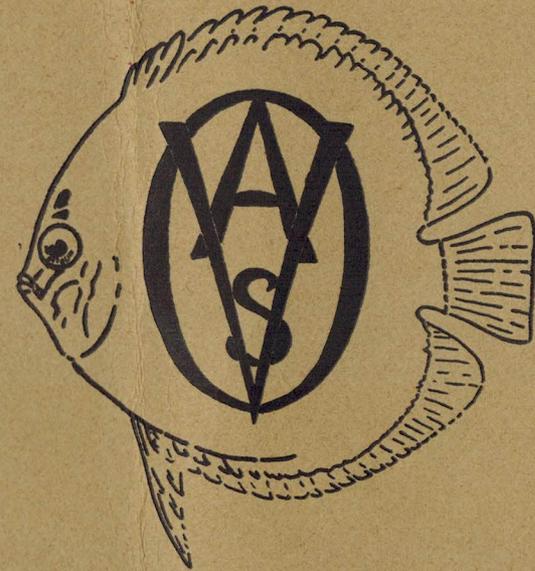


# OVAS NEWS

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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



SEPTEMBER 1961 OTTAWA, CANADA, VOL.7 No.2

THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY MEETINGS

Senior Society

Thursday, September 28th..... 7.45 P.M.

Junior Society

Thursday, September 21st..... 7.00 P.M.

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

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ADDRESS FOR THE SOCIETY

The official address for the Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society is:

Post Office Box 542,  
Station "B",  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

YOUR ADVERTISERS MAKE THIS MAGAZINE POSSIBLE

THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

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

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

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

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

The Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society publication, "THE OVAS NEWS" is published by the Society, a non-profit hobby organization. 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 those of the Society.

Advertising rates for the magazine are available on request from the Editor.

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

This Society is a member of The International Federation of Aquarium Societies, and the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs, Region 20.

.....

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. M.R. Hughson  
Programme : Mr. Edgar Parisien  
Social : Mr. Terry Wilkie  
Magazine : Mr. Jack Fraser  
Show : Mr. Conrad Rock  
Junior Soc: Mr. J.G. McManus



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 : Don Dickson  
Show : Bill Latimer



Librarian: Don Dickson

.....  
PLEASE PATRONIZE YOUR ADVERTISERS

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members:

Now that the summer is over, we should all have more time for our hobby. This is the time of year to fix up our tanks for the Fall and Winter seasons.

I certainly hope that everyone was able to get their fish home safely from the Ex. While speaking of the Ex, I would like to congratulate Muriel and Weldon Hodges for their extremely fine showing.

I would like to thank all those who worked so hard setting up and taking down the Show, those who acted as attendants and those who had entries in the Show. You all made it possible for us to have the best Show ever.

I hope that everyone will reserve the fourth Thursday of every month to attend our meetings as I know that Edgar Parisien has plans for some very interesting programmes.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the September 28th meeting and would like to extend a special welcome to the new members who joined the Society during the Ex.

Sincerely

*Wilf Doucette*

Wilfred Doucette,  
President, OVAS.

.....

Gentle Hints

After buying fish get them home as soon as possible. During cold weather, get your dealer to wrap the plastic bag with newspaper and place them in another paper bag. Better still, use an insulated bag similar to the one used to make ice cream purchases.

Float the plastic bag of fish in your aquarium for at least one hour so that the temperature will be the same.

SEPTEMBER SEPTEMBER SEPTEMBER SEPTEMBER

THE AQUARIST'S CALENDAR

"The Aquarium"

SEPTEMBER - - Let the calendar say what it may - - September (to aquarists) is hardly Fall. It is more truly the end of summer. Yet we must begin to make plans for the indoor season.

This reminds us of an observation which continues to surprise us, in spite of its timeworn repetition, year after year. It is the fact that the winter and not the summer is the aquarist's big season. Certainly in winter all of our difficulties are increased. Live food is scarce, daylight is weak (and short), water is cold surcharged with oxygen and smelling of chlorine. Perhaps we enjoy surmounting these problems, installing temperature controls, seasoning water, to say nothing of keeping a magnifying glass handy for the discovery of "ich". Although the breeding of fishes in summer has every advantage, we are of the belief that many aquarists give their hobby a rest in summer because other outdoor interests crowd it out. In winter when so much of Nature is frozen, we turn to the sport of keeping some of it alive indoors.

Although warm weeks are still with us, it is not too early to look over our mechanical equipment, particularly in reference to seeing whether electrical heating apparatus is in order especially contact points in thermostats. They should be bright and clean. If not, they should be either scraped or taken to an expert for overhauling.

Most fish breeders before this have already given their summer crop of young a careful scanning and have placed the more promising specimens in those tanks

where the opportunity for growth is greatest. However, there is still time to do this, so that they will yet have the advantage of several weeks of balmy weather, especially those which have been bred and kept outdoors.

By having these selections made in good time, it avoids the necessity of doing it at a later date and having to do it hurriedly when the first nip of cold weather surprises the procrastinator. In the ordinary course of events, more fishes are bred outdoors than can conveniently be housed indoors. Obviously this means we must carefully pick and choose those specimens which are likely to give the most satisfaction in the aquarium, in the show and in the breeding tank. There is every advantage in having these selections completed early, for it is during their first few weeks and months that fishes derive the greatest advantage from adequate space and good food.

The fishes are not the only living things in an aquarium that have been busy increasing their kind. By the end of the summer plants are generally so thick that they cannot do their best. Thin them out. Trade them off, give them away or sell them to a local pet shop.

SEPTEMBER SEPTEMBER SEPTEMBER SEPTEMBER

SENIOR SOCIETY

Jar Show Standings to June 30

George Bowie.....15	Diane Fraser.....6
Jack Fraser.....13	Lorne McLachlan..5
Flo Trottier.....11	Chas. Anderson...4
Bill Grundy.....10	Mrs. G. Bowie.....3
Mike Hughson.....7	Mr. McDiarmid....1

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HELP YOUR SOCIETY???

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FISH-OF-THE-MONTH

Senior Society

September.....	Tiger Barbs, a pair, male & female
October.....	Fancy Guppies, a pair, male & female
November.....	Gourami, a male or female of any species.
December.....	NO JAR SHOW
January.....	White Clouds, a pair, male & female

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

Here we are back on the job after a good summer, a bit late I will admit but still better late than never.

Firstly I would like to congratulate the winners in the Annual Tropical Fish Show at the Ex. Also the Show Committee who worked so hard. Everyone was favourably impressed with the improvement in the display.

Secondly I would like to officially welcome Mr. Jerry McManus and Mr. Michael Hughson who have kindly accepted the jobs of Junior Society Director and Membership Director respectively. I know they will both do an excellent job. Of course they will have their wives to help them out. How about it, Ethel and Nancy?

Dan Jeffrey is to be commended for the work he did on our Annual Raffle. Our net return was \$279.00. This should carry us through to the end of the year. If any member has a suggestion as to how our Society can raise money to carry on our activities without having a raffle, I know the executive will be only too glad to hear about it.

In this issue of the OVAS NEWS you will find a membership list as at August 31st. The Juniors will have a list of their own. Please check the correctness of the spelling of your name, your address and telephone number. If there is any correction, please let your Membership Director know at the next meeting.

I am sorry to say that I must give up the job as editor of the OVAS NEWS. As you have probably noticed I am going into business for myself and will not have the time to do a proper job on the magazine.

HOW ABOUT YOU TAKING ON THIS JOB?????

# ALADDIN PET SHOP



Otto Flegel, Prop.

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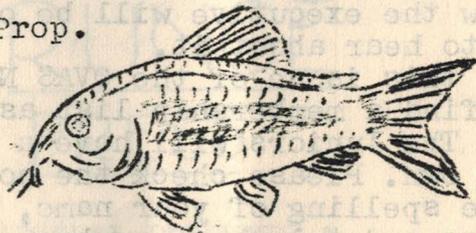
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## Senior Society Fish-of-the Month

### THE TIGER BARB

*Puntius tetrazona*- The Tiger or Sumatra Barb

This extremely active fish comes originally from Sumatra and Borneo. In wild state it attains a length of three inches, but in the aquarium the maximum is about two inches.

It is one of the most popular of aquarium fishes but it should not be kept in the same tank as angels or fancy guppies. The long fins of the angels and the tails of fancy guppies are a great attraction for the Barb who has a tremendous appetite. The Tiger Barb will eat nearly anything you see fit to put in the tank.

This fish has four black bands across the body which is dark on the back and gold on the belly. In the male, the nose the dorsal and anal fins are a cherry red. This coloring is not evident in the female.

The Barbs are easily spawned. A well-conditioned pair may spawn a short time after they have been placed in the spawning tank. Water should be about 78 to 80 degrees F. The tank should be planted with fine-leaved plants at one end. Gravel is not a necessity.

Spawning is usually completed overnight. Large spawnings are the rule. Parents should be removed as soon as spawning is completed, otherwise the eggs will be eaten.

Hatching takes place 24 to 48 hours after the eggs are laid. Start fry on infusoria or finely ground commercial prepared food which should be dampened before feeding so that it will sink to the bottom of the tank for the young. Growth in the fry is rapid and they must have plenty of room. You can always find a ready market for your Tiger Barbs.

THE 1961 ANNUAL TROPICAL FISH SHOW

The 1961 Annual Tropical Fish Show of the Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society was held at the Central Canada Exhibition in August. This year's Show was a tremendous success. Every year the Show becomes bigger and better, as it should. I would like to congratulate all those who took the time and effort to put in entries, and in particular the winners in the various classes. Muriel and Weldon Hodges were the big winners taking first place in four classes and also winning the Grand Champion award.

Mr. Bert Steenhuis, President of the Niagara Falls Aquarium Society was the judge and he did an excellent job.

I would like to thank all members of the Society who assisted in setting up and taking down the stands, who acted as attendants, and who in various ways contributed in making the Show the success it was.

The results in the various classes are as follows:

- Egg Layers
1. Muriel & Weldon Hodges
  2. Edgar Parisien
  3. Harry Griffiths

- Live Bearers
1. Muriel & Weldon Hodges
  2. Betty & Phil Curry
  3. Harry Griffiths

- Community
1. Muriel & Weldon Hodges
  2. George Bowie
  3. Diane & Jack Fraser

- Junior
1. Robert Seguin
  2. Larry Neumann
  3. Greg Wall ) Tied
  - Jerry McMullen )

WHERE IS YOUR ARTICLE FOR THE OVAS NEWS???

- Open
1. W.E. Ledoux
  2. Diane & Jack Fraser
  3. Flo Fitzsimmons

- Male Betta
1. Joyce & Bill Grundy
  2. Ron Ensom
  3. Danny McLean

- Dealers
1. Aladdin Pet Shop  
    Otto Flegel, Prop.

- Best Home Grown Fish
1. Muriel & Weldon Hodges
  2. Harry Griffiths
  3. Betty & Phil Curry

- Novice
1. Irmi & David Underwood
  2. Nancy Hughson ) Tied
  - Wayne Warwick )
  3. Conrad Rock ) Tied
  - Peter Rubec )

*Conrad Rock*

Conrad Rock,  
Show Director

JUNIOR SOCIETY

Jar Show Standings to June 30

Robert Seguin.....11	John Wilson.....2
Pat Tripp.....10	Andy Holdham.....2
Brian Mallon.....10	Norm Wilson.....1
Larry Neumann..... 6	Howie Barends....1
Jerry McMullen.... 5	Peter Rubec.....1
Chris Greenwood... 5	Ron Ensom.....1
Neil Thompson..... 4	Danny McLean.....1
Larry Hanlon..... 3	Wayne Moore.....1
John Thompson..... 3	Don Dickson.....1
Phil Janzen..... 2	Fred Murphy.....1
Diane Cummings...1	

PLEASE PATRONIZE YOUR ADVERTISERS

STRICTLY A FISH TALE!

By Mrs. Pat Brown

Reprinted from the Permian Basin Aquarium News, Odessa Aquarium Society, Odessa, Texas.

This is the life story of a pet pirhana. He came to us one spring day at the tender age 6 months in a bag with three other pirhanas. He was supposed to be three inches long, but was minus all his fins and a sorrier sight you never did see. We installed him in a twelve gallon tank with one albino goldfish for a scavenger and one Amazon Sword plant. Then we proceeded to fatten him with minnows, earthworms and crushed snails. We conditioned him with a prepared formula made of shrimp, fish, clam meal, etc. He grew his fins back quickly and they were lovely. The body color was a polished silver, the anal, pelvic, dorsal and pectoral fins were red with black trim, and the tail was a lemon yellow with a wide black fringe. He continued to grow at such a rate that we had to prepare a twenty gallon tank for his new home.

By this time it was late summer and he donned his spawning colors. All his fins deepened in color, his underside turned a rosy glow and the upper part of his body took on an olive cast. He was about ten inches long now and had been our pride and joy for five months. His appetite grew as fast as he did and he was soon consuming 4 oz. of formula with a dessert of snails, minnows, frogs or whatever we gave him.

He soon outgrew the twenty gallon tank. We then had to build a thirty-seven gallon tank especially for him. All this time he had been pals with the albino goldfish even when he was crowded for space. The goldfish would be so bold as to take bites out of his mouth. This was the only way he could get a square meal. The new tank was finished and

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the water properly conditioned and ready for the move. I made a large net, extra strong, because by this time he was 16 inches long and weighed approximately 3 lbs. The move was made without mishap, but for some reason he suddenly became attached to me and refused to eat if anyone else tried to feed him or was even in the room. We noticed he had developed a personality and had definite likes and dislikes to people and colors. He hated children and the color red. He would lose his color and flip his tail at the surface of the water and make a terrific splash anytime a child or anyone wearing red came near the tank. He took an intense dislike to a male friend who wore a mustache and had a false eye and would try his best to get out of his tank whenever this man entered the room.

He had sense enough to know when to behave too. A reporter and photographer from our local paper came out to do an article on him. He sulked at the back of the tank during the time it took to set up the lights and refused to come to the glass for his picture, but when I put my fingers on the glass, he came to me as a dog would. The photographer took shots of the whole procedure but was so amazed that he didn't believe what he had seen and photographed.

The albino goldfish was getting bolder by the day but took one chance too many. I heard an awful splash and ran to see what had happened. The pirhana had bitten him across the head killing him instantly. The pirhana came to the surface with a big grin and his tail wagging as if to say, "Look what I did". I was mad at him for days.

One sad morning his time came. We had had him for two years. When he died he measured 19½ inches long, 8 inches broad (minus dorsal fin) and weighed 5 lbs.



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# JUNIOR SOCIETY NOTES

## JUNIOR PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome to all our members returning from vacation and back to school. The Executive and Directors of the Junior Society are looking forward to a new successful season.

Our new Senior Society Supervisor, Mr. McManus, will be with us at our September meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to extend to him on behalf of the Executive, Directors and Members of the Junior Society a cordial welcome. We do hope that you will enjoy working with us.

Everyone should have seen the OVAS display at the Exhibition. The Show was a great success. Many thanks to the Juniors who acted as attendants and those who had entries in the Show. The Junior entries were particularly well set up. Congrats are in order to Robert Seguin who won the Junior Class and the Parisien Trophy. Larry Neumann was a close second with Greg Wall and Jerry McMullen tied for third. I was fortunate to place second in the Male Betta class and Danny McLean was third.

I would like to welcome the following new members who joined our Society during the Exhibition:

- Jim Bailey
- Penny Brown
- James ellwood
- Jim inglis
- Douglas Kennedy
- Greg Kennedy
- John King
- Chris Kingsbury
- Murray McDougall
- Wayne Stokes
- Ottillie Sullivan

Our total membership has now reached 97. How about bringing a friend who is interested in the hobby to the next meeting so that we can reach the 100 mark?

Two new Directors have been appointed. They are Bill Latimer, Show Committee Director and Don Dickson, Magazine and Library Director. They will be needing assistants so if you would like to help see either of them at the next meeting.

The response to the Junior Society Essay Contest has not been too good. As a result the closing date for entries has been extended to October 31st. This is your chance to win a cash prize and to have your article published in the OVAS NEWS. The AQUARIUM, one of the better magazines in the aquarium field, has offered to publish the winner's picture and essay in their magazine.

So get busy. Write your essay on the subject of your choice and send it in to the editor of the OVAS NEWS.

Regards

*Ron Ensom*

Ron Ensom, President  
Junior Society, OVAS

Junior Society, Fish-of-the-Month

THE ZEBRA FISH

Brachydanio rerio - The Zebra or Zebra Danio

This popular aquarium fish was originally found on the east coast of India, in Bengal and in Burma. The colouring and markings of the fish give it its name, - yellowish brown to olive green on the back and with a goldish or silvery belly. There are three main wide blue stripes on the body running horizontally from the head to the tip of the tail, all separated by silvery stripes. There are also other less definite stripes on the body and on the anal fin.

These fish are very peaceful though active. They are excellent for a community aquarium, but a school of zebras alone in a tank is a thing of beauty.

This fish can stand a range in temperature from 68 to 90 degrees F. The preferred temperature is 75 to 80 degrees F.

Breeding the Zebra is relatively easy. They spawn in water ranging from 72 to 76 degrees F. Adults should be conditioned on live food such as daphnia, white worms or brine shrimp. The female can be recognized easily by her swollen body when she is full of eggs. Some breeders point out that the male can be distinguished, not only by its slender body, but also by a slightly more rounded tip to the anal fin.

The breeding tank should be at least five gallons. The bottom of the tank should be covered with a couple of layers of marbles or a bed of glass rods to keep the adults from eating the eggs. Pairs of fish may be used even trios, putting the female in the spawning tank first and then adding the male an hour or so later. Over a period of two or three hours, as many as 400 eggs from a large female may be produced. The

normal spawning is about three hundred eggs.

After two or three days the eggs hatch. In another two or three days the young lose the egg sac and become free-swimming. Now they will take infusoria or powdered egg yolk. Newly hatched brine shrimp may be fed in another few days.

These fish will spawn at four week intervals. Their normal life span is about three years.

.....

NOTICE TO ALL JUNIOR MEMBERS

THE JUNIOR SOCIETY ESSAY CONTEST CLOSING DATE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO OCTOBER 31st.

ALL MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO WRITE THEIR ESSAY OF AT LEAST 500 WORDS ON ANY SUBJECT PERTAINING TO TROPICAL FISH AND TO TURN IT IN TO THE EDITOR OF THE OVAS NEWS NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER 31st, 1961.

YOUR ESSAY MUST BE ORIGINAL

VALUABLE PRIZES HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE.

YOU MAY WIN ONE!!!

GET YOUR ENTRY IN NOW

THE COMMUNITY TANK

Keep fish of the same size together in the community tank. Guppies, neons, white clouds and zebras are one group, angels, gouramis and tetras are another. Mollies are not a community tank fish as they will do better in water to which salt has been added.

Keep a well-balanced tank and do not overcrowd. One fish per gallon of water or three or four fish per gallon if you have a good supply of air.

CJOH GOES FISHY

By Jack Keaney, Junior Society; OVAS

On Friday, September 15th, 1961, the television station CJOH Ottawa went fishy. I had been contacted a few weeks before this date by Terry Wilkie, an employee of the station and the Social Director of the Senior Society, and asked if I would appear on a TV show in an interview regarding the Aquarium Society and the hobby in general. Of course I was very excited about it and readily agreed.

After a few false alarms regarding dates for the show we finally agreed on Friday, September 15th at 4.30 P.M.

Terry had an aquarium already set up in the studio, or what was left of it. (The TV station was in the process of moving to their new quarters.) The fish were very active and everything was ready to start.

At last the time arrived. Terry picked me up after school and took me to the studio. There I met Mark Warren, John Conway, Dave patrick and many others. They were the nicest and friendliest people I had ever met and made me feel right at home.

At last the show started and I nervously awaited my turn to go on. When it did come I was a bit scared, but after Mark Warren had introduced me I lost my stage fright. We talked about the fish which were on display in the tank and the hobby in general. I hope I was able to convince some people that they should get into the hobby.

I must say I was glad when the show was over but it was really a lot of fun. I understand that one of the members of the Senior Society will be appearing on the programme "VUE" within the next few weeks.

.....

AN EDITORIAL

Taken from the June issue of The Tropical Fish Hobbyist

The fish hobbyist, like every other enthusiast, meets a great many people who unintentionally cause him a great deal of annoyance. A long list of these could be compiled without a great deal of trouble. Maybe I get annoyed a little more easily than others, but I think I've met them all and a few that have not yet been classified.

The number one nuisance, of course, is the fellow who won't even look at your fish, but wants to play cards or talk baseball. Then there's the moron who insists on tapping on the glass making you (not to mention the poor fish) wince every time he does it, even after being told not to.

Here are a few of the things people have said that have caused me some annoyance:

"Why don't you get rid of all that junk and breed fancy guppies."

"You think that's new! We did that in Germany fifty years ago."

"Mr.-----, I found a mistake in one of your books."

"That article with your name on it in the last issue, what did you translate that from." (This guy I could gladly murder in cold blood)

"You don't really write those editorials, do you?"

THIS COULD GO ON FOR HOURS

.....  
PLEASE DO NOT OVERFEED YOUR FISH

Only feed that which can be consumed in a few minutes. A hungry fish is active.....

LETTER FROM CARLETON UNIVERSITY

The following letter was received by our President, Mr. Wilf Doucette from Carleton University.

Mr. Wilfred Doucette, President,  
Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society,  
P.O.Box 542,  
Station "B",  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Doucette:  
I am pleased to inform you of the winner of the Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society Scholarship of \$50.00 for 1961. He is Mr. Dieter Tzschentke, [redacted], Ottawa.

Mr. Tzschentke is a Science student majoring in Biology. He completed his third year courses with first-class standing.

Scholarships and prizes will be presented at a convocation to be held in the fall. Further details concerning the program will be sent to you at a later date.

Yours sincerely

signed

(Mrs.) Jean A. Loates,  
Student Personnel Officer

.....  
SOME FISH HINTS

Do not add water to the aquarium unless it is the same temperature and is aged water, A chlorine neutralizer will help.

The location of an aquarium is very important. Keep it away from radiators, drafts and direct sunlight.  
.....