

Lynda Hammond
THE GARAGE SALE GAL



Oh, the joy of a spouse who supports your garage sale habit!

By Lynda Hammond

When I started writing my “Garage Sale Gal” column for The Arizona Republic I was so excited. I absolutely love garage sales and as you know there are quite a few to choose from here in the Valley. And as a result there’s plenty to write about. I had a lot of column topics swimming around in my head so, I made a list of the incredible possibilities.

Number 6 on my list? Write about folks who buy brand new things—still in boxes with tags—at garage sales. Number 63 was a fun one—people who garage sale with a partner, whether it’s a friend, spouse or even a dog—remember Dave and Tas? The topics are endless! As I was going down my list for this week’s column #26 caught my eye. Here’s what I wrote down a few months ago: “26. Having a supportive spouse who doesn’t mind some of the items you bring home..and in fact loves them!”

Now, notice how I said a *few months ago*? That’s right. I’ve recently come to find out that my incredibly supportive husband, Kevin, may not be so supportive after all—at least when it comes to my garage sale finds.

I garage sale in the Valley on Fridays and Saturdays—in a good week—I’ll throw in a Thursday, too. I’m out for at least four hours scouring garage sales for the most unique and unusual finds for the lowest possible price. It’s truly a thrill. But what’s even more exciting is the anticipation I feel when I just *think* of showing my rare finds to my husband. “Wow. You did great,” I can hear him say. Or, “That’s your best find yet, honey!” Or he’ll brag to friends and relatives. “Wait ‘til you see what Lynda found today”! What a husband! Is he great or what? So, with the love and support from my husband I continue to bring home priceless treasures. Our house and garage stay the same size..but somehow we find room for it all. Amazing!

Or is it? She asks while sounding like a film noir detective.

I could never figure it out. I’m constantly adding things to my collection—big items, too, such as, old tables (not sure what it is about a surface with four—or three—legs, wooden, iron, whatever, I can’t resist buying them)—and my husband is able to organize it all in the garage. How does he do it? Well, I recently got an answer while searching for something in my garage.

I was looking for a pair of shoes I’d recently bought at a sale—brand new in the box originally selling for \$100—I got them for \$1! I had put them among a few of my other finds—by the iron table, next to an old, wooden snow sled and inside a large bowl—but they weren’t there. After a bit of prodding I find out Kevin—my beloved husband—took them to.... Goodwill. What?! Anybody know a good marriage counselor?!

Eventually, I came around, though. I could see his point. There are times—okay a lot of times—when I buy things at garage sales, put them in the garage and forget I even have them until I hold a garage sale.

But what if more of my priceless gems have fallen prey to my husband's cleaning sprees and I just don't know about it yet? "Well, I might have taken several boxes of stuff to charity but I'm not sure what was in them", he says. Oh, the humanity. It's worse than I thought. Some of my unique finds are gone..forever.

After a period of mourning I come to realize *maybe* I have been buying too much. And at least someone is getting good use out of my great deals.

So, lately I have been trying to use restraint at garage sales. And Kevin will be letting me know when he's making a run to Goodwill. *I least* I hope he will!



Kevin Nunn, aka, Mr. Garage Sale Gal, sorts through some of Lynda's favorite garage sale finds. He's holding a fencing mask she bought for \$2. Unbeknownst to Lynda, Kevin has made a few trips to Goodwill with some of her finds. "I'm not even sure what I've taken. But if I hadn't gotten rid of some of it we'd never be able to even get in the garage," Kevin says. Well, at least Lynda still has her fencing mask even if she doesn't know what to do with it!

MY FAVORITE FIND

Do you have a garage sale find you love? Something your spouse won't give away!? We'd love to see it. Send us your picture. Tell us a little bit about it. Include your name, email address and phone number and email it to: Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Watch for the story of *your* treasure in this column!

Lynda Hammond is a former television anchor who runs the website www.GarageSaleGal.com where you can list and look for garage sales on-line. Contact her at Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Lynda also does garage sale segments on 3-TV's Good Morning Arizona.

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