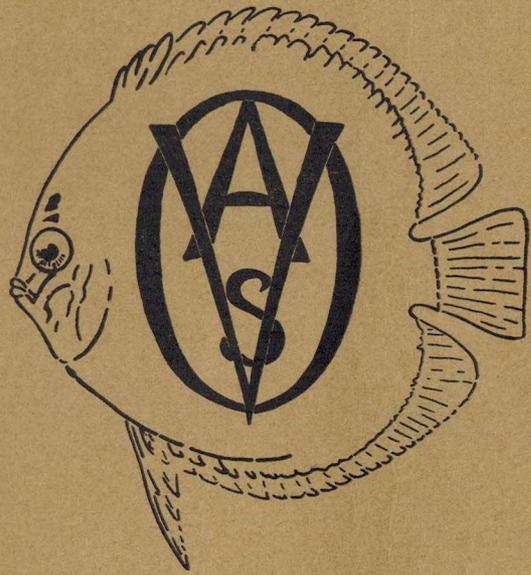


OVAS NEWS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

OTTAWA VALLEY
AQUARIUM SOCIETY

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 3143 STN. "C"
OTTAWA, ONT., CANADA



THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY MEETINGS

Junior Society
 Thursday, April 21st 7.00 PM
 Thursday, May 19th 7.00 PM

Senior Society
 Thursday, April 28th 7.45 PM
 Thursday, May 26th 7.45 PM

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

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MAILING ADDRESS

Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society, Post Office Box 3143, Station C, Ottawa, Ontario Canada

EDITOR: Harvey J. Wittenberg, [redacted], OTTAWA 3. ([redacted]).

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OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
SENIOR SOCIETY

HONORARY MEMBER

Mr. Herbert Axelrod, Jersey City, USA.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR

Father Romeo Legault, OMI, University
of Ottawa.

President: Mr Wilf Doucette
Vice-Pres: Mr Don Thompson
Secretary: Mrs Thelma Williams
Treasurer: Captain Jack Fraser

Membership: Captain Jack Fraser
Programme: Mr Dan Jeffrey
Social: Mr Gerry Lalonde
Magazine: Mr Harvey Wittenberg
Show: Mr Charlie Anderson
Junior Soc: Mr Harvey Wittenberg
Librarians: Mr Bob Naylor

TIFAS Rep: Mr Don Thompson

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY CONSULTANTS

Area No.1 Mr Edgar Parisien
Area No.2 Mr Peter van der Brugh
Area No.3
Area No.4

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 is a Charter Member of The International Federation of Aquarium Societies, (TIFAS).

1960 TIFAS CONVENTION

By Mr. Don Thompson, OVAS TIFAS Rep.

The Annual Convention of The International Federation of Aquarium Societies is being held in Chicago this year, on May 6th through 8th. The Host Society is the Mid-West Aquarists, and the site is the Graemere Hotel, 3400 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, Ill. A fifty-cent registration fee will cover the three days of the Convention.

Saturday and Sunday will be the "big days." There will be an array of prominent speakers, including Herbert R. Axelrod, Paul Hähnel, Don Jacobs, Frank Dittrich, Cleon Sanders and William Vorderwinkler. A program has been worked out which will take care of the TIFAS business as well as be entertaining to the hundreds of visitors who will undoubtedly be there.

On Saturday night a Dinner Dance will be held in the Graemere Grand Ballroom. Steve Satcher and his popular band will provide the music, and the price of the dinner will be \$6 per person. Herbert R. Axelrod will be the speaker on this occasion.

Sunday's session will alternate TIFAS business with another group of speakers who are prominent in the hobby. There will be many Door Prizes awarded at the conclusion of the festivities.

An additional incentive to visit the Convention will be an International Guppy Show which is being held on the same three days by the Guppy Association of Chicagoland in the Garfield Park Conservatory, about three blocks away from the Convention headquarters. Persons interested in making entries should contact John Rudack, 5786 W. Archer Avenue, Chicago 38, Ill.

If you are attending the TIFAS Convention you are asked to contact Mr. Harvey Wittenberg,

.....

MY EXPERIENCE IN SPAWNING THE
NANNOSTOMUS ANOMALUS

By Mr. Edgar Parisien, Consultant, Ottawa
Valley Aquarium Society

(written as an easy guide for spawning)

NAME OF FISH - Nannostomus Anomalus, pro-
nounced Nan-os'to-mus an-om'al-us.

LOCATION OF FISH - Amazon and Rio Negro
Basins.

FAMILY - Characidae (pronounced Ka-ra'si-
dee). The Characins (pronounced Ka ra sins)
form one of the largest families of fishes
in the world. Many Characins look much like
some species of Carps, but the aquarist
seldom has trouble distinguishing members of
the two families. No Carp ever has any
teeth in the jaws, or any adipose fin. Most
Characins possess both teeth and an adipose
fin. Some lack one or the other, but few or
no species lack both, and if aquarists will
remember this "one-or-the-other" combination
they will seldom be puzzled. Internally
they differ from the Carps in the bones of
the throat. All Characins have scales,
excepting one very rare species from
Argentina.

GENUS - Nannostomus.

GROWTH OF FISH IN AQUARIUM - Approximately
1 1/2 inches.

TEMPERMENT - Very peaceful (sometimes a
little timid).

SEX DIFFERENCE - The male has white tips
on the pelvic and caudal fins.

SPAWNING AGE - 10 months and as young as 7
months.

CONDITIONING FOR SPAWNING - They will eat

almost anything offered to them. An
occasional feeding of live food helps a
lot.

WATER - The water must be clear and con-
taining some rain water.

TEMPERATURE - 68-72 P.H. - 6.4 - 7.0

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR SPAWNING - No
special equipment is necessary.

TYPE OF PLANTS - Any well planted aquarium
will do. I try to keep all the plants at
one end and cover the surface above the
rooted plants with water sprite.

METHOD OF SPAWNING - Side by side position.
The eggs are deposited at or near the
surface among the water sprite. Some of
the eggs will fall to the bottom but if the
aquarium is thickly planted there is no
harm. Liberal feedings of daphnia offered
when spawning will help to keep them away
from the eggs.

EGGS - Eggs are rather small and very
clear.

TIME OF SPAWNING - Spawning takes place at
any time of day.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING - No special lighting
is required. Surface under the light should
be covered with water sprite.

REMOVAL OF ADULTS - There is no need to
remove the adults.

HATCHING TIME - 48 hours at a temperature of
72°. The babies adhere to plants and glass
sides.

FEEDING THE FRY - Infusoria as the first
food. In one week they can eat micro worms
and in two weeks newly hatched brine shrimp.

REMARKS - Various methods have been pre-
scribed for spawning these beautiful little
fish. The method I use can be described as
community spawning. I never take out the
spawning stock (10 to 15 mixed sexes in all).
I reap the eggs, or newly hatched fry, by
bailing water from the surface, hatching
and rearing them in another aquarium. The
fry do not look like the adults until they
are about 2 months old.

.....

KAR VEL PET RANCH

TROPICAL FISH, CANARIES

BUDGIES - FINCHES - RABBITS

GUINEA PIGS - HAMSTERS

WHITE MICE & RATS

"TROPICAL FISH FOOD IN BULK"

NOW AVAILABLE

(dried shrimp, mollie food etc)

"BEST \$1.00 GUPPIES IN TOWN"

1108 Wellington

PA9-2057

Sour soil in white worm culture is
usually due to putting in more food than
can be disposed of by the worms in a few
days. If the soil has become very bad,
it is best to get out what worms you can
and place them in a new soil composed
equally of leaf mold and loam. White
worms need to be kept cool. A tempera-
ture of 50 degrees suits them very
nicely.

.....

JAR SHOW

STANDINGS

as of March 24th



Charlie Anderson	9 points
Ed Parisien	5 points
Al & Norman Johnson	4 points
George Bowie	4 points
Diane Fraser	4 points
Wilf Doucette	4 points
Alan Griffin	3 points
Claire & Heinz Kroeger	2 points
Alice Neumann	2 points
Marcel Leduc	1 point

ENTER THE NEXT JAR SHOW. LET US ADD
YOUR NAME TO THE LIST.

Points awarded: First 4 points, Second
3 points, Third 2 points and every
member entering the jar show 1 point.

FISH OF THE MONTH FOR 1960

- APRIL Giant Danio (male or female)
- MAY Three Spot Gourami (male)
- JUNE Betta (male)
- SEPTEMBER
- OCTOBER
- NOVEMBER
- DECEMBER
- JANUARY

Prizes are awarded to the three members
obtaining the greatest number of points.

.....

TAIL AND FIN ROT
By H.H. Miller

Reprinted from THE MONTREAL GAZETTE

One of the diseases fairly common among aquarium fish is tail and fin rot. This is usually caused by accumulated filth and contaminated water, but it can also take hold when the fish's natural resistance is lowered by sudden temperature changes or chill. It is an easily recognized and easily cured disease. The edge of the tail and sometimes the fins have a covering of white slimy nature which usually eats away the infected parts. If left untreated it will cause death.

In treating, the affected fin area should be removed, the stump painted with 5% methylene blue, and the fish kept in a separate tank in a weak solution of salt (one ounce to a gallon of water). However, a more modern remedy for this condition is aureomycin which can be obtained in tablet form. A solution of 100 milligrams to a gallon of water is usually effective, although it may need to be stronger for a severely afflicted fish. Another well proven remedy is 100 to 250 milligrams of tetracycline per gallon of water, each day for a week, with the affected fish remaining in the solution all day.

After a fish's tail is removed, it takes many months for a new tail to grow to normal length, but if the fish is otherwise healthy, this is nothing to cause concern. The replacement of fins is more rapid, especially if the damage is confined to the free edges. When the main rays are damaged, complete recovery takes a long time.

If tank conditions are everything they should be, this disease may be the result of improper feeding. Plenty of live food is the treatment in such cases.

.....

LETTER FROM ST LAURENT SANITORIUM

Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society
% C.S. Anderson 2 Feb 60.

Members of OVAS,

I just want to thank you in the name of all the patients of the St Laurent Sanitorium for the nice aquarium you have sent and installed here on the 3rd floor.

Everybody is interested and we will surely look after it with care - not only the men are looking after it, but the Sisters took charge to see that everything will be under control.

With many thanks.

Truly yours,

J. Edward St Denis
President of Committee

.....

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fish books
all reasonably priced

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AQUARIA AND ACCESSORIES

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ARE YOU SELLING YOUR RAFFLE

TICKETS??

THE SWAP SALE

WHAT IS THE SWAP SALE?

This is a service for members of the Society - an opportunity to SELL or BUY surplus fish, plants, aquaria, accessories, etc, etc.

WHEN IS THE SWAP SALE HELD?

At every Senior Society meeting, commencing at 7.45 PM and ending at 8.00 PM. Also during the intermission period if there are any items remaining to be sold.

I HAVE ITEMS FOR SALE - WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Items for sale will be turned over to the Swap Sale attendants at the meeting. You will be required to sign your name and list the price you are asking for the item (this price should include the 25 percent for the society).

I WOULD LIKE TO BUY - WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If you see something you would like to buy just pay the attendants and sign your name on the sales slip.

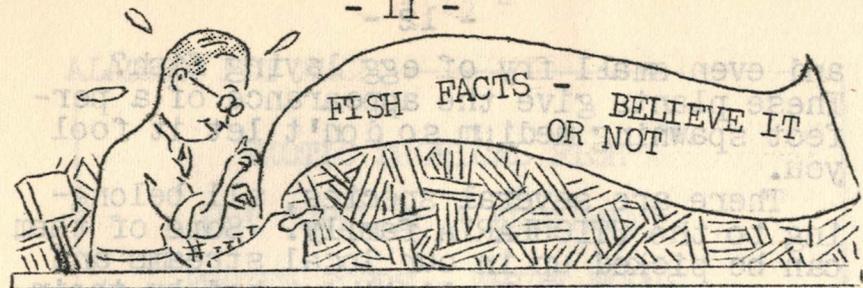
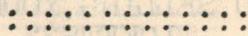
WHY DO WE SIGN OUR NAMES?

If you are selling or buying you have an opportunity to participate in the book draw for "Encyclopedia of Tropical Fishes" or "Exotic Aquarium Fishes". The sales slip is used for the drawing of the winner.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE 25 PERCENT?

This pays for the books that you have an opportunity to win. When sufficient money is obtained a book is purchased and those who have taken part in the Swap Sale (buying or selling) are eligible for the draw.

BRING YOUR SURPLUS FISH, PLANTS, AQUARIA ACCESSORIES, ETC ETC TO THE NEXT MEETING.



By your OVAS Reporters
Muriel Hodges and Ed Parisien

We hope to hear from you regarding the new fish food "DART".

Did you know that Scalares have been known to live over 10 years in an aquarium? Many people who now buy home grown scalares for .25¢ each are not aware that imported scalares, the size of a silver quarter, at one time sold for \$12.50 each.

Captain Jack Fraser has a suggestion for feeding Mollies...Have you ever tried to vary the diet of your mollies? This applies to Black Mollies, Libertys, and Sailfins. Here is my suggestion:

Get Baby foods in the small tins at your grocery store - spinach, mixed vegetables, or vegetables and liver will do. Spread the contents of a tin very thinly on wax paper and put it in the freezer for a day or so. The mixture will become very brittle and will come away from the wax paper very easily.

I feed this to each tank of mollies, morning and night, a piece about the size of a quarter at each feeding. Both small and large fish like this very much.

Don't neglect the feeding of dry food too.

Did you know that some plants can and do eat cyclops, daphnia, mosquito larvae,

(Cont'd page 12)

and even small fry of egg laying fish? These plants give the appearance of a perfect spawning medium so don't let it fool you.

There are several species, all belonging to the UTICULARIA family. Some of them can be picked up in our local streams and lakes. They can be distinguished by their little traps which look like eggs or seed like growths among the branches. They are described by scientists as bladders. Hence the common name of the plant BLADDERWORT.

The "grape vine" reports that a Mr. Smith, who won a pair of Texas Guppies at one of our meetings, now has quite a few offspring. However, they are all mixed up - top swords, bottom swords, fin tail, split tail and some very nice veiltails. I am wondering if there was a stranger around or if it is just a case where Mr. Smith's tank requires a weeding out?

In reply to questions received:

1. One sure way to get rid of snails is to buy a small turtle. Remove the turtle from the aquarium when the lights are out or he is liable to nip the tails of your fish.
2. Hatchetfish are the most peaceful of all aquarium fishes. They do have a short life and have a bad habit of jumping out of the aquarium.
3. Daphnia should be plentiful in two or three weeks.
4. Swatted flies are good food for your fish, providing they are not killed by an insect spray.
5. Fish can only be raised to maturity by giving them a varied diet.

.....

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 FROZEN FOODS - WHITE WORMS
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 NEON TETRAS 39¢
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REFRIGERATOR LININGS
 FOR INDOOR AND OUTDOOR TANKS
 By Charles L. Crawford, Reprinted from
 "The Aquarium"

There have been many mentions of refrigerator linings in aquarium publications, but few aquarists ever looked fully into their use. A lining is much easier to obtain and convert than one would think.

Obtaining a lining is only a matter of finding a junkyard which takes refrigerators as scrap, and removing the lining. By disassembling the refrigerator yourself, a large proportion of the cost is usually removed. Select only those with small holes if possible. Linings with large openings are almost impossible to seal.

After purchasing a liner, wash thoroughly
 (Cont'd page 14)

and scrape off any rust scales. The linings will almost always have spots of rust on the back sides. The most satisfactory method of sealing your liner is with fiberglass and fiberglass resin. This material can be purchased at any boat shop and many hardware and supply houses. The cost of the resin is around \$2.90 per quart (enough to do about one dozen linings). The fiberglass cloth is about \$2.00 per square yard.

After the lining has dried completely, sand around the holes in the lining lightly with a coarse grade of sand paper. This enables the fiberglass to bond to the baked on enamel. The next step is to mix a small amount of resin according to directions given on the container. Be sure to mix only small amounts at a time. Apply the resin by brushing around the holes on the outside of the lining and place small patches of cloth over them. After the patches have been placed over all the holes, go over them with another coat of resin. Allow the resin to set until hard, overnight for best results. When the resin on the outside has thoroughly set, turn the lining over and apply a coating of resin on the inside over the holes as you did on the outside. It is not necessary to use any fiberglass cloth on this step. Check the inside of the lining for any cracks or rusty places in the baked on enamel. These may be sealed very effectively by sanding as before and applying a coating of resin. Again, there is no need for the cloth, as the resin seals these places entirely. After the inside of the lining has been repaired, turn the lining over and sand any spots of rust (you need not sand to the bare metal) and coat these spots with resin.

(Cont'd page 15)

When the last coatings of resin have hardened, check all the holes by holding the lining in a manner which will enable you to look through them. Any pinholes will show, and a small brushing of resin will quickly seal them.

Your lining can now be painted with any enamel paint if desired or used as finished. If you paint your lining be sure not to paint the inside.

The fiberglass requires no aging, so you can fill your lining as soon as the last coating of resin has set overnight.

Try this method and see if you can't make a fifteen (15) to fifty (50) gallon aquarium for less than \$3.00! I have.

.....

IMPORTANT NOTICE

We wish to correct a misunderstanding regarding the Canada Packers Labels to be collected:

1. We are permitted to turn in the labels of ANY CANADA PACKERS PRODUCTS. It was previously announced that the labels must have the CP sign - this is incorrect.
2. If you are in doubt as to the portion of the label to be saved, TURN IN THE COMPLETE LABEL.

.....

The Executive and Members of the Society wish to extend their deepest sympathy to Mr. John Argue, a member of our Society, in the recent passing away of his father, Dr. J.F. Argue.



to sell your raffle tickets

The success of the 1960 Raffle is in your hands - lets make a real effort to sell our tickets NOW.

Turn your money and ticket stubs in as early as possible - REMEMBER the raffle ends MAY 26TH.

IF YOU WISH TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL TICKETS PHONE:

- [redacted] Dan Jeffrey
- or
- [redacted] Harvey Wittenberg

Prizes for the Junior members selling the greatest number of tickets

HOME-RAISED DAPHNIA

By G.H. Meserve, Jr. Reprinted from "The Boston Aquarium News"

Daphnia is the popular name for tiny aquatic crustaceans that are related to the shrimp, the crab, and the lobster. "Water fleas" is a less elegant name, and the complete scientific name is Daphnia pulex. They are found the world over in ditches, ponds, and lakes.

They feed on microscopic plant life (algae) and on decaying organic material. During the spring and fall when the waters are cool, they may swarm to the surface in countless numbers. As they are an excellent live food for tropical fishes they are eagerly sought by many tropical fish hobbyists.

Finding a Daphnia pool, netting the sixteenth-inch creatures, and keeping them alive until they could be fed to fishes was not always easy. Thus, some two years ago when the late John Amoroso of the Boston Society said that he had kept a culture of Daphnia going for several years, many of the members were much interested. I took advantage of his offer of a culture and started one of my own. Now, some two years later, I can report that his method works and that I have maintained the culture he gave me with considerable success.

At first I maintained the Daphnia as he did in two 50-gallon casks. Ultimately both of these leaked and I transferred the culture to spare aquaria. Actually the latter has proved to be much more satisfactory as I could check on the status of the culture at all times. It was not always so easy in the murky dark of a barrel. Today I have three aquaria of 30, 20 and 10 gallon capacity alive with Daphnia. The constant supply has been sufficient to feed some 30 tanks of

(Cont'd page 18)

tropicals three to four meals per week. In nature, the propagation of Daphnia harmonized with the seasons; i.e., the water temperature. Female Daphnia lay winter eggs in the fall (late October) which survive the winter and hatch in the spring. Adulthood is then realized in about 7 days, and production continues every 6 or 7 days until there is a change in water temperature or food supply. Daphnia live about 30 days. In this time, one female may produce 600 young.

If Daphnia are raised in the cellar of the home, one can control both seasonal changes and food supply. The temperature range in my cellar fish room is between 65 and 75 degrees throughout the year. Baker's yeast is the basic food supply plus that nourishment which may be found in the detritus and the old water siphoned from other aquaria.

.....



HAVE YOU HEARD THE LATEST?

....well we celebrated our sixth Anniversary with a record attendance and a well planned programme....

Mr. Wilfred Whitern, FZS, was the guest speaker who gave an interesting talk on a new dry food called "dart".... it was also a treat to see his personal film of wild animals and tropical fish... The executive were really shook up when they opened the rented projector to find

(Cont'd page 19)



Golden Anniversary
TROPICAL FISH HANDBOOK CATALOG

The most complete selection of tropical fish, beautifully illustrated. Completely revised, and just printed, this 60-page handbook is an encyclopedia of tropical fish information, includes breeding, care, do-it-yourself tips on use of aquarium equipment . . . **Only 50¢** hundreds of accessory items. Stop in, or write to our Catalog Dept.

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that half the parts were missing...however, a fast trip home by our good friend Hon. William Hamilton for his projector saved the day...the Social Committee deserve a vote of thanks for the very nice refreshments which included a very large birthday cake...there were games, such as darts, bingo etc. I happened to be up on the next floor when I heard "your chance to win a one hundred dollar bill". I raced down the stairs, missed the last six steps and had to spend the rest of the evening standing...I would like to meet the guy who was giving away the hundred dollar bills...

You can flip the page now...

...Question...what happened to the fines for those without name cards??....

...The Senior Society Executive and Members welcome our new friends and members of the Society: Mr. Theo Heyming; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Jackson; Mr. Phil Walker and Dr. Robert Jackson...

...the editor was telling me about a complaint he received from a member who did not get his OVAS News and other mail. I will not mention his name but his initials are George Bowle. It appears that GB installed a new door and to do this it was necessary to remove the mail box...GB also installed a fancy lock so that no one could get in or out...RESULTS - no mail. In the meantime our editor was in the dog house, the membership Director, mail man, Post Office and everyone who mentioned the word mail...Latest news - GB has removed the door...

...A church, tired of having its lawn constantly showered with confetti, posted this notice to bridal parties: "if you must throw something, throw grass seed."...

.....

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF AQUARIUM CLUBS
(C.A.O.A.C.) TIFAS Regional Group No.20
By Mr. Don Thompson, OVAS TIFAS Rep.

For the past two years The International Federation of Aquarium Societies (TIFAS) has given considerable time and planning to the forming of Regional Groups in Canada and United States. To date there are approximately six Regional Groups formed.

The purpose of forming Regional Groups is to provide assistance in obtaining speakers, films and visual aids, shows, membership and programme material for the societies. The

(Cont'd page 21)

Chairman of the Regional Group serves as a member on the Board of Governors of TIFAS.

I know that everyone will be very happy to hear that the first regional group to be formed in Canada is Regional Group No.20. This group is to be known as The Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs (C.A.O.A.C.).

C.A.O.A.C. boundaries are: West as far as Windsor, Ontario. From Windsor north to Grand Bend, Ontario, from Grand Bend a line proceeding east to include Barrie, Ontario. From Barrie a line proceeding further east to include Peterborough, Ontario, and from Peterborough a line travelling south to and including Cobourg, Ontario.

Officers elected are: Mr. Doug Martin (Independant) President; Mr. Bert Steenhuis (Niagara Falls Society) Vice-President; Mr. Ernie Straight (Hamilton Society) Secretary; Mr. Ray Taylor (Canadian Aquaria Society) Treasurer.

C.A.O.A.C. will be holding their first convention and show in Niagara Falls, Ont., and an invitation is extended to all OVAS members to attend.

THE CONVENTION: Date: May 21st and 22nd.
Place: King Edward Hotel, Niagara Falls.

THE SHOW: Date: May 14th to May 22nd.
Place: Niagara Falls, Museum.

PURPOSE: To provide the best show this country has ever seen and for two days to have the best and fishiest get together YOU have ever seen.

Registration fees for the convention have been set at \$4.00 per person. This includes the lunch on Saturday and the banquet Saturday night, plus your identification button, plus a trip through the museum, plus whatever else the committee is able to wangle.

Accommodation for persons staying over at the King Edward Hotel are as follows:
Single room \$4.00; Double \$8.00; 3 Persons

(Cont'd page 22)

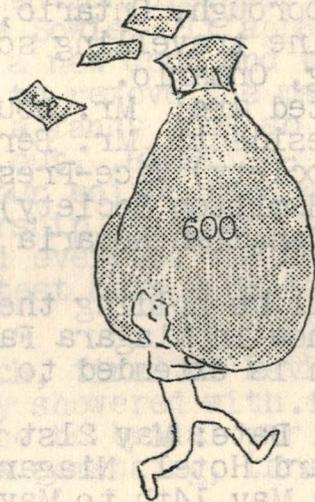
\$10.00; 4 persons \$12.00.

Anyone attending the C.A.O.A.C. Convention is asked to contact Mr. Don Thompson, [redacted].

.....

CANADA PACKERS LABELS

TOTAL AS OF 24TH MARCH



LET'S SEE HOW FAST WE CAN MAKE THIS BAG GROW

The total todate is disappointing but I am sure you will cooperate and we will increase this total considerably at the next meeting. REMEMBER: Turn in the whole label if you are not sure what portion should be saved.

Prizes for the three Junior Society members who collect the greatest number of labels.

Gerry Lalonde
Social Director.

O.V.A.S.
JUNIOR SOCIETY



OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Chipper Vickers
Vice-Pres: Gordon Worden
Secretary: George Ward
Treasurer: Frank Jones

Membership: Larry Forrest
Programme: Ian Woods
Social: John Manchester
Magazine: Larry Neumann
Show: John McKinlay-Key

Librarians: Larry Neumann
(one to be appointed)

JUNIOR SOCIETY COMMITTEE SUPERVISORS

Director: (to be appointed)
Assistant: Mr. Harvey J. Wittenberg

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

At our next meeting, April 21st, we will celebrate the Junior Society fifth anniversary with a special programme - speaker, fun night with games and prizes. It is also planned that an invitation will be extended
(Cont'd page 24)

to our parents to attend.

It was on April 14th, 1955, that our Junior Society was officially formed by Mr. Edgar Parisien and Mr. Harvey Wittenberg. At this meeting there was approximately 17 members and our first President to be elected was Mr. Terry Wilkie, now a member of the Senior Society.

When you look back into the records of our Junior Society it is noted that progress was made each year - attendance at meetings, membership, jar shows, well planned programmes and winning the greatest number of awards in the annual tropical fish shows, all of which is a credit to the officers and directors who have worked very hard during the five years of our Society.

Let us make every effort to see that we continue this fine record.

Chipper Vickers
President.

.....
OUR MEMBERSHIP

We welcome our new members: Brian Collins and Jimmy Smith. Renewal of membership: Peter Orphanos, Ian Woods and John Lyall.

You can help the membership of your Society by bringing a prospective member to the meetings.

.....

IMPORTANT: Read pages 16 and 22

HEALTHY FISH WILL THRIVE ON CARE
AND CLEANLINESS

Reprinted from THE MONTREAL GAZETTE
Written by H.H. Miller.

To keep fish healthy, a good environment and attention are required. This is especially true of fishes as they are captive in whatever conditions exist in the aquarium. As with other pets, many fish diseases can be prevented simply by proper attention.

Probably the first hazard to look out for in a tank is accumulated filth such as decaying, uneaten food, excreta and rotting plant life. These should be removed regularly.

If there are snails in your tanks, count heads from time to time. Snails have a habit of dying in odd corners under plants where they petrify and contaminate the water. Some plants may yellow as a result of this. They should also be removed.

Before adding new plants to your tank, it is a good idea to put them in quarantine by keeping them in a separate tank or jar, changing the water every two or three days. Most aquarists follow the practice of quarantine with new fish, before adding them to the regular tank.

A separate small tank for this purpose also comes in handy for keeping fish that may appear uneasy or ill. Such fish should be separated from the others and placed in the quarantine tank for a few days of observation, in a mild salt bath.

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Where is your article for the
Junior Section of the O.V.A.S.

NEWS?

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 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

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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 consideration. 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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ROCKS

Borrowed from Buffalo's "Fish Tales"

Rocks make an additional contrast to sand and plants and are used by some fishes as spawning surfaces. Each piece of rock in a tank robs the fishes of some swimming space however, so do not overdo this furnishing.

Water-worn natural stones collected from stream or river beds do give the best appearance and are free from sharp edges on which fish can injure their scales. With practice, attractive "rocks" can be made from coke coated with a 3:1 sand-cement mixture, but these must be soaked in water to remove free lime arising from the cement, before they are used.

Crystalline formations, such as white spar, calc spar, gypsum, marble, alabaster or limestone rocks, should not be included in the aquarium, since they slowly dissolve in the water, making it hard and alkaline. Pieces of metal-bearing ores are similarly best avoided; a piece of scrubbed coal or smooth slate can form unusual aquarium features and layered pieces or "crazy paving" will make a pleasing shelving background for larger aquaria.

Artificial rocks, made from glass or plastics, can be purchased, but natural ones give the best results for general aquarium use. These include granites, obtainable in red, blue, green variegated colours, the various pink, white, or yellow quartzes, the grey and red sandstone, manhattan schist and the so-called peanut brittle rock. Petrified wood may also be safely used in aquaria.

Positioning the rocks is a matter for trial and error, to obtain a pleasing effect, for their disposition will depend on their shape and size. Keep away from

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the exact centre of the tank, place larger ones slightly forward, but keep the rocks more towards the back, arranging them in broken lines. Rocks which bear natural stratum lines should be arranged so that they bear some relationship to one another and that they are disposed near-horizontally. Bury the bases of the rocks, those placed across corners can be used to retain a bank of sand. Avoid forming cracks or interstices in which a dead fish or snail can decay without being seen. Small chips of the same rock may be scattered over the sand, with effect, particularly if the colours or rock and sand are pleasantly contrasting.

In tanks receiving light from the top, an attractive feature can be made in the following way - assemble with rocks an open cave facing the front glass and roof it with a piece of red or dark green glass, hiding this from view at the front with rock. The interior of the cave will appear suffused with coloured light from the glass, creating a picturesque effect.

Although the average tank is 12" from the front, it will look only about 6" when seen through the water, due to refraction. This can be counteracted to some extent by the placing of stones to help the perspective, and so give an illusion of distance. For instance, two large stones placed near the front of the tank, far apart, can be followed by 2 smaller ones close together, and beyond these, may be still smaller stones.

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The present-day blue variety of Three-Spot Gourami was developed from a sport or color variation of the original fish we used to see many years ago.
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NOTES ON SPAWNING

"The Amateur" Fin-Fare Victoria
Aquarium Society

One thing that should be carefully taken into consideration by the would be spawner is the age and condition of the fish to be mated.

In fact, it is a thing that every beginner should familiarize himself with before he starts any large amount of buying, as far as fish are concerned. All too often does one purchase a fish in all good faith to have it gone off to the land of no return before he knows where he is at. The life expectancy of the average fish is two years anyway, so, keep it; and, what earthly good is it going to be to you as far as spawning is concerned?

I have found with the various fish which I have spawned that the best age seems to be between 6-12 months. I have had them spawn younger, but, later..well if they do the little ones ARE little ones. After all reproduction should be carried out by the younger and healthier.

How shall you tell an old fish? They get a regular "Dowanger's Hump". In a slender fish like a male Zebra they tend to curve like an old crescent moon. They even swim in a more jerky fashion.

If you get a fish given to you, be polite and say thank you, but, if you are going to the trouble of spawning select young sleek, active fish. Never get a fish whose fins are furred and held close to the body. They should be jauntily erect, and the fish should move with vigor.

In females such as the Danios the belly is full and rounded when she is ready to spawn. Remember a fish can't spawn till it has eggs ready to spawn with so, if in doubt, put them in a divided tank till she

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seems ready. A female fish sometimes takes quite a beating at spawning time, so, look her over for damage when you take her out. If you see any raw or bitten areas, put her in a treated bath to prevent the fungus which will follow from getting in it's deadly work.

Bettas can be spawned at five months. After a year it is either pitiful or funny, depending the mood you are in, to watch them. I raised a lovely brood of forty from two five month old fish.

It is often more difficult to tell a male fish. They are, for the most part, slimmer but; there is a vast difference between a slim and a hollow-bellied fish.

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DRY-LIVE-FROZEN FOOD

Reprinted from "The Canadian Aquaria"

To be sure of healthy, well-coloured, and lovely Tropical Fish, a nutritious diet should be established and maintained. This can be attained by the use of the many dry foods available. However, these foods should not be fed continuously, but it is advisable to supplement them with other forms of feeding.

Tropical fish, in common with other forms of life, require a change in food and it is much better to alternate the feedings of dry foods, using conditioning food, shrimp meat, crab meat, salmon eggs, dried daphnia and vegetable compounds, with home cultured live foods, collected live foods and frozen foods.

Live foods cultured in the home are usually white worms, micro worms, small red worms and brine shrimp. All of these make very good alternatives, but it is not advisable to feed white worms more than

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twice weekly.

Collected live foods are generally daphnia, mosquito larvae, cyclops and tubifex worms. Particular care should be taken with collected live foods during the seasons when the larvae of the dytiscus beetle, dragon and damsel flies are present in the pools from which the live foods are taken to see that these dangerous enemies of tropical fish are not introduced into the aquarium.

Most city dwellers find it difficult to obtain live foods and to give variety to feedings, rely on frozen foods such as baby or adult brine shrimp, daphnia, fish roe and chicken livers. All of which are excellent substitutes for live foods, and any one of which may be used once a day in addition to the regular dry food feedings.

Overfeeding is something to be on guard against, the golden rule for feeding is to give a little at a time and frequently. If this pattern is followed, it is not likely any trouble will be encountered. It is well to remember, however, that overfeeding is dangerous. Uneaten food quickly decomposes in the water causing a fouling of the water. Foul water is deficient in oxygen and, of course, oxygen lack effects the fish just as it would you or I.

Make your diet for the fish varied and always be on guard against overfeeding.

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Never crowd good fish, as trouble always hits in crowded tanks the same as in congested areas with humans. More room will give them a better chance to grow more rapidly and they will have less diseases.

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