

Lynda Hammond **THE GARAGE SALE GAL**



Wigging out *Lynda Hammond*

I've always had a hunch garage sales could be therapeutic and now I *know* they are.

Just listen to Mike Burton's story.

It was a couple days before his annual Labor Day picnic on his 20 acre spread in Winston, Ore. Mike was on his tractor inspecting the fields to see if they needed cutting. The next thing he remembers is waking up in the grass. He would have several more seizures before heading to the doctor.

The news was grim.

Mike had Glioblastoma, an incurable brain cancer. The doctor gave him 3 days to live--3 months if he had brain surgery immediately. Mike had the operation--on Labor Day--and to the surprise of his doctors two years later he's doing well. "I still have the cancer but it's not growing. I'm having chemotherapy and I get my blood checked regularly."

Mike, 70, is a kind-hearted, retired fisherman and contractor. Although the cancer has slowed him down it doesn't keep him from his favorite activity-- garage saling. "You run out of things to do when you're retired and I have a big barn to fill up."

That barn is almost full thanks to some of his bigger buys such as the old, pre-WWII tractor he bought for \$200 and the pick-up truck he nabbed for just \$100. But what he searches for these days at garage sales doesn't take up a whole lot of room.

Mike lost his hair from the chemo so now he shops for wigs... women's wigs. His favorite, which he bought for \$1, is gray, curly and compliments his personality. "I have a lot of fun with that. I went for chemo recently and said hello to everyone with my bare head. When I walked out I had the wig on and I told everyone 'Jeez, these guys really know what they're doing with that chemo'. I don't think people knew what to think. But it was fun."

Mike also likes his wig with long black silky hair which he calls his Boy George wig. He has five fake heads of hair but he's always on the look-out for more when he hits garage sales once or twice a week. "It's just like a woman, you know, I get tired of the same old hair do," he laughs.

Mike admits while garage saling has helped him keep his spirits up it's his attitude that's really made all the difference in the world. "I've had a rough life but I've never allowed myself to be a victim and I didn't want to be a victim of cancer."

MY FAVORITE FIND



Mike Burton shows off his favorite garage sale find—a woman’s wig he found for \$1 at a sale near his home in Winston, Ore., south of Eugene. He wears this one often since “it’s the most natural looking”. Mike has been buying up fake hair ever since he lost his own from chemotherapy. Mike and I got in touch thanks to the Arizona Republic’s website, azcentral.com. He reads the Garage Sale Gal columns online. A true garage sale fanatic!

Do you have a garage sale find you love? Something that makes you smile when you look at it? Share it with us. Send us your picture. 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 left the anchor desk for the love of garage sales. Contact her at Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Lynda also does garage sale segments on 3-TV's Good Morning Arizona.