

GERRY GEE JUNIOR

- 'THAT RASCAL GERRY GEE'

Lynn S's husband has owned this Gerry Gee Junior ventriloquist's doll since the 1960s when he used to practice his ventriloquism on his younger brother and had hours of fun.

And he still has the original instructions.

Ventriloquist: a person, who can make their voice appear to come from somewhere else, usually a puppet-like figure (known as a 'dummy') of a person or animal.
The ventriloquist does not move their mouth or face so it appears that the 'dummy' is speaking.



How to make "GERRY GEE JUNIOR" talk

Place your hand inside "Gerry's" back and you will feel a ring (or lever), and pulling this gently will open "Gerry's" mouth. By moving the stick attached to his head you can turn him to the left or right.

Now to make "Gerry" talk, the first step is to practice in front of a mirror. Say simple sentences like — "Hello, how are you?" "Isn't it a nice day today" — and by pulling on "Gerry's" mouth control and answering in a smaller and higher voice than your own, get him to answer you.

When "Gerry" speaks back to you in the voice that you supply, look in the mirror at your lips and try and keep them stiff and unmoving. You will soon see that the letters, B, M, P, V and F are almost impossible to say without moving the lips. So try and avoid using words that contain these letters, and substitute words of a similar meaning. Later on when you have had plenty of practice you will be able to slur over these letters with a fake pronunciation that sounds like the original.

For instance "Please carry on Percy" would be said "Tlease carry on Tercy" (using a soft "T") and trying to make it sound as near as possible to the "P" but without moving your lips.

"Very interesting" would become "Therry interesting" and by constant practice you will soon become so good at substituting sounds that your audience won't detect the difference.

When "Gerry" is talking, make sure that he is "lively" and then his quick movements will draw all eyes from yourself.

To make "Gerry" appear to be speaking properly, don't forget to open his mouth once for each syllable of 'e word he is saying. Thus a word like "constr. tly" would require three pulls on the mouth lever.

If you are only a very young boy or girl, you may still make "Gerry" talk by hiding yourself behind a chair or settee, holding "Gerry" up to look over the top and then talking for him.

Think of the fun you'll be able to have giving concerts to all your friends. Who knows — when you are older you may be on the Stage or Television!

So go to it. Remember you can be a Ventriloquist, and Gerry Gee Junior and I wish you every success.

Your Pal,

RON BLASKETT.

L. J. STERNE DOLL CO.

PHONE: 34-4314

Credits:

Images courtesy Lyn S and Coburg Historical Society.

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Gerry Gee Junior and ventriloquist Ron Blaskett made regular appearances on GTV Channel 9's popular children's show, the Tarax Show, in the late 1950s and into the 1960s. Those were the early days of television in Australia when everything came to us in black and white and not every household had a television. The Tarax Show was a highlight of the day and ran for an hour every weekday afternoon.



Click on the image to read more about the Tarax Show.

[Home](#) [Tarax Show Memories](#) [Christmas Panto's Year By Year](#) [Tarax Show Blog](#)

And you can read Ron Blaskett's memories of Gerry Gee and the Tarax Show here:

<http://taraxshow.info/tarax-show/memories/tarax-ron>

Museums Victoria provides information on Gerry Gee Junior's heyday and the L.J. Sterne Doll Company that made the dolls at: <https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/articles/2944>

Ron Blaskett had been a popular ventriloquist for many years before Gerry Gee Junior came along. Here's a photograph of him at Coburg Lake Reserve around 1938 with his doll 'Willie Ross'. You can tell how popular they were by the number of children crowding around them.



And now it's your turn. Here are some very simple instructions on the basics of ventriloquism.

<http://www.pocketsfulloffun.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/BeeBo-tri-fold-BW.pdf>

Start with something simple like a sock puppet. (You can try these instructions. And don't be afraid to make your own variations! <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Sock-Puppet> or here: <https://youtu.be/OVTrfFs2EXc> There are many other instructions on the internet, so you're bound to find some that suit you.)

Now it's your turn to experiment with being a ventriloquist. Give it a go! Create your own show and entertain your family!

Have you made your own sock puppet? If so, why not send us a photo of your creation. Send it to office@historyvictoria.org.au

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