

# Lynda Hammond **THE GARAGE SALE GAL**



## *It tolls for thee...and Roxy*

*Lynda Hammond*

This column just might ring a bell for a lot of you—it did for me—in more ways than one. If you’re an avid treasure hunter—always out bargain hunting, looking for anything and everything that strikes your fancy at a garage sale—then chances are you get requests for specific items. You know, from those—who (gasp!)-- don’t like to garage sale. “Could you be on the look-out for an antique dresser?” Sure no problem. “If you ever see an old wooden fishing pole would you reel it in for me?” You bet.

Well my husband, Kevin recently had an order: “If you ever see one at a garage sale make sure you buy it.”

It was a tall order. I’d never seen one at a garage sale or even a store.

But just a few days later—jackpot! My search was over.

I was at an estate sale in Scottsdale where I’d purchased an old lamp and an Italian, ceramic compote. I was waiting on a friend and scanning the merchandise in the garage sale when I looked up and spotted *it* on a small shelf. The desired item: a desk bell. You know-- the kind you might see in an old hotel. The clerk needs a bellhop so she smacks the top of one of those nickel plated bells that go *ding*. It was a bit rusty but it still worked and it was only a quarter.

Now the purpose for the bell isn’t so my husband can summon me to fetch an iced tea as he leisurely watches golf (he knows better!). Instead it’s for our precious puppy. You see, we’re having a tough time house training Roxy and we’re hoping she just might sound the alarm with her nose or paw that it’s time to go outside.

Kevin removed the rust from the bell and shined it up and placed it on the floor by the back door.

Roxy was immediately curious. She sniffed it, licked it and even tried taking a bite out of it.

But two weeks later we’re still finding surprises on the floor.

That’s right; she isn’t using it for its intended purposes...yet.

So, we’re going through some serious “drills”. Whenever we take her out we make her sit, “we” tap the bell and out we go. The idea is to get her to associate the ding with going outside and doing her business—think Pavlov’s dog.

Now, she has rung it a few times---once with her paw and a couple times with her nose—but that was just curiosity. But she’ll get it—she’s not only adorable and loveable but she’s smart, too.

The thing I find so amazing about this whole story is this: if you *think* about it, *need* it or *want* it you can usually find it at a garage sale. Think of the 60s sitcom *I Dream of Jeannie*—cross your arms, nod your head and blink and there it is.

I'm thinking of a million dollars.

Ah, the power of positive garage saling!

By the way, the bell is about 50 years old so I was curious about the previous owner. Wait 'til you find out—in my next column-- what *she* used the bell for.



(pic provided by Lynda Hammond) Roxy, my 4-month-old CavaPooChon (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Toy Poodle and Bichon Frise mix) is immediately curious about this garage sale find.

**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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