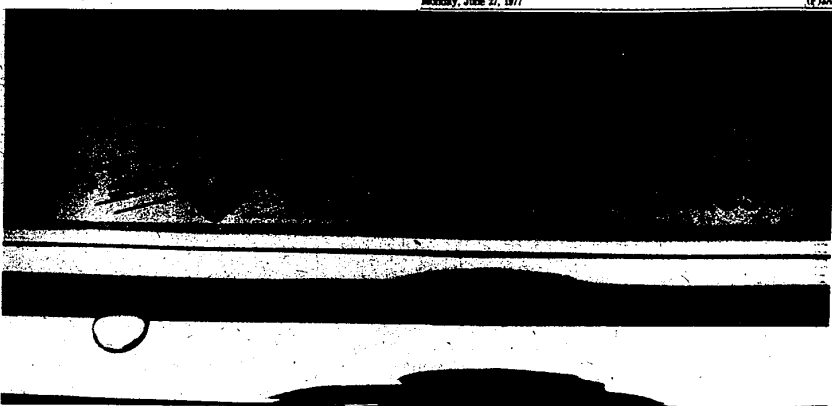




Colorful odds and ends, like this rack of shoes, make garage sales great spectator sports. Maybe pointed toes and spike heels will return to fashion?



Garage sale fanatics can be easily identified. They stop at the first sign of a sale. Here a fan proclaims his loyalty through a bumper sticker. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

# Bargains are parked in garages

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

It's summertime and the selling's easy—if homeowners want to jump on the garage sale bandwagon. From small yardsales to elaborate produc-

tion numbers sponsored by entire subdivisions, the garage sale has replaced the ice cream man as a harbinger of warm weather.

Cruising the garage sales can be an excuse to get out of the house, a chance to catch that once-in-a-lifetime bargain or it may be a full-blown addiction that demands constant attention.

"I'm an addict," giggled Gail Coykendall of Farmington Hills as she browsed through a rack of clothes at Anna Mae Gemmill's sale.

"I can't miss one. If I'm driving down the street and I see one, I have to turn in," she said.

One of the reasons she's nurtured her addiction is the high cost of clothing her growing nine-year-old daughter Kerri.

"I GET MY daughter's clothes at garage sales. The prices are so good. I tell my friends with children that it's the only way to go," she said as Kerri went off to buy some sea shells.

Kerri's pink and white pantsuit was purchased the day before at another sale. A ski jacket and a leather-like coat with a hood also were added to Kerri's wardrobe through her mother's garage sale acumen.

"I don't buy anything junky. If it doesn't look good, I don't buy it," Mrs. Coykendall said. Her efforts have been rewarded

with huge savings. Last year, a resident who was moving to Georgia parted with a handmade ski sweater with a roll collar for \$3. The price was a mere pittance, according to Mrs. Coykendall.

"You can't touch it in the stores for \$50," she said.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the Gemmill garage, browsers were looking over such items as clocks, a lighted make-up mirror, a polaroid camera, ashtrays, flowers, home made bread and jewelry made by Chuck Gemmill, who does part-time lapidary work.

WHILE SOME come in serious search for bargains, others prefer to browse and leave.

One area matron has been looking at other people's garage sale treasures for 10 years.

"If I see something I like, I buy it," is her sale philosophy.

Sales also give homemakers a chance to get a change of scenery while comparing the sale goods to the ones they already own.

"It sometimes makes you thankful for what you have," said Violet Cevy, of West Bloomfield, who uses the sales as a chance to get out of the house for an afternoon.

As she shuffled through the offerings of a Farmington Hills garage sale, she recalled a few special buys. "There was a free box at one ga-

rage sale and the man said that anyone who wanted to take the trouble to go through it could. You could send the things to the company for repairs or they could send you a new one. I picked up a battery-operated letter opener. When I got home I discovered that it needed to batteries.

"It works now," she said.

ANOTHER OF Mrs. Cevy's memorable buys was the recent purchase of \$2 type writer in "excellent" condition. An adding machine with a tape was a steal at \$4.

Her secret to garage sale happiness is discretion.

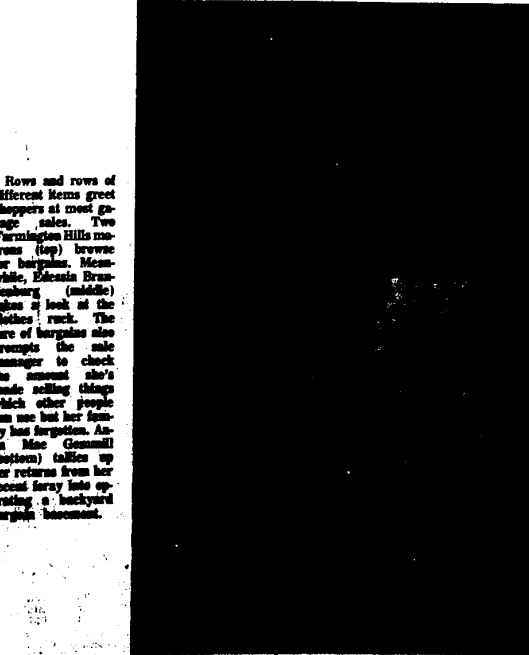
"I don't buy anything and I don't buy clothing," she said.

Surveying the quiet scene of thoughtful persons casting cold and calculating eyes toward their former treasures are the garage sale managers. Prompted by an overcrowded basement and lured by the prospect of getting a few extra dollars, they weed out old items and wait for the world to beat a path to their garage.

This was Mrs. Gemmill's first attempt at a garage sale that was operated without the aid of a friend or relative.

"My sons and daughters had things they wanted to get rid of but they don't have attached garages. I said I'd stick it in my garage, but I want-

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Rows and rows of different items greet shoppers at most garage sales. Two Farmington Hills matrons (top) browse for bargains. Meanwhile, Edna Brundage (middle) takes a look at the clothes rack. The lure of bargains also prompts the sale manager to check the amount she's made selling things which other people can use but her family has forgotten. Anna Mae Gemmill (bottom) talks up her return from her recent foray into operating a backyard bargain basement.



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