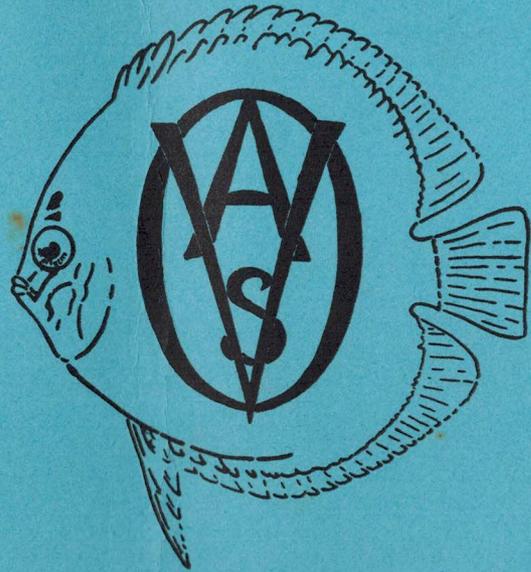


OVAS NEWS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

OTTAWA VALLEY
AQUARIUM SOCIETY

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 343 STN. "C"
OTTAWA, ONT., CANADA



THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY MEETINGS

Junior Society

Thursday, October 20th 7.00 PM

Thursday, November 17th 7.00 PM

Senior Society

Thursday, October 27th 7.45 PM

Thursday, November 24th 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], [redacted], OTTAWA 3. ([redacted]).

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
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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 the 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, (T.I.F.A.S.).

Membership is open to all persons wishing to acquaint themselves with this hobby.

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Diane or Jack Fraser
(samples are available)

WHERE WILL YOU LET THE PROFITS GO?
TO THE LOCAL STORE -
OR YOUR SOCIETY?

THE WHITE WORM CULTURE

By George J. Maier, Reprinted from the
Tropicals Magazine - Holiday Issue, 1960

When everything is frozen, as is very likely at this time of the year, it is almost impossible to supply the fish fancier with the accustomed live food for his fish, as is done during the warm weather months. Even to get enough tubifex worms requires herculean efforts. And here is where our white worms, (*Enchytraeus Albidus*) come in. They require little space - a small wooden box or a flower pot will do. For the aquarist with just a few tanks I recommend a flower pot.

White worms are excellent as a fish food if they are not too often on the menu - about two feedings a week would be considered ideal. If fed too often to our fish they have a fattening effect on them and are even reported to cause sterility.

These worms are found in nature under logs, etc., and are related to our common garden worm. They grow only to a length of about one inch, and it is this size that makes them so suitable as a tropical fish food. They are creamy white in color and reproduce by laying eggs. Their reproduction is rapid if they have proper food and suitable temperature.

Buy a culture from your pet dealer. The easiest way to get a culture going at home is to go to a pet shop where you can get a good starting supply for \$1.00 or \$1.50, rather than trying to find your own.

Put this culture into a wide flower pot, the drain hole of which has previously been blocked by a piece of glass or a small rock. If you do not have enough soil, fill up with 2/3 garden soil and 1/3 peat. The purpose of the peat is to

(Cont'd page 5)

retain moisture and keep the soil from packing. Then with one finger make a depression on the surface and into this depression place the food. Next cover the surface of the soil with a piece of tin-foil and put this "loaded" flower pot in a cool place, 55° to 60°F is about right. For the first 6 weeks I would not feed any worms to fish but rather give them a chance to multiply.

As food, almost any left-over will do, but don't forget that the quality of the worms as fish food depends on what they are fed. We have had the best success with cooked oatmeal, a cooked mush made of whole wheat flour and boiling water, white bread soaked in milk or mashed potatoes. About every 2 or 3 weeks they get a feeding of a hot-dog sliced length-wise or a piece of bologna or liver sausage. This meaty diet speeds their propagation, but if they get it too often the worms turn yellow and our aquarium fish will turn their noses up at them. The worms should be given food every second day, and if there is food from the previous feeding, remove it, as it is apt to sour the soil.

Methods of separating worms from soil-
As stated before, feed white worms to fish only twice a week. In order to feed them, however, we have to separate the soil from the worms and here is where every fish man wants to have the best method. I will give you my way of doing it so that you have a good start in developing your own method. With an old fork, especially chosen for this purpose (and I want this underlined to assure any fish fancier who is ever invited to our place for dinner that he does not have to eat with our worm fork!) I move the soil and worms onto a saucer and expose this to light. Worms try to get away

(Cont'd page 6)

from light and heat and move downward. About 10 minutes later the top layer of soil can be removed. After the second or third soil removal you have only clean white worms on the saucer. These we put into a water glass filled with water and after the worms have settled we pour off the water and what remains is as palatable a fish food as can be found anywhere.

Another method of separating soil and worms I would like to tell about is the way I have seen Mr. I. Dobkin do it. He has many fish to feed so he had devised this faster method. He uses a tin can with a screen as a bottom. This can is suspended above a pot of water. In the can is soil with worms and above the can is a 25 watt incandescent bulb. The light and heat from the bulb sends the worms downward 'til they drop into the water. This arrangement is quite simple and is very effective.

In literature we often run across the recommendation to use water to wash the worms out of the soil. I suppose we would have to call this the "gold washing method," but I have found it to be too messy to suit me. This outline should give you ample ideas on how to separate worms from the soil and from these you can develop your own method. If you do succeed in finding a unique way of doing the job, by all means do not carry the secret with you to the grave but let other fish fanciers in on your discovery.

How to separate small and large worms -
You often hear of the recommendation to mince white worms with a knife to feed small fish. I tried this only to find that many young fish got hold of too big a piece of worm and promptly choked on it. While cleaning white worms in a tall water glass I found that the larger worms settled

(Cont'd page 7)

much faster than the smaller ones. Thus if you pour water with worms from one glass to another, much the same as when mixing Bromo Selzer, the large worms go down to the bottom of the glass while the smaller ones are still in suspension and can be drained off. In this manner a smaller live food can be obtained that won't choke your small fish when they eat it. With only a little practice you will be good at doing it.

The mites in culture are harmless -
We do not have to have our worm culture too long before we discover small brown bugs in it. Many aquarists think they are seeing eggs of worms. A closer observation will show that these brown bugs move about and are very much alive. They are small mites belonging to the family of the Arachnoidea. Spiders and ticks belong to this same group. Characteristic is that they have 4 paired legs while insects have only 3. These mites are not parasitic on our white worms but merely get along very well on their food. If they get too plentiful their removal is in order.

Some 20 years ago we set up a culture of white worms that was completely free of mites. The soil was baked in an oven and after cooling and moistening, the worms were introduced after they had been washed in several rinses of water. All went well for about 6 weeks, then the mites showed up, and every since I have had to contend with them. The sad story is that even our fish do not care for them.

To get a worm culture to live through the summer is somewhat difficult. But if a cool basement is available and their feeding is not neglected, it can be done. My wife proved that to me this past summer.

.....



JAR SHOW

STANDINGS

as of September 30th

Charlie Anderson	17 points
Al & Norman Johnson	12 points
Diane Fraser	12 points
Wilf Doucette	10 points
Alice Neumann	10 points
George Bowle	9 points
Ed Parisien	7 points
Alan Griffin	3 points
Claire & Heinz Kroeger	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 receives 1 point. Prizes are awarded to the three members obtaining the greatest number of points at the end of the year.

FISH OF THE MONTH FOR 1960

- OCTOBER Neon Tetra (male or female)
- NOVEMBER Guppy (pair in one jar)
- DECEMBER ---winners announced---
- JANUARY Zebra (male or female)

MEMBERS WHO HAVE ANY SURPLUS FISH OR PLANTS, AND WOULD LIKE TO DONATE THEM FOR OUR HOSPITAL TANKS, PLEASE PHONE RE3-0257, Charlie Anderson

PAKISTAN AQUARIUM SOCIETY

The Pakistan Aquarium Society will be holding an International Aquarium Exhibition during the first week in November at Karachi, Pakistan.

Mr. S. Maqsoodul Hasan, Honorary Secretary, and recently elected to the TIFAS Board of Governors as Vice-Chairman of Program/Visual Aids Committee for Pakistan, extends an invitation to all aquarium hobbyists to send entries of fish for the International Exhibition.

I do hope that the members of the Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society will accept the invitation to participate in the Pakistan International Exhibition.

All entries should be forwarded to Pakistan by air (cost approximately \$5.70 for 2.2 pounds). TCA and BAOC have advised that they have received instructions from Pakistan for the transporting of the fish and wish to insure all hobbyists that the fish will receive special attention (at no extra cost) by the use of special containers and heated compartments.

Further information may be obtained from Mr. Harvey J. Wittenberg.

.....

MY EXPERIENCE IN SPAWNING THE BLACK-LINE TETRA

By: Mr. Edgar Parisien, Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society

(written as an easy guide for spawning)

NAME OF FISH: Hyphessobrycon scholzei
Meaning of name: Hyphessobrycon, little Brycon; scholzei in honor of the aquarist Scholze.

LOCATION OF FISH: South America (lower Amazon). Cont'd page 10)

FAMILY: Characidae (pronounced Ka-ra'si-dee)

GROWTH OF FISH: Some say 2½ inches. I have never seen any larger than 1½.

TEMPERAMENT: Moderately peaceful, quite active.

SEX DIFFERENCE: Female has deeper body when ripe also a small dark area near the vent.

SPAWNING AGE: Easy to spawn at 10 months to 1½ years.

CONDITIONING FOR SPAWNING: no special conditioning but some live food should be fed to the breeders.

WATER: PH and DH not important.

TEMPERATURE: 72 - 74.

PLANTS: A thick tangle of bushy plants at one end of the aquarium, such as Cabomba, Anacharis or Myriophyllum.

SPAWNING: Side by side motion. It could be said that they are community spawners because in this method I use several pairs at one time.

EGGS: Adhesive.

TIME OF SPAWNING: Anytime.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING: 25 watt.

REMOVAL OF ADULTS: I don't remove adults, but they will eat their eggs and young if left together (see remarks).

HATCHING TIME: 18-26 hours at temperature of 74.

FEEDING THE FRY: Infusoria, plankton or milk.

REMARKS: I remove the eggs rather than the
(Cont'd page 11)

adults. This is done by bailing water from the surface above the plants where the half emerged fry are hanging, or lift the plants out and wash the eggs off into a large glass bowl. If a light is put under the bowl and you swirl the water, waiting about 30 seconds, the eggs are all in the centre where they can be picked up with a syringe.

.....

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BLOOD AND TEMPERATURE

Reprinted from The Scalare

This article was an Editorial used in the December 59 issue of "Fish Tales", the publication of the Buffalo Aquarium Society Inc., Buffalo, New York. It's Editor is Mr. Curt E. Grass.

The blood of a fish has approximately the same temperature as the surrounding water; when the water gets warmer or colder, so does the blood. That is why fishes are

(Cont'd page 12)

more active at higher temperatures, for a certain amount of heat is necessary for metabolism to take place. They also get more hungry as the temperature rises, because food in the tissues is being used up. It is also the reason why it is desirable for the temperature to be lower at night, so that the fishes can rest.

The changes of temperature, however, must always be slow, to give the blood a chance to keep pace with it. A sudden change of temperature of more than two degrees is dangerous to fishes. You will see therefore that there is a difference between temperature range, varying over a period of hours, and temperature change, altering suddenly, perhaps the difference between the receptacle in which the fish is carried and the tank, or perhaps the result of pouring a quantity of cold water into a warm tank. The fish can adapt itself to, and actually benefit by, a range, but may be killed by a change. This is a very important thing to bear in mind.

Sudden temperature changes simply means to invite disease, the most common being "shimmies", "ichthy" and "fungus", either singly or altogether. Most temperature changes are inadvertently made by guessing at the temperature of the water that is being used to completely change or partially change the water in a tank. It is best to be sure. Use a good thermometer and not just guess with a "finger dip."

While on the subject of the blood, it may be useful to mention that in fresh-water fishes it contains a higher proportion of salts than the surrounding water. As a result, by a process called osmosis the tissues tend to absorb water and so dilute the blood; to counteract this, the kidneys must get rid of the water and save the salts. So changes in the salt

(Cont'd page 13)

content of the surrounding water will react on the organization of the body and this can often be used when treating a sick fish, but it also means that we have sometimes to be careful of the water we put in the tank, for some kinds of fish are more sensitive to osmotic changes than others, and may be harmed by living for a long time in "hard" water, that is, containing a comparatively large amount of lime salts. You need not worry about this in the early stages, but it may be worth knowing later on.

All water changing should be handled with a good bit of care and discretion. Do as little of it as possible. Avoid situations which might make water changes necessary.

.....

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WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO BUY YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS???



HAVE YOU HEARD
THE LATEST?

By: H.W.G.K.

...A farmer was passing an insane asylum with a truck load of smelly fertilizer. An inmate called out: "What are you hauling there?" "Fertilizer," answered the farmer. "What are you going to do with it?" persisted the questioner. "Put it on my strawberries," replied the farmer. "You ought to live with us," remarked the inmate, "we get sugar and cream on ours!"....

...CONGRATULATIONS to our young Senior Society Member Gerry Guzzo. Gerry has been awarded the Inco Scholarship by the International Nickle Company of Canada, for entry to Chemical Engineering in Ottawa University. It is valued at \$700 renewable each year. He also won the Ontario Scholars Scholarship, having attained nine first class honors and two second class honors in his Grade 13 examinations. Gerry, a graduate of Fisher Park High School, is the son of Mrs. Guzzo and the late Blaise Guzzo, 929 Merivale Road...

...The Senior executive have come up with an excellent idea of selling Christmas Cards to increase our treasury...some members were not too happy with the annual raffle and this project, if successful, will replace the raffle... are YOU going to do your part? Let your

(Cont'd page 15)

Society benefit from the sales of Christmas cards rather than the local stores...

...We are very happy to hear that our young Senior member, Gary Zumar, is starting his first year in Biology at the University of Ottawa...Gary joined the Junior Society in 1955 and served as President. As a member of the Senior Society he is serving on the Program and Magazine Committee...

...Wonders will never cease...Harvey Wittenberg won his first trophy and it has taken six years...it was during the presentation of the show trophies that Mr. Wittenberg was called to receive his trophy - a miniature trophy "for a good sport"...Harvey is very proud of this trophy and thanks the doner very much... he has one suggestion - there should be a special class with only one entry permitted...

...The drunk was sitting at the bar adjacent to a man and his wife. Suddenly the drunk came forth with a resounding burp. "How dare you sir, What do you mean burping before my wife?" With that the drunk unsteadily got off the bar stool and, making a sweeping bow, said: "A thousand pardons, sir, I did not know it was the madam's turn."

...we welcome our new member, Mr. Conrad Rock who joined the Society at our last meeting...

...Cherrio...see you at our next meeting.

There will be a change in the dates of our December meetings:
Junior Society - Thursday, December 8th
Senior Society - Thursday, December 15th.

THE METHYLENE BLUE MYTH

By Joseph M. Devlin, Curator of the
Museum of Pathology, University of
Pennsylvania School of Medicine
(reprinted from the Scalare, Dallas
Aquarium Society).

It is difficult to account for the current, widespread use of METHYLENE BLUE in the treatment of ailing tropical fish. Now looked upon as a panacea, it appears to be used as a curative agent in almost any disease from algosis to zo-osis. Actually, methylene blue falls far short of its reputation as a miracle drug. Concisely, methylene blue is of doubtful value when employed as a therapeutic or antiseptic agent!

The author has conducted quite a number of experiments where-in various protozoa and fungi which attack fish were cultured in media to which methylene blue was added in concentrations approximating doseages commonly used in the treatment of infected fish. Most parasites thus tested were observed to grow just as well in the methylene blue as those (controls) grown in the same media without the dye. Fungi, in particular, thrived in the dye, thus methylene blue's value as a fungicide can be discredited. Can anyone imagine the treating of tenacious fungus diseases such as ringworm or athlete's foot in the human with a mild solution of methylene blue? All fungus diseases are insidious, and it takes powerful chemicals to kill the causative micro-organisms. The problem is to destroy the parasites without injuring host tissue. In fungus diseases of the human skin, this is difficult enough, but a fish under treatment must swim in its treatment; it must swallow it and the chemical must come in direct contact with sensitive gills.

It might be argued that I have based my

conclusions on a study of fishpathogens grown under artificial conditions, which to a degree, is true, however, some of the most common obligate parasites were studied in living hosts. My findings were invariably the same; no evidence that methylene blue was of any benefit to diseased fish.

Furthermore, methylene blue did not serve well as a "preventive medicine" for fish reared in it. When such fish were red tubifex and other "wild foods", the incidence of disease was about equal to that observed in control fish reared in ordinary aquarium water.

Why, then, is methylene blue so popular a fish remedy? I am convinced that it has become so widely used simply because it makes the keeper (not the fish) feel better. It cannot harm even the most delicate baby fish, so the keeper feels that he has done something for his poor, sick charges, **THE WATER IS BLUE!** He can SEE that he has done something!

A most important use for methylene blue has been completely overlooked; The dye makes an excellent algaecide! It does not kill the algae by direct contact, but rather it starves the algae by screening out the red rays of the light-spectrum which are needed by all green plants if they are to carry on the important life-process called photosynthesis. Perhaps this is why we so often hear that "methylene blue does not harm fish but it is hard on aquarium plants". The use of methylene blue in this manner is essentially equivalent to the turning off the aquarium lights or darkening the fish room, except that the blue dye provides a way of filtering out only the kind of light necessary to algae without interfering with the daily rythm of the fish.

Methylene blue has been used in pathology and histology laboratories for many years,

and it is today perhaps the most important bacteriological stain. But, its use in the aquarium world is relatively new, and I believe its possibilities have not yet been fully explored. The dye has a number of interesting aspects. For instance, it falls just short of being an indicator of bad water. When water to which methylene blue has been added turns foul it loses its dissolved oxygen, smells of hydrogen sulfide, and loses its blue color. In other words, the methylene blue molecule of its hydrogen atoms and thus is reduced to a new, colorless compound called leuco-methylene blue or "methylene white".

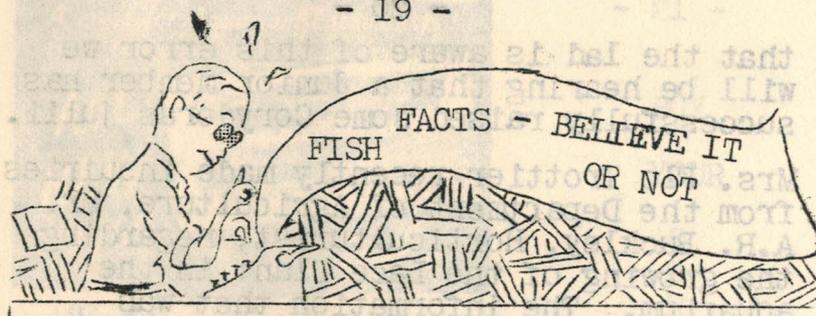
Methylene blue is not a good indicator of foul aquarium water simply because it gives the warning signal when it is too late to save the fish. However, I think it is a good idea to use the dye as an indicator to infusoria cultures. All too often small fry are killed by "feeding" them "infusoria" which is nothing more than polluted water.

.....

```

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By your OVAS Reporters
Muriel Hodges and Ed Parisien

We received many fine compliments regarding our recent aquarium show. It was bigger and better than in previous years and we owe a great deal to those who worked so hard to make the show a success. A special thanks also to Mrs. W.I. Dickson, "Dickson's Pet Shop" who donated fish food for all entries in the show during the week.

Mr. Parisien reports. During the show a man came to me and asked if we ever raised turtles in the aquarium. I said that I had not heard of it, and did not think anyone had. The gentleman told me that he had two small snappers that he caught at a lake, about 7 or 8 inches long, and that they had laid two eggs. The eggs were offered to me and I now have them in one of my tanks. Possibly in the next issue of the OVAS News I will be able to report what happens.

Anyone know where I can get a couple of six inch *Astronotus ocellatus*? If you have the answer phone SH6-8831, Mr. Ed Parisien.

A Junior member reported that his spotted catfish had spawned but the eggs had fungused. This was the result of leaving the light on day and night. Maybe now

that the lad is aware of this error we will be hearing that a Junior member has successfully raised some *Corydoras julii*.

Mrs. Flo Trottier recently made inquiries from the Department of Agriculture, Mr. A.R. Buckley, Horticulturist, regarding the growing of the Lace Plant in the aquarium. The information that was obtained proved to be very successful and is recommended by Mrs. Trottier. Here is what Mr. A.R. Buckley had to say:

"The Lace Plant, Lattice Plant or Madagascar Lace Plant (*Aponogeton fenistralis*) should have an aquarium by itself and not be planted with other aquatics that need abundant light and sunshine. It should be grown in subdued light at 70°F in good garden soil with which should be mixed well decayed leaves and charcoal. The rhizome should be planted in a 4" to 8" pot and placed about 2" under the water surface. Water should be kept clean and not allowed to become stagnant. Some of the water should be siphoned off each week and the aquarium filled with fresh water of the same temperature."

It is reported that if you want to control red snails, pond snails and sand snails, all you have to do is put a couple of mystery snails in the aquarium. It appears that the mystery snail really enjoys eating the eggs.

AVOID MISTAKES LIKE THIS...I saw a costly terrible blunder by one of our members during the OVAS show at the Exhibition. I am not writing this to criticize, but to warn others so the same mistake will not be made.

This member, who had entered a very nice aquarium and expensive fish in the

(Cont'd page 21)



Golden Anniversary

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show, asked if a heater would be required. The member was informed that no heaters were necessary, however a heater was purchased and immediately placed in the aquarium.

In a very short time there were many dead fish and the remainder did not have very long to live. On checking the temperature it was found to be well over 100 degrees. Who was to blame? You could not blame the heater or the dealer. The member was in error by placing the heater in the aquarium without first testing it.

A thermostat has a small knob which enables you to adjust the temperature. This knob can be very easily turned when

(Cont'd page 22)

packing, or even in the pet shop when being examined by other hobbyists, thereby putting it out of adjustment.

It is very important that a heater be tested before placing it in the aquarium and this requires very little time and one simple operation. The requirements are one thermometer, and a jar of water. Place the heater in the jar of water. It is not necessary to wait for the heater to build up the temperature. You have only to add warm or cold water to determine what temperature the thermostat is set for. The knob can then be adjusted to the required temperature.

Then and only then is it safe to place the heater in the aquarium. The same rule should be applied to heaters and thermostats which have been stored away during the summer.

.....

THE OVAS NEWS

It has been suggested that we consider changing the cover of our magazine, and possibly the name.

What name would you give to our official publication? Let us have your idea of a cover.

Editor.

.....

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Article 9 - Dues

The annual dues of all members shall be payable in advance. The membership fee shall be three dollars (\$3.00) per adult, four dollars (\$4.00) per married couples and one dollar (\$1.00) for Junior members.

(Cont'd page 23)

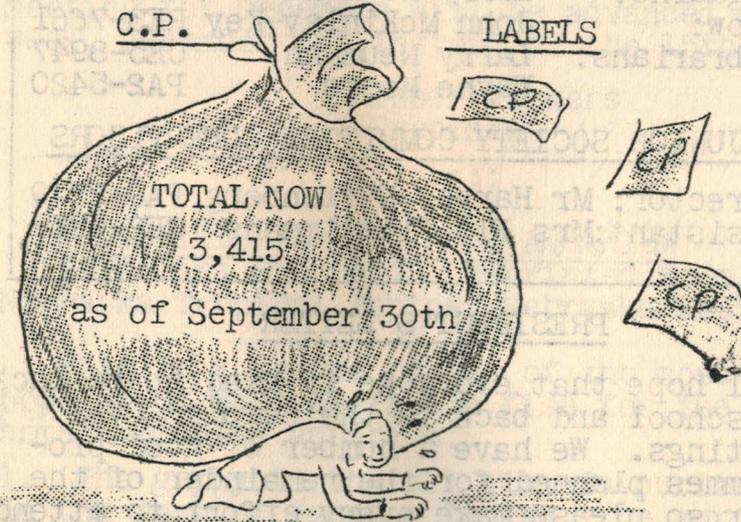
Full dues are to be paid by 31 January of each year. After March 31st new members shall pay the balance of the year by quarters. Any person over the age of 18 is considered an adult and any person at the age of 16 may make application for membership as an adult.

The suggested amendment to this article by the majority vote of the Executive is as follows:

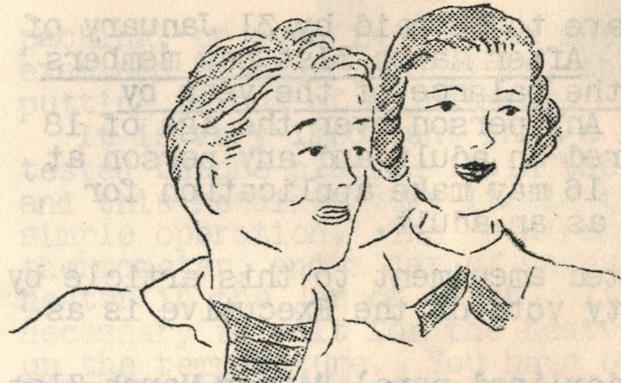
Delete (underlined para) "After March 31st new members shall pay the balance of the year by quarters", and insert "After June 30th new members shall pay one half of the regular annual dues".

This amendment shall be published and read at the October and November meetings. At the December meeting you will be asked to vote on this amendment.

.....



we must collect 2,585 Canada Packers Labels, which will total 6,000, and the coffee urn will be paid for. Can we do it before January 1st?????



O.V.A.S.

JUNIOR
SOCIETY

Editor:
Larry
Neumann

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I hope that everyone is glad to be back at school and back to the regular OVAS meetings. We have a number of good programmes planned for the remainder of the year so please make every effort to attend.

Our membership is now 69, however I would like to see us break the record of 78 that was established last year. With your help we can obtain at least a record of 80 members (which is only an increase of 11).

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We are very happy to welcome our new members who joined the Society at our last meeting: Josette Marcil, Bill McCutcheon, Alan Olsen, Abigail Wismer, Patricia Tripp, Alan Adamson, Don Dickson, Janet Ferguson, David Humphries and Bill Latimer.

The collection of Canada Packers Labels by the Junior Society is very good and I do hope it continues. Remember that the member turning in the greatest number of labels will receive a prize at the December meeting.

At our November meeting we will ask for nominations for President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Those nominated will stand for election at the December meeting. The Nominations and Elections are very important, therefore we should insure that we attend the meetings and vote.

In order that the meetings of our Society will not conflict with the Christmas holidays our Junior Society meeting for December will be advanced one week, December 8th instead of the 15th.

Chipper Vickers
President

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FAVOURITES FOR THE HOME AQUARIUM

By Barbara Shepherd. Reprinted from Nebraska Tropical Topics, Nebraska Society

This is a resume of ten of the most popular of most desirable fish for the home community aquarium:

1. The guppy is the all time favourite. In the days of fancy goldfish, the guppy was "that amazing new discovery that bears live young." Today the guppy has again reached a peak of popularity. "Fancy" guppies are now all the rage. At the same

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time, the lowly common guppy is still the most popular fish for the beginner. The guppy is an awe inspiring creature that withstands the unbearable, lives when all else die.

2. Mollies, the blacks in particular, are ever popular. Almost everyone has had Mollies at some time. They are not as hardy as guppies (few fish are). The trying conditions some beginners place them in are too much for them, but they will always be among the top favourites. Their intense velvety black colour is such a lovely contrast to the more colorful tropicals that this point alone would keep them popular.

3. Swordtails, because of their bizarre swords and wide variety of colours, are always a welcome addition to any mixed group of fish. The red velvet sword is extremely popular and with good reason.

4. In the Platies, we find an even wider range of colour varieties. Some colours and combinations are very lovely, but others are not so appealing. Personal taste dictates the Platy for each person.

5. The Zebra is usually thought of as our most fool-proof and hardy egg-layer. Their silver blue stripes and nervous flitting back and forth make them a beautiful contrast to other more gently moving fish.

6. The angel is indeed the queen of the aquarium. It is regal in appearance and movement. Aloof and untouchable, yet touching the hearts of all aquarists. It is one of the few cichlids always welcome in the aquarium.

7. The Neon is truly one of our aquarium jewels. They seem to be lit from within

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with a glowing red and blue neon light. They never grow to a size that is undesirable in the aquarium. They are always good neighbours, never picking or tormenting other aquarium inhabitants.

8. The Black Tetra is one of those fish that offer coloration and flirtacious petty coat combined with a good disposition cause them to be perennial best sellers.

9. The Tiger Barb, with its tiger stripes and tiger colors, always attracts attention. When in spawning color, this fish has a beauty that is hard to beat. Their gold and black color intensifies and their ventral fin and nose glows with red.

10. No aquarium is complete without a happy-go-lucky little catfish. These charming little clowns will never cease to amuse you with their silly antics, and wild dashes to the surface for a gulp of air. A more innocent inoffensive fish has never been created.

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I'D LIKE TO SUGGEST

By Donna May Janzen, Junior Society OVAS

Goldfish make good scavengers in tanks kept under 77°.

Algae scrapings are an ideal food for baby mollies.

Use black gravel to give your fish that intensified and darker colour you would like.

Bettas love snails to eat, so keep your snails away from them.

For an original aquarium background paint your own on plain paper and tape it on.

(Cont'd page 28)

When breeding guppies remember, the females colour counts too.

For small tanks (under 5 gallons) the natural balance method is often much easier than using filter, aerator, etc.

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JAR SHOW STANDINGS

The number of entries in our Jar Shows are increasing and the standings as of September 30th are:

Larry Neumann	-	12 points
Eric Bowden	-	7 points
John McKinley-Key	-	6 points
John Manchester	-	6 points
Andy Holdham	-	5 points
Jack Keaney	-	5 points
Wayne Moore	-	4 points
Gordon Worden	-	3 points
Paul Francis	-	3 points
John Janzen	-	2 points
Shawn MacKenzie	-	1 point
Peter Rubec	-	1 point
Carl Juneau	-	1 point
Laurie Walker	-	1 point
Danny McLean	-	1 point

Points awarded: First 4 points, Second 3 points, Third 2 points and every member entering the jar show receives 1 point. Prizes are awarded to the three members obtaining the greatest number of points.

FISH OF THE MONTH FOR 1960

October	-	Leopard Catfish
November	-	Red Sword (male)
December	-	Zebra (winners announced)
January	-	Scissor Tail

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY
THE AQUARIST'S CALENDAR
"The Aquarium"

OCTOBER in many parts of the country, is a "betwixt and between" period. Cold spells are common; also many hot days and cool nights which make it exceedingly difficult for those who are carrying either delicate fishes or some of the more hardy ones. Right at this time is where a good thermostat-heater combination is at its best. Good temperature control means more now than at any other time of the year in order to take care of the rapid ups and downs.

October is also the month in which indoor cultures of all kinds of live-foods should be well underway. Micro worms, white worms, drosophila and earthworms are among those most practical. One of the very best investments a hobbyist can make is to start out about four or five 24" x 36" x 8" storage boxes of earthworms. Collect those that are about 3 or 4 inches long. Try to pick up a solid ball of them that would normally fill an ordinary tea-cup. Fill the storage boxes with well sifted garden soil, mix in some finely crushed dry leaves, make the soil moist but not wet, sprinkle some dry oatmeal or a bit of Pablum on the top. Dig a shallow pit and place the worms in it and cover them over. Then put a piece of glass over the box right on top of the soil to keep in the moisture. They will do best at a temperature of about 65 degrees. Feed them more oatmeal or Pablum whenever they clean up that which is on the surface of the soil. A set-up of this kind, by feeding the fishes sparingly on the finely chopped worms, should last nearly all winter and keep a fairly large number of

fishes in excellent condition all during the months when Daphnia and mosquito larvae cannot be obtained.

Indoor tanks will now be needing more and more light, not enough to start algae growing, but as the days grow shorter and shorter, enough good artificial light should be added to make up the difference. Although fluorescent lights are considered not quite so beneficial to plant life as the incandescent bulbs, they do create much less heat and the "warm-white" tubes are more effective than the blue-white "daylight" tubes.

AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

GIANT DANIO

Reprinted from Brant Aquarium Society Bulletin

The Giant Danio, *Danio malabaricus*, is a close relative to the Zebra Fish. This minnow comes from India and grows to a length of 4 inches. It is a fast moving fish always on the go. It can jump quite a distance so be sure that their aquarium is kept covered with a piece of glass.

They breed exactly as the Zebras and are as easily fed. They require a temperature of 75 degrees but can stand a variation of from 70 to 85 degrees without showing any ill effects. Smaller specimens should be purchased as they are interesting to watch grow. This holds true for most fishes; buy them young as not only are older fishes more expensive but they will not live as long once you've purchased them.

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Tell your Mother and Father to buy their Christmas Cards from the Society.

NEON TETRA

Reprinted from Fin-Fare

The Neon Tetra was found in the Peruvian Amazon less than thirty years ago by Dr. George Myers. He named this beautiful little fish *Hyphessobrycon innesi* after his patron Wm. T. Innes. These fish were introduced to aquarists in 1936. The Neon Tetra lives in clear jungle pools of soft and slightly acid water where overhanging foliage allows small amounts of light. The brilliant colouring and fast action makes the fish a welcome inhabitant of any tank. The fish is a silver grey with a greenish tinge, and an intense blue line runs from the mouth to the adipose fin. Beneath this is a bright red mark from the ventral fin to the tail.

The fish is quite peaceful and has an average life span. The fish seldom exceeds a length of 1½ inches.

Neons are middle feeders so feed food that sinks immediately, especially in a community tank. They will eat any type of food but thrive on brine shrimp and daphnia.

Neons are hardy fish but are still subject to disease. The Neon Tetra disease is quite common and is really a form of T.B. where the fish slowly wastes away. The disease, which can be identified by two yellow spots at the base of the tail, is cured only by costly drugs. Loss of colour is also common to Neons when conditions don't suit their fancy. Their colour leaves them entirely if they are maintained in alkaline water.

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DO YOU JUST BELONG?

Reprinted from Tropical Topics

Are you an active member
The kind that would be missed
Or are you just contented
That your name be on the list?

Do you attend the meetings
and mingle with the crowd
Or do you sit at home
And crab both long and loud?

Do you take an active part
To help the club along
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind that just belongs?

Do you ever go to visit
A member who is sick
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the clique?

There is quite a program scheduled
That means success, if done
And it can be accomplished
With the help of everyone.

So attend the meetings regularly
And help with hand and heart
Don't just be a member
But take an active part.

Think this over, member
Are we right, or are we wrong
Are you an active member
Or - DO YOU JUST BELONG?

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MY THANKS to the members for
the articles appearing on
page 33.

Editor.