage sale. Jean garage sales each weekend with several other women and together they’ve come up with a list of pet peeves---things that just “set them off” when they’re on the garage sale trail. Now, don’t misunderstand, Jean loves garage sales. She’s been going regularly since moving here four years ago from Oregon. She’s decorated her home with garage sale finds and continues to pick up bargains whether she needs them or not—like the great narrow wooden table she just snagged at a sale for only \$5!

But Jean and her friends do have a list of things they wanted to share with me and for one simple reason. “Because we love garage sales so much and we want to make it a pleasurable experience for everyone and ourselves.”

I like her thinking. So, here are a few things that irk Jean and company—maybe a few of yours are on the list, too.

Jean’s Pet Peeves

***Old Signs** “We took a vote and this is our number one pet peeve.” Jean says she’s tired of seeing old, faded and withered signs still hanging up long after the sale has ended. Not only is it an eyesore, it’s misleading too. “I keep looking thinking I’m going to see a sale and I don’t find it, it’s very frustrating.” So, take down your signs.

Remember, you can use them for your next sale and you’ll keep Jean and your neighbors happy, too.

***Ghost Host** The seller needs to stand out so we know who gets the cash. “Sometimes it’s hard to find out who’s running the sale. You don’t know who to pay when you’re in a hurry and you want to move on.” The Garage Sale Gal’s answer: Name tags!

***High Prices** Jean and her friends agree--- many sellers price things too high, often times even higher than what thrift stores charge. “I don’t care what *you* paid for things, if you want to get rid of them price them cheap.”

***Short Hours** Jean says we don’t stay open long enough. “Please give us more time before the sale closes. We want to come to your sale. One of my friends even went in her slippers one time because we had to rush to get out of the house and get to a sale.” Now, that’s dedication!

***Lemonade Stands** Don’t be a sour puss. “If kids are selling cookies or lemonade, support them. They’ll feel good about it and so will you.” Good point.

***Clothing** Jean says if she pulls up to a sale and sees clothing on the ground she’s “outta there”. She won’t even stop. Use hangers and secure them at the bottom of your open garage door.

These are great things to think about next time we set up shop. And chances are if we give our next sale some extra effort and remember Jean's pet peeves we just might make more money!



(pic by Lynda Hammond) Each weekend you can find Jean Logosz garage saling in the Valley. One of her recent favorite finds is a brand new Pendleton Wool Blanket in its original package. She paid just \$5. (Now, that's a deal! The lowest price I could find on line for a Pendleton blanket was \$268!) "Coming from Oregon, where Pendleton, Oregon is just a few miles from where we lived, it was really exciting. Those blankets are just beautiful and I even toured the factory."

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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