



Gerry Gee

\$18,000 for dummy

By DOUG BUTTON
and MIKE EDMONDS

GERRY Gee, Australia's best known ventriloquist's dummy, was bought at auction yesterday for \$18,700.

Ventriloquist Ron Blaskett, 76, and Gerry separated permanently after 42 years together.

They had to part because Gerry's voice was changing.

Gerry Gee had been in a garage for two years while Blaskett battled with health problems that affected his voice.

Blaskett was very pleased with the sale.

"I wasn't at all concerned about letting him go, I'm not into collecting nostalgia."

"But today I did feel a little twitchy ..."

Blaskett and Gerry Gee were loved by Australian children in TV's early days.

At Leonard Joel's South Yarra auction rooms yesterday the doll followed the bidding from his own glass cabinet.

"Gerry and I last worked together two years ago," Blaskett said. "I think ... he was hoping the purchaser was a good-looking girl."

Sale fires ring rumor

AT least two lucky Melbourneans can look forward to highly memorable Christmas presents.

Two fine diamond rings were snapped up at the Leonard Joel jewellery auction on Monday night — one for \$160,000, the other for \$50,000.

And a delicious rumor is attached to the first, a heart shaped, 5.73-carat solitaire in a ring made by Tiffany of New York.

The rumor? That it once belonged to Lady (Susan) Renouf.

Who knows?

I can confirm, however, that despite the endearing shape of the bulky bauble, it did not belong to me.

submission to Unesco, describing it as an "offensive communication".

He was responding to the Democrats' spokeswoman on the environment, Senator Lyn Allison who asked whether bureaucrats had been told to assemble "dirt files"

Mr Howard said the development of the fabrika mine, which is within the World Heritage-listed Kakadu park, was "a marvelous example of the right balance between environmental protection and development".

and said a submission to Unesco's Aboriginals.

1000 jobs, \$12 billion in investment of the fabrika mine, which is within the World Heritage-listed Kakadu park, was "a marvelous example of the right balance between environmental protection and development".

World Sun December 1st 1998

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