

Garage Sale Gal **THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC**



Garage Sale Gal

Meanwhile, back at the ranch

Lynda Hammond

It's been a rough few weeks for Kitty Galante. The Valley native is selling off most of her objects de arte after years of collecting. "It's kind of a love-hate feeling. You love the stuff but what are you gonna do with all of it?" says Kitty, 70, an avid antique and bargain hunter.

Today is the start of Kitty's two-day estate sale on her five acre ranch in Tonopah where she's selling everything—antique wooden and metal washing machines, a mirror that once hung in an old barber shop, advertising collectibles, antique dolls, jewelry, furniture and more. Prices range from a quarter for an old post card to \$1800 for old post office shelving and drawers. It includes individual boxes and a teller's window from Red Mountain (formerly Osdick), California—now a ghost town. "I bought that post office from an auction in downtown Phoenix. I loved it. It was just so unique and it was something I just had to have."

Spoken like a true collector.

But now most of the stuff has to go. You see, Kitty recently got married to Pete Galante who also loves to collect things. And together they're combining households—so they need to downsize by selling off the extras. "Every time my family comes by they cry. They hate to see it all go. But I think I'm making a good exchange—this stuff for a new husband." Family members have already taken the things they wanted but even still there are thousands of items up for grabs in the ranch home.

The huge sale was organized by Angels in the Attic Estate Sales. Anastacia Siembieda and her husband Brian own the company. They've put together a lot of estate sales—about 425-- in the last ten years but Anastacia admits she's never seen one quite like this. "I've never had a sale that has so much farm primitives and antiques—mostly from the 1800s. This is a great sale for a true antique lover," Anastacia says. They're gearing up for huge crowds. Some avid estate salers often show up in the middle of the night—not unlike people who line up for good tickets at rock concerts. "They want first choice. They see something they fell in love with from the pictures and they want the opportunity to be first in line to purchase it. It might be something they've looked for all their lives."

Kitty has looked all *her* life for these things. She started collecting items years ago by going to auctions, flea markets and, of course, garage sales. "I definitely have enjoyed everything. It's been a thrill finding them but it's time to let someone else enjoy them."

Old Ranch Estate Sale

What: Private home owner selling off years of collectibles in Tonopah

When: Today and Saturday 8-1 (The sale was open to private buyers yesterday and opens today to the public.)

Where: Thirty-minute drive West of Goodyear, 25 South 348 Ave Tonopah

Directions: From I-10 take the 339th Avenue exit and head south to Van Buren. Go west on Van Buren 1/2 mile. You'll then see signs for the sale.

Difference between estate and garage sale

Estate sales, always held inside a home, are typically run by professionals and involve homeowners who are selling everything including appliances, furniture and even the house. Most items are priced and have been appraised by professionals. Garage sales, held by homeowners, are more casual and typically take place outside.



This is just one of the items up for grabs at a huge ranch estate sale in the West Valley. The post office boxes and teller windows originated in 1922 in a small town outside of Bakersfield, California. The post office closed down in 1960.

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.

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 local TV stations.

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