

The Time is Right!

Back in 2010, I decided I was going to get in shape, and I decided the best way to good health was to purchase an exercise machine. I reasoned, "Instead of paying the money to join a gym, I'll just order a 'home gym' instead. I can work out in the privacy of my own home, and I'll save money! It will be convenient, and private and blah, blah, blah..." I convinced myself to order this wonderful exercise machine. It really was a well-engineered piece of equipment!

As I recall, I paid a decent amount of money for the device. And I actually used it regularly for a while. But then... well, as exercise machines often do, this one ended up first as a nice conversation piece (one that needed dusting from time to time)... then it became a handy place to hang coats and wet socks... and later it ended up stored (and mostly forgotten) under a guest-room bed. And there the exercise machine stayed -- for years... I guess it had become a non-exercise machine.

A few days ago, I decided it was finally time to sell my special machine. I set the exerciser back up in all its glory, and I took a few pictures of it -- with all its accessories and instructions and DVDs set up around it. As I looked at it, I couldn't help but notice once again that it really was a well-engineered piece of equipment -- just a little dusty. A week or two went by and I kept putting off advertising it. "Oh, I'll get around to it," I said.

Finally, last night, I decided to put the exercise machine on Craigslist. I quickly wrote up an ad, inserted four of the best pictures, and posted it online -- it was probably about 10:30 pm when I finished. I put a decent "asking price" on it -- but I really expected someone to offer me much less. Out of curiosity, before I went to bed, I searched Craigslist for the phrase "exercise" and what seemed like hundreds of ads for every conceivable used exercise machine popped up for the local area. "This thing is probably never going to sell," I thought. As I went to bed I thought, "I'll probably have to try to sell this thing some other way."

I did not have to work today, so this morning I was puttering around the house, drinking coffee and trying to wake up. I was sitting on the front porch doing a little reading when -- to my surprise -- my cell phone started ringing! Who would call me this early in the morning? I didn't recognize the number. I don't always answer the phone from unfamiliar numbers, but today I decided I would -- and I'm glad I did!

An 84 year old gentleman in a nearby city saw my ad and wanted to look at my exercise machine! By 10:30 a.m. I had sold it for the full asking price! Strangely, out of all the hundreds of exercise machines out there, mine was apparently exactly what he was looking for!

I guess the time was right -- for him and for me! For me, it was finally time to sell. And for him, it was finally time to get in shape!

(Originally written: August 10, 2018)