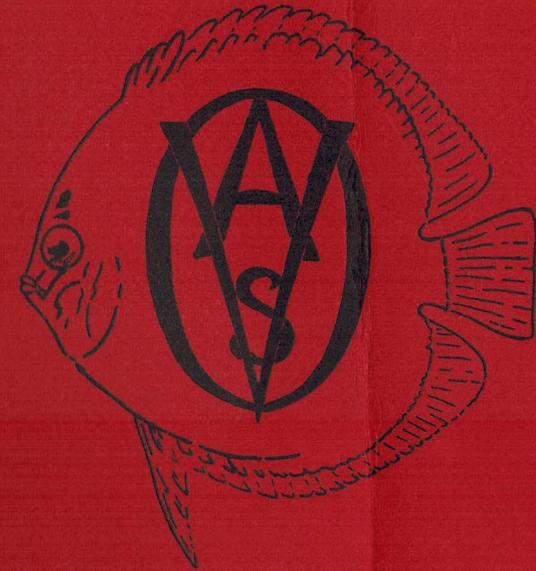




OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 343 STN. "C"
OTTAWA, ONT., CANADA



OVAS NEWS

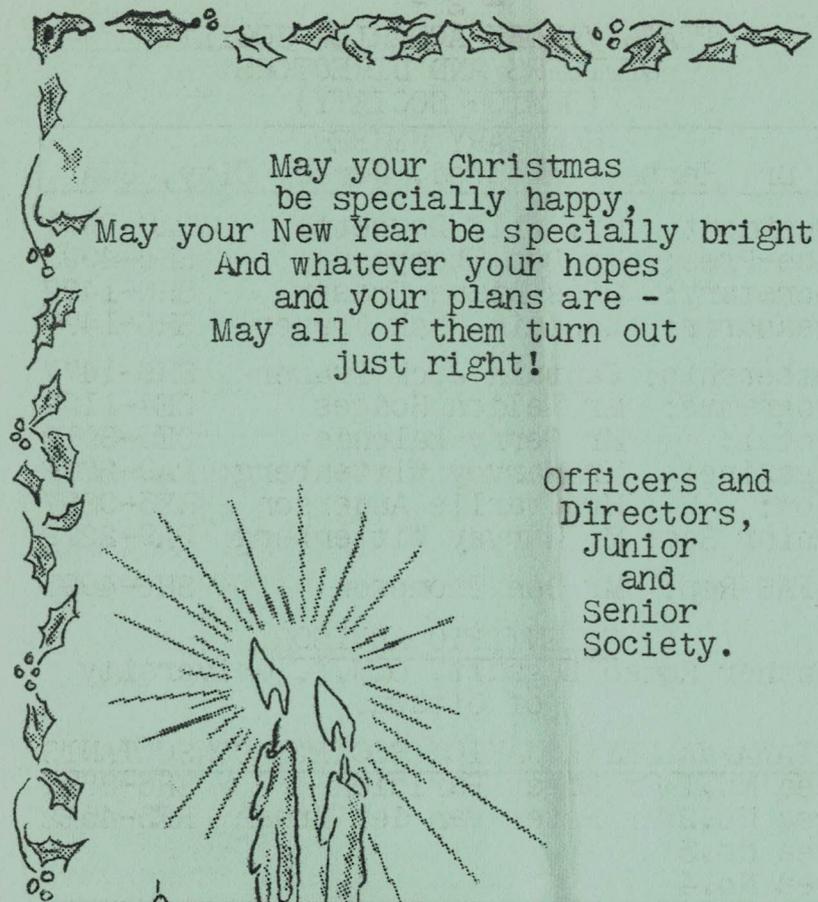


OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

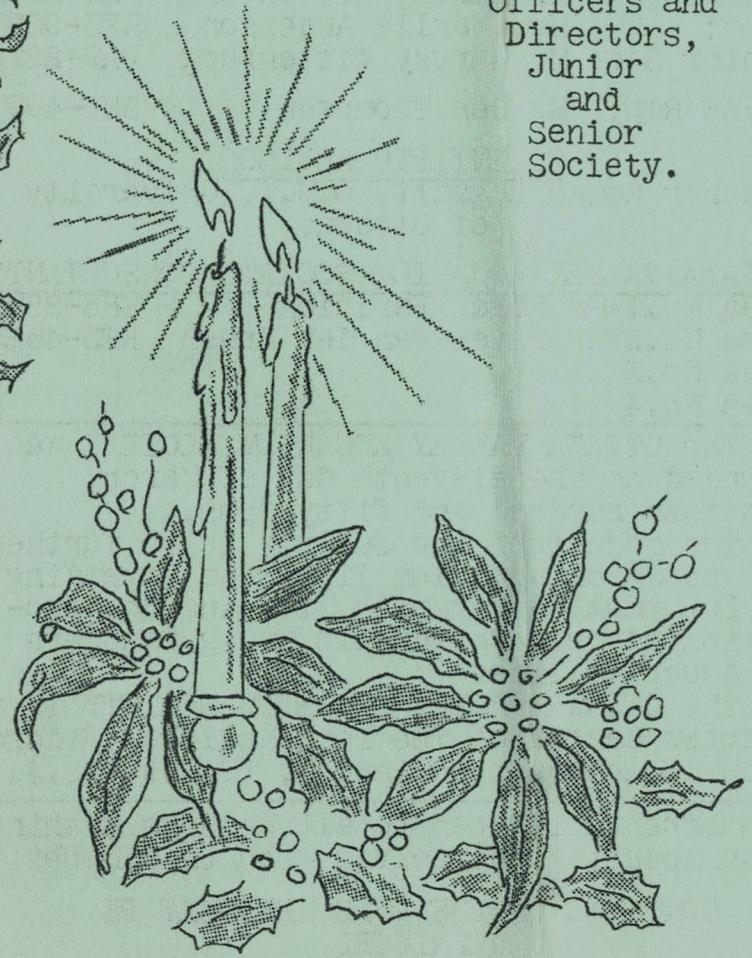
OTTAWA VALLEY
AQUARIUM SOCIETY





May your Christmas
be specially happy,
May your New Year be specially bright,
And whatever your hopes
and your plans are -
May all of them turn out
just right!

Officers and
Directors,
Junior
and
Senior
Society.



OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
(SENIOR SOCIETY)

HONORARY MEMBER
Dr. Herbert Axelrod, Jersey City, USA

- President: Mr. Wilf Doucette
- Vice-Pres: Mr Don Thompson
- Secretary: Miss Diane Fraser
- Treasurer: Captain Jack Fraser
- Membership: Captain Jack Fraser
- Programme: Mr Weldon Hodges
- Social: Mr Gerry Lalonde
- Magazine: Mr Harvey Wittenberg
- Show: Mr Charlie Anderson
- Junior Soc: Mr Harvey Wittenberg
- TIFAS Rep: Mr Don Thompson

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR

Father Romeo Legault, O.M.I. University
of Ottawa.

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 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.

CONTENTS OF THE OVAS NEWS MAY BE
REPRINTED

DECEMBER 1960 OTTAWA, CANADA. VOL 6 No.7

THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY.

Meetings

Junior Society

Thursday, January 19th ... 7.00 PM

Senior Society

Thursday, January 26th ... 7.45 PM

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

CONTENTS

Officers/Directors Senior	Page.....	2
1961 Officers Senior.....		4
Aquarium Temperature Control.....		5
Letter from Mr. L.P. Dugal.....		7
Our Guest Speaker.....		8
The Methylene Blue Myth.....		8
Senior Society Dec 15th Meeting.....		9
I Did It!.....		10
Pakistan Aquarium Exhibition.....		12
Correction Please.....		15
Jar Show Standings.....		16
TFH Magazine.....		18
Scavengers.....		20
Have You Heard The Latest?.....		21
JUNIOR SOCIETY SECTION.....		25
Officers/Directors.....		25
President's Letter.....		25
The Jack Dempsey.....		27
The Aquarist's Calendar.....		27
Oily Film in Tank.....		28
How Many?.....		30
Did You Know?.....		31
Dwarf & Kissing Gourami.....		32
Aquarium Plants.....		34

MAILING ADDRESS

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

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

SENIOR SOCIETY 1961 OFFICERS

At our November 24th meeting the nominations committee presented a list of nominees - Mr. Wilf Doucette for President, Captain Jack Fraser for Vice-President, Mr. Al Johnson for Treasurer and Miss. Diane Fraser for Secretary. One member, Mr. Weldon Hodges, was nominated from the floor but Mr. Hodges declined.

There being no further nominations the members nominated are elected for 1961. Congratulations to:

- Mr. Wilf Doucette - President
- Captain Jack Fraser - Vice-Pres
- Mr. Al Johnson - Treasurer
- Miss Diane Fraser - Secretary

Our 1961 officers will require volunteers to serve as members on the various committees. The committees are:

- Membership - Programme
- Show - Social
- Magazine/Library- Junior Society

Anyone wishing to volunteer (just one night a month) to help with the work of the society, please contact one of our 1961 officers.



GEM STONE JEWELLERY

Gem Stone Jewellery, made by Handicapp Canadians of Ottawa, will be available for purchase at the December 15th meeting. This beautiful jewellery is priced from \$1.00 to \$4.50 - a wonderful gift for Christmas.

The jewellery will be on display at the Swap Sale Table. See Mr. Klaus Gottlob.

"SUPPORT THE HANDICAPP"

AQUARIUM TEMPERATURE CONTROL

By Curt Grass. Reprinted from "Fish Tales". The Buffalo Aquarium Society

The great majority of the fishes that are kept as pets come from the tropics and therefore cannot withstand temperatures below 70° F. for more than a few hours. In order to be kept healthy they must be maintained at temperatures ranging from 72°F. to 80°F., and must be protected from sudden changes, especially from chilling. Unless aquaria are put into rooms with constant high temperatures, such as those in a hothouse, there is only one practical way to keep them heated properly and that is by means of an electric thermostatically controlled heater.

There are two essential parts that make up an aquarium heater: The heating element and the control. The heating element is simply a high grade electric heating coil that has been incorporated into a special waterproof jacket. The control is a thermostat that should be adjustable and sensitive to within a couple of degrees. Naturally it is very important that the thermostat operate dependably, because the fish can be either chilled or cooked to death if it does not.

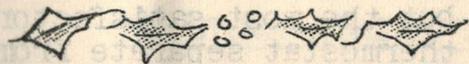
Some aquarium heaters are built as a single unit, but the most satisfactory type has the thermostat separate from the heating element. The latter should be located at the bottom of the tank, because warm water rises. As the element heats the water around it, this is pushed away by the heavier cooler water. A heater that is so located sets up its own circulation within the tank, and this water movement continues until all of the water has reached a uniform temperature. The thermostatic control should be located some distance from the heating element itself

so that it will not cut off the electric current before the entire tank has become properly heated.

Arranging the aquarium heater in this manner will not only prevent stratification -- in which the top layers of water are sufficiently warm while those at the bottom are still dangerously cool -- but also saves electricity because heating from the bottom raises the temperature of a tank both faster and more evenly.

Care should be taken not to use a heater that is too small for the size of the tank it must heat; otherwise a burned out heater and dead fish result. It is possible to employ several heating elements in different tanks with a single thermostat. The various tanks should all be fairly close together so that they all are subject to the same external conditions of temperature. Never use more heaters than the thermostat is constructed to control. The thermostat should be kept in the smallest tank, since the greatest temperature fluctuations tend to occur in the smallest body of water.

Colour cords on the rubber stopper of the heater give positive identification of heater wattage. If in doubt regards the proper functioning of heater or thermostat see your dealer.



DID YOU KNOW

The age of a fish can be told by a study of the scales. Each year of growth is recorded in a double group of rings on the scales. A large area of light growth represents the rapid summer growth and a smaller darker area is the slower winter growth.

LETTER FROM UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

October 26, 1960.

Mr. W. Doucette
President OVAS.

Dear Mr. Doucette,

We have greatly appreciated your contribution in preparing the aquariums, and in such a refined way, for the inauguration of our building. The latter has been a great success, due in great part to the displays, especially the aquariums, that were admired by so many people.

May I extend to you and your collaborators the expression of our deepest gratitude.

Yours sincerely,

L.P. Dugal,
Professor of Biology and
Chairman of the Department.

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

A CHRISTMAS TREAT FOR
YOUR FISH WOULD BE
OUR FROZEN
DAPHNIA
BRINE SHRIMP

HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR WHITE
WORM CULTURE YET?

Good supply of aquaria,
tropical fish, plants,
books and fish foods.

SEE OUR SPECIAL BUDGIES AND CANARIES
819 Bank Street.....Phone CE6-5033



OUR GUEST SPEAKER

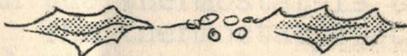
Mr. Arnold Sweeney

Our November 24th meeting was very successful and I am sure that everyone enjoyed the informal talk by Mr. Arnold Sweeney, guppy expert from the Hudson-Bergen Aquarium Society, New Jersey, USA.

Mrs. Sweeney attended the meeting and we were very happy to have the opportunity of meeting such a charming lady and one so interested in the hobby.

Two pair of guppies were kindly donated to the Society by Mr. Sweeney, one pair by Mr. Reinhold Kleiss, and food samples by Mr. Larry Konig.

We do hope that Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Sweeney will honour us with a visit in the very near future, and that we will have the opportunity of hearing Mr. Sweeney give us another talk on guppies.



THE METHYLENE BLUE MYTH

It was brought to my attention that the proper credits were not given to the article "The Methylene Blue Myth" which appeared in our October issue of the OVAS News.

Our apologies to Mr. Wm Lawrence, President of the Pennsylvania Fish Culturists' Association, and the author of the article, Mr. Joseph M. Devlin.

The credits for the article "The Methylene Blue Byth" should have read:

By: Mr. Joseph M. Devlin
Reprinted from the "Fish Culturist",
Pennsylvania Fish Culturists' Association.

Editor.

DON'T FORGET OUR ADVERTISERS

**DON'T MISS THE SENIOR
SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING
AND CHRISTMAS PARTY
THURSDAY**

NOVEMBER
15TH
7.15 PM

Your
Director
Weldon
Hodges
is
planning
a
good
programme

BRING A
GIFT

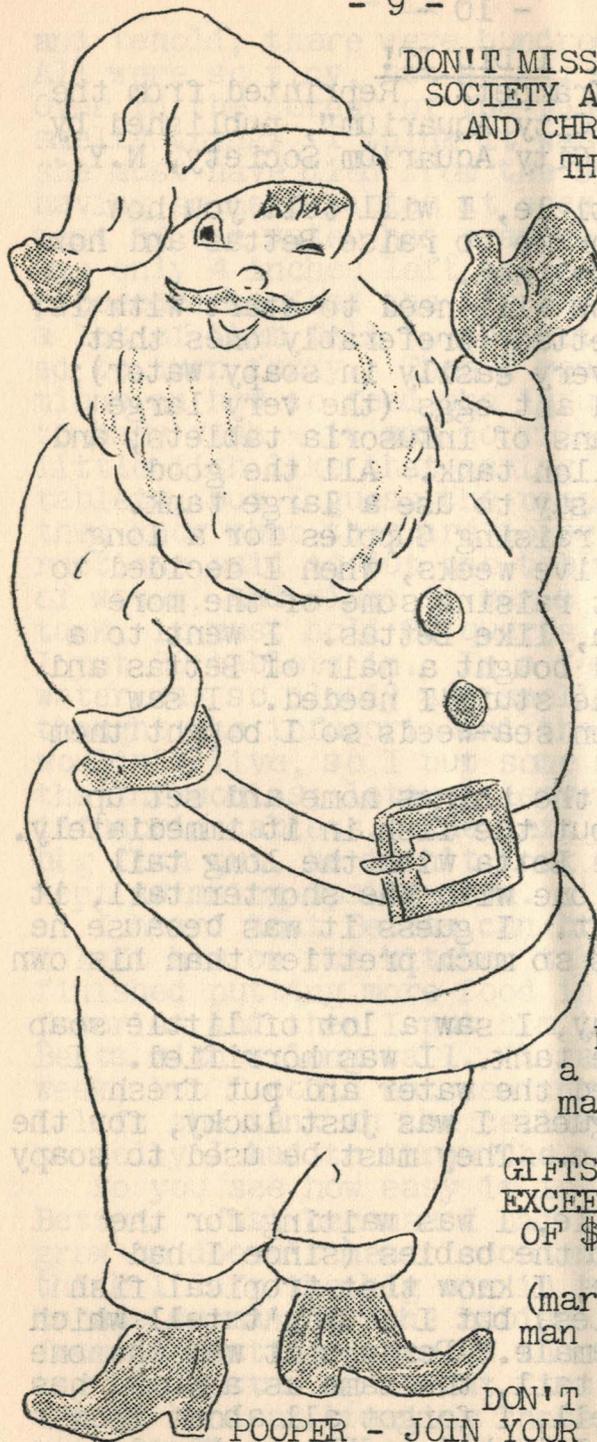
Ladies:
bring a
gift for a
lady.

Men: bring
a gift for a
man.

GIFTS ARE NOT TO
EXCEED THE AMOUNT
OF \$1.00

(mark your gift
man or lady)

**DON'T BE A PARTY
POOPER - JOIN YOUR OVAS FRIENDS**



I DID IT!

By: Robert Krampetz. Reprinted from the "The Greater City Aquarium", published by The Greater City Aquarium Society, N.Y.

In this article, I will tell you how easy it was for me to raise Bettas and how many also raise them.

All that you will need to start with is: one pair of Bettas (preferably ones that will not die very easily in soapy water); a box of dried ant eggs (the very large ones); four cans of infusoria tablets; and one twenty gallon tank. All the good books on fish say to use a large tank.

I had been raising Guppies for a long time, nearly five weeks, when I decided to try my hand at raising some of the more expensive fish, like Bettas. I went to a fish store and bought a pair of Bettas and the rest of the stuff I needed. I saw some nice green sea-weeds so I bought them too.

I took all the things home and set up the tank and put the fish in it immediately. Well, when the Betta with the long tail looked at the one with the shorter tail, it went chasing it. I guess it was because he thought it was so much prettier than his own long tail.

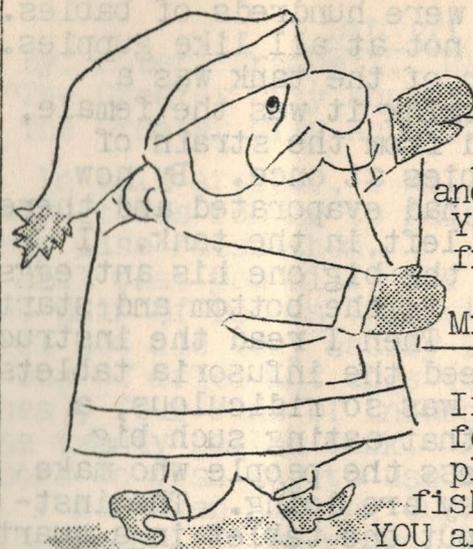
The next day, I saw a lot of little soap bubbles in the tank. I was horrified. I quickly changed the water and put fresh water in. I guess I was just lucky, for the fish didn't die. They must be used to soapy water.

All the while, I was waiting for the female to drop the babies (since I had guppies before, I know that tropical fish have live babies) but I couldn't tell which one was the female. Perhaps it was the one with the long tail, the same as a woman has long hair. Well, I forgot all about them until one day I looked in the tank and lo

and behold, there were hundreds of babies. All were so tiny, not at all like guppies. Over in the corner of the tank was a smelly thing. I think it was the female, she must have died from the strain of having so many babies at once. By now most of the water had evaporated and there was only 4 inches left in the tank. I proceeded to feed the big one his ant eggs, a lot of them fell to the bottom and started to turn fuzzy. Then I read the instructions on how to feed the infusoria tablets to baby fish - it was so ridiculous, a little fish like that eating such big tablets, but I guess the people who make them know what they are doing. The instructions said to put one tablet in a quart of water, and since it was a 20 gallon tank, it must hold 80 quarts of water, so I put 80 tablets in. In a few days the water was so cloudy and smelly that I thought the infusoria and the baby Bettas wouldn't live, so I put some more food for the infusorias; lettuce leaves and more infusoria tablets. The next day I took the big fish out, he didn't look well and he kept swimming upside-down.

I heard that Bettas can breath air, so I left him on the kitchen table until I finished putting more food in for the infusorias and then I put him in with another Betta with a long tail. I waited about a week, but I could not see any more babies. I left the tank in the cellar until it got so melly I had to throw the water out.

So you see how easy it is to breed Bettas. Just because I had no young ones grow up doesn't mean I couldn't do it. I think I left the big one in too long and he ate so many of the babies that he died from overeating. One of these days, I may try the Bettas again but first, I think I'll try my hand at breeding those angel fish without fins, called Black Tetras.



A Merry Christmas
and a Happy New
Year to all my
friends in the
Society.
Mrs. W. Dickson.

If you are looking
for rare fish,
plants, aquaria,
fish food and books,
YOU are sure to find
that Christmas gift at
"DICKSON'S PET SHOP"

ALL PRICED TO MEET YOUR CHRISTMAS
BUDGET.

DICKSON'S PET SHOP Phone
190 Bank Street..... CE2-7586

PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL AQUARIUM EXHIBITION
(Extracts from a report by the Honorary
Secretary, Mr. S. Maqsood-ul-Hasan).

The first International Aquarium Ex-
hibition was held under the auspices of the
Pakistan Aquarium Society (PAS) in Karachi
from 4th to 7th November, 1960. Our
foreign friends were very kind to cooperate
with us by sending us as many as 55 wonder-
ful exhibits which were highly admired by
the members of the Society as well as the
general public. The foreign exhibits not
only added to the beauty of the show but
also invoked much popular interest in
themselves. The local exhibitors sent up
an aggregate of 300 entries in the various

classes and sections. The exhibits on the
whole went to prove amply the keen interest
which the participants have been taking in
the fish-keeping hobby.

Mr. Zakir Hussain, Minister for the
Interior, Government of Pakistan, arrived
at 4.30 p.m. (WPST) at the Exhibition and
was received by Mr. Agha Abdul Hamid, S.Q.A.
C.S.P., the President of the Pakistan
Aquarium Society and the Administrator of
Karachi. Shortly after their arrival, the
President of the Society and the Minister
delivered speeches. The Minister distri-
buted the prizes to the winners.

The Exhibition Hall was tastefully
decorated and the assemblage of so many
distinguished guests created a very
pleasant atmosphere. Every tank, large or
small, with foreign and local exhibits,
invited the attention of every visitor to
its originality of composition and colour-
ful aquatic life which it so effectively
displayed. The foreign exhibits drew the
attention of the public particularly, and
earned rich tributes from the visitors who
were visibly appreciative of the interest
and spirit of cooperation shown by the
foreign participants to the Pakistan In-
ternational Aquarium Exhibition.

Such a large and attractive variety of
fishes from different parts of the world,
resplendent with vivacious colours and
rich in exquisite forms and shapes, made a
very happy impact on the visitors who stood
spell-bound for quite a few minutes before
each tank. The participation of the
foreigners and their generous cooperation
has indeed left a deep impression on the
hearts of the visitors to the Exhibition no
less than on the members of the Society
themselves.

Foreign exhibitors were represented by
members of the International Federation

of Aquarium Societies (TIFAS), The Federation of Guppy Breeders' Societies, England (and its section in the Hague, Holland), the Deutsche Guppy Gesellschaft, Berlin (D.G.G.), The Verband Deutscher Vereinbur Aquarium, Germany (V.D.A.), The Toronto Aquarium Society, Canada, and The Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs (CAOAC) Canada. The following participants were awarded prizes:

Silver & Gold Medal 3rd prize for the 3rd best Guppy, to Mr. Joseph P. Kolb, USA. (TIFAS).

Silver & Gold Medal 3rd Prize for the 3rd best Sword Tail Red, to Mr. Albert F. Wigg, Toronto Aquarium Society, Canada.

Silver & Gold Medal 1st prize for the best Siamese Fighter Red, to Mr. Ricky Ramey (USA). (TIFAS).

Special prize Silver & Gold Medal to the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs for Canadian fishes.

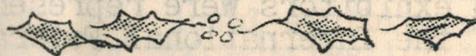
Special prize Silver & Gold Medal, to Mr. Albert F. Wigg of Toronto Aquarium Society, Canada, for *Platy Variatus*.

Special prize Silver & Gold Medal, to Ben & Marie Ramey, USA, TIFAS, for *Gelmalochromis Krisbansis*.

A Souvenir, edited by Mrs. Moti Usmani, was brought out to mark the occasion which was the first aquarium event organized on an international basis in Pakistan.

Editors note

The souvenir, and excellent photographs of the show, will be available at our December 15th meeting for all members to see.



THE KAR VEL PET
RANCH, 1108
WELLINGTON STREET
wish you a
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR.
Mr. Ken Craig.

"for Christmas only"

substantial reduction in
stainless steel aquariums.
SPECIAL - large galvanized aquariums
30 x 12 x 15, only \$12.00.

SEE OUR CHRISTMAS SUPPLY of Tropical
fish, plants, fish foods, and aquarium
accessories.

DOGS.....CANARIES.....BUDGIES

1108 Wellington Street...Phone PA9-2057

CORRECTION PLEASE

By Mr. Edgar Parisien, Ottawa Valley
Aquarium Society.

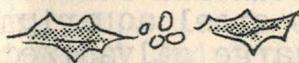
In the last issue of the OVAS News one paragraph in my article "Hydra - The Enemy" was not according to the script. I am referring to my article, third paragraph (page 9 and 10) which stated:

"Twenty years ago, most hobbyists in this area were very much afraid of Hydra that they were reluctant to collect and feed daphnia to their fish. At that time, daphnia and tubifex could be found almost in every ditch and water hole around Ottawa. Today, it is nearly impossible, because of pollution, to raise even a few mosquitoes."

What I said was "because our local authorities are so bent on killing all insects and mosquitoes, they have poisoned all the water holes and even daphnia can not be found".

I would like to assure all our friends who read our OVAS News that Ottawa does not stink from polluted water - water which is so bad that even daphnia can not live in it.

PS: Good thing the Mayor of Ottawa did not read this.



JAR SHOW

Standings as of November 24th, 1960

Charlie Anderson	22 points
Al & Norman Johnson	15 points
Wilf Doucette	14 points
Diane Fraser	12 points
Alice Neumann	11 points
Ed Parisien	10 points
George Bowie	9 points
Phil Curry	4 points
Alan Griffin	3 points
Willis Murphy	2 points
Clare & Heinz Kroeger	2 points
Marcel Leduc	1 point

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Charlie Anderson
Al & Norman Johnson
Wilf Doucette

the 1960 winners of the Jar Show

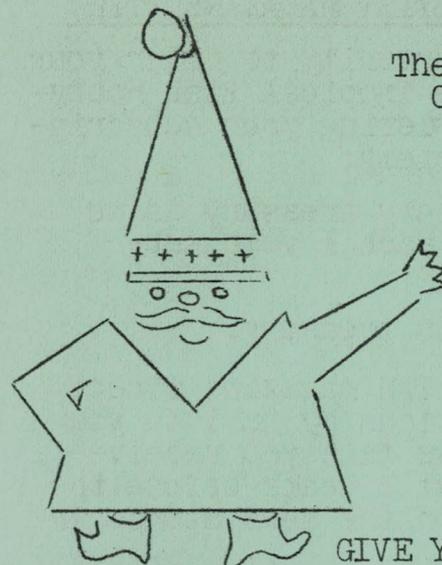


The sale of
Christmas seals,
wrappings, games,
novelties etc,

will be
available at

the

December
15th
Meeting.



GIVE YOUR SOCIETY THE
PROFIT

.....

Falling hair may be avoided by jumping quickly aside whenever you see it coming your way.

Freckles may be pried out with an ice pick. Should this fail, try blasting with dynamite.

The greatest Christmas gift you can give is an aquarium, a subscription to TFH Magazine and a membership in the Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society.

Have you been worrying what to buy for Christmas? Your worries are over --

JUST
TURN
THE
PAGE

TROPICAL FISH HOBBYIST MAGAZINE (TFH)

Here is your opportunity to order your subscription for the Tropical Fish Hobbyist Magazine. By ordering your subscription through the Society:

YOU help our Society treasury as we receive .35¢ for each 1 year subscription.

YOU help the TIFAS treasury.

YOU receive your TFH magazine direct from TFH Publications by mail to your home. (this means that you receive your copy at least 3 weeks before the issue is placed on the news stands in Ottawa).

Any member of our Society who is receiving the TFH Magazine (which was ordered through the Society) will receive a notice from TFH for renewal when due. The renewal should be made through our TIFAS Society Representative, Mr. Don Thompson, in order for the Society and TIFAS to receive the benefits.

If you wish to subscribe to TFH (or renew your subscription) remove this page from your OVAS News and forward the subscription form (completed as requested) with money to:

Mr. Don Thompson
TIFAS Society Representative
[redacted],
OTTAWA 2.

For further information phone Mr. Don Thompson at [redacted]. Additional subscription forms are available.

HELP YOUR SOCIETY, TIFAS, AND RECEIVE THE ONLY AQUARIUM MAGAZINE IN THE WORLD ILLUSTRATED INSIDE WITH COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS

TO: Mr. Don Thompson, [redacted], Ottawa 2, for forwarding to TFH Publications, Inc. 245 Cornillon Ave, Jersey City 2, N.J., U.S.A.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM FOR MEMBERS OF T.I.F.A.S.
(individual subscriptions to tropical fish hobbyist)
The Society keeps .35¢ for each 1 year subscription.

PROCEDURE

1. Each subscription MUST be entered on a separate form.
2. Check or money order must accompany each order. Payable to Mr. Thompson
3. When the subscriber's subscription expires, he will receive a notice from TFH. If he wishes to re-subscribe, he must enter his renewal through the club's TIFAS Rep. or Treasurer, so that the club and TIFAS may benefit.
4. Each subscriber must notify TFH of any change of address.
12 issues (1 yr.) \$3.25 24 issues (2 yrs).... \$6.25
60 issues (5 yrs)\$13.00

New subscription _____ Renewal _____ Begin with _____ issue.

MAIL TO: Name (print) _____

ADDRESS (print) _____

City _____

Province _____

Order taken by: Mr. Don Thompson for the Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society, charter member of T.I.F.A.S.

SCAVENGERS

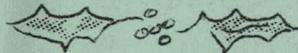
By Ed Hotston. Reprinted from Brant Aquarium Society Magazine.

Just the other day I had a fellow aquarist call me on the phone to see if I had a catfish and some snails that I could sell him. It appeared that his aquarium had become very dirty and he had been told by some well meaning friend that all he required to remedy the situation was to have a catfish and a few snails in his tank.

Some people make the mistake of believing that the presence of a few scavengers like catfish or snails make it practically impossible to overfeed an aquarium. This is an error they discover after their tank has gone bad and they have lost some of their prized fish.

It doesn't matter how many scavengers you have they cannot make up for overfeeding. Snails and catfish are interesting and worthwhile inhabitants of an aquarium. They will eat some of the food that has fallen to the bottom and in this respect they do consume leftovers, from some of the fish, who will not eat off the bottom. Snails will also eat a small amount of algae that may grow on the plants and the sides of your aquarium, however, the best regulated aquarium requires cleaning at sometime or other. The best way to accomplish this is by siphoning the dirt from the bottom of your aquarium and replenish the displaced water with new tap water of the right temperature.

It is a definite mistake for us to think that our snails and catfish can keep our aquariums clean.



DON'T FORGET OUR ADVERTISERS



HAVE YOU HEARD THE LATEST??

By: HWGK

...the Senior Society November 24th meeting was something like the good old days...

the attendance was very good - in fact there were some members present

and I thought they had left the country...this is the support the executive need and you can give yourself a pat on the back...just don't break your arm.. we would like to see you again at our December 15th meeting...

...I am told that some members had a little car trouble at the last meeting... one car backed into a huge hole beside the University and disappeared (don't know who this was and couldn't find the car to find out)...one car failed to start and required a push - this was Terry Wilkie...the third was not car trouble but a hair raising manoeuvre that is the first for Ottawa... This car, driven by our friend Geo Bowie, actually did a figure eight in front of the University. All traffic was held up (both ways) while this difficult manoeuvre was being accomplished. At least three motorists (one was the President) got out of their cars, watched with amazement, and then gave our George a real round of applause...

...it was quite a surprise to me (and no doubt to many members) to see such outstanding guppies entered in the jar show... particularly Mr. Phil Curry's guppies which took first prize...it appears that

the goopie bug is catching on with many members...who knows we may end up by having a famous guppy breeder in Ottawa...

...for the next raffle I would suggest that the executive purchase some tickets... the shortage of tickets caused quite a lot of excitement at the last meeting...

...there is still one pair of the beautiful Sweeney guppies for the December meeting - most likely they will be in the raffle...

...the Senior Society meeting to be held December 15th is the Annual Meeting and Christmas party combined...this is one meeting where we have the committee reports, and your opportunity to present any beefs, comments or suggestions...

...I am informed from a very reliable source that it appears the O.V.A.S. has the largest society in North America. This is according to TIFAS figures - not official as yet...

...possibly I may need glasses but I fail to notice the presence of some members at our meetings - Claire and Heinz Kroeger - Fred Gault - Bea Carroll - Bill Forward - Dan Jeffrey - Marcel Leduc - Mr. and Mrs. John Randall - Mr. and Mrs. Peter van der Brugh - Wayne Warwick - WHAT DID WE DO???? If I have not listed your name it is because you don't attend the meetings as often as you should, therefore I don't get the opportunity to meet you...

... in an effort to teach young children to think, a third-grade teacher was asking tricky questions. "Billy," she said, "give me an example of 'nothing'".

Unhesitatingly, Billy answered, "Nothing is a balloon with its skin off." ...

...don't forget to collect the IGA slips for the Society...turn them in to Mr. Ed



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.

AQUARIUM STOCK COMPANY, INC.
31 Warren St., N. Y. 7, N. Y.
8070 Beverly Blvd., L. A. 48, Calif.

A
Very
Merry
Christmas

and a
Happy
New
Year

from
the
Aquarium
Stock
Company
Inc

Our
Best
Wishes
to
all
OVAS
Members

Parisien...

...shopping at our local grocery recently, I asked the boy to pack the bags lightly, explaining I had just recovered from a back ailment and if the bags were too heavy I couldn't lift them...with sympathy in his voice, he asked what was wrong with my back. I told him it sounded foolish, but I had coughed rather hard, causing the sacroliac nerve to slip out of place... He looked at me as if I were one of The Seven Wonders of the World and said, "Gosh Mister! I wouldn't want to be around when you sneeze!"...

...while we are on the subject of sneezing
...bright light can cause sneezing...the

titillation of the optic nerve by the sun was a source of woe to a city cab driver. The sun got in his eyes and his optic nerve worked itself into an uproar. He sneezed and his artificial choppers went sailing out the window and smashed to bits on the pavement...STILL MORE ABOUT SNEEZING...you can sometimes stop a sneeze by pressing on the bridge of your snoot at the point where the bone ends...try it next time...did you know that the muzzle velocity of a forceful sneeze can range up to 152 feet per second and fire heavier particles up to 12 feet, although the majority of them travel only about three feet. These particles are ejected at about 200 mph! ... consider the plight of the wide-eyed bride who was seated adjacent to her husband's employer when she unexpectedly sneezed and one of her false eyelashes, dislodged by the blast, gently fluttered into his soup in front of the startled guests...well thats enough for the sneezing ... a-a-a-...aH- AHH - CH..CHOO! Gesundheit!...

...well this ends my column for another year. Hope you enjoyed what I had to offer...have a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR....

P.S. our Editor says you should ask Santa Claus to send you a pen so you can write an article for the OVAS News.



The OVAS News Staff wish you A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

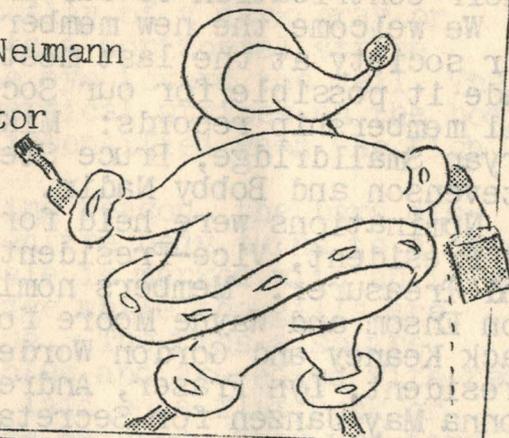
Diane Fraser, Muriel Hodges, Ed Parisien, Gary Zumar, Wayne Warwick, Fred Gault, Gerry Guzzo, Terry Wilkie, Larry Neumann and Harvey Wittenberg.

"SEASON'S GREETINGS"

TO ALL OVAS MEMBERS

Larry Neumann

Editor



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
Wayne Moore

JUNIOR SOCIETY COMMITTEE SUPERVISORS

- Director: Mr Harvey Wittenberg
- Assistant: Mrs Flo Fitzsimmons

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

November 17th, Parents Night, set a record for attendance with a total of 132. A record of 81 members was also established for the Junior Society membership.

I do want to thank all members and the Parents for helping to make our November

17th meeting such a success. Our thanks also to Captain Fraser and Ian Woods for their contribution to our programme.

We welcome the new members who joined our society at the last meeting and who made it possible for our Society to break all membership records: Mike Elliott, Bryan Smalldridge, Bruce Stewart, John Stevenson and Bobby Nadir.

Nominations were held for the office of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Members nominated were: Ron Ensom and Wayne Moore for President, Jack Keaney and Gordon Worden for Vice-President, Lyn Fraser, Andrew Holdham and Donna May Janzen for Secretary, Frank Jones, Bruce Lecompte, Peter Orphanos and John Thompson for Treasurer.

Our December 8th Annual Meeting and Christmas Party was a great success with a comedy film, games, and refreshments. Winners of the Jar Show for 1960 were Larry Neumann with 21 points, Jack Keaney 13 points and John Manchester with 8 points. Prizes were also awarded to the members who collected the greatest number of CP labels. They were Larry Neumann 909 labels, Gill Gamble 388 labels and Bob Olson 253 labels. Our thanks to Capt Fraser for donating the prizes.

I would like to congratulate the 1961 officers:

- President: Ron Ensom
- Vice-Pres: Gordon Worden
- Secretary: Andrew Holdham
- Treasurer: Frank Jones

You have elected an excellent slate of officers for 1961.

A Very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year to all Junior and Senior O.V.A.S. members.

Chipper Vickers
President

THE JACK DEMPSEY

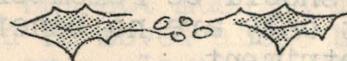
By Wayne Moore, OVAS Junior Society

"Jack" is usually of a dark gray or black colour with a horizontal stripe running from the eye toward the tail. The several black vertical stripes on the body become greatly intensified when the fish is excited.

In the breeding season, the bars disappear and the entire body turns to a deep black. Each scale is marked with an iridescent green edge while the gills are adorned with blue. The fins also are sprinkled with blue and are edged with red.

The eggs are laid on a flat rock or flower pot. When hatched, they are carefully cared for by the parents.

"Jack" will tear up plants at times. Cryptocoryne is tough enough to discourage his chewing. This fish is hardy and prolific, growing to a length of seven inches.



January February March April May June July

THE AQUARIST'S CALENDAR

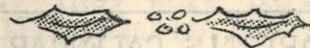
"The Aquarium"

DECEMBER - We have now reached the beginning of a long season in which we cannot freely do some of the things that were proper to do in summer. One of them has to do with adding fresh water to the aquarium. In the warmer months in some localities it is safe to replace up to 25% of aquarium water with water direct from the tap. This would now be dangerous. It should be seasoned at least 24 hours before use. Preferably it should be drawn hot. The heat speeds the elimination of noxious gases, especially of chlorine. Naturally the sea-

soning should take place in a vessel which could have no bad effect on water. Two of the most common dangerous containers are galvanized iron and new wooden buckets or tubs. The drawn water seasons more readily if air can be pumped into it. Some aquarists imagine that the elimination of surplus air from new water is the reason for seasoning it. This is not true. An unknown ripening action continues which makes the water better for fishes. Water which is fresh or only partially seasoned develops a decidedly unpleasant smell after a few days' use by fishes. A week's seasoning in winter is none too long. One of our most successful aquarist maintains a succession of glass gallon jugs, so that no water is used before it has stood a month.

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

August September October November December



OILY FILM IN TANK CAN MEAN DANGER

By C.W. Coates, Director, New York Aquarium

The appearance of a film of what looks like oil on the surface of the fish tank ordinarily should cause the fancier little concern. This is actually an oily sludge produced by bacteria living in the tank.

Under almost any conditions that would normally occur in a healthy tank, these microscopic plants are of little moment and do not interfere with the living of the tank as a whole.

If there is a great production of this

sludge, however, and if it constantly reappears after it has been removed, this should be taken as a warning that probably too much food is being put into the tank and that the fishes are therefore not eating everything they are offered. The bacteria putrify the uneaten food. If the condition is not corrected other colonies of bacteria will probably develop in the sand at the bottom of the tank. These could produce noxious gases that cause great difficulty for the fishes.

Fortunately, once the signs are recognized, the cure is fairly easy. The film itself may be removed by simply laying a sheet of paper toweling or even newspaper on the surface of the water and then gently removing it, starting at one corner and lifting slowly. The film will adhere to the paper.

Removal of colonies of bacteria from the sand at the bottom of the tank is not quite as simple, but not much harder to do. The sand should be moved about by means of the net handle or a planting stick so that all the darkened areas are brought to the surface. If these darkened areas do not include the whole bottom of the tank, the stained sand may be removed by a siphon, washed with scalding hot water and returned to the tank. Better yet, it may be discarded altogether and replaced.

If all the sand is stained, it is an indication of gross carelessness and it may be necessary to remove all the sand, wash it let it bleach in the sun if possible, and then replace it. This usually means a replanting job, but it does not necessarily mean the replacement of all the water.

The noxious gases in the water may usually be removed simply by siphoning part of the water into a pail and then returning it to the tank. Or aeration will do the trick.

HOW MANY?

By A.C. Pihlaja. Reprinted from the "Colorado Aquarist".

Just how many fish can one aquarium support is always an interesting question, and a controversial one, at that. Authors of books are told that they are "sticking out their necks", if they answer this one, and they are. This writer shares all the blame with your editor, after all, she does publish this article. That is, if you are reading this one. Maybe it is in the circular file!

First of all, we have to arrive at an average normal aquarium, if there is such a thing. I could say that a normal aquarium, with normal temperature, normal planting, normal lighting, normal filtering -- will support a normal amount of normal fishes.

Many factors affect the number of fish that an aquarium can support safely and justly. They are:

1. Aquarium size
2. Aquarium shape
3. Aeration
4. Planting
5. Lighting
6. Filtering
7. Kind of fish
8. Size of fish

Size-and-shape of an aquarium is a very important factor. The amount of oxygen absorbed by the water to replace the oxygen used by the fishes' gills is dependent upon the area of the surface. Also, carbon dioxide is evaporated at the surface of the water. The larger the water surface, the faster the action of dissolving air and releasing carbon dioxide, will take place.

Aeration can greatly increase the action described above. By the use of a bubble

release, it circulates the water and distributes the fresh oxygen throughout the aquarium, at the same time, the bubbles give out more air to water contact surface.

Plants and lighting also help dissolve oxygen into water and, lighted, the plants absorb carbon dioxide. Too many plants can be dangerous. When not lighted, plants absorb oxygen and give off carbon dioxide.

Filtering provides means of circulating the water and, also, keeping it clean. Cloudy or foul water can be very harmful to the fish. Over-feeding has killed more fishes than any other cause. The size, and type, of fish, is another factor to consider. Naturally, the larger fish take more oxygen, and the faster-moving fish require more oxygen. Labyrinth fish need only about half as much space as other fish require.

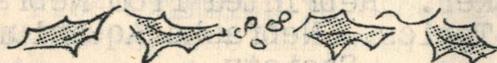
With well-planted tanks, filtering, and a temperature of 72 to 78°F., aquariums will normally hold the following amount of fish:

FIVE gal. size: approximately twenty small or twelve medium sized fish.

TEN gal. size: approximately thirty-five small, twenty medium, ten large.

FIFTEEN gal. size: approximately fifty small or thirty medium sized fish.

TWENTY gal. size: approximately fifty mixed sizes of fish.



DID YOU KNOW?

There are over 1,000 different kinds of Shrimp.

The barber shrimp has a long antenna pole which he waves through the water and he uses his razor sharp legs to scrape all parasites off the scales and fins of fish.

The master color-changer which has red, yellow and blue pigment cells can change his colors to duplicate any hue under the seas.

Shrimp belong to the class Crustacea, the same as crabs and lobsters.

Shrimp found in the Atlantic which light up like fireflies, are equipped with up to 150 special organs which shine with a ghostly blue light.

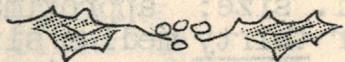
Shrimp shed the skeletons that cover their bodies as they grow. Some shed as many as 26 times.

The pistol shrimp has a very large claw, nearly as long as its body, and by snapping its claw creates sound waves the concussive force of which will kill or stun fish.

Shrimp have five pairs of walking legs, five more pair of swimming legs, and the tail has five stiff plates which connect and form a large paddle.

Some shrimp can be seen jumping a foot high and gliding through the air like flying fish.

Another shrimp constructs its nest out of seaweed, by weaving and stitching a foot-long tube.



DWARF GOURAMI AND KISSING GOURAMI

By Tod Baker. Reprinted from Nebraska Tropical Topics. Nebraska Aquarium Society.

The Dwarf Gourami (*Colisa Lalia*) is exceedingly peaceful and friendly. It reaches a length of two inches. The male is more brightly coloured and usually somewhat larger than the female. The male has a light blue body with red-orange verticle stripes and his feelers are also red-orange. The female is subdued in

colour and her dorsal and anal fins are slightly rounded.

The Dwarf Gourami is a labyrinth fish and is fitted for taking oxygen from the air as well as the water. It has a temperature range of 68 to 88 degrees F., breeding at 80 degrees F.

Dwarf Gouramis are bubble nest builders and upon the approach of spawning time, the male begins to blow small bubbles which amalgamate into a clump. The female frequently assists by weaving small plants or small bits of plants into the nest. When the nest is completed, the female is coaxed beneath it and stimulated to spawn. As each egg is dropped it is fertilized and picked up by the male who incorporates it into a bubble which is blown up into the nest. This continues until the nest contains from 100 to 500 eggs. The male then drives the female away and assumes the care of the eggs. The female should be removed at this time.

The protecting father guards the nest and continually replenishes the bubbles as the old ones dissipate. If an egg or helpless baby drops from the nest, the father again takes it in his mouth, incorporates it in a bubble and replaces it in the nest. At 78 to 88 degrees F., the eggs hatch in about 30 hours. As a lower temperature, it may take several days. The young fry become free swimming in about four days and the father who has been so solicitous of their care, is apt to begin eating them. He should be removed at this time. The young should be fed infusoria at first. When they are larger they may be fed newly hatched brine shrimp.

The water in the aquarium with the fry should not exceed four inches.

The males sometimes kill the females in mating, but the species are otherwise

peaceful and easy to care for.

The Kissing Gourami (*Helostoma Temincki*) is well known for its strange desire to "kiss" others of its kind. This act is not reserved for just two members of the opposite sexes, as two males will "kiss" and two females will "kiss". A Kissing Gourami will also "kiss" its own reflection in a mirror placed alongside the tank, just like a Betta will try to kill its own reflection.

The Kissing Gourami is completely white and does not have feelers like the rest of the Gouramis.

These fish are useful in the aquarium for keeping algae down. Their lips are covered with rows of tiny teeth which they use in browsing on the plants. They reach a length of one foot if they are given room.

From this, I don't suppose that baby Kissing Gouramis "kiss" their parents. The Kissing Gourami comes from Siam, Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java and Borneo.

The Dwarf and Kissing Gourami are both in the Anabantidae Family.



AQUARIUM PLANTS

By Jim Hamilton. Reprinted from "Fin Fare", Victoria Aquarium Society.

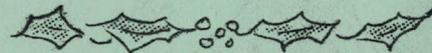
Most of the experienced aquarists probably know all about the art of raising plants, but I hope to clear up a few problems that may be in the minds of the enterprising amateur.

I will start with a few general MUSTS for the raising of good plants.

(1) LIGHT. The first and most requisite is adequate light for your planted tank. Without light, plants will soon rot and foul your setup. In general, eight to ten hours

of fairly strong light a day is satisfactory. This may be supplied either naturally or artificially. A spot near an unobstructed north window is ideal if you want natural lighting. The tank should be shaded from strong direct rays from the South, East and West windows. Too much light is a little better than none, as green algae will choke out all your plants and will infest your tank, and turn the water and glass of the tank green. If you wish to use artificial lighting select fluorescent tubes as your best bet, and get the warm white type and burn it about eight or more hours a day. Also be sure to get tubes of enough wattage to suit your tank.

(ii) WATER CONDITIONS. Most plants will thrive only in soft or moderately soft water, so be sure that yours is not too hard. Other plants thrive best in either acid or alkaline water. Use a Ph test kit to determine what type of water you have then select the plants best suited to the conditions you have. Where some plants will not thrive, there are others that will, so do not be discouraged if you fail at first - TRY AGAIN.



DID YOU KNOW?

PH stand for percentage of Hydrogen Ions and is an indication of acid or alkali water. The scale begins with the strongest acid which measures PH 1 and ends with the strongest alkali which go as high as PH 14. Water in its pure state, being neutral, comes in the centre of the scale PH 7. Tropical fish can usually be kept at a PH of 6.0 to 8.0, so our aquarium water tests should occur within this range. (By Del Gengrich - Brant Aquarium Society)

New Year

Greetings

