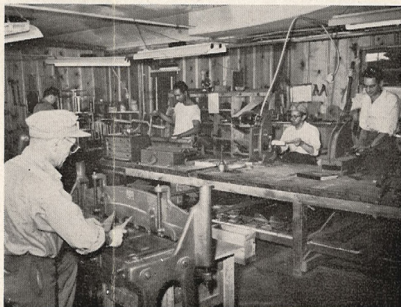




## The Making of an Aquarium

Mr. Manuel Wolfe and Mr. Martin Horowitz, Co-partners of Patt Engineering and Manufacturing Company have recently moved to their new location with greatly improved surroundings. They are considered the largest manufacturers of aquariums on the West Coast. Their product is the well-known "pemco line". "The Making of An Aquarium" was written with and through their cooperation.



"Shears, spot welding devices, a punch press, etc., were all lying around in orderly confusion."

The purchase of another aquarium started us off on a discussion of just how they were made. When I ventured the opinion that they were just five pieces of glass held together by some stainless steel strips, a friend of mine who is responsible for my interest in tropical fish laughed and offered to

take me along on one of his next visits to an aquarium manufacturer. He said he would show me what it really takes to build a "fish house".

Came the day, and my friend Al took me to the new headquarters of Patt Engineering and Manufacturing Company of Los Angeles.



"The tank is then scraped, cleaned and polished."

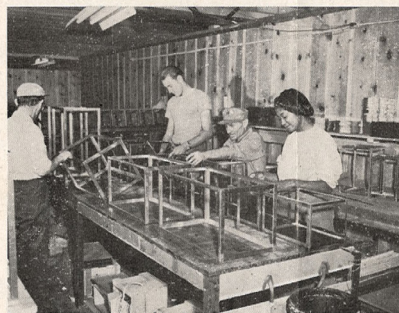
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leakproof tanks. The assembly procedure is standard. After the frame is made the two sides pieces of glass are set in. Then two end ones are placed and last comes the bottom. In this manner, the bottom piece can be set in very tightly and consequently completely seals the tank.

Again we moved on. The number of machines and pieces of equipment necessary for the efficient and continuous manufacture of various size and shapes of aquariums was surprising. Shears, spot welding devices, a punch press, brakes, heating tables, glass racks, bins and other items were lying

around in orderly confusion and available for immediate use. Extra heavy glass, highly polished stainless steel and Pecora cement, which is claimed to be one of the best on the market, are the materials that go into the making of an aquarium tank, because each tank must be designed strong enough to withstand the expected water pressure with absolutely no leakage or breakage. The tanks are tested by visible inspection. After having manufactured thousands of aquariums the "pemco" staff can detect any flaws existing. Any questionable tanks are sent back to be reworked.

The number of operations require to complete even one aquar-



"The stainless steel must be cut, notched, formed and spot welded."

He said they were considered the largest manufacturers of aquariums on the West Coast and as they were now centrally located in L. A. were very easy to reach.

We entered the attractive "pemco" showroom where a vast assortment of aquariums in all shapes and sizes were on display. They ranged from one to fifty gallon size. Predominating were stainless steel ones, but also manufactured were some of copper, brass, monel metal and steel. The larger jobs, on special order were not available for inspection as they go right out as soon as completed. Mr. Horowitz, the company manager, described one of these "supers" for a doctor's office

that must have been a beauty—six feet long and built right into the reception room. Another special order was a 125 gallon size. Swimming pools for fishes!

We moved on to see just how "five pieces of glass held together by some stainless steel strips" made an aquarium. The factory part was a cool, air-conditioned work room. It had to be kept so, not only for the comfort of the employees but also to maintain the proper temperatures to seal the glass into the stainless steel. This process is an exclusive "pemco" one which makes possible the production of

Continued on page 9

ium are surprising to the extent that even regular stock size tanks seem to be custom built. The stainless steel must be cut, notched, formed and spot welded. The four sides of glass and the extra heavy bottom glass (All "pemco" aquariums over twenty gallons in size have, in addition to the glass bottom, a solid sheet of stainless steel soldered in. This provides double protection and also prevents any oozing of the cement.) are then sealed in after which the tank is scraped, cleaned, polished, and carefully tested against possible leakage. All this just to make a simple aquarium!

When we discussed the tropical fish hobby itself I was quite surprised to learn how wide spread the interest in it was and how many different people enjoy it. For instance Patt Engineering ship their product all over the world and several seem to always end up in various remote, isolated spots. They go to schools, educational institutions, and research laboratories. They are placed in restaurants, offices, and hotels. You will find them in homes, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and child care centers. The quiet and soothing effects of aquarium fish in hospitals and rehabilitation centers is well known, and the enjoyment received from them in the home is an established fact.

Before leaving the factory, I asked Mr. Horowitz if he would satisfy my curiosity further and



tell me what prompted him to begin the manufacture of aquariums on a mass production basis. He replied that he had started out as a fish fancier and after his discharge from the army, his search for a leakproof aquarium led him from one place to another with little success. He and his friend (now partner) decided to make one for themselves. This was followed by several more plus some for their friends. Gradually they found that they were beginning to manufacture aquariums for a growing trade. More and more hobbyists desired their product. The next logical step was to experiment with different methods and to acquire the proper equipment. In 1946 "Patt Engineering and Manufacturing" became a company. They have found through experience that a primary goal is a quality aquarium. In other words the best sales results they explained, were obtained by providing for their customers what they themselves were hunting for several years ago; a good, attractive aquarium.

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**DALLAS EXOTIC FISH SHOW**

By Edward A. Wiggin

The fifth annual exhibition of the Dallas Aquarium Society, the first since before World War II, was held in the main auditorium of the Dallas Aquarium from September 12th through the 19th.

Show Chairman, Glenn Scherer, his committee and Aquarium Director Pierre Fontain sparked the show into being one of the most outstanding ever to be held in the great Southwest.

Over 10,000 people journeyed out to Fair Park to see the hundred odd species of exotic fish. A great many of the exhibited fish were bred and spawned by their owners.

Tom Dawsey, President of the Society, was high point winner with fourteen first place blue ribbons and seven second place ribbons. He took both first and second place in the Community Tank Contest. Louis Moore, a Southern Methodist University biology major, won first place in the Aquarium Beautiful Contest. Glenn Scherer, Vice President of the So-

ciety, was second place winner in the Aquarium Beautiful Contest. Bob LeClerc took first place for the best fish shown and also Grand Prize for the best pair of fish exhibited in the entire show. They were a pair of Aequidens portalegrensis.

The Society was fortunate in having two internationally known judges, C. Basil Jordan and John Rosenfield. Back in 1936, Mr. Jordan imported the first Blind Cave Fish, Anoptichthys jordani, ever to enter this country. The fish, when finally identified, was named for Mr. Jordan by Carl Hubbs and William Innis. John Rosenfeld, internationally famous stage and screen critic of the Dallas Morning News, judged the Aquariums Beautiful. He has long been an exotic fish fancier and since judging this show, has become a member of the Society and will edit the monthly Guppy Gossip.

Other Aquarium Societies are invited to exchange publications. Address communications to Mr. Pierre Fontain, Director Dallas Aquarium, Fair Park, Dallas, Texas.

**FISH NEWS**

**NEVADA AQUARIUM SOCIETY**

Thanks for the Fish News from the Nevada Aquarium Society. We received both copies and enjoyed both of them. Should be interested in receiving future copies as they become available.

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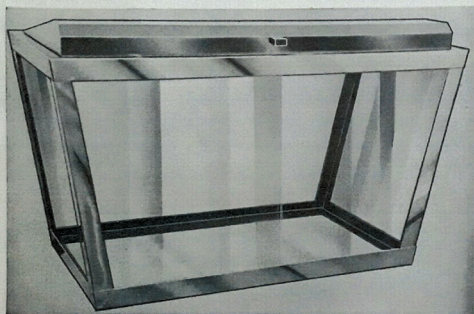
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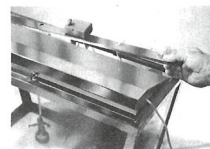
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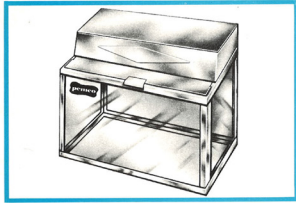




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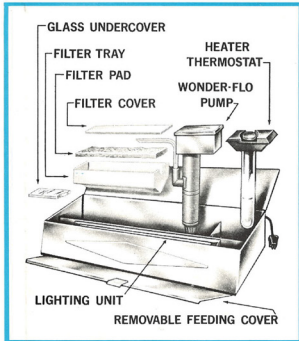
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