

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



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They were tired, weary and needed a decent place to stay after driving all day on the narrow and winding, two-lane—and at times—mountainous road. When they pulled into the motel parking lot they couldn't believe their eyes. "It looked just like the Bates Motel from the Hitchcock movie *Psycho*". It was old and creepy and the lock on the door was just like what you'd find on the bathroom door in your home, just a little button," Yvonne Vostry says.

But thankfully there was no "Norman" (the psycho in the movie) and Yvonne and her best friend, Donna Ferris made it out alive and hit the road the next day in search of more ...bargains!

The two life-long friends were on the garage saling trip of a lifetime. They were on Highway 127 in Tennessee along the "World's Longest Yard Sale". The sale is held every year in August and spans several states and includes mile after mile of yard sales. They flew into Birmingham, Al., rented a car and headed north on the bargain-hunter's-dream-highway. They started at the official beginning—Gadsden, Al. and made it as far as Crossville, Tn. "The sales were right there on the road, right smack dab on the side of the road. It was so crowded it took an hour sometimes just to drive one mile."

The Chandler resident and Donna, who lives in Indio, Ca. says they only traveled about 60 miles during the trip. They limited their buys to whatever would fit an empty suitcase they each brought along. So, they loaded up on small things—jewelry, books and decorative items including a 2-ft. tall metal rooster sculpture Yvonne found for \$30. She says she was thrilled with the buy—that is, until she went a few more miles and saw the same sculpture at another sale for just \$15. Ouch!

While the sales were the main attraction, Yvonne says there were other things that made the trip worthwhile—the scenery, which includes mountains winding through quaint small towns, lakes and lots of trees. And then there were the locals. "I just loved listening to the people. I loved their accents. You don't hear that here out west. And everyone called us "ma'am". They were very polite."

Yvonne had a great time, though she probably won't go back again since she says, at age 65, she's getting "up there in years". But she does have advice for others who may want to tackle the trip. "Be prepared to walk a lot and be hot because it's sticky. And start planning the trip in February otherwise you won't get any hotel rooms."

Though they barely made a dent in the 654-mile-long route of sales, four days was enough for them. And Yvonne adds she hopes she never sees that many port-a-potties in one trip again!

**Next year:**

Mark your calendars: The World's Longest Yard Sale is scheduled for August 5-8, 2010. The sale always starts on the first Thursday in August and goes through the next Sunday. The sale stretches from Gadsden, Al. up to West Unity, Oh. and includes five states—Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky and Ohio. An estimated quarter of a million people shop the long sale each year.

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*If you or someone you know would enjoy getting my column each week, simply send the email addresses to me: [Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com](mailto:Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com)* (Rest assured we do not--and never have shared or sold email addresses--we're in the bargain hunting biz!!)

*And don't forget to look for and list garage sales on [www.GarageSaleGal.com](http://www.GarageSaleGal.com)*



(picture provided by Yvonne Vostry) Yvonne Vostry (L) of Chandler and best friend, Donna Ferris of Indio, Ca. take a much-needed break from garage saling at a restaurant in Chattanooga, Tn.

**Talk to the Garage Sale Gal!** Do you have a question or comment about garage or estate bargain sales? Email the Garage Sale Gal: [Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com](mailto:Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com).

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