

Garage Sale

By Hap Hansen

Ah. Summertime! Lots of things are in full bloom. Marigolds. Roses. Garage sale signs. Yes, this is the time for garage sales. Get rid of all that junk. Make a little extra money, money that won't be taxed, unless an IRS Agent just happens by.

We have had many garage sales. There are things I have that I simply cannot sell on a garage sale, so they continue to take up storage space. How could I sell my son's Little League baseball bat? I couldn't. Too many memories. Or my daughter's ice skates, golf shoes or baton. No. Can't sell them either. The bronzed baby shoes. Awfully sentimental. But which child's are they? I know I have six pairs of old dress shoes, mostly run down at the heel, but I'm saving them for yard work in my old age. And what about that perfectly usable pair of double-knit polyester slacks? I know they are beginning to shred as though a cat had sharpened its claws repeatedly on each knee. But my, they're comfortable, even though my kids tend to break out in hives when they come near those old slacks. Nope!

Can't sell those items on my garage sale. There are also things I know won't sell on a garage sale, but I collect them anyway. I counted 12 old 'D' batteries, some of which are leaking, but I intend to buy a battery charger any day now. I have 15 or 20 used tooth brushes. You never know when you might run out, or you may need a small brush to get the accumulated lint out of cracks in the linoleum, or even some lint out of your belly-button! Those old magazines and condensed books won't sell, but I need them for future research. I'm just not sure what or when. My old 'shag' bag with a couple dozen balata golf balls full of slices and cuts won't sell. But it's just as well. I'll need them when I build an indoor driving range in my garage. Probably next year.

I won't even go into the list of things I sold last year at my garage sale and then bought them back at the neighbor's garage sale a few months later. It seems to me that nothing old or used ever leaves the neighborhood. These items just get passed from garage sale to garage sale, eventually ending up with the original owner, who didn't want to sell them anyway.

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