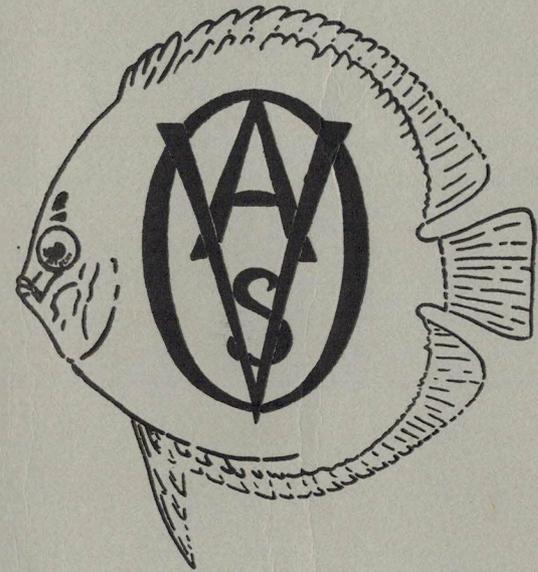


# OVAS NEWS

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

OTTAWA VALLEY  
AQUARIUM SOCIETY

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 542 STN. "B"  
OTTAWA, ONT., CANADA



HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!



OVAS

MARCH 11

1954 - 1961

MARCH 1961 OTTAWA, CANADA. VOL 6 No. 10

THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY MEETINGS

Junior Society  
Thursday, March 16th..... 7.00 PM

Senior Society  
Thursday, March 23rd..... 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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OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Honorary Member Dr. Herbert Axelrod  
Jersey City, N.Y. U.S.A.  
Scientific Advisor Father R. Legault, O.M.I.  
University of Ottawa

Senior Society Officers

President: Mr. Wilf Doucette  
Vice-Pres: Mr. Jack Fraser  
Secretary: Miss Diane Fraser  
Treasurer: Mr. Gary Zumar

Senior Society Directors

Membership: Mr. J.W. Smith  
Programme : Mr. Edgar Parisien  
Social : Mr. Terry Wilkie  
Magazine : Mr. Jack Fraser  
Show : Mr. Conrad Rock  
Junior Soc: Mr. Harvey Wittenberg  
TIFAS Rep : Mr. Don Thompson  
Librarian : Mr. R.W. Naylor

Junior Society Officers

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

Junior Society Directors

Membership: Danny McLean  
Programme : Jack Keaney  
Social : David Barron  
Magazine : Wayne Moore  
Show : Larry Forrest  
Librarian : Wayne Moore

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY CONSULTANTS

Area No. 1 Mr. Edgar Parisien  
Area No. 2 Mr. George Bowie  
Area No. 3 Mr. Ken Craig  
Area No. 4 Mr. Alan Griffin

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Fellow Members:

I would like to welcome all new members who joined the Society during January and February, and to all former members who have renewed their memberships,-- we are glad to have you back with us.

As you probably noticed, your Executive has tried this year to appoint as many new directors as possible or have former directors take new positions. In this way we hope they will bring new ideas to their committees and help make 1961 our best year. When you are asked by any of the new directors to serve on their committees please don't refuse. Give it a great deal of thought. If we all do a little the Society will accomplish much.

MARCH is a special month for our Society. It was on the 11th day of March 1954 that our Society was founded. Last year we reached a Senior Membership of 109 and a Junior Membership of 89. I am sure that this year we will continue to grow.

Some of the original members of the Society when it was formed in 1954 are still with us. They are:

- Mr. Phil Curry
- Mr. Otto Flegel
- Mr. Edgar Parisien
- Mr. Harvey Wittenberg

To one and all--"Happy Anniversary."  
I would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes for my recovery from a recent illness. I hope that I will be able to see you all at the April meeting.

Sincerely,

*W. J. Doncette*

THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

The Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society was founded on the eleventh day of March, nineteen hundred and fifty-four. Our Society is seven years old this month.

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

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

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

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

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

Advertising rates are available from the Editor on request.

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

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PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS  
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THE AQUARIST'S CALENDAR

"The Aquarium"

**MARCH** is a busy time for the aquarist. It is the time to clean house and get ready for late spring and early summer breeding. Aquaria are usually in semi-dirty condition by the end of the winter. Because of the high winter evaporation rate, aquarium water becomes pretty concentrated. A gradual complete change of water often results in increased vitality of the fishes. The best way to go about this is to remove from a quart to 2 gallons (depending on the size of the tank) of water daily, replacing with an equal volume of new water, until twice the gallonage of the aquarium has been exchanged. In large tanks (30 gallons and up) the new water can be taken directly from the tap without harm, but in smaller ones, the water should be allowed to stand for at least 24 hours.

Breeding fishes should be bought at this time. This gives them a month or so to adjust to new conditions before being put to work. New tanks and other equipment should also be purchased now.

In setting up new tanks, go easy on the sand. Most aquarists use at least twice as much as is necessary. One and one-half inches at the deepest is plenty. Part of the secret of clean, odorless sand is a constant circulation of water through it. That's why very fine sand is not recommended, as is not too deep sand. The normal circulation would be impaired.

Watch for the increased intensity of natural light. Tanks that were receiving just the right amount of light in February will be turning green in March, unless carefully checked. It is easier to prevent green water than to cure it. Most hobby-

ALADDIN PET SHOP

Otto Flegel, Proprietor

The Fish-of-the-Month is the Male Betta

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ists find that one an aquarium turns green, the only solution is to tear it all down and start again. Though rather unsightly, green water is ideal for most fishes.

March is the month for breeding preparations. The most likely breeding specimens should be removed and placed in tanks of their own. Or perhaps even better, the unlikely ones should be removed, leaving the best ones in their original tanks. At any rate, prospective breeders should be given plenty of room.

Please address all mail for the OVAS NEWS to: Post Office Box 542

Station "B"

Ottawa, Ontario

CANADA

TIFAS CONVENTION 1961

The Park Hotel, Clifton Hill, Niagara Falls, Ontario has been chosen as the site for the 1961 TIFAS Convention. The dates are May 19th, 20th and 21st. The Host Region is The Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs. The Host Society is The Niagara Aquarium Society.

A full programme has been arranged for the three day convention. Registration will open on Thursday evening, May 18th.

A few of the highlights will be:

Speakers

Dr. Storr - University of Buffalo.

Dr. Herbert Axelrod - Publisher of The Tropical Fish Hobbyist and an Honorary Member of OVAS).

and many other speakers of top quality.

Along with the Convention, The Niagara Falls (Ontario) Aquarium Society is holding its 8th Annual Fish Show from May 13th to May 21st. This Show is also in the Park Hotel. Last year 100 tanks were on display. We feel that this year the Show will be equally as good. There is no charge for viewing the Tropical Fish Show. It is open to the public from 12.00 Noon to 11.00 P.M. from May 13th to May 21st.

There will be numerous other events and items of interest to see during the week of the Show and Convention.

The Park Hotel is centrally located and is just one block south of the Rainbow International Bridge.

Hotel rates are as follows:

Two or more to a room - \$13.50 per day,  
American Plan (All meals included).

One person in room - double bed, no meals,  
\$8.50 per day.

Two persons in room - double bed, no meals,  
each \$5.25 per day.

Twin beds single occupancy, no meals  
\$6.50 per day  
Twin beds double occupancy, no meals  
\$12.50 per room  
Suites \$15.00 per day.

The registration fee for the Convention is \$1.00 per person. This is YOUR CHANCE to attend a TIFAS Convention in Canada and see a top-notch tropical fish show.

Reservations may be made by writing to the Convention Committee Chairman, Mr. Bert Steenhuis, 372 Simcoe Street, Niagara Falls, Ontario.

A complete programme of the Convention will be available at a later date.

Mr. Harvey Wittenberg of our Society is Chairman of TIFAS this year and will act in that capacity during the Convention.

Inquiries have been made regarding the practicability of chartering a bus to transport members of this Society to Niagara Falls to attend the Convention. To charter a bus we must have a minimum of thirty passengers assured. The cost of transportation will be \$15.00 per person. Anyone wishing to travel by bus must be ready to leave Ottawa by noon on Thursday, May 18th and will arrive back in Ottawa on Monday, May 22nd at about midnight.

If you are interested please contact Mr. Jack Fraser not later than April 1st.

DID YOU KNOW THAT -

One tenth of the aquarium can be filled with fresh water out of the tap, same temperature, without harm.

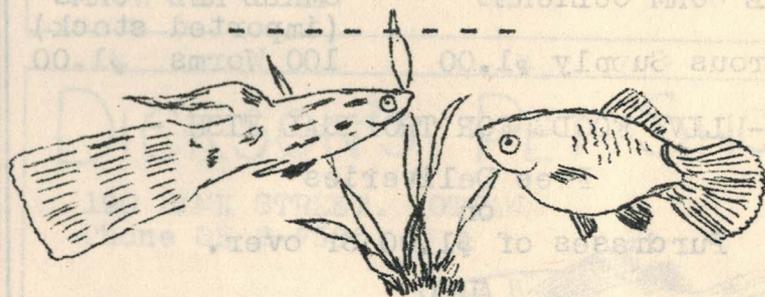


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of

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Live and Frozen Fish Food Available

WE WELCOME YOU TO COME IN AND SEE OUR  
FISH, PLANTS, BIRDS, HAMSTERS AND PUPPIES.

OPEN FRIDAY EVENINGS UNTIL 9 O'CLOCK

## THE SIAMESE FIGHTING FISH

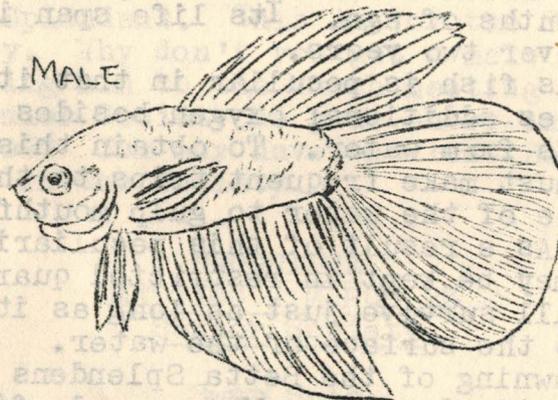
Betta Splendens (REGAN)

The most beautiful fish which can be obtained to grace an aquarium is without doubt the Siamese Fighting Fish.

[Betta Splendens (Regan)]

This native of Thailand (Siam) has been bred and cross-bred so much that one can hardly recognize the wild Siamese Fighting fish as the predecessor of the lovely fish you can now buy in the pet shop. The wild fish is small and drab being dull brown or green. The male is easily distinguishable from the female as the male has long fins and tail, while the female has smaller fins and is considerably smaller than the male.

MALE



FEMALE



These fish were originally bred for their fighting qualities by the natives of Indo China. They held fish fights just as they used to do with fighting cocks. Then the fish was introduced to aquarists in 1892 in Europe. From that time on the

fish fanciers in the Far East bred the Betta to the present stage where the beautiful colours of the males and the long flowing fins were of prime importance. Colours now range from red, blue and greens to the albino and the cream body and flame red fins of the Cambodian fish.

The male Betta is still a pugnacious character. He can become very rough with a female while breeding, but he best displays his fighting qualities and brilliant colours when he has another male put in the same tank with him. Although the fins of this fish may become tattered and torn during a fight, they quickly grow in again.

The Betta reaches maturity at about six months of age. Its life span is just over two years.

This fish is peculiar in that it requires additional oxygen besides what it gets from water. To obtain this the fish must make frequent trips to the surface of the water to gulp mouthfuls of air. As a result of this peculiarity, this fish may be kept in restricted quarters and will survive just as long as it can get to the surface of the water.

Spawning of the Betta Splendens is comparatively easy. When a male fish builds a bubble-nest at the surface of the aquarium the female should be introduced into the tank. Spawning usually takes a relatively short time and several hundred eggs may be fertilized and deposited in the bubble-nest in a few hours. After the eggs are placed in the nest the female fish should be removed as her duties are over. The male is the guardian of the nest.

The water of the spawning tank should range from 80 to 85° Fahrenheit. In this

water the eggs will hatch in about 48 hrs. The fry remain in the nest until the yolk sacs are all used. The young fish become free swimming in about five days and for the next few weeks should be fed on infusoria. Then they will thrive on live brine shrimp, or scrapings of beef, shrimp, or fish. In their natural habitat, when the young fish reach the age of about two months, their favorite food is mosquito larvae. An adult fish will consume thousands of mosquito larvae each year. Quite a few of our own members have successfully spawned the Betta. Every person has used slightly different techniques but all have achieved the same results.

The Fish-of-the-Month for March is the Betta Splendens. This is for the Senior Society. Why don't you get a male Betta and bring him to the March meeting of the Senior Society as your entry in the Jar Show? You may have the best Betta (Male) in the Society.

PROGRAMME  
MEETING - MARCH 23  
Senior Society

Swap Sale

Opening Remarks

Beginners Corner

Fish-of-the-Month Panel

Birthday Refreshments

Film

Draw for Door Prize, etc.

Closing Remarks

Mrs. J.C. McManus was the lucky winner at the February meeting of the brine shrimp breeder donated by Halvin Products Co. for the Door Prize.

NEW MEMBERS  
Senior Society

We would like to welcome the following new members who joined the Society at the February meeting:

- Dr. & Mrs. K.A. Chatterjee
- Mr. & Mrs. W.E. Curran
- Mr. & Mrs. George McNabb
- Mr. John Wallace

If each member brought just one friend who is interested in the hobby to our next meeting, our Society would double its membership in no time at all.

HOW ABOUT IT!!!!!!!

ARTICLES FOR THE OVAS NEWS

Every member of the Society should assist in the publication of the OVAS News. This you can do by writing an article for publication. If you have been successful in spawning particular fishes, raising a batch of live-bearers or had an unfortunate experience with your fish or aquarium, let everyone know about it. By writing an article for this magazine, you may be able to help someone else who needs this information. Both Junior and Senior members are asked to contribute.

The Editor reserves the right to edit all articles before publishing them and to say in which issue of the OVAS NEWS any particular article will appear.

Deadline for articles will be the last day of each month.

Let's make this a Society magazine by writing and submitting original articles.

# LOOK TO CASCO

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- Aquarium Salt
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- Coloured Aquarium Gravel
- Filtration Charcoal
- Glass Wool
- Coloured Aquarium Pearl Chips



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Introduce your friends to the fun of raising tropical fish! Give them this interesting, informative booklet. Write for as many free copies as you need.



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ANGEL FISH IN HONG KONG

Extract from article by Mr. M. Manal of Aquarist Society of India, published in The Indian Aquarist Bulletin.

There are many aquarists in Hong Kong and most of them seem to think it is child's play to breed Angel Fish. The Chinese seem to experience no difficulty in determining the sex of Angels. They maintain that the male has a more rounded body than the female and also a larger mouth.

To induce the fish to spawn they introduce into a five foot breeding tank, a single leaf of Philodendron, also known as Evergreen Plant. The leaf is tied to a piece of wire and anchored to a small weight or to the cork of a colored bottle filled with sand. Some breeders use a small flat glass in the aquarium instead.

They claim that from one good pair of Angels, that it is possible to get from 600 to 700 young as many as 15 to 20 times a year. This means a total of between 10,000 and 15,000 young fish in one year.

No wonder the world is over crowded!

JAR SHOW STANDINGS

Senior Society - to March 1st

George Bowie	6
Mrs. Trottier	4
Mrs. Bowie	3
Charlie Anderson	3

FISH  
OF  
THE  
MONTH

MAR CH  
1961



*Golden Anniversary*  
**TROPICAL FISH**  
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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.

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SENIOR  
SOCIETY

BETTA

SPLENDENS

(Male)

HOW MANY SPECIES OF FISHES ARE THERE  
IN THE WORLD?

Reprinted from "The Scavenger"

<u>Region</u>	<u>Estimated number of Species</u>
Australia.....	1500
North America.....	4500
South America.....	6500
Africa.....	6500
Tropical Inde-Pacific.....	9000
Deep Sea & Pelagic species....	2500
Europe, Asia, India, Islands and Island groups, and restricted faunal areas.	3000
Grand Total	<u>40,000</u>

REGARDING FISH NETS!

Reprinted from Angel Notes  
Alamo Aquarium Society Inc.

If it's not possible to have a net for each tank, which is best in order not to scatter disease from tank to tank, its a very good thing to take a few minutes to put the net in a container of water on your kitchen stove and simply boil the net for a few minutes. Can you think of a better way to kill germs? However, I don't recommend forgetting and letting the "pot" boil dry. Anybody got any use for the metal frame of a fish net?

THIS

IS

WHERE

YOUR ARTICLE

WOULD HAVE BEEN

HAD YOU HANDED IT IN

TO

THE EDITOR

FISHY FACTS

1. Platy's are usually thru spawning by 9:00 a.m.
2. Water Sprite needs lots of light.
3. Air in a tank, can almost double the capacity of fish.
4. Moving a Swordplant every four months will make it grow better.



JUNIOR  
SOCIETY  
NOTES

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Our February meeting was very successful. Talks by Mr. Harvey Wittenberg and Mr. Gary Zumar were well received. The Panel Quizz was a big hit and we hope to have more of them in the near future.

We welcome two new members who joined at the February meeting:

Ron Dickson  
Blaine Hummel

This brings our membership to 69. Why don't you bring a friend who is interested in the hobby to the March meeting? Let's hit the target of 100 members.

All Junior members are urged to write an article for the OVAS NEWS or to give a short talk at one of our meetings. Everyone should take an active part in our Society. Don't let a few do all the work. Articles for the OVAS NEWS should be sent to the Editor by the end of each month. Those who can give a talk should get in touch with the Programme Director, Jack Keaney. Your contribution to the activities of your Society will be most welcome.

This year the Society is collecting IGA

Cash Register Tapes. Ask your parents and friends to save the Gold Cash slips for you and help the Society by turning these slips in to the Treasurer, Frank Jones.

We are having an auction at our next meeting. If you have any articles connected with the hobby that you would like to donate, please bring them to the March meeting. Fish, Plants or accessories of any kind will be gratefully accepted. Phone Jack Keane at [redacted] and let him know if you have a donation.

See you at the March meeting,

Sincerely

*Ron Ensom*

Ron Ensom, President,  
Junior Society.

JAR SHOW STANDINGS

Junior Society - to March 1st.

- Larry Neumann.....4
- Neil Thompson.....4
- Brian Mallon.....3
- John Thompson.....3
- Philip Jansen.....2
- Andy Holdham.....2
- Jerry McMullen.....1
- Danny McLean.....1

FISH-OF-THE-MONTH

Junior Society

MARCH 1961

Black Molly (Male)

Bring your best male Molly and enter the Jar Show. It doesn't cost anything and you may be the LUCKY WINNER.

HOME AQUARIUM (through a wife's eye)

Reprinted from Tropical Waters Feb. 1960

Most male aquarists regard their wife as quite useless, lacking intelligence when she asks a question, and gets very un-uncoordinated when she can't net a nervous fish.

Honorable Sir possesses aquaria that have built-in cleaning powers, Finger-prints and water stains disappear overnight. Tubifex worms remove themselves from the refrigerator to the sink daily for water change, while brine shrimp have a magical way of swimming from outside washroom to living room and divide themselves between the two marine tanks for consumption.

A fish with "ich" is considerate in a community tank. He isolates himself in a heated hospital tank to which he has added a cure and a little salt. Then there's the guppy capable of removing an anchor worm. "Pregnant fish", in order to keep their offspring from the cannibals hop into breeding tanks when their time is near.

Husbands take great pride in their aquaria, shiny bright and full of healthy fish. "No trouble at all," he informs the company, while wife is in the rest room scrubbing crystal -craze off her arms and digging gravel out from under her fingernails. "Just set up another tank a little while ago."

Editor's Note: My apologies to all the poor husbands who may read this. I'm in the same class.

-----  
HAVE YOU PUT YOUR ENTRY IN FOR THE HOME SHOW? IF NOT DON'T DELAY. DO IT NOW

HOME AQUARIUM SHOW 1961

By Conrad Rock, Show Committee Director

The Fourth Annual Home Aquarium Show to be held by the OVAS will be judged during the month of April and up to and including May 15th.

Entry forms are now available from Mr. Conrad Rock, Show Committee Director. Phone PA 9-7916.

Any member of the Society, Junior or Senior, may enter an aquarium. Entry fee is 50 cents.

Any size aquarium may be entered.

Each entry will be judged in the home of the entrant, so there will be plenty of time to get your tank ready.

Come on folks,-- enter your aquarium and let's have a record number of entries in this year's Show.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES--MARCH 31st.

DONATIONS FOR HOSPITAL AQUARIA

By Conrad Rock, Show Committee Director

In the February issue of the OVAS NEWS it was stated that there would be a night set aside for HOSPITAL DONATIONS at one of our meetings. Well it's here. HOSPITAL Donation Night will be held at the APRIL meetings of both the Junior and Senior Societies.

You are asked to bring to these meetings at least one article which would assist in the maintenance of the aquaria which our Society has installed in the various institutions around town. Any species of fish, any healthy plant or any aquarium accessory will be very acceptable.

Please, if you are bringing fish, make sure that they are in a proper container.

LET'S HELP SOMEONE WHO NEEDS HELP

RULES FOR THE HOME SHOW

The following rules will apply for all entries in the 4th Annual Home Show.

1. Only ONE aquarium shall be entered by a member.
2. Any size aquarium may be entered
3. Any species of tropical fish or tropical plants may be entered.
4. Entries will close at midnight on March 31st.
5. The following shall be judged in accordance with our Society Standard Show Rules:

FISH

POINTS

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

PLANTS

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| (a) Size (according to size of plant growth).....      | 10 |
| (b) Colour (health of plant).....                      | 10 |
| (c) Planting (correct individual planting).....        | 10 |
| (d) Water Scaping (general layout of plants only)..... | 10 |

AQUARIUM

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| (a) Water Scaping (artistic effect, sand, rockery, drift-wood, etc.)..... | 10 |
| (b) Cleanliness (plants, bottom of aquarium, glass).....                  | 5  |
| (c) Clarity of water.....   | 5  |

Total Points 100

SURVEY OF PET STORES BY JUNIOR MEMBERS

by Ron Ensom and Jack Keaney

Recently we made a survey of the aquaria maintained by various tropical fish dealers in the city. (Editor's Note: Our advertisers were not included in this survey).

We kept very detailed information on each aquarium in the stores covered and came up with some very interesting points.

1. An average of 6 aquaria were maintained in the tropical fish department of the stores covered.
2. On the whole the aquaria were not overcrowded.
3. Only one store had really clean aquaria. The rest rated from fair to poor.
4. A large variety of fish were offered at all stores with no particular fish being displayed.
5. All stores were showing some sick fish for sale.
6. The following diseases were in evidence: ich, shimmies, mouth fungus, tailrot, and hollow belly. Some stores had taken steps to cure the sick fish by putting medication in the aquaria, but --sick fish were still being sold.
7. Prices, except those offering "Specials" were slightly higher than those in the stores of our advertisers.

It was evident at all stores that the sales personnel were certainly not experts in this field and their knowledge of the fish being sold was very limited.

This survey was made to show that the beginner must be very cautious when buying new fish. Before you buy, examine the fish to see that it is not sick, then see that there are no sick fish in the tank as well. Just a word of warning.

FREE CASH!!!

All members of the Society, both Junior and Senior are asked to collect all the Gold Cash Register Tapes from any IGA Foodmarket and turn them in to Mr. Gary Zumar. In this copy of the OVAS NEWS you will receive an envelope in which you may keep your tapes.

Gary, in turn, will forward all the tapes to the IGA office and will receive in cash for the Society, 1% of the gross receipts.

THIS IS ONE WAY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE SOCIETY AT NO COST TO YOU. SO PLEASE START AT ONCE.

-----  
WANTED---ATTENTION

Dear Readers:

It was such a wonderful trip to the University! Such praise! Such criticism! And besides I won first place. No fungus or tailrot as was forecast. In fact, I suffered no ill effects at all. Then coming home to a warm welcome and my tank of nice females. What attention I got from them!!!

Yours truly

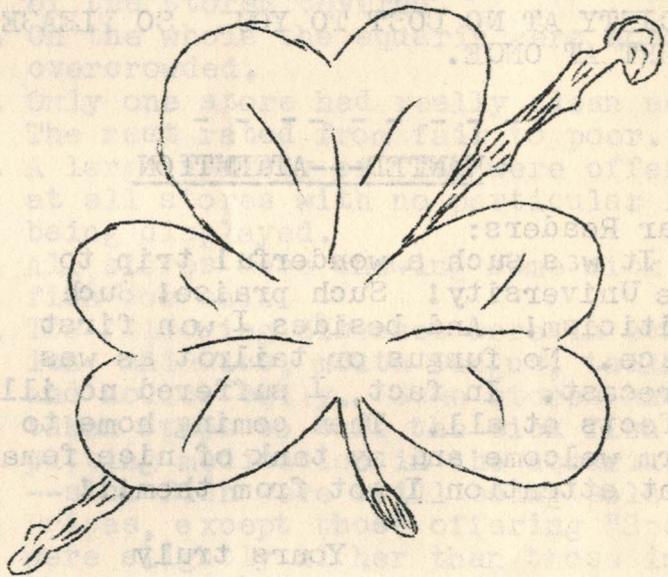
  
Blackie Molly

(As submitted by Mrs. Flo Trottier)

-----  
DON'T HESITATE TO BRING YOUR BEST FISH TO THE JAR SHOW. YOU MAY BE THE WINNER FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH. WHO KNOWS!!!  
-----

All members of the Society, both Junior and Senior are asked to collect all the Gold Cash Registers from any IGA Foodmarkets and turn them in to Mr. Gary Sumner. In this envelope in which you will receive an envelope in which you may keep your tags.

A  
SALUTE  
TO  
THE WEARERS O' THE GREEN -



ST. PATRICK'S DAY

MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>