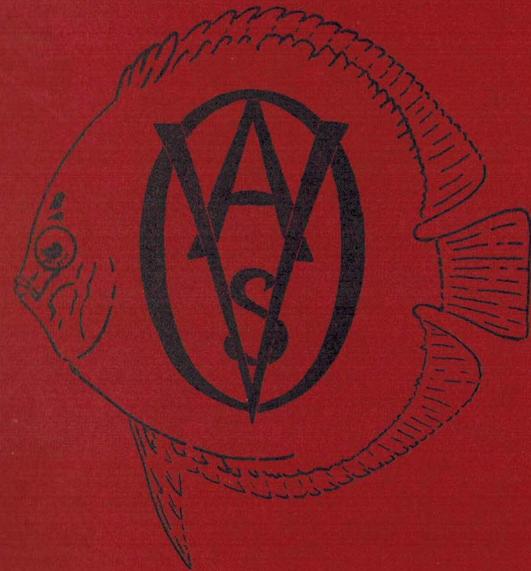


# OVAS NEWS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

OTTAWA VALLEY  
AQUARIUM SOCIETY



OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY  
OTTAWA 3,  
ONTARIO, CANADA



Christmas is another page  
In our Memory Book of Cheer  
A page of happy memories  
To carry through the year.

And in that Book of happy thoughts  
An in each chapter, too,  
May there be a special Story  
Of the best in life for You!

THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY  
1958 Officers and Directors

Senior Society Officers

President: Mr Harvey Wittenberg  
Vice-Pres: Mrs Clare Kroeger  
Secretary: Mrs Barbara Johnson  
Treasurer: Mr Dan Jeffrey

Senior Society Directors

Finance: Mr Phil Curry  
Membership: Mr Ralph Jackson  
Programme: Mr Roger Trottier  
Show: Mr Geo Bowle  
Magazine: Mr Harvey Wittenberg  
Junior Soc:

Senior Society Librarian

Mr Gordon Croll

Junior Society Officers

President: Gary Zumar  
Vice-Pres: Pierre Gagnon  
Secretary: Patsy Fitzgerald  
Treasurer: Fred Gault

Junior Society Directors

Finance: John Auer  
Membership: Andrew Carson  
Programme: Chipper Vickers  
Show: Richard Brown  
Magazine: Joe Marshall

Junior Society Librarians

Joe Marshall  
Larry Neumann

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY CONSULTANTS

Area No 1 Mr Edgar Parisien  
Area No 2 Mr Geo Bowle  
Area No 3 Mr Ken Craig  
Area No 4 Mr Jack Dirks

TIFAS REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Edgar Parisien



It's such a happy season  
That comes around each year,  
With its mistletoe and holly  
And best of all - Good Cheer!

And were glad because it brings again  
The time to wish for you  
A very Merry Christmas  
And a Happy New Year, too!

Executive Officers and  
Directors, Junior and  
Senior Society.

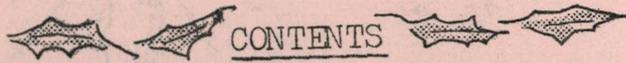
THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

MEETINGS

Junior Society  
Thursday, January 15th, 1959 ... 7.00 PM  
Thursday, February 19th, 1959 ... 7.00 PM

Senior Society  
Thursday, January 22nd, 1959 ... 8.00 PM  
Thursday, February 26th, 1959 ... 8.00 PM

Regular meetings are held in the CHEMISTRY BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA, ROOM 37, 365 NICHOLAS STREET, OTTAWA.



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ARE YOU DOING YOUR PART TO MAKE THE 1959 RAFFLE A SUCCESS?

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

1959 OFFICERS



SENIOR SOCIETY

PRESIDENT: Mrs Clare Kroeger Phone: [redacted]  
[redacted], Ottawa, 2.

VICE-PRES: Mr Roger Trottier Phone: [redacted]  
[redacted], Ottawa 1.

SECRETARY: Mrs Barbara Johnson Phone: [redacted]  
[redacted], Ottawa 1.

TREASURER: Mr Phil Curry Phone: [redacted]  
[redacted], Ottawa 3.

JUNIOR SOCIETY

PRESIDENT: Ian Woods Phone: [redacted]  
[redacted], Ottawa 3.

VICE-PRES: Patsy Fitzgerald Phone: [redacted]  
[redacted], Apt [redacted], Ottawa 2.

SECRETARY: Graham Conway Phone: [redacted]  
[redacted], Ottawa 1.

TREASURER: Richard Brown Phone: [redacted]  
[redacted], Ottawa 3.

The Executive Officers will need our support so let us do all we possibly can.

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY

THE AQUARIST'S CALENDAR  
"The Aquarium"

DECEMBER - We have now reached the beginning of a long season in which we cannot freely do some of the things that were proper to do in summer. One of them has to do with adding fresh water to the aquarium. In the warmer months in some localities it is safe to replace up to 25% of aquarium water with water direct from the tap. This would now be dangerous. It should be seasoned at least 24 hours before use. Preferably it should be drawn hot. The heat speeds the elimination of noxious gases, especially of chlorine. Naturally the seasoning should take place in a vessel which could have no bad effect on water. Two of the most common dangerous containers are galvanized iron and new wooden buckets or tubs. The drawn water seasons more readily if air can be pumped into it.

Some aquarists imagine that the elimination of surplus air from new water is the reason for seasoning it. This is not true. An unknown ripening action continues which makes the water better for fishes. Water which is fresh or only partially seasoned develops a decidedly unpleasant smell after a few days' use by fishes. A week's seasoning in winter is none too long. One of our most successful aquarist maintains a succession of glass gallon jugs, so that no water is used before it has stood a month.

Keep a close watch on your plants these days. If they are not thriving, either remove them or see that the aquarium gets more light. It should be remembered that dying leaves not only are no benefit, but are an actual detriment.

AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

PRESIDENT'S LETTER  
Senior Society

At this time last year I reported that we had made great progress in our Society. Once again I am able to make the same report but in addition I can also say that we have shattered all previous records in membership, attendance, shows, programmes and finances. We have had a great year and one that every officer, director and member can be very proud of.

Our 1958 record breaking year can be attributed to an all out effort on the part of our Vice-President, Mrs Clare Kroeger, Secretary Mrs Barbara Johnson, Treasurer Mr Dan Jeffrey, our Directors Mr Phil Curry, Mr Roger Trottier, Mr Geo Bowie, Mr Ralph Jackson, Mr Pieter van der Brugh and our Librarian Mr Gordon Croll. Last but not least our members who served on the various committees.

I particularly would like to mention our Programme Committee members, Mr Wilf Doucette, Mr Heinz Kroeger, Mr John Randall, Mr Weldon Hodges and Mr Doug Young, also the members who served the refreshments at our meetings - we can say that the shattering of records in the Society for 1958 is largely due to the great efforts of this committee which was headed by Mr Roger Trottier.

Having had the pleasure of working with the 1959 officers, Mrs Clare Kroeger, President; Roger Trottier, Vice-President; Mrs Barbara Johnson Secretary and Mr Phil Curry Treasurer, I know that our Society is in the best of hands and that we can look forward to a great year for the Society. However, you must remember, the elected officers can only do so much and that the Directors, members of the committees and the membership, will be required to carry

(Cont'd page 8)

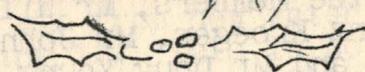
out the various duties and assist the elected officers.

I would like to mention that our Junior Society Officers have also done a great job. Such officers as Gary Zumar, Fred Gault and Joe Marshall have worked very hard in the four years of their Society. I am sorry to say that they will be leaving the Junior Society, however, the Junior Society loss is the Senior Society gain for I understand that they will be members of the Senior Society in 1959.

Although I will not be serving on the Executive you will still hear from me as I will be carrying on as the Editor of our OVAS News for the next year.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone for their fine efforts during the year and wish you  
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS WITH THE BEST OF  
HEALTH AND GOOD LUCK IN THE NEW YEAR.

*Harvey J. Wittenberg*  
(Harvey J. Wittenberg)



THE COMMUNITY AQUARIUM

by Mr Edgar Parisien, Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society (Senior Society).

We all have our own opinion in regards to beauty. Now I am not thinking of our choice of mates or the homes we live in, but rather of the community aquarium.

Most aquarists maintain a community aquarium and strive to make it a beautiful show piece, yet every aquarium is different.

I will try and tell you what I believe is the perfect community aquarium which I hope may assist you in some way.

I think a community aquarium should be as large as one can afford. Gravel should

(Cont'd page 9)

never be RED, GREEN, BLACK or BLUE and above all never WHITE. It should be the hardest most natural coloured gravel possible. Natural gravel is a very common substance which has no substitute.

Rocks or stones, having no sharp edges, should match the gravel as close as possible.

Plants should be chosen for height to match the height of the aquarium. For instance, giant sagittaria in a tank twelve inches high would be out of the question because it grows three feet high and can not stand out of water, therefore, would circle several times around the surface before turning brown and dying.

Several kinds of plants should be chosen but not too many because when they start multiplying, the tank will then be overcrowded.

Now that we have the necessary components one should plan to set them up in such a way to give the best possible appearance. Here again, each to his or her own artistic taste.

Now that the aquarium is ready we come to the choice of fish which is of great importance.

One should plan as to whether the aquarium is to contain small or large community fish. The point I would like to impress you with is that there is no place in a small fish community for angel fish, astyanax mexicana, or any of the large cichlids. When I say small fish I mean fish that will not grow large enough to bully or eat his neighbours. If you decide to establish a large fish community then leave out the small fish.

Now that this is settled we should think of colour. We should try and populate the tank with fish having as much colour as possible, not to mention the addition of a few oddities such as catfish, a loach or flounder, etc.

Fish habit is something that should be  
(Cont'd page 10)

considered. For instance, Neons usually stay near the bottom of the aquarium, White Clouds stay near the top and Zebras are everywhere. One should strive for a picture where there is some activity at all levels at all times.

I hope I have put my point across.  
Good Luck.

Edgar J. Parisien.

" DICKSON'S PET SHOP "

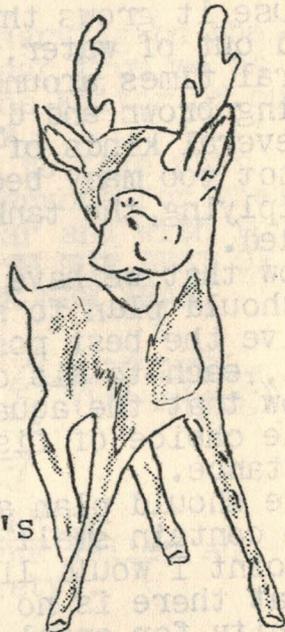
A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year to all my friends in the Senior and Junior Society.

Mrs W. Dickson.

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR RARE FISH, PLANTS, AQUARIUMS, FISH FOOD AND ACCESSORIES - you are sure to find that Christmas gift at Dickson's

PHONE CE2-7586

DICKSON'S PET SHOP, 190 BANK STREET.



"Oh, boy!" cried the Russian Genius, who had somehow come into possession of an American mail-order catalog. "Look at all these wonderful new things to invent!"

Psychologists say a hysterical girl is most efficiently quieted by a firm kiss". "And do they say how to get them hysterical?"

MICROWORMS

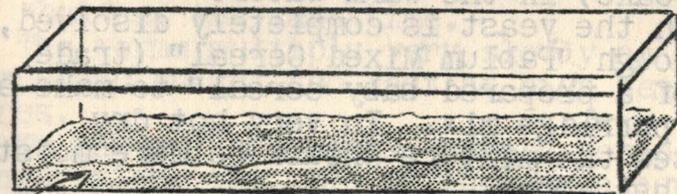
by Vera Wold, "The Tropical Breeze", The San Diego Tropical Fish Society, U.S.A.

These are a fine food for the newly born babies of the live bearers and a secondary food for the egg-layer babies. These worms are very easy to raise and maintain, if you will take the time to obtain the proper equipment. I've kept a continuous supply of microworms going for over two years without obtaining any new cultures. During that time we moved from the West Coast to the East Coast. The indoor temperatures varied from 60°F to 100°F.

The main thing is to give them the food they require and a fairly good-sized container in which to grow. The small containers in which you usually receive the initial culture is not large enough for good reproduction. They will grow in those small containers but you'll get far superior results by using containers that are at least twice as large. It is a good idea to have at least two containers (as shown in Fig A)

Fig. A

Covered plastic food container



Pablum cereal, water, and yeast. Plus a "start" of microworms.

on hand to start with. The containers as shown, are the size of a two pound cheese loaf. Any similar size will do as long as they are about 2-½ inches deep, and covered.

(Cont'd page 12)

"It costs no more to have it done right"



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The Fountain of Youth for Pianos.

Clear, hard plastic seems best. They should be food containers as some plastics are poisonous to fish, but all plastics used in food containers for humans are safe for our little finny pets. Glass containers do not work as well for some reason unknown to me. As soon as you obtain a microworm culture (either from a friend or at an aquarium shop) you should prepare one of the containers in the following manner:

Use Mom's measuring cup for 4-ounces of lukewarm water.

Dissolve 1-package of Dry Yeast (or one Yeast Cake) in the warm water.

When the yeast is completely dissolved, add enough "Pablum Mixed Cereal" (trade name of a prepared baby cereal" to make a thick porridge mix. In very hot dry climates the mixture should be more moist, or rather soupy.

Dump this mixture into the plastic food container and spread fairly evenly along the bottom. (see Fig A).

Now add a goodly portion of the worms from the worm culture. If no worms have climbed up the sides of the worm culture container, take a teaspoonful of the culture itself and spread on top of your

(Cont'd page 13)

pablum mixture.

Now place the cover on the container and keep it covered at all times except when you are harvesting worms. The more worms you add at the start, the more quickly you will be able to harvest some.

The container with the worms should be kept in a warmish location. 75°F. to 80°F. seems ideal. Don't place the container in the sun.

So far we've used only one container. That was for a purpose.

One week after preparing the first culture, you should prepare a second culture in the same way. In that way you should have worms producing steadily.

The worms will only multiply fast when the culture is fairly new. After about 2 or 3 weeks the pablum mixture will gradually turn dark and the odor from it will change from a sour, yeasty smell to a putrid stink. That's your warning that it's time to start a new culture. Then all you do is wash the goop out of the container and do a repeat of the foregoing instructions, and take your "start" of worms from the second container that you "set up". By alternating "set up" dates, both worm cultures can't go "bad" at the same time.

The worms multiply very slowly at cool temperatures and too fast at high temperatures.

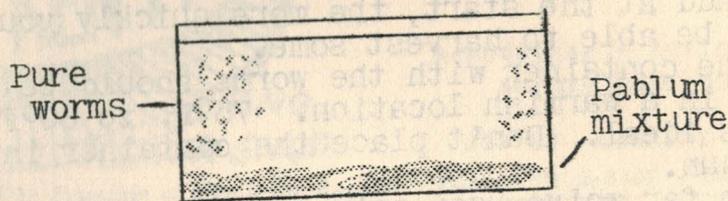
To harvest the worms, merely scrape your finger along the side of the container and lift out the worms that stick to it. If you don't care to use your lily white finger for this purpose a tooth pick works quite well. Dip finger or tooth pick with worms adhering into the tank containing the baby fish and the worms will fall off into the water to be devoured hungrily by said babies.

Be very careful not to dip up any of the pablum mixture when you are harvesting

(Cont'd page 14)

the worms. The pablum mixture will foul your tank if any of it gets into the water.

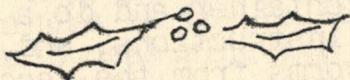
Fig B.



(pure worms crawl out of the pablum mixture and up the sides of the plastic container).

These tiny worms seem to live until eaten so they won't polute the tank by dying.

Fish up to the size of Neon Tetra love this delectable live food. Larger fish will try to eat them too, even though they don't seem to be able to see them too well.



IN MY OPINION

by Mr Edgar Parisien, Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society, Senior Society.

This is the time of year when most hobbyists spend more time on their favoured pastime. The aquarium fan should start from the beginning and reset their aquaria. Trim off all bad leaves from the plants and throw away any plant that has bad roots. Clean the gravel and do a general clean up. If you have too many plants don't throw them away until you are sure that no one else could make use of them.

In my opinion we can derive more pleasure from spawning fish at this time of year

(Cont'd page 15)

because we can put in more time in observing what goes on.

One favoured question which comes up often is concerning the keeping of a daphnia culture. In my opinion it is not worth the trouble, although it is not impossible. It does take up a lot of space to raise them on a practical scale. I have a washing machine tub and a refrigerator containing a fair culture. Even this is only sufficient to handle the needs of three or four small fish.

A good culture of white worms (Emchytraeus Albidus) or micro-worms (Anguillula Silusiae) are much more practical. My opinion as to the value of micro-worms is quite different to Axelrods for I believe them to be better than brine shrimp.

I think this is a good time to suggest to anyone that is keeping problem fish and require soft water that snow can be used to advantage. Melt the snow (clean snow) in a large container (none metallic) and let stand for a week to percipitate any cloudiness. Bring to the right temperature and then add to the aquarium.

In closing I would like to say that I have enjoyed writing "In My Opinion", and hope that what I have had to say during the year as been of some help to you. This is my last article on this subject and sincerely hope to see someone else carry it on during 1959.

WHEN YOU ARE BUYING YOUR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS  
REMEMBER OUR ADVERTISERS

- Aladdin Pet Shop - Otto Flegel
- Dickson's Pet Shop - Mrs W Dickson
- West End Pet Shop - Ken Craig
- Piano Repair Shop - Ken Parisien
- Aquarium Stock Company - Tropical
- Fish Handbook Catalog.



HAVE YOU HEARD  
THE LATEST?

...the Senior Society  
welcomes 4 new members  
Miss Michelle Allard,  
Mr Roy Bannister and  
Mr and Mrs RW Hughes.  
The Junior Society  
welcomes Carl Aass,  
David Little and Jack  
Skuce...

...the Colorado Aquarist have a good one...  
"Curried Plecostomus" is considered the  
delicacy of all delicacies on the island of  
Trinidad; For those of you who are plan-  
ning a trip to Trinidad, I am sure that  
this bit of invaluable information will  
simply devastate you!...we also read that  
...Japanese Live-Bearing Snails, when  
french-fried, taste like popcorn. This  
bit of information will no doubt create a  
panic among all Japanese Live-Bearing  
Snails, to say nothing of what it will do  
to the popcorn industry!...

...a suggestion of the Junior Society  
President, Gary Zumar, to extend an in-  
vitation to the parents of the Junior  
members, turned out to be a great success  
and will most likely be an annual affair  
from now on...

...the Society now as a permanent mailing  
address - POST OFFICE BOX 1135...

...our best wishes go to a newly formed  
aquarium society in Pembroke, Ontario...  
Mr J.A. Lucas was elected President...

...Gerry Lalonde was a busy man at the  
December meeting...he kindly brought a  
large quantity of chocolates, candies  
(Cont'd page 17)

and nuts which were sold to the members at  
wholesale prices...our thanks Gerry...

...don't forget our new meeting place,  
Junior and Senior members...CHEMISTRY  
BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA, ROOM 37...

...see you next year

The "WEST END PET SHOP"  
wishes you a VERY  
MERRY CHRISTMAS and  
HAPPINESS IN THE NEW  
YEAR. Ken Craig.

For the ideal Christmas  
gift give TROPICAL  
FISH

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Food and Accessories  
all priced to meet  
your Christmas budget.



PHONE PA 9 - 2 0 5 7  
1108 Wellington Street, Ottawa.

The two cars met in a head-on collision.  
Both drivers got out and began to apologize  
profusely.

"I'm so sorry," said the woman, "It was  
all my fault."

"Not at all, madam," the man responded  
with gallantry, "I was to blame myself."

"But I was on your side of the road."

"That may be true, madam, but I am

(Cont'd page 18)

responsible for the accident. I saw you coming three blocks away and had plenty of time to turn down a side street."

PLANTS ARE A WATER TESTER

by Dale Fletcher, "Tank Talk", Midwestern Aquarist Club, Omaha, Nebraska, U.S.A.

As we proceed in our study of plants, we find more and more enlightening facts which we may have overlooked. Perhaps a very important use of plants is a water tester. No, I am not pulling anyone's leg! At anytime, when plants in your aquarium fail to do well, then I suggest the conditions are too poor to support marine life of any sort. There can always be an exception, but generally speaking, I believe my statement to be true. I should add, my references are based on studies of well known Ichthyologists in the tropical fish world.

Plants are more delicate than tropical fishes, and they are subject to unfavorable conditions more readily. If and when plants fade and die, you have some unfavorable elements in your aquarium.

The following are the most common problems of the amateur aquarist: Excess of hard or soft water, excess of alkaline or acid water, or too much or too little light. I would like to mention also in regards to lighting that in some ways it can have very definite effects on your fish. Practically all living things require a certain percentage of light in order to look healthy and be healthy. I cannot knowingly say it would be fatal to your fish, yet, I leave this thought with you, too much light in some cases causes over heating of water and thus death is the results, (usually from the

(Cont'd page 19)

sun), also it is now believed that too much light can induce sterility in fishes.

The first thing to know of your plants are the requirements of pH (alkaline or acid) and dH (hard or soft), in order to support them. Then take into consideration the conditions of the local water supply. For example, our water in Omaha is very hard and very alkaline. We would then select plants which do well in these conditions. Well known books and literature is easily obtained from local dealers, giving all types of plants and recommended conditions. Also, some of the more experienced aquarists in your community will gladly give suggestions of proven specimens in local water.

More advanced and experienced hobbyists sometimes use pH and dH kits to test water and remedy poor conditions. As a rule excellent conditions are maintained at neutral or half way, varying only two degrees (give or take a little). But, I warn you, these kits can cause more grief than good in the hands of inexperienced hobbyists. If you are successful with your plants leave well enough alone.

Another important item is hard water. A normal aquarium to which water is added frequently, in the course of evaporation, becomes hard due to condensation. The chemicals, which make the water hard, do not evaporate. So, when more water containing more chemicals is added the water becomes too hard for plants and fish. Remember, your plants will show signs of distress, just be alert. This can be avoided by siphoning the tank regularly every 10 to 14 days. Using a hose, siphon the excess chemicals and clean the bottom of bacteria and wastes in the process. You kill two birdies with one stone! Do the above method removing 1 to 3 gallons of water depending

(Cont'd page 20)

on the size of the aquarium.

Actually hard and soft water will be the more common problem rather than acid or alkaline water. This has been proven true from my experiences and helping others as Trouble Shooter for M.A.C. here in Omaha.

I hope we have learned and remembered something more about our useful aquarium plants.



A Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year  
from  
your ALADDIN PET  
SHOP  
Otto J. Flegel

ALADDIN PET SHOP

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Black Tetras, Tiger Barbs...ALL  
65¢ and under.....

Good supply of Fish Books - A wonder-  
ful Christmas gift...85¢ to \$10.00..

P H O N E .....CE6-5033

Enjoy yourselves. These are the good  
old days you are going to miss in 1978.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Senior Society  
(1959)

On behalf of the incoming Executive, I would like to thank the present Executive as well as our entire Membership for their assistance and enthusiasm. It was only through this very helpful assistance and enthusiasm that the past year has been so successful. Perhaps I am prejudiced, but from the many hours spent at Executive and Directors meetings, I feel that each and every one of the participants contributed far more than was actually necessary to keep the Society functioning smoothly. They gave willingly of their time--often at the expense of family and social activities, and perhaps even the sacrifice of monetary gain. The membership too has contributed by attending meetings so well, and providing such a congenial atmosphere.

It will be a difficult undertaking, indeed to surpass this year's achievements. But naturally, that is the task laid down before a new Executive; and of course we will endeavour to do our best. We have begun by appointing some of the new Directors. You will be interested to know that Wilf Doucette has agreed to take over from Roger Trottier the difficult job of Programme Director. He has had a great wealth of experience this year, and we feel he can do a commendable job. Dan Jeffrey, who did so well as Treasurer in the past two years, has accepted the job of Membership Director, and we know he will do it in his usually thorough manner. Gordon Croll must be commended for taking on the job of Magazine Director. We hope that he and Harvey Wittenberg, who will serve as Editor, will produce many more good issues of our magazine. Ed Parisien has accepted the responsibility of the Junior Society

(Cont'd page 22)

Committee. We feel that Ed, who knows the group, will be of great assistance to the Junior members. As Director of the new Social Committee we chose Allan Griffin, who has often in the past, shown how capable he was. Doug Young, has also served very efficiently on previous committees, and he will try his hand at Directing the Show Committee. We hope that he will find no shortage of volunteers to help look after the Hospital Aquaria, and of course we all would like to see even greater participation in the monthly jar shows.

In order to ensure greater continuity from one year to the next, we have decided to appoint an Assistant Director to each Committee. This person could attend Executive Meetings if the Director is unable, and might feel better qualified to take on the Directorship the following year. We will announce the names of the Assistant Directors at the next meeting.

To me has fallen the pleasant task of announcing our new meeting place. Since most meeting nights we are already bulging out of our regular meeting place, we have decided to hold ensuing meetings in the Chemistry Building.

I would also like to give a special thanks to Harvey Wittenberg. He has devoted himself whole-heartedly to the Society in the past years, and we owe him a great deal for giving us our very sturdy, and thorough foundation. I hope that as Editor of the OVAS News he will still find time to serve the Society in an advisory capacity.

Now on behalf of the new Executive and Directors, I want to wish you a joyful holiday season. We are looking forward to seeing you and working with you to make the coming year one of the brightest in the history of the Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society.

Mrs Clare Kroeger, Pres.



O V A S  
 JUNIOR SOCIETY  
 SECTION

Editor:  
 Joe Marshall

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

At the end of the year in a Society such as our, we try to evaluate the various happenings of the year and come to the conclusion of whether or not the year has been a success or failure.

As this is my last year in the Junior Society, I begin to think of the past years since the Society was first formed.

From April 14, 1955, when the Society was founded, up to the end of 1957, the Society was in what could be termed its formative years. In this period, the executive, with few exceptions, was made up of the same members. The Junior Society, near the end of this time, had become a more separate part of the OVAS.

1958 was a period of transition. The executive now included five new members, some of the original members had left, and the Society re-organized in various ways.

The remaining original members will now be joining the Senior Society, leaving the 1959 Executive with many new officers for the first time in four years. The new Officers will require the assistance of every member - compare our Society to a

(Cont'd page 24)

bank - unless you put something into it, you can never expect to get anything out of it.

I wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and my best wishes to the Junior Society in the next year.

*Gary Zumar*  
(Gary Zumar)



PRESIDENT'S LETTER  
(1959)

I should like to thank all those who nominated and acclaimed me as President of the Junior Society for the coming year.

I would also like to congratulate Patsy Fitzgerald, Graham Conway and Richard Brown on their election as officers for the coming term.

If possible would you all try to bring your \$1.00 membership fee to the next meeting. Payments should be made to Richard Brown, Treasurer. Your membership cards will be made available as soon as possible. Check your notice for any further information.

Besides having the elected officers in the Society there are also five Directors, appointed by the Executive, who are responsible for carrying out the various duties of our five committees. If you would like to serve as a Director or a member on one of our committees please contact me by phone as early as possible, [redacted].

The five committees in the Junior Society are: Programme Committee, Show Committee, Membership Committee, Magazine Committee and the Social Committee. Two Librarians are also appointed and serve under the Director of the Magazine Committee.

Remember that the Junior OVAS is as good

(Cont'd page 25)



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*Greetings*

as you make it. Please attend as many meetings as possible and help to make the Society a success for the year 1959.

*Ian Woods*  
(Ian Woods) President.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All regular meetings will be held in ROOM 37, CHEMISTRY BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA, 365 NICHOLAS STREET, (Corner of Nicholas and Somerset Street). Use the entrance on Nicholas Street.

### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

by BJS "Tropical Tropics", Aquarium Hobby Club of Indianapolis.

How do our fish get their scientific names. There is now in use a system for classifying fish which provides a generic and a specific name; usually Greek or Latin. It is not always true but many of these names have a significant meaning. Fish are named after the discovered, geographical locality, a ship, native names or almost anything. The scientific name of many of our well known aquarium fish have very interesting meanings.

The generic name Corydoras as applied to a certain group of catfish means Cory-kind of fish, doras--leathery skin. Our well known Aneaus cat describes his colour in his name. Aneaus means Bronze or copper coloured.

The charming little Hastatus cat has a name whose meaning escaped me for a minute, Hastatus--spear shaped. By no stretch of the imagination could I see that this little fish was spear-shaped, but looking closely at the pattern on its side you can see a spear head at the base of the tail with the handle extending horizontally up the side of the fish through the eye. This then is the spear-shape.

Someone really flubbed or had a jolly sense of humor when he named one of the ugliest armoured catfish I know of Call-ichthys. The meaning of this name is, of all things, Call--beautiful, ichthys--fish. Beautiful Fish!! Well, they say beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

The precise meaning of the scientific name of our well-known Tiger Barb will help you to unflinchingly identify this fish. Tetrazonea means four bands. Count them!

(Cont'd page 27)

If you count six instead of four, you have the lesser known Hexazonea or six band Tiger Barb.

The one scientific name that all of you most apt to know is Lebistees Reticulatus. Sure, you've got one--did I say one? But, do you know what it means? Lebistees is a kind of fish, Reticulatus means net-like, referring to the appearance created by the scale pattern. This is more noticeable in the females.

The Neon Tetra's name Hyphessobrycon Innessi is an example of a fish names after a man; the man, of course, being the one and only W.T. Innes. In the case of a man's name being used "i" is always added to the end of the name; a woman's name is made to end with "ae", i.e. Aliceae. The generic name Hyphessobrycon has an interesting meaning, too. It means small (perhaps referring to the size of the fish); to tear in pieces (doubtless referring to the dental equipment).

The scientific name of our angel fish is Pterophyllum Scalare, which means wing, a leaf, ladder-like. Their fins are rather winglike and leaflike at that. The name which the natives of Brazil gave them is certainly not the regal one that the king of the aquarium deserves. They call him Pacu Doido or "crazy surface fish". It seems that in his natural habitate he does not conduct himself in the regal and courtly manner which we have associated with him. On the contrary, he is quite timid and humble. If a native fisherman so much as makes a sudden motion with his arm or oar, the angel fish in the vicinity will shoot out of the water and fall flat on the surface. There they will remain, fluttering in a senseless and futile manner. They are then very easily caught by hand. I can

(Cont'd page 28)

certainly understand the reasoning of the natives. A fish that behaves in this way surely must appear to be crazy.

The meanings of names are sometimes primly accurate, sometimes seemingly meaningless, sometimes comical. Borrow Innes' or Axelrod's book from the library sometime and look up the name of your favourite fish. You may get a kick out of the meaning.



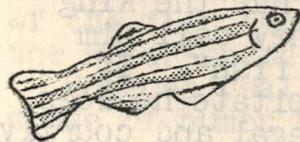
THE ZEBRA

by Hal Haney "The Colorado Aquarist".

Whenever you hear a conversation about "ideal" aquarium fish, the name Brachydanio rerio always comes up. This is the Zebra fish, sometimes called Zebra Danio. It comes from far off Bengal India, a land as strange as the Zebra is friendly.

The Zebra is one of those amazing fish

that goes about living his life as if no one else were around. He has his own game of "tag" going constantly and takes great delight in scurrying in and out of plant thickets, rock arrangements and other fish.



They are a small fish, seldom reaching a size of more than one and three quarter inches, but they have a special distinction in having many horizontal stripes of dark blue and silver.

If enough of them are pleasing, for  
(Cont'd page 29)

the multiple bands of blue and silver produce a flashing picture that's hard to beat.

One interesting thing about the Zebra is that he never seems to loose his colour. While other tropicals can fade or deepen colours from one minute to the next, I have never seen a Zebra that wasn't bright and active.

The fact that Zebras are active can be a big asset to a community tank that is dominated by larger, slower fish. Zebras are always on the go...they seem to never rest. This movement can add the spark of motion to a tank that might otherwise be rather dull even though it is filled with colourful fish.

The Zebra can take quite a beating when it comes to temperature. They can stand a low of 60 and a high of 110, however, they prefer a more moderate temperature.

Another point in favour of the Zebra is the fact that they are happy with any kind of food. I have a dozen Zebras in my community tank, and over a period of a year they have never turned down anything offered them, live, frozen or powdered.

Breeding the Zebra is an interesting process, since the parents delight in eating their own eggs and must be treated accordingly. There are many tricks to the trade, but briefly, the two most popular are these. One is to have the water very low and cover the bottom with marbles or round stones, so that the parents will not have time to pounce upon the falling eggs before they are lost among the marbles. I have used this method, but I don't like it, because a frightened fish can become lodged under the marbles and be unable to get out. That very thing happened twice to one of my prize specimens, so you won't find me using that system again. The second method  
(Cont'd page 30)

is to employ what is usually known as a Dorsey Egg Trap which consists of a mat of glass bars. If this is placed slightly above the bottom of the trap (which can be a tank) and then the water is lowered to within 4 inches above the glass bars, the adults can not possibly hurt themselves, and a few eggs will be eaten. Commercial establishments have many other methods of saving the spawn, but the second method described above is good for a starter. They breed best at temperatures from 72 to 77.

The price of Zebras is as attractive as the fish. A beginner could not pick a better fish to start with than the Zebra. He looks well in a small tank, is easy to care for, is friendly, and his active personality will give countless hours of enjoyment to anyone who owns him.



#### THE WINDOW CLEANER

by Vera Wold "Tropical Breeze", San Diego  
Tropical Fish Society, U.S.A.

The inexperienced hobbyist is often plagued with either green or brown algae. These pests of the plant world seem to grow anywhere in the aquarium covering glass and ceramics, and smothering aquatic plants. It will even grow on the bare sand.

This microscopic plant life will grow green with too much light and brown with too little light. It would seem that if the light was exactly right neither would flourish, but this isn't the case, one or the other always seems to be around. This is where the window cleaners really shine, as they prefer a diet of algae over all other available foods.

(Cont'd page 31)

There are several catfish and one type of snail that just dotes on algae as their main diet. First in efficiency of these is the large window cleaner the Plecostomus (PLEH--COSS--TOE--MUS), or large sucker catfish. He grows to a length of eight to ten inches, but it is quite a slow process if you start with a small specimen. He is most active after dark, though you will see him fairly often during the daytime. He cleans everything in sight, including the underside of the plants, leaving all spotlessly clean and bright.

This large Plecostomus, may be used with quite rough fish such as the large Cichlids (Dempsey, Portie, Firemouth, etc). He seems fairly well able to fend for himself and still he is O.K. with smaller fish such as Platies, Swordtails, and Tetras, seeming to be thoroughly satisfied with his algae diet. He should not be used in tanks with tiny baby fish. They are regarded as very tasty tidbits, even by him. If he is kept with hard shell turtles he will polish the turtle's shell right along with everything else.

For the smaller tanks, the dwarf window cleaner, the Otocinclus (AUTO-SIN-CLUS) is outstanding because he works day and night. Use him only with the more gentle fish, as he isn't very well equipped to do battle and is easily killed. Large specimens seem to be more hardy than the younger or smaller ones and should be considered the best buy.

There are several other suckermouth cats but these two are the most common and are usually available at the larger aquatic shops.

The Florida Marble Snail (Neritina reclivata) are equal to either of the other "cleaner uppers". They are a rather small drab olive green color, and possessing

(Cont'd page 32)

a very hard shell. They have the ability to stick very tightly to any hard smooth surface, so they are not easily killed by the more vicious fish. Four or five of these small snails will take care of a five or ten gallon tank with ease.



### FILTERS

by Bill Barham, "Water Lines", St. Louis Junior Aquarium Society, U.S.A.

The main purpose of a filter is, of course, to keep an aquarium clean. A good filter can be expected not only to filter the water, pick up droppings and excess food, but also, in some cases, to act as an aerator.

The most common type of filter in use today is the charcoal-glasswool type. This type of filter is used both inside and outside the aquarium. Both of these types are of simple construction. In many cases the aquarist might make his own filter. The outside filter is constructed in the following manner: The filter box is divided into three sections or compartments. Two of the three sections are about the same size while the third is somewhat larger. When in operation one of the smaller sections is empty, the other is filled with charcoal. The third and largest section is filled with a filter medium, usually glass wool. As the water is emptied into the first section it passes through the glass wool and some of the larger particles are removed. The water, upon reaching the bottom of this compartment filters up through the charcoal and spills over into the third section.

(Cont'd page 33)

The passage through the charcoal further purifies and filters the water. As the water pours back into the aquarium it is clear, clean and practically pure. The inside filter accomplishes the same job. In some instances a piece of sponge is used instead of glass wool.

Another widely used filter is the "Eureka" filter. Its operation and construction are completely different from the others. The "Eureka" filter consists of several tubes which have graduated perforations from one end to the other. The filter, when assembled, resembles a rectangular skeleton frame. The framework is placed on the bottom of the aquarium and then covered with gravel. When the filter is in operation, a vacuum is created through-out the framework and any leftover food or droppings is gradually pulled through the gravel and out of sight. During this action the debris is decomposed and if any is left, the plant roots usually take care of the top.

Another of the filters that are used is the Miracle filter. The procedure and results are the same as the "Eureka" filter. The difference being in the construction. Instead of several rectangular tubes, there are two square plates. The plates are approximately one half inch in thickness. The top of each plate is a maze of slits which run diagonally across the entire top surface. This filter seems to do a better job than the "Eureka". Although the "Eureka" and Miracle filters are less work in maintenance, the author still feels that the old outside filter does the best job of all.



The Junior Society will benefit greatly from the Society raffle - are you doing your part to see that it is a success?

DID YOU KNOW?

Reprinted from "Fin Fare", Victoria Aquarium Society.

...that the hatchet fish, whose name sounds ferocious, may actually starve to death in a community tank because they are too timid to compete with other fish for food?

...that some of the most timid and shy fish (pencil fish, hatchet fish etc), belong to the same family as the vicious piranhas?

...that tubifex worms should be washed for 48 hours in fresh, running water before being fed to your fish? Otherwise there is a danger of poisoning your fish with dead and decaying worms.

...that plants are of limited value as oxygenators and should not be considered as important suppliers of oxygen in aquaria?

...that a good way to increase the acidity of your aquarium water is to filter it through peat moss? Use a pH kit to test the final acidity.

...that your membership dues should be paid by January 31st.

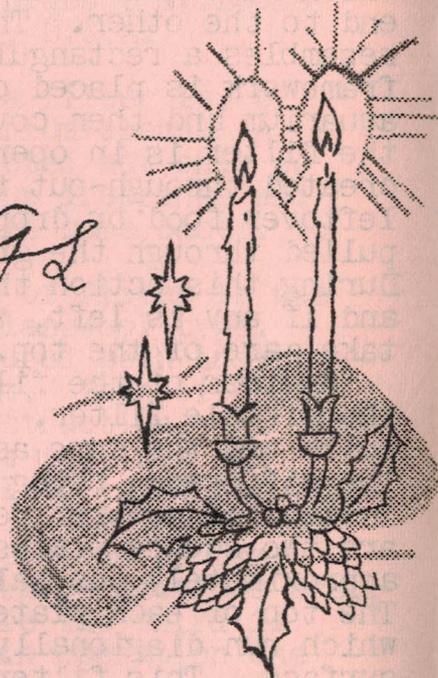


Answers to TROPICAL FISH LOCATION QUIZ

1. India 2. India 3. Siam 4. Australia
5. Mexico 6. Florida 7. Brazil 8. India
9. India 10. India 11. China 12. Borneo
13. India 14. Argentinian 15. India 16. Burma
17. India 18. India 19. India
20. Mexico.

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NEW YEAR



TROPICAL FISH LOCATION QUIZ

by Harvey Wittenberg, Ottawa Valley Aquarium  
Society, Senior Society.

Many of our tropical fish are hundreds of miles away from home. See if you are able to list their native habitat correctly?

20 EXCELLENT      15 GOOD      10 FAIR

1. Flying Barb (India,Siam,China) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Dwarf Gourami (Japan,India) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Betta (China,Siam,Mexico) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Rainbow Fish (Mexico,Australia) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Swordtail (Brazil,Mexico,Siam) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Flag Fish (Florida,Africa) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Rummy Nose (India,Brazil,China) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Giant Danio (Australia,India) \_\_\_\_\_
9. Rosy Barb (Borneo,China,India) \_\_\_\_\_
10. Barbus Ticto (China,Siam,India) \_\_\_\_\_
11. White Cloud (Japan,China,Siam) \_\_\_\_\_
12. Clown Loach (Mexico,Borneo) \_\_\_\_\_
13. Aplocheilus  
Lineatus (India,Burma,Ceylon) \_\_\_\_\_
14. Pearl Fish (Argentina,Florida) \_\_\_\_\_
15. Colisa Fasciata (China,India) \_\_\_\_\_
16. Thick-lipped Gourami (Burma,Siam) \_\_\_\_\_
17. Orange Cichlid (India,Australia) \_\_\_\_\_
18. Glassfish (Mexico,Siam,India) \_\_\_\_\_
19. Blow Fish (Africa,Russia,India) \_\_\_\_\_
20. Blind Cave Fish (Mexico,India) \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWERS ON PAGE 39  
DON'T CHEAT