

# Alaskan kids offer special souvenirs to cruise passengers

WRANGELL, Alaska (AP) — A mayor's gift of a mountainside of garnets to the children of this remote island town has turned two generations of its youngsters into industrious gem dealers.

Paper routes and lawn mowing provide small change compared to the \$1,000 or so a Wrangell child can earn each summer by hawking garnets to cruise ship passengers and other tourists.

Crowds of children meet almost every ship at the Wrangell waterfront, carrying their gems in everything from muffin tins to Tupperware. Some stand shyly and depend on tourists' curiosity to draw customers, but most warble, "Wanna buy a garnet?"

Tourists pay a quarter for a pea-sized purple gem, \$20 or more for a golf ball-size garnet embedded in a chunk of the silvery schist from which it was chiseled.

The garnets come from a mountainside at the mouth of the Stikine River, on the mainland about nine miles from Wrangell.

The property was deeded to the Boy Scouts of America in 1962 by the late Fred Hanford, a former mayor of Wrangell, a town of about 2,100 in southeastern Alaska. Under the terms of the gift, only Boy Scouts and the children of Wrangell have rights to mine and sell the garnets.

In reality, garnet collecting is a back-kinking, knee-scraping, thumb-smashing chore that falls to the gem sellers' parents.

"I don't know what's more work, the kids' homework or selling garnets," says Kay Jabusch, one of the self-described "garnet moms" who accompany their children to the docks.

About every six weeks, Mrs. Jabusch and her husband, Jeff, pilot their river skiff through the shifting channels of the Stikine to reach the garnet ledge and replenish their sons' supplies. They lug pails, chisels and hammers up the quarter-mile trail that climbs to the garnet ledge.

A few stones can be screened from loose soil and rock next to



SEVEN-YEAR-OLD Jake Jabusch of Wrangell, Alaska, shows his wares to a cruise ship passenger at the foot of the ramp. The town's children have been selling the garnets from a nearby rock ledge for two generations.

a nearby stream. But most must be chiseled out of huge faces of rock.

Power tools and blasting are forbidden. Adults who want to go to the ledge are asked to buy a \$10 permit at the Wrangell Museum and turn over a portion of their take to the Boy Scouts. The Scouts also ask people to sign a liability-release form.

Old Wrangell newspapers say the ledge was mined from 1907 to 1923 by the Alaska Garnet Mining and Manufacturing Co. of Minneapolis, Minn., a company run by two sisters.

A geological study done in the 1940s says Wrangell garnets are superb for industrial uses such

as sandpaper, but that few become jewels. The garnets have quartz inclusions that cause them to fracture when cut. Most buyers want them as curiosity pieces, though some say they will try to set the stones.

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"I'm going to get mine polished for my granddaughter, for her 21st birthday," says Rhoda West of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

A North Carolina couple getting off the same ship bought garnets for their son, a geologist, and a New Mexico woman bought a garnet-studded rock for her mother's knickknack shelf.

Selling can be hard work. Children get up before dawn to meet early ferries and often stand in drenching rain to make their sales.

Watching her sons work the state ferry dock, Rynda Hayes explains why it's worthwhile for

Raymond, 7, and Ryan, 9.

"They want new bikes. They've always had secondhand, put-together bikes," says Hayes, who recalls selling garnets when she was their age.

The Jabusch boys bought their own tickets to Hawaii for this year's family vacation. Garnet moms also say their children don't ask for allowances and get better grades in math class after a summer of making change.

Many young garnet sellers have opened their own savings accounts, though in their minds, the "saving for college" angle is mostly a sales gimmick.

"Most people say they're

doing it for college, then they go buy a bike," says 11-year-old Mike Jabusch, confiding his sales secrets. Adds friend Toby Dow: "If it's for college, more people buy."

Toby, also 11, likes to tell people they can buy one garnet and get another free. Ten-year-old Bob Roppel has another sales tip: "Try to look sad."

The boys talk business over cups of hot cocoa at a dockside restaurant. One proposes lowering prices to boost everyone's sales, launching an earnest debate over whether the discount should be 50 cents or a quarter.

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Steve Corl is now employed as a supervisor for Kanareff Builders and works 40 hours per week. He provides support and counseling to friends who suffer from chronic pain and enjoys his new productive and fulfilling life.

The Great Lakes Pain Rehabilitation Program can help persons suffering from chronic pain due to back injury, arthritis, peripheral nerve damage, degenerative spine disease, and others.



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## Halloween rides, haunted houses

COLUMBUS — The 1988 Ohio Fall Calendar of Events is available free from the Ohio Department of Development's Division of Travel and Tourism. The Calendar is a comprehensive guide to travel activities and special events in Ohio through December.

Call 1-800-BUCKEYE for your copy.

### Events under way:

Through Oct. 27, "In Pursuit of Art Amid Difficulties," O.S.U. - Newark Campus  
Through Oct. 29, "Haunted" Halloween Rides, Buckeye Central Scenic Railroad, near Jacksontown  
Through Oct. 29, "Coppelia" by the Cleveland Ballet, State Theatre, Playhouse Square Center, Cleveland  
Through October 30 (C) All American Quarter Horse Congress Ohio State Fairgrounds, Columbus. World's largest show of its kind. English and western events, lectures, demonstrations, trade show. Hrs. 8 a.m.-11 p.m. A-\$10, C-\$5. Gen. adm. after 6 p.m., \$.50. Parking \$2.

Through October 30, weekends, (SE) Valley Gem Sternwheeler, Marietta.

Through Nov. 13, Ohio Valley & the Civil War, Southern Ohio Museum, Portsmouth.

Through Dec. 18, "Reflections: Woman's Self-Image in Contemporary Photography," Miami University Art Museum, Oxford  
Through Dec. 31, "Prehistoric Medicine," Cleveland Health Education Museum, Cleveland  
Through Jan. 8, "Omingnak: The Muskox," Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, Cincinnati

### Events beginning:

Oct. 25, Royal Ballet of Flanders, Mershon Auditorium, Columbus  
Oct. 25-Jan. 8, "Masterworks from Munich: 16th to 18th Century Paintings from the Alte Pinakothek, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati  
Oct. 25-Nov. 20, "Philadelphia, Here I Come!," Playhouse Theatre, Columbus, Columbus  
Oct. 26-30, Cleveland Ballet Fall Program, State Theatre, Playhouse Square Center, Cleveland

### Sunday trips

Oct. 27, "Salute to Nat King Cole" by John Hendricks & Company, Stambaugh Auditorium, Youngstown  
Oct. 27, Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Ohio State Fairgrounds, Columbus  
Oct. 27-29, Ghost Walk, Mahoning Avenue, Warren  
Oct. 27-29, BalletMet Repertory Performance, Ohio Theatre, Columbus and Cincinnati Ballet in "Rosalinda," Music Hall, Cincinnati  
Oct. 27-30, Farmers' Fall Festival, City Park, Chillicothe  
Oct. 27-Nov. 13, "Long Day's Journey into Night," Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Cincinnati  
Oct. 28, Stuttgart Radio Symphony, Denison University, Granville  
Oct. 28-29, Witches Walk, Franklin Park Conservatory & Garden Center, Columbus  
Oct. 28-30, Folk Festival, Kenyon College, Gambier  
Oct. 28-30, Halloween Campout, East Fork State Park, near Amelia  
Oct. 28-30, Pottery Show & Sale, Chagrin Falls (Twp. Hall)  
October 28 (NW) Stuttgart Radio Symphony Denison University, Granville. An 8 p.m. performance in Swasey Chapel with Sir Neville Marriner conducting.  
Oct. 29, "Best of Ohio" Championships, Beulah Park, Grove City  
Oct. 29, Bookfair, Aladdin Temple, Columbus  
Oct. 29, Halloween at Crabill Homestead, Buck Creek State Park, near Springfield  
Oct. 29, Ham & Bean Supper, Lake White State Park, near Waverly  
Oct. 29, Holiday House Craft Show, Holiday Inn, Lancaster  
Oct. 29, Woodcarver's Show and Butchering Day, Sauder Farm & Craft Village, Arehbold  
Oct. 29-30, Halloween Happenings, Cincinnati Zoo, Cincinnati  
Oct. 30, Cider Pressing, Carriage Hill Farm, Dayton  
Oct. 30, Auto Swap Meet, Medina County Fairgrounds, Media  
Oct. 30, Cleveland Orchestra, Oberlin College, Oberlin  
Oct. 30, King's Singers, Ohio Theatre, Columbus  
Oct. 30-Jan. 8, "Refigured Painting: The German Image 1960-1988," Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo

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