



# Japanese Glass Floaters Enhance ASCAP Funds

A glass is a glass is a glass ball—maybe.

Japanese fishermen plying Alaska waters use glass ball floaters, covered with hemp twine, on their deep-sea nets.

Americans and Canadians use cork floats.

Apparently the Japanese aren't worried about the cost of their floats (labor is cheap in Japan), the way the glass is breaking loose and washing up on lonely southwestern Alaska beaches.

Witnesses say "thousands" of the floaters, loose from their nets, are laying scattered up and down the Alaska peninsula.

What is soup for geese, though, may well be sauce for ganders.

One man in southwestern parts of the state cashing in on what the Japanese fishermen apparently value so little is Orin Seebert, of the Peninsula Flying Service at Pilot's Point.

But it wasn't for a personal cash-in that Seebert and a friend flew out to some of the lonely beaches. The two gathered 4,000 of the glass relics in a little over four hours.

It was for, he hoped, the Native people of the state. The glass balls are now selling for \$1.50 each and 3 for \$5.00 in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau.

Tourists are buying them as souvenirs of the 49th state and Alaskans themselves are grabbing at the glass to just sit them on fireplace mantles as conversation pieces.

In Anchorage, one concern recently bought 3,000 of the relics—all that the Anchorage sellers had on hand.

What the new owners plan to do with the glass balls nobody knows—but the money went for a good cause.

The money is going to ASCAP—Alaska's statewide community action group—to help keep the state's poverty war rolling.

Leaders of ASCAP had until today, September 16, to work raising \$9,600 in local matching funds to a \$96,000 OEO federal grant.

They made it before the deadline.

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# *Japanese Glass Floaters Help . . .*

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Without the local matching, the federal funds could not have been granted. With it, ASCAP will be able to set up an administrative staff to manage such OEO programs as the new Winter Head Start, Grass Roots, and the Legal Aid Society.

Without the administrative "head," poverty programs in the 49th state would not have been able to get going this year despite the critical need.

The glass balls helped, though. ASCAP leaders, Ralph Perdue in Fairbanks, President, and Al Fothergill, Executive Director, were just about ready to try selling anything in the effort to raise the local money, they said.

Meanwhile back in Pilot's Point, bush pilot Orin Seebert isn't telling just which of the isolated beaches he got his haul of glass from.

There are problems connected with getting them, (getting there is half the fun) and once you have them, getting the glass balls out to a city and a market presents more difficulty. The floaters are bulky, though light.

And although the glass is there for anybody's taking, Orin hopes their isolated locations might discourage get-rich-quickers from the cities coming out to gather the glass.

He would rather see, he says, Native people in the area picking up the relics and selling them through, possibly, a cooperative association.