



Adam Stallworth displayed the bench press machine that his parents had for sale at their yard sale Friday.

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Benton Stokes relaxes in his chair as he looks on those who have come to Anna Wynn's yard sale Friday on US 25.

Yard sales: bargains galore and a visit with the neighbors

"All women love a bargain,"
Joyce Bullen

Warm Saturday afternoons in mid-April, when the trees begin to bud and look like fuzzy pastel paintings, tend to lead even the average Joe out -- away from the television -- into the family car for a drive.

Often, these Saturday afternoon strollers begin their jaunt with no destination in mind. A simple drive through the country is mental relaxation for anyone, until they see the sign: Yard Sale.

Instant alarm. There's no one on the road more dangerous to follow than the person who's out for a drive and happens upon a Yard Sale sign. It's as if a stop sign suddenly appeared out of nowhere. The driver parks the car somewhere along the road and treks over to the card tables, pick-up trucks and front porch steps that are piled high with everything from stone-washed Levis to the little souvenir every child gets at least once in a lifetime: the water-filled, plastic object that snows inside when you turn it upside-down.

Those of you who are not avid yard sale goers, listen carefully, because humanity may one day depend on yard sales. Okay, maybe it won't be that drastic, but nevertheless, the resale of items people no longer care to keep is a form of recycling.

One man's trash is another man's treasure. If you don't believe that, ask Melba Kemp, who helped her daughter, Joy Kirby, in her yard sale last Friday. "One woman came in here today looking for shirts for her husband," said Melba. "You can buy a shirt that's still in good shape for \$1-\$2 at a yard sale, but you pay a lot

more at K-Mart or someplace like that."

According to Melba, this year's big sellers include anything pertaining to a baby and blue jeans, but what-nots are out. "I guess people are just being more careful about how they spend their money now with the economy like it is," she said.

Sue Mink shares the feeling as she bargains hunted at Anna Wynn's sale Friday looking for baby clothes. "Yard sales are a lot cheaper," she said. "I have a four month old baby girl who I plan on clothing this summer from yard sales."

When comparing yard sales with large department stores, there's one characteristic that is undebatable. Yard sales are relaxed, enjoyable and have no long waits in check-out lines that are fully equipped with state-of-the-art scanners which are supposed to automatically ring in the price of each item -- but it generally takes the third try. Now would you really miss that?

Most department stores boast of friendly service and a smile, but now come on. When you're standing in line at K-Mart, the one you've been standing in for almost 15 minutes because the cashier can't seem to get approval from the manager on a check from the man in front of you, you know that check-out lady has to be frustrated, too. By the time she gets to you, just how bright is that friendly smile? It's not her fault. If you were shopping at a yard sale or even the small, local store in your town, you wouldn't have to endure all the red tape of "big time business."

Maybe the best advantage of yard sales over the department stores is this: when you bring along the kids, you do not have to contend with having your children throwing a

tantrum in the middle of the store because they want a pack of Big League Chew and you don't want them to have it.

Generally, when you go to a yard sale, if you don't already know someone there, you will before it's all over. You almost always find an odd piece of china or something that, for some reason, looks familiar to you. When the person having the sale notices your admiration of the piece, a conversation usually begins.

You will probably find out that the china belonged to a grandmother or some close relative, and low and behold, after a few more minutes of conversation, you learn that you're probably related. And that's where you knew that china from. But the point is, these sales not only offer good merchandise at low prices, but service that is genuinely friendly.

Why support big business anyway? In large corporations, as we all have heard, the money goes to buy administrators million dollar luxury yachts while the average Joe,

who works the assembly line and just wants to take a Saturday cruise around town, has to watch every dime to afford gasoline for his car. Supporting yard sales is a good, sound, domestic investment -- that keeps our money right here in our own town.

Five and dime, small town America, is losing the battle against the informal department stores, and the only defense is to choose where our

money is spent to benefit not only us, but the economy as a whole.

On the next warm weekend in Rockcastle County, don't rule out the possibility of taking the family car out for a drive to take advantage of the bargains. Not only will it help your pocket book, but you could gain a new relative or two.



Sue Mink, left, and Joyce Bullen looked puzzled at the gourd in Anna Wynn's yard sale merchandise. "People use them for decoration, bird houses, everything. You can paint them and they're really cute," said Anna.



Melba Kemp looks over the jeans at her daughter's, (Joy Kirby), yard sale. Jeans are a big seller this year, she said.



Everett Higgins, Jerusha Stallworth and their K-9 pals enjoyed the company and the warm weather this weekend as they visited with the bargain hunters.