

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



***Garage Sale Gal***

### ***Let's Make a Deal*** ***Lynda Hammond***

It's Thursday February 25, 1971 and Joel Scheller is on top of the world. Never mind that his *Mom* is about to make her television debut dressed as a clown in a red and white polka dot suit. What has Joel energized is that he gets to stay home from school to watch the event. "Getting the day off—that was just about the coolest thing in the world to me," Joel says. The real estate agent gets excited even today when talking about his Mom's appearance on the game show; *Let's Make a Deal*. Joel was a little tike, in the third grade at the time and living in San Diego.

The north Mesa resident began walking down memory lane when he came across a set of china with a starburst design and platinum trim. I stopped at his garage sale where he and his family were getting rid of the excess after downsizing into a smaller home. Joel wasn't selling the dishes at *this* sale but he held it up and asked me how he should price it, if he *did* decide to sell it. "My Mom won this on *Let's Make a Deal* back in the '70s," he told me enthusiastically. My ears perked up. I love a good yarn on how we acquire our treasures. So, I went straight to the source—Ava Scheller, Joel's Mom, AKA the clown.

"I remember everything about that day, like it was yesterday," says Ava, now living in Lake Havasu. Ava was lucky enough to be chosen to sit in the front section of the audience from which host Monty Hall selected his contestants. "I saw him glance up my way and I said, 'Oh my God, Oh my God, he's going to pick me' and he did. I almost fainted." Ava's "deal" included deciding between a suitcase with "something" inside or what was behind door number three.

Ava chose the door.

Her winnings consisted of a bright yellow naugahyde and chrome bar and matching round table with chairs and the set of Bavarian china.

Three months after that taping the family gathered around the TV set in the living room to watch—as Joel fondly puts it; "Mom act like a fool in a clown suit on national television". And now 37 years later the only thing left of that day is the china and memories. The bar and table set got used quite a bit and no one is quite sure what happened to those. As for the china? It was too good to eat off of! "We used it a few times at Christmas or Thanksgiving but otherwise I didn't

use it much. I was so afraid we'd break it," Ava says.

Ava gave the china to Joel about six years ago but when I mentioned he was considering selling it a garage sale, well, Mom wasn't too keen on the idea. "That's like selling memories. I don't think I'd be too happy about it. It's worth a lot of money, about \$1200.00. I'd rather have it back. I'm glad you called. Yes, I am," Ava says.

And all's well that ends well-----turns out Joel won't be selling that china. "We'll have it forever. No if, ands, or buts," says Joel. And remember that suitcase? The one Ava didn't choose on the game show?

It was full of peanuts!



(pic provided by Stacey Scheller) Joel Scheller, a self-described pack rat shows off a plate and tea cup from his set of rare and retro Bavarian china.

**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).

---

*Lynda Hammond is a former television anchor who left the anchor desk for the love of garage sales. Contact her at [Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com](mailto:Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com). Lynda also does garage sale segments on local TV stations.*