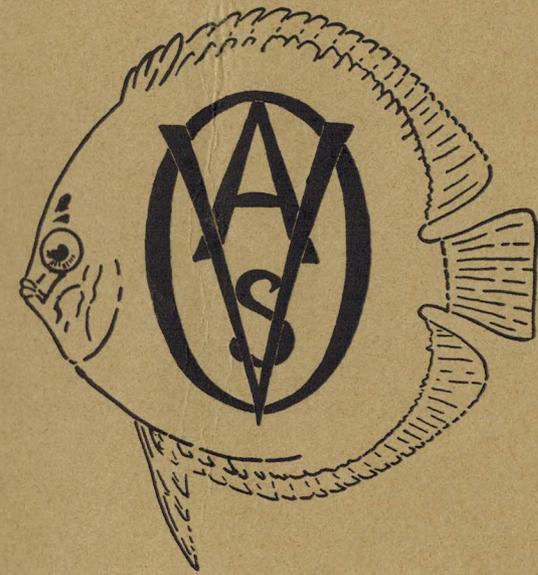


OVAS NEWS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

OTTAWA VALLEY
AQUARIUM SOCIETY

OTTAWA VALLEY
AQUARIUM SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1135, OTTAWA 1
ONT., CANADA



THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

MEETINGS

Junior Society

Thursday, April 16th	.....	7.00 PM
Thursday, May 21st	.....	7.00 PM
Thursday, June 18th	.....	7.00 PM

Senior Society

Thursday, April 23rd	.....	8.00 PM
Thursday, May 28th	.....	8.00 PM
Thursday, June 25th	.....	8.00 PM

Regular meetings are held in Room 37, Chemistry Building, University of Ottawa, 365 Nicholas Street, Ottawa.

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THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

The Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society was founded on the eleventh day of March, nineteen hundred and fifty-four.

The object of this Society is to further the study of aquarium life, the spreading of information regarding it, and the promotion of good fellowship among fanciers of aquarium life.

The Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society consists of two bodies, a Senior and a Junior Society, each operating independently. The Junior Society was founded on the fourteenth day of April, nineteen hundred and fifty-five.

Membership is open to all persons wishing to acquaint themselves with this hobby. Each person may attend two meetings and on the third meeting, application for membership, accompanied by the membership fee, shall be made to the Membership Committee.

The Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society publication "THE OVAS NEWS" is published by the Society, a non-profit hobby organization, and copies made available to all members. Subscription rate for non-members is \$2.00 per year.

The opinions, statements, and view points expressed in THE OVAS NEWS are those of the authors and not the Society.

Advertising rates on request from Editor.

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, THE CONTENTS OF THE OVAS NEWS MAY BE REPRINTED PROVIDING CREDIT IS GIVEN TO THIS MAGAZINE AND THE AUTHOR OF THE ARTICLE.

This Society is a member of The International Federation of Aquarium Societies (TIFAS).

THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
1959 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Senior Society Officers

President: Mrs Claire Kroeger
Vice-Pres: Mr Roger Trottier
Secretary: Mrs Barbara Johnson
Treasurer: Mr Phil Curry

Senior Society Directors

Membership: Mr Dan Jeffrey
Programme: Mr Wilf Doucette
Show: Mr Doug Young
Magazine: Mr Roger Trottier
Social: Mr Alan Griffin
Junior Soc: Mr Edgar Parisien

Senior Society Librarians

Mr Ed Ledoux
Mr Gordon Croll
Mr Jean Duguay

Junior Society Officers

President: Ian Woods
Vice-Pres: Patsy Fitzgerald
Secretary: Graham Conway
Treasurer: Richard Brown

Junior Society Directors

Membership: Burton Grundy
Programme: Chipper Vickers
Show: Gordon Wordon
Magazine: Larry Neumann
Social: Andrew Holdham

Junior Society Librarians

Larry Neumann
Robert Boyle

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY CONSULTANTS

Area No 1 to be appointed
Area No 2 Mr Geo Bowie
Area No 3 Mr Ken Craig
Area No 4 Mr Jack Dirks

TIFAS REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Edgar Parisien

OBSERVATIONS ON THE RUFFLED SWORDPLANT
(Aponogeton Undulatum)

by Lorna Olley, Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society, Senior Society.

A recent import from Ceylon, this plant seems to be very satisfactory for the medium or large size aquarium. Its leaves tend to get very long, 24" or more, and float along the top of the aquarium making it unsuitable for the small tank. It flowers easily, and, with most Aponogeton species above the water level. The flower stem grows towards the light sometimes reaching two feet or more. Then as it starts to touch the water line the flower unfolds from its sheath to a length of one or more inches and rises from out of the water.

There was a space of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch between my hood and the front of the aquarium and the stem found its way out of the tank through this opening to protrude out of the water to about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The flowers are extremely small, about four times the size of a pin-head and white in colour. They last about a week. There appears to be two or more seed pods on my particular plant which have not as yet reached maturity.

In all I think that the Ruffled Sword plant makes a brilliant addition to the flora of the home aquarium.

/+++++/

Articles, Letters to the Editor, Ads, Exchange Information, Correspondence, anything and everything should be forwarded to:
THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
P.O. Box 1135, OTTAWA 4,
Ontario, Canada.

SHOW COMMITTEE

SHOW COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE ORPHANAGE TANK
by Lorna Olley, Show Committee member.

The tank at the St. Patrick's Children's Home on Gloucester Street, seems to be kept in excellent condition. On three visits there I found the tank to be spotlessly clean even to the glass wool.

One of the Sisters told me that the children stand for hours looking at the tank and they would now be lost without it.

The tank contains a pair of red Bettas, two angels, two neons, two gouramis and a few other fish all in good condition.

The plants, Red Ludwigia and two or three varieties of Cryptocoryne, etc, are growing favourably though not profusely.

A lack of the usual guppies is noted in the tank, no doubt due to the presence of the Angels and Gouramis. The tank is fairly well situated and receives a few hours of light each day.

/+++++/

THE HOME AQUARIUM SHOW

By Doug Young, Director, Show Committee

The Home Aquarium Show will commence APRIL 15TH (WEDNESDAY) TO MAY 15TH (FRIDAY). Applications must be submitted to the Show Committee no later than APRIL 30TH.

Two judges will visit your home to judge the aquarium of your choice.

This is your opportunity of receiving first hand information, suggestions and comments that will be helpful to each member regarding the hobby, shows, judging of aquaria, fish, plants, etc.

If you are interested in entering this Home Aquarium Show all you are required
(Cont'd page 6)

to do is complete the application form at your next meeting or contact:

- Mr Ben Davis - [redacted]
- Mr Heinz Kroeger - [redacted]

This show is open to all members, Senior and Junior.

The rules are as follows:

1. Only ONE aquarium shall be entered in competition. This aquarium shall not exceed the dimensions of 15 x 15 x 30 inches.
2. Any species of tropical fish may be entered.
3. The following shall be judged in accordance with our Society Standard Show Rules:

<u>FISH</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
(a) Size (according to normal size of fish growth. Fish should be of maximum size to obtain full points).....	10
(b) Colour.....	10
(c) Fins and Scales.....	10
(d) Health (general appearance, diseases, etc).....	10

<u>PLANTS</u>	
(a) Size (according to size of plant growth).....	10
(b) Colour (health of plant).....	10
(c) Planting (correct individual planting).....	10
(d) Water Scaping (general layout of aquarium plants only).....	10

<u>AQUARIUM</u>	
(a) Water Scaping (artistic effect, sand, rockery, driftwood, etc)...	10
(b) Cleanliness (plants, bottom of aquarium, glass).....	5
(c) Clarity of water.....	5
TOTAL POINTS.....	100

4. The first, second and third winners will receive a prize.
5. An entry fee of .50¢ shall be made in order to help towards the expense of prizes. The entry fee will be paid to the judges when your entry is judged.

REMEMBER: Closing date for entering this Show will be APRIL 30TH.

//////////

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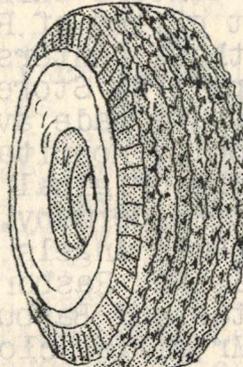
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TIRE REPAIRS AND VULCANIZING

BATTERY CHARGING

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Merv Wilkie, prop.



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THE TROPICAL FISH HOBBY IN RUSSIA
by Keith Ackoff. Reprinted from Southern Ohio Aquarists, SOA Journal.

During the Spring of 1956, an English aquarist, Jon Miller, visited Russia for the purpose of making a study of Russian Fish Farms for the Zoological Society of (Cont'd page 8)

London. While upon this visit, Jon had the opportunity of interviewing the major tropical fish breeder of Moscow, one Alexei Molchanov.

I was very surprised to see this account in the British publication, The Aquarists and Pondkeeper, for who would have suspected that the Russians would even permit such an activity to be carried on. Certainly, tropical fish are not included in the latest 5 year plan!

Comrade Molchanov works for the Moscow Zoo, specifically, in the fish breeding house. Jon found that similar fish breeding centers existing in most of the important cities of Russia. The fish produced in these centers find their way to Zoo Shops (Pet Stores in this country) where they are made available to private persons, schools, hospitals, and restaurants.

The original breeders come mostly from Eastern Germany. Typical fishes handled include: Angels, Black Mollies, Guppies, Goldfish, Rasboras, Neon Tetras, Swordtails, Bettas and Barbus Partipentazona.

Mr Miller closed his report with an amusing account of an award that Comrade Molchanov had received from the State. It seems the official number of fish planned to be bred was about 50,000. Comrade Molchanov however, exceeded his quota and raised 74,513 fish in all! Thus, the Government presented him with an impressive looking plaque. I think American aquarists should be very happy that they can relax and enjoy their hobby without worrying about quotas!

//////////

Surely you could write something to fill this space

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Senior Society

On the first evening of Spring, while the wind howled outside, an air of warmth and gaiety was felt the moment we entered the Auditorium of the Teacher's College. It was the evening of the Fifth Birthday Party of the Society, and although there were not too many members in attendance, many had brought guests and an atmosphere of informality and friendship prevailed.

The decorations were outstanding. There was a giant rocket on stage which appeared to be ready for launching at any moment while other gleaming rockets of red and silver could be found in varying sizes. They looked particularly attractive against the spotless white tablecloths. Baloons were very prominent and the games at the rear of the room proved a popular attraction. These were run by the Junior Society and netted them a small profit, while providing enjoyment for the guests. Jack Zubie, as always conducted a varied program of games and dancing which could be enjoyed by all. There was even an interesting Film to round out the evening.

Even after the delicious refreshments were served and consumed at tables around the hall, and most of the Birthday cake had disappeared, we were reluctant to think of leaving, because it had been such an enjoyable evening. A great deal of thanks must go to the Social Committee consisting of the Director, Alan Griffin, Barbara Griffin, Charlie and Iris Anderson, Betty Curry, John and Allison Randall. Others who proved extremely helpful were Jack Dirks, Mrs Neumann, Harvey Wittenberg and Heinz Kroeger. A further thanks should go to those who helped in many ways even to the extent of washing dishes.

(Cont'd page 10)

My heartiest thanks to those of you who brought contributions towards the Junior Library. We are very anxious to provide as much opportunity as possible for our younger members to gain knowledge and experience in the Tropical Fish Hobby.

If you would like transportation to our meetings, please call the Membership Director, Dan Jeffrey, at [redacted], and he will make sure that a lift is provided for you. Please assure any of your friends, who are contemplating joining, that transportation will be easily available.

The Show Committee has announced that they will soon be installing a nice new aquarium in the St. Laurent Sanatorium. This will be the fifth aquarium installed in similar institutions and supervised by our Society.

Probably by this time you have received a letter of thanks from Father Legault for your contributions to his Fish shower. He is very certain that there are many other donors who have not disclosed their contribution, and he would genuinely like to speak with them.

If your telephone number has changed since joining the Society please notify Mr Dan Jeffrey by phone in order that our membership list will be complete in every detail.

Sincerely,

Claire Kroeger
(Claire Kroeger)
President

/+++++/

YOU CAN HELP YOUR SOCIETY BY BUYING
FROM OUR ADVERTISERS

MEMBERSHIP JOTTINGS

by Dan Jeffrey, Director, Membership and Publicity

We wish to apologize for omitting the name of Diane Fraser from the list of new members named in the last issue of this magazine but we assure you, Dianne, that we are pleased to welcome you as a new member. After seeing you walk off with two of the prizes at the last meeting we hope you will not feel too badly at not having been named in our list of new members last month.

This month we welcome as new members Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Benson and I am sure most of you will remember C.B.C.'s program "Wake Up To Music" which was always announced by John Benson. This gives us a good representation from the C.B.C. as we now have Wilf Doucette our Programme Director, Ralph Roose who is the announcer of "Preview" every morning and our new member John Benson. We also welcome Mr Herbert Brown whom I have not yet had the opportunity of meeting. The renewal of membership included Mr and Mrs Geo Bowie, Mrs Alice Neumann and Mr Willis J. Murphy. Our total membership for the Senior Society is now 84 members.

I am very sorry to report to you that our very good friend Ed Parisien was admitted to the Civic Hospital on Easter Sunday. Ed was stricken with a heart attack and our latest report is that he is making a good recovery. Best of luck Ed and we hope that you are in good health real soon.

We also had a report that our good friend Ralph Jackson was ill for nearly two months and is now recuperating.

Your Membership Committee is interested in the health of the members, any good fortune, marriages, births and

(Cont'd page 12)

anniversaries of all kinds. If you can help us to collect this information we will gladly include it in this corner of our OVAS News.

See you next month with some more topics of interest.

//////////

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY

THE AQUARIST'S CALENDAR
"The Aquarium"

APRIL - There used to be old-timers who wore red flannels all winter without a change. Afraid of taking cold. April was the first month in which they would take a chance. This reminds us of some aquarists who give their fishes no new water all winter, except what is necessary to make up for loss by evaporation. This is not bad practice if there is a sturdy growth of plants and the fishes have an abundance of room, but it should be remembered that every bit of food going into the aquarium (except the fraction that goes into fish growth) must turn into waste product. This concentrates in the water as the weeks go by. It is possible for this liquid fertilizer to be absorbed by a sufficient number of growing plants, but such an ideal set-up is rather unusual. With most aquarists the balance is heavily on the animal side. That is to say, too many fishes for the plants, or insufficient light to make them active.

On the other hand we occasionally see an aquarium well stocked with good plants under apparently favorable conditions, but they barely grow, or are perhaps even degenerating. This is apt to happen in an
(Cont'd page 13)

aquarium formerly well stocked with fishes, but now having few or none. An increase of fish life in cases of this kind causes the plants to respond quickly with a fresh growth of leaves, provided of course that they are not fishes that nip plants, such as the silver tetra, or cichlids that uproot them.

Under these average conditions the simplest way of disposing of the accumulating concentrations is by occasional partial substitution of fresh water for old. Not much, say ten percent a week. If the water is tempered and ripened it cannot do a bit of harm, and will do good. Naturally the old water should be siphoned off from points on the bottom where most dirt can be picked up.

To those whose fishes have been wearing unchanged flannels all winter, we suggest that a bit of fresh water would improve aquarium conditions. The antics of the occupants will express their appreciation better than words.

Don't be in a hurry to put fishes outdoors. Warm spring days are famous (or infamous) for leading humans to rash acts. One cold night can be very costly for the outdoor aquarist. The safest procedure is to float a thermometer in each pool. Check it early every morning. When the temperature does not go below 65 for a week straight, it is safe to stock it with most tropicals.

Daphnia are on the increase in most pools. All that is needed to collect them is a bucket, a long-handled, fine-meshed net and a good pond. The later requirement is sometimes difficult to find, but once located, it pays big dividends in rapid growth and healthy fishes.

With the approach of spring, air pumps for aquariums should be given considera-
(Cont'd page 14)

KEN PARISIEN "It costs no more to have it done right"
PROFESSIONAL: -
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tion. Warm water holds less oxygen and artificial aeration becomes more important than in the cold months. Under good care the better pumps will last long, but at slight expense they can be annually overhauled by their manufacturer. A good investment.

AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

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EXCHANGE MAGAZINES

by Jean Duguay, Reporter, Exchange Magazines, Senior Society.

The following exchange magazines, which you will find of interest, are now available in your Society Library:

1. S.O.A. Journal - Southern Ohio Aquarists Cincinnati, Ohio.
2. G.C.A.S. - The Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society, Cincinnati, Ohio.
3. The Journal of Exotic Fish Enthusiasts - The Kansas Exotic Fish Enthusiasts, Kansas.
4. Valley Aquarium News - Valley Aquarium Society, Phoenix, Arizona.
5. Winnipeg News - Winnipeg Aquarium Society Winnipeg, Manitoba.

SOCIETY CONSULTANTS

For the benefit of our new members and those of you who have mislaid your map of Ottawa, showing the Society consultants and the areas, including amendments, we are reprinting the information.

The purpose of having society consultants is to answer your questions and help you in every way possible regarding your hobby of tropical fish. As you well know, every one, at times, will have trouble with sick fish, spawning, plants, or even the aquarium and equipment. In addition, we quite realize that you do not have the opportunity to discuss your difficulties at a regular meeting in a way that you could if you were free to consult a qualified member. By having a qualified member to consult, you will be able to obtain the information or assistance that you require.

When you are having any difficulty with your hobby you call the Society Consultant in your area. The consultant will advise you what to do, and, if required, he (or an assistant) will visit your home.

Your Society Consultants are:

Area No.1

to be appointed

Area No.2

Mr Geo Bowie - Phone [redacted], Ottawa East.

Area No.3

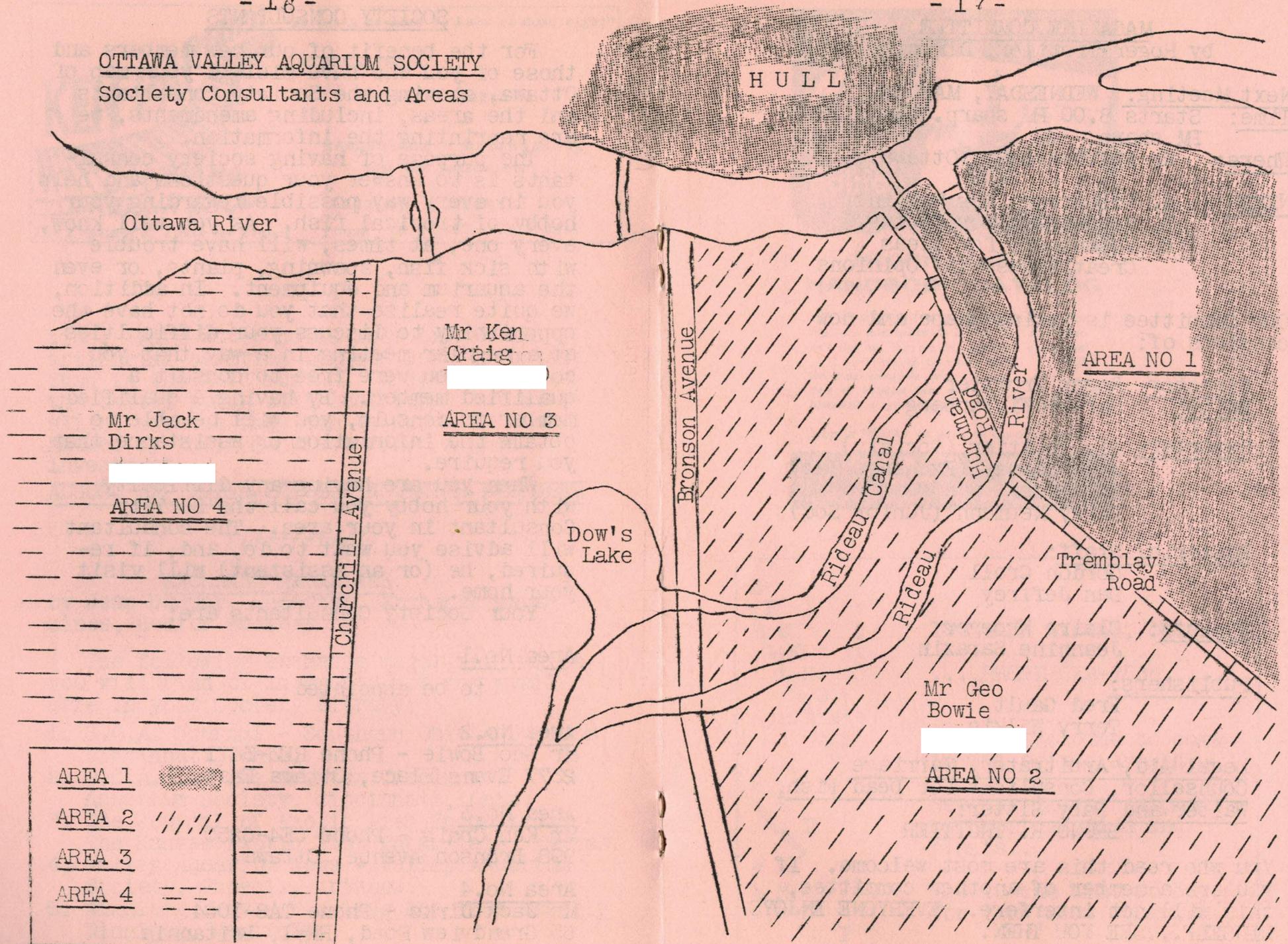
Mr Ken Craig - Phone [redacted], Ottawa.

Area No.4

Mr Jack Dirks - Phone [redacted], RR#1, Britannia

SEE MAP OF AREAS PAGE 16-17

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
Society Consultants and Areas



Ottawa River

HULL

Mr Ken
Craig
[redacted]

AREA NO 3

Mr Jack
Dirks
[redacted]

AREA NO 4

Churchill Avenue

Bronson Avenue

Dow's
Lake

Rideau Canal

Rideau

HURMAN
ROAD

River

AREA NO 1

Tremblay
Road

Mr Geo
Bowie
[redacted]

AREA NO 2

<u>AREA 1</u>	[stippled pattern]
<u>AREA 2</u>	[diagonal lines pattern]
<u>AREA 3</u>	[dotted pattern]
<u>AREA 4</u>	[horizontal dashed lines pattern]

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

by Roger Trottier, Director.

Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY, MAY 6TH
Time: Starts 8.00 PM sharp. Ends 10.30 PM sharp.
Where: 63 Fifth Avenue, Ottawa.

- NEEDS:
- A. Volunteers for Reading
 - B. Volunteers for typing.
 - C. Volunteers for ideas
- Creativeness and Opinions

Our Committee is taking shape and now consists of:

Director Roger Trottier
Editor Harvey Wittenberg

Reporters Flo Trottier (Society)
Jean Duguay (Exchange Mag)
Ed Ledoux " "
Larry Neumann (Junior Soc)

Editorial Staff:
Gordon Croll
Dan Jeffrey

Typists: Claire Kroeger
Jeannine Sarazin

Publishers:
Fred Gault
Terry Wilkie

Legal Aid, Arbitrator, Marriage Counsellor, Consultant for Dead Fish, Waiter and Baby Sitter:
BRUNO R. TROTTIER

You who read this are most welcome. If you are a member of another committee, this will not interfere. EVERYONE ENJOYS HIMSELF...SEE YOU THEN.



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OUR OVAS NEWS

by Fred Gault, Ottawa Valley Aquarium
Society (Senior Society)

The scene - A room. In that room is a desk, chair, typewriter, a great deal of paper, and a man. Who is the man? It is Harvey Wittenberg. This is the man behind the O.V.A.S. News. Through one long month to the other this one man has published and edited all the material in our periodical. Now we have a Committee. This is an improvement for now there is a division of labour and the complete burden if I may dare to use the term, is spread out.

This Committee is divided into two parts, editing and publishing. The editing of the "News" is a major operation which I shall not deal with here. However, if you are curious, might I suggest that you become an enlightened member of the Committee.

Once the magazine is fully edited and typed on stencils, it is run off on a machine, a rather unique machine, which is kept under lock and key for fear that someone will carry it off and put it in a museum along with other relics of the "industrial revolution".

Once a month, after the material is prepared, a group of three come together in the hinterland abode of Harvey Wittenberg. For three hours three people work constantly - one turning out the printed sheets on the "Machine", the others removing slip sheets from the needed paper. The slip sheet is a product of the middle ages, placed between the freshly printed sheet to prevent smearing. They are labouriously inserted, equally labouriously removed. This is even more bothersome when you realize that each sheet

(Cont'd page 21)

must be run through twice in order to print both sides.

Along with this we have the covers, already addressed by the Editor, which are to be folded.

This is one night's work done, the group disperses, only to return a second night.

The second night, one of more levity, entails the assembling and folding of each individual "News" and their preparation for distribution at the meeting. The group of the second night is swelled in number and the work completed. This group, one of diverse interests, amuses itself while its collective mind is stimulated by the strains of an abstract creation of progressive jazz. These are your O.V.A.S. publishers, this is your O.V.A.S. News.

If you have stayed with me so far you may be asking yourself the purpose of this little bit of offbeat prose. This is good, for it shows that I've created a spark of interest. The purpose, apart from filling space, is twofold. One to bring your attention to the plight of the O.V.A.S. News, and indeed the increasing need of articles. If an article does appear in a magazine it is immediately swallowed up to fill the article vacuum in other magazines. Our O.V.A.S. is an excellent example.

My second purpose is to show the ease with which an article may be written and I sight the long and sonorous digression which you are now reading; this was written in the time taken to play both sides of a L.P. Jazz record.

Aquarists have many interesting topics floating around in his nearest aquarium and anything, however trivial you may think it to be, would be greatly

(Cont'd page 22)

appreciated by the O.V.A.S. News. This is your Society, this is your magazine and without support it loses its purpose.

//////////

OVAS CLASSIFIED SECTION
A Service To You

- LOST-FOUND
- HELP WANTED
- ARTICLES FOR SALE
- WANTED
- TANKS TO LET //
- PERSONALS

WANTED...one small stainless steel aquarium approximately 5 gallons (14 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 10 1/8 inches). I will pay \$3.00. I will also pay 75¢ for a one year old female blue and red Betta...contact Jean Duguay at the next meeting.

SITUATIONS WANTED...students, members of your Society, will be looking for a summer job...contact Harvey Wittenberg.

WANTED RARE FISH...your pet shop will gladly order any rare fish.

WANTED...James Churchill Hopgood, Director-Editor of ACUARIO Magazine, Havana, Cuba, is anxious to obtain back issues of our OVAS News, Vol 1, 2 and 3 (from 1 to 11) ...contact Harvey Wittenberg.

WANTED...articles for the OVAS News. Any size shape or form. Send to OVAS, P.O. Box 1135, Ottawa 4.

This is a service to you. If you would like to take advantage of this Classified Section just phone

Harvey Wittenberg....



OVAS
JUNIOR
SOCIETY
SECTION



Editor:
Larry Neumann

PRESIDENT'S LETTER
Junior Society

It may be of some interest to some of you to know that the Junior Society was four years old on April 14th, 1959. While on the topic of Birthdays I would like to thank all those who assisted in making the Society birthday a success.

Our membership now stands at 40 members. This in itself is a record. However, records are meant to be broken so naturally we should try and recruit more members.

The Junior Society Executive and members send their best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mr Edgar Parisien who has been hospitalized.

At the last regular meeting of the Senior Society the members donated a number of books and money to our Junior Library. We are not aware of the kind donors, however we wish to thank you for your kind donation to assist our Library.

I know that many of you have very nice aquariums in your home. Why not enter the Home Aquarium Show. Judges will visit the homes and choose the best aquarium. For further information see the article on Home Aquarium Show on page 5.

Next month we shall have the Neon
(Cont'd page 24)

Tetra as the Fish of the Month and our Jar Show. Why not enter your best Neon?

Ian Woods

(Ian Woods)
President

/+++++/

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

by Chipper Vickers, Director

We are making every effort to present a programme at each meeting that will be of interest to all members. Your suggestions and comments will be appreciated.

/+++++/

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THE OVAS TROPICAL FISH HOBBYIST

Are you going to enter the Home
Aquarium Show?

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

by Burton Grundy, Director

We welcome the following new members who joined our Society at the last meeting: Ian Carrall, David Holtz, Brian Huftman and John Lyall. Renewal of membership: Patsy Fitzgerald, Gilbert Hopson and Jack Skuce.

All members are reminded to sign the register book at each meeting and obtain your name card. All name cards are to be returned after the adjournment of each meeting.

In order that our membership list will be complete in every detail, would you please list your address and telephone number in the register book at our next meeting.

/+++++/

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

by Andrew Holdham, Director

Although I was ill and unable to attend our Society Birthday party I have heard that it was a great success. Our efforts were well appreciated and the games which were operated by Larry Neumann, Burton Grundy, Gary Zumar and Fred Gault provided the Society with a profit of \$17.60. Our thanks to all the Junior members who helped towards the success of this party.

/+++++/

MYSTERY?

Have you had something real mysterious happen in your tank; to your fish; to your plants? Why not tell your friends about it through the OVAS News.

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE
by Larry Neumann, Director

We have the Senior Society to thank for a donation of books for our Library which also included money in the amount of \$2.50. This money will be used to purchase additional books. Next month I will list some of the books that are available from our Junior Society Library.

If you have any suggestions as to how we are able to contribute articles to our Junior Society Section of the OVAS News they will be appreciated. We are not doing our part and I am sure that every Junior member is able to write at least one article for our magazine. Why not give it a try? Forward all articles to O.V.A.S., Post Office Box 1135, Ottawa 4.

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SHOW COMMITTEE
by Gordon Wordon, Director

The fish of the month jar shows for the remainder of the year will be:

- MAY - Neon Tetra
- JUNE - Gourami
- SEPTEMBER - Lyretail (male)
- OCTOBER - Red Platy (male)
- NOVEMBER - Zebra
- DECEMBER - Red Sword (female)
- JANUARY - Betta (male)

Where the sex is not mentioned it is permissible to enter a male or female in the jar show.

Don't forget to enter the Home Aquarium Show.

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OUR FRIEND, THE EARTHWORM

Excerpts from an Article by Robert H. Mowatt of Auburn Aquarium Society, Auburn, N.Y., written for the Valley Aquarium Society of Phoenix, Arizona.

In feeding earthworms to our fishes it can be a messy job to say the least. I have been criticized on this subject many times because of the 'bizarre' method in which I prepare my worms, however, here we go.

Most of us who have had experience in feeding these creatures to our fishes are aware of the fact that it is necessary to cut up large ones into small pieces so that fishes can snatch them as they fall into the water. 'Bite size' is today's modern term.

The job of cutting the earthworms into small bits is a chore even the most enthusiastic do not relish and many an

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unkind word has been bestowed upon that earthworm who would not hold still for dissection.

Dr. William T. Innes used to say 'Gather earthworms while ye may'. That is the first step. Collect as many as possible. Then take about a dozen or so at a time and place them into some form of screen-bottomed container. Having done this pour hot (not boiling) water onto the worms, turning them all the time while pouring on the hot water.

The hot water accomplished three purposes; kills the worms instantly, tends to kill parasitical elements on the bodies of the worms, and washes away dirt, thus the reason for a screen-bottomed container. Continue this process until all the worms you collected have been thus treated.

Wash the whole mass quickly with a spray of cold water and put the worms into containers (those inexpensive plastic dishes available in most five and ten cent stores are perfect), into your freezer, or the freezer part of your refrigerator.

You will find, as we have, that when frozen, they are much easier to cope with. They are brittle and will break into convenient chunk sizes. You will also find that in a frozen state, the pieces have a tendency to float for a short time, whereas, when served freshly killed the pieces have a tendency to sink rapidly to the floor of the tank.

For further criticism, we offer another point that is 'bizarre'. You have noticed, no doubt, in cutting up an earthworm freshly killed, there issues forth a flack, wet substance resembling dirt from inside the worm's body. We have used this same substance (with

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caution) in place of infusoria and found it to work as a first stage food when we had a good spawning of *Hyphessobrycon callistus*. We might mention that the parents of those youngsters were conditioned in our frozen earthworms.

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PLANTS AND HOW TO USE THEM

by Forrest Copeland - reprinted from Tropical Aquarist, Long Beach, California.

There are plants that make us happy, there are plants that make us sad, there are plants that steal away our money and there are plants that aren't quite so bad. The whole thing is to know about plants so that you can choose wisely and thus buy the correct plant for each situation. If you need plants for egg layers to spawn over then of course you will buy the leaded bunch plants. But if you want to plant a community aquarium, then the rooted plants that are sold singly are more appropriate. There is such an unlimited variety of plants, most of which are desirable and will flourish in the right place.

Plants, like fish, have certain requirements. Most of them prefer soft water and some refuse to develop or even exist in hardness of 10 to 12. Some require moderate light and will not thrive in sunlight. Some need adequate space, some will not grow in deep tanks, etc. Therefore, if you are not having good luck (?) with your plants, better read further.

Center Display Plants

We all like to see at least one large luxurious plant in the center or toward the back of our landscaped community tank. (Cont'd page 30)

These large plants such as the Amazon Sword need lots of room both in aquarium space and in the sand for their root system will become extensive and nutrition cannot be divided among close growing varieties. They need soft water, moderate light, regular feedings of vitamin-minerals. Cryptocorynes such as the willisii, griffithi and cordata require even softer water (about neutral or lower) will grow in subdued light or in deep water. The griffithi makes a beautiful center plant and, if treated right, will reward you with flowers, the bloom of which reach a length of 3" to 5" on stems that are 3" to 5", making a display that is quite an accomplishment. The flower is a Jack-in-the-pulpit shape, cream on the outer side and maroon within. If your favourite fish are Discus or Angels these large leafed plants are in good proportion and make ideal receivers of spawn, since the leaves are oval and therefore easily cleaned.

Background Plants

A properly planted aquarium has a profusion of tall plants across the back and at each end. Like draperies at the windows, these plants shut out the exterior, screen the light if situated before a window, offer refuge to baby fish or ailing fish, and set off the plants and fish that are on display before them. Italian Vallisneria, corkscrew Vallisneria, Aponogeton crispus, Sagittaria natans and some of the ludwigias are appropriate for this space.

These plants are of middle height and are to be planted at either side of center. They will be enhanced if planted quite close to pieces of petrified wood to give them a close-to-nature

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suggestion. Many of the Cryptocorynes are suitable since they range in colors that go from browns to reds on the undersides of leaves and from deep green to olive-gold on the upper sides. Many of them have red leaves and from deep green to olive-gold with red veins showing through the deep green surface areas of the leaves. Other plants that are interesting and fairly hardy are the Australian clover, Banana plants, cuttings of Ambulia, Sagittaria plants, etc. But remember to plant them in clumps to give them interest and naturalness.

Front Plants

Dwarf chain sword, water lilies, Sagittaria microfolia and other plants that branch but will not need to be trimmed when they get too tall.

Any temperature in which your fish thrive is usually fine for plants. However, if plants are stored for later use, they should be planted in gravel and they should not be subjected to extremely low temperatures. Most of our better aquarium plants are found in tropical regions where the native waters vary from 68 to 75 degrees. Plants also thrive best where the bottom water remains cooler than the surface water. Therefore, with bottom filtering, certain plants and especially the center plant that is expected to reach large proportions, should be planted over a sheet of glass. This stops the ever constant downward flow of warm water about the roots since no current is formed where the glass covers the filter. Most aquariums are kept too warm and you will find that both plants and fish will tone-up if the temperature is kept around 73 degrees rather than over 75. I have found a lot of trouble in aquariums that

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are kept at 80 degrees, especially sick plants.

One of the most beautiful aquariums I have seen was a White Cloud Mountain tank carpeted with *Sagittaria microfolia* with clumps of Water Sprite across the back and ends. The light was moderate and the fish were fed newly hatched brine shrimp. They had been spawning every few days off and on for about six months. The tiny neon-like babies, the larger fry, the half-grown young and the parents were all completely at home in their perfect sanctuary. White Clouds will eat their young but - they would rather have shrimp. The newly hatched young shrimp fed all sizes and any shrimp that settled were causing some infusoria for the newly hatched Clouds. Yet no problem of septic conditions was apparent, due to skillful feeding and the thickly planted aquarium.

A great many of our favorite fishes will raise families in this manner if given the protection that adequate planting affords. It takes time, however, to create this ideal setting. The constantly rearranged tank will never make it. So start now, decide upon your arrangement, plant it properly and then, except for regularly tucking in a vitamin-mineral tablet here and there **LEAVE YOUR PLANTS ALONE.**

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