

Lynda Hammond
THE GARAGE SALE GAL



Accolades Appreciated

Lynda Hammond

I hadn't been to a garage sale in awhile thanks to a bad case of heartache and illness.

The heartache: I had to put down my beloved dog, Sadie. If you're a dog lover, then you know just how agonizing that can be. I miss that spunky, lovable, crazy girl. She was something else.

The illness: bronchitis. So, for several weeks I was either coughing or crying. I figured my fellow garage salers wouldn't much appreciate that so I stayed away from the sales.

But I'm feeling better now—both mentally and physically.

Last weekend was my first time back in a month (I know—no garage saling for four weekends!) and I was looking forward to my search for sales and stories. I couldn't wait to talk to other bargain hunters and sellers again, certain I'd be welcomed back with open arms. You know, "How are you?" and "Where've you been?". It may sound a bit shallow but it's the encouragement and kindness I get from people at garage sales that keeps me coming back for more. It boosts my confidence—assures me I'm on the right track with my passion of going to garage sales and writing about them.

So, when I stopped at my first sale on Saturday I was a bit perplexed, even worried.

I introduced myself to the seller—which is something I always do when I arrive at a sale. Chatting with other garage salers is how I get a lot of the material for my articles---you know, people really open up when the common bond is garage saling—we love to talk about our favorite finds. Anyway after I said "I'm the Garage Sale Gal", the seller, unimpressed, said "Yes, you stopped at my sale last year" and "I'm kind of busy right now".

Ouch!

I apologized to her—sincerely--as I certainly don't want to be a pest.

Now, I know something like this shouldn't affect me but it did. It hurt my feelings. I'm such a baby sometimes!

But I shook it off and moved on to the next sale and that's when I ran into some mighty friendly and flattering folks.

"I love you. I read your column every week," Mesa resident Marsha Chancellor told me.

I met the avid garage saler as she treasure hunted with friends at a neighborhood sale. "Garage saling is an addiction. If you don't go you worry it might be the day you miss that one important treasure. And I really appreciate your tips." The Illinois native travels to garage sales in a caravan of two cars and a group of friends.

And, on my first day back, the kindness of strangers continued the rest of the morning.

"Are you the one in the paper?" one elderly man asked me.

"I'm going to follow you around. You know how to find the good stuff," another man said.

"Lynda!" Marty Mathews yelled. Marty is another garage saler I often see at garage sales. "I heard you were sick," she said as we hugged.

Wow, what a difference a sale makes. Go to *one* and you might get the cold shoulder but visit a hundred others and you'll be greeted with kindheartedness and compassion. Garage salers are good people.

I'm secure enough to admit it—I'm insecure enough to know I need the accolades.

Thank you, Marsha, Marty and everyone else who made my day. It's good to be back.

Next time you're feeling blue get tickled pink with a garage sale.



(picture by Lynda Hammond) Marsha Chancellor garage sales every Saturday and has for the last thirty years. She's going back home to Moline, IL., soon where she'll also shop for bargains.

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 appears on local TV stations sharing garage sale tips.

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