

Lynda Hammond **THE GARAGE SALE GAL**



Sales Therapy

Lynda Hammond

Garage saling takes Camille Simon away. “It’s my escape. It’s my freedom. It’s my therapy.” And you can bet these days she’s making time for a lot of “treatment” what with all the obstacles she’s been up against lately. Her aunt recently died, her brother was just diagnosed with skin cancer and her father’s in the hospital. “That’s really tough because my parents just had their 54th wedding anniversary and they’ve never been apart in their lives.”

So, the Avondale resident often includes the family in on her favorite pastime, too. She takes her mom garage saling whenever she can. And just recently she and other family members held a garage sale and raised \$2,000 to help pay for her brother’s cancer treatment. And her husband—well, he gets to carry all of Camille’s bargain buys into the house.

The 53-year-old Maricopa County Court Bailiff also shops at garage sales for the family. She says relatives call her and “place orders”. Her son wanted a couch for his new apartment and asked her to find one at a garage sale. She did and with some extras thrown in. She found the exact sofa he wanted—brown leather, sectional with two recliners built in—plus two end tables and a coffee table—all for \$700. She’s especially proud of the time she was faced with finding a real “tall” order from a garage sale. Some of her relatives in Minnesota own an alpaca farm and asked Camille to find a spinning wheel. “I said, ‘Oh, yeah right. I’ll just go right out and get one of those.’ I never thought I’d find one.”

But she did.

About five months later Camille was in Buckeye garage saling with her husband. He wanted to quit but she wanted to go to just one more sale. So, they did and there sitting in the driveway of that one last sale of the day was a spinning wheel. Camille paid just \$50 for it. “It was awesome. I was so excited. I’m always finding things for people and that’s my happiness.” Camille got quite the deal too. She would later see one in Jerome, Az. At a fair for \$5000. She was able to take the spinning wheel up to her relatives where today they spin scarves out of alpaca wool and sell them at fairs.

While filling orders for others, Camille keeps things she’d like to find for herself at the top list, too. For instance, she decided she wanted an antique buffet table. So just a month later (I know she finds these things fast, too!) she pulled up to a sale in Avondale and saw what she’d been looking for. She walked up to the long, wooden table and saw the price tag: \$10. “I thought it was a misprint and there was a zero missing so I asked the lady how much it was. When she told me \$10 I almost freaked out right in front of her but I have learned to try and not show enthusiasm for things I’m buying in case they’d want it back.” The seller said the table had belonged to her mother and no she wouldn’t want it back. In fact it was just minutes away from being loaded onto a truck for a trip to a charitable store.

“I believe that you can buy anything you need at a garage sale. And you feel like you’re doing something good when you buy someone’s stuff. It helps them and it helps you.”



(Picture provided by Camille Simon) Camille Simon says this is her favorite finds—a 100-year-old buffet table she bought for just \$10 at a garage sale in Avondale.

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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