

## **Let us tell you about ourselves:**

(This is long, but if you have time – we will tell you our story)

**Bear Market Consignment Sales** is owned and operated by Roger and Jill Halverson. Back in 1988, new parents of two beautiful little girls and living in Gillette, Wyoming – Roger and Jill found their lives changing.

Roger had done heavy equipment operating, plumbing, and electrical installations in the coal mines of Wyoming. In 1986 he was employed by Pacific Power and Light at a power plant in Gillette that operates on coal. This was a very good job with benefits – but did involve shift work of all hours and days.

At the time Jill was employed with Kerr McGee Coal operations at Clovis Point Mine and was working shift work all days and all hours.

Then Kerr McGee chose to close down the Clovis Point Mine and Jill lost her employment. It was at that time that she realized that living in the cold windy climate of Wyoming (where she was born and raised) was not where she wanted to spend the next 30 years paying off a mortgage and then retiring. Also, raising the children with both of them working shift work was not how they had hoped to raise their family.

Another very important part of this story is that Jill had become a saved Christian and was looking to the Lord for direction in their situation.

Jill suggested to Roger that they move where it is warmer, and where there are trees, water, and where there is no wind. He said he would leave his work if they could have their own business.

So, with the help of a weather atlas and then choosing from several options, Roger and Jill chose the Lake of the Ozarks area, sight unseen.

It was Jill's responsibility to find a business they could run, that would support their family, and without late nights and shift work. Her search involved lots of traveling, prayer, prayer, and more prayer. One day as she drove into the little community of Camdenton she felt a burst of energy and knew right then that this was where they were to be.

At first they looked into purchasing an existing business. But nothing seemed right. One day after returning to Gillette, Jill went shopping at her favorite store – Value Villa. She really enjoyed taking her little 2 and 3-year old daughters and letting them pick out their own clothes. They could choose any of the clothing on display. The girls loved wearing what they had picked out themselves. It was always fun. It occurred to Jill that operating a consignment store was a possibility.

Jill spoke with the owners of Value Villa and they agreed to train Jill how to run a consignment service (for a fee, of course).

The first location of Bear Market was on North 5, just one block from the square now the location of Arrow Mart Furniture. There was only 2,000 square feet available, but it was a start. (At that time there was a NAPA auto parts store and a CPA accountant also using space in the building).

Roger helped move Jill and the children to Camdenton. He built shelves and racks and then left for Wyoming. It was his income that would support the family until the business was successful (they hoped). Occasionally Roger would visit from Wyoming – about once every 3 months or so. And, it was 2 long years before Bear Market had enough cash flow for the family to reunite.

It was in 1992 that they obtained a lease on the building they are presently in, on West Highway 54. There was 12,000 square feet available at that time and that was when Bear Market really grew. The building had been vacant for a long time, there were broken windows, dead birds and cats in the back. The East end of the building was later vacated by other tenants and the roof on that side leaked badly. Then the grocery store next door went out of business, leaving Bear Market alone in the shopping center. The building, with its leaking roofs was for sale.

God does provide – it is amazing to look back and realize just how much of the roof leaked, but Bear Market - a little box in the middle of the center - didn't leak. The merchandise was always safe from harm. Then a new landlord purchased the building, fixed the roof, and let Bear Market expand another 8,000 square feet. This was good.

A few years later, the building sold again, and Bear Market was allowed to expand. Another 10,000 square feet was bringing the total to approximately 30,000, which is the present size. This new landlord resurfaced the front of the building with stucco, and paved the parking lot which really blessed Bear Market again.

We were able to have our family around the table at night for evening meals, and we went to the kids' school programs and have the life we dreamed of. So, here we are. Bear Market will be 20 years old March 1, 2008. Our children are grown and moving away.

We have 9 full-time employees, and 4 part-time employees. We pay them more than the minimum wage. We want them to be happy and healthy, to the best a re-sale store can supply. Bear Market is very proud to let anyone who is interested (and who have read this far) know of all the charities we are able to support. We want our customers to know that their money spent at Bear Market is not making some stingy person rich, but instead, is being used to benefit many needs around the Lake of the Ozarks.

All clothing and shoes, many books, toys, and other items that are brought to Bear Market, but do not sell, are donated to Springfield Victory Missions. The baby and maternity clothing is donated to the Pregnancy Crisis centers in the lake area. All donations are strictly given to non-profit organizations or to fire victims in the immediate area.

These are local charities we support – many every month:

Child Advocacy Council  
Camden Christian School  
Hope House  
KCVO Christian Radio  
Lamb House  
Orion Center  
Ozarks Habitat for Humanity  
Woman to Woman ministry

Camdenton Fire Dept – pups  
Camdenton Chamber of Commerce  
Lake Regional Hospital Foundation  
Pregnancy Help Center  
Lake Family Church  
Ozark Food Harvest  
Show-Me Youth home

These are charities we help outside of the community – mostly 1 or 2 times per year, but a few of these are monthly too:

American Bible Assoc.	Police and Sheriff associations (varied)
American Heart Assoc.	Alzheimer's Disease Research
American Center for Law and Justice	American Cancer Society
American Red Cross	Christian Coalition
Crown Financial Ministries	Children's Miracle Network
Christian Motorcyclists	Concerned Women of America
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation	Doctors without Borders
Easter Seals	Feed the Children
Find the Children	Focus on the Family
Guiding eyes for the Blind	Kidwish USA
March of Dimes	Muscular Dystrophy Association
Missouri Vietnam Veterans	Firefighting – local Camdenton
Operation Smile	Operation Blessing
Sierra Club	Special Olympics
Springfield Victory Missions	St. Jude Hospital
Veterans of Foreign Wars	World Wildlife
Youth with a Mission	

Thank you for visiting our web site and reading our history.

Please come to Bear Market for shopping fun, and perhaps we can sell items for you too.