

Garage Sale Gal

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC



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On Guard!

Lynda Hammond

Veronica Goedert refurnished her house the other day and all the items came from a garage sale. “We’re getting rid of our old stuff and putting in the new.” The sale where she bought all her décor was packed with merchandise—one of the best I’ve ever seen. Veronica bought so much she’d have to make several trips to get it all home.

I arrived at this garage sale in Maricopa County at about 7:30 in the morning and, boy, was I late! I missed the boat on this one. The owners of the huge estate were moving to Chicago and selling almost everything. I quickened my pace up the long driveway when I saw an iron and wood baker’s rack. It was beautiful with 2 in. thick pine for each shelf and rustic solid iron to finish off the piece. I was heartsick to learn it had already sold. And I felt even worse when I found out how much it went for—\$10! I’m sure in a store it would’ve sold for close to a thousand dollars.

There were other things I wanted too but when I asked the price, yep, sold!

You know you’re in what I like to call the “Garage Sale Capitol of the World” when you arrive at a sale relatively early and most of the stuff is already sold. There were at least ten “sections” of items spoken for—the people had paid for it, left and were coming back to pick it up later.

Now, I’ve always found most garage salers to be extremely pleasant, friendly and respectful but I just couldn’t do that. I couldn’t spend money on unique items and then let them sit on display—unattended mind you—while hungry bargain hunters like me hovered nearby salivating. Nancy Opitz was the busy lady selling all the great items. She was also surprised so many people left their purchases behind. “I would never trust anyone. I’m so shocked people would pay for all this good stuff and then leave it here. I’d be afraid it wouldn’t be there when I got back to pick it up,” Nancy said.

Veronica admits she was “scared” to leave most of the stuff she bought. She had to make five trips back and forth in her small pick-up truck. “People were already picking up our stuff before I left the first time. We even got into a few confrontations with some people.” To be on the safe side, Veronica left her Mother at the sale to “guard” it all. “We hit a goldmine today. It’s not often you hit the mother lode like this so I thought I’d better stay with it all,” Mary Goedert told me.

So I bet you’re wondering what Veronica bought. Well, just listen to this *partial* list of items: 4 patio sets with tables and chairs (she’ll share with family); sofa tables; 4 end tables; several coffee tables; 2 iron and wood garden benches; dressers; various décor and more. Now, drum roll please. Total price: Just \$240!

“This is a cheaper way to get stuff. With the economy the way it is, going to garage sales is the best way to refurnish your house,” Veronica says.

I agree.

As long as you get there early---and take Mom with you, too!



(pic by Lynda Hammond)

Veronica Goedert poses by some of her new garage sale finds. In the left of the picture you can see part of just one of the patio sets she bought. The 4th grade teacher goes to garage sales every weekend looking for items that'll help spruce up her home.

MY FAVORITE FIND

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.

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