

# Lynda Hammond **THE GARAGE SALE GAL**



## *Lonesome Road* *Lynda Hammond*

When most of us hold a sale we open up the garage door, haul some things out onto the driveway and we're ready to go. But not Terry Spaulding, he has a bit more work to do. Terry gets up even before it's light outside and loads up his 1994 Ford pick-up truck with merchandise and tables. Then he *drives* to his chosen designation of the day—usually a fairly busy intersection in Mesa. He unloads the goods, sets up and waits—hoping people will stop and shop. “I don't have any other choice. This is how I pay for my gas to get around.” I've seen Terry several times while driving by and I'd think to myself: someday I'm going to stop and talk to him. Well, that “someday” was the other day. I was on my way home after hitting about 20 garage sales where I found a few things---an iron floor lamp, a retro table and a hand-made bed spread. I paid \$30 for all three antiques—a real bargain!

Terry was set up in a section of dirt and gravel at the side of a two lane road just off a main intersection in east Mesa. He knows it's illegal for him to sell on city property and in fact he's been asked to “move along” from some locations but others, like the one on this day, afford him a bit more freedom. He lives in a tiny mobile home park where garage sales aren't allowed.

From five in the morning until two in the afternoon, he tries to peddle his stuff and admits it can be rough. “Some people stop and look and don't buy. And then others just drive by real slow and if they don't see anything interesting they just take off. I usually get about six people that buy from me—if I'm lucky.”

When I was there Mauro and Ramona Camacho of Gilbert stopped to take a look at Terry's spread which includes mostly household goods, décor and tools. “You never know what people have for sale, whether they're on the side of the road or in their own yard,” Mauro told me. Ramona picked out a set of old drink coasters for \$1.

The 60-year-old Mesa resident started selling his wares five years ago after he got hurt on the job at an auction house. A huge garage door closed down on his head and he hasn't been able to hold down a job since.

He makes about \$8 a day in sales and his mom—who gets \$280 in social security checks each month—helps him get by. But he's hoping one day to be able to pay her back.

Terry gets some of his merchandise from donations. He once received five milk crates full of items from a stranger who stopped at his stand. And recently he was given two nicely framed pictures of a duck. He's hoping the set brings in \$5. The donations give him hope. “It makes me feel good. At least you know there are an awful lot of nice people out there.”

I must confess when I'd see Terry in the past, I felt kind of sorry for him. He set up his sale site with such care—two long tables with everything displayed nice and neat—but he was always alone. After talking to him—my heart goes out to him even more. But at least he's trying to earn money for himself and his mom, the only way he knows how.



(pic provided by Lynda Hammond) Ramona and Mauro Camacho (left) check out the

merchandise up for grabs at Terry Spaulding's roadside sale. He sets up every Friday and Saturday.

**Talk to the Garage Sale Gal!**

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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).

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*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.*

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