

# Lynda Hammond **THE GARAGE SALE GAL**



## *Garage Sale Gal*

### *It rings a Bell, part II* *Lynda Hammond*

It's amazing how the smallest of treasures found at estate and garage sales can give us a glimpse into someone else's life.

It was a small, nickel-plated bell that led me to a very kind and much admired 78-year-old woman.

Let me tell you a bit about her.

In 1965, Shirley Leyboldt got her dream job as the first-ever principal of the newly established Scottsdale Christian Academy. "Oh my, yes. I loved it there," the mother of two sons tells me. Shirley, who also taught class at the academy, would be at the helm of the school for 31 years before retiring in 1996.

Today, nearly five decades after landing that coveted position Shirley is in an assisted living facility in Prescott and strangers—including me—are in her Scottsdale home snapping up parts of her life.

When I was shopping at the sale I didn't know who'd lived in the home. The sales are run by hired workers and the owners often stay away for fear seeing their precious memories being sold off would be too much to bear.

Shirley collected antique toys, trains, music boxes (70 in all), bells and toy cash registers and typewriters and much more. These were classic toys produced from 1900 to 1950. She kept the comforting novelties on shelves in her office where students would line up to visit each day. "Oh my they loved them. I did have a rule, though. They could only play a music box three times through to the end. After that they had to put it down for the day."

I bought one of Shirley's "toys"—a fifty year old desk bell. You know, the kind that makes a high-pitched ding sound and was typically used by hotel clerks when calling for a bellhop. *Ding!* "George, you can show Mr. and Mrs. Smith to their room now."

"I'd hit the bell on the top and the children are supposed to quiet and you're to have their attention."

I would be using it for something a bit less cultured and ah...dignified. For me, it's a puppy training tool.

In last week's column in the *Republic*, *Desk bell could be new tactic for house-training puppies*, August 6, I explained how we're hoping our new pup, Roxy will learn to ring the bell with her paw or nose alerting us that she needs to go outside. Roxy rings the bell with her nose alright but not when she has to go, instead when our *other* dog, Millie wants to go outside. It's just a matter of time before she gets the hang of it.

I tell Shirley I feel a little guilty nabbing one of her favorite things for just a quarter and she

quickly put me at ease. “That’s all right that’s what sales are for. My husband and I used to love to go to garage sales. We called it dinking. We’d go dinking early in the morning and then we’d go to the diner. We were always on the lookout for another treasure and toys for my collection.”

I’m happy to say she didn’t sell everything. Today many of the toys are on display in a glass case for all the residents at the Las Fuentes Independent Living Center to admire. “My life has been so incredibly full and as a result full of beautiful things. The Lord has been good to me He really has.”



(pic provided by Lynda Hammond) My 4-month old puppy, Roxy upon seeing the bell for the first time tries to take a bite out of it.

**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.*