

Goldfish via Airplane

BUFFALO HARTMAN

MRS. GERALDINE GREY LOFFREDO, Buffalo aviatrix who is to pilot the big Bellanca Monoplane in the epic non-stop flight from Buffalo to Rome, Italy, has been presented with two Celestial Telescope Goldfish to take to Pope Pius XI for the Vatican Aquarium. These fish are one of Nature's greatest curiosities and were presented by Mr. Bert J. Putnam, President of the Putnam's Fisheries.

These fish are very rare and have been available in America only recently. Instead of the fish's eyes pointing in the usual position, they point directly upward, hence their name as they are constantly gazing at the sky. Another peculiarity is that the dorsal or back fin is entirely missing, so he is unable to see in any other direction except upward. It can look for food only on top of the water. The color of these fish vary like that of other goldfish. Their eyes are unusual not only because they are pointed straight upward but because of their abnormal size and form. The body of the Celestial Telescope is a short oval, unlike that of other fancy varieties, while the tail resembles that of a Fantail.

The legend of their origin is traced to the Chinese, who, it is understood,

placed young fishes in dark blue jars which were lighted only from a small slit in the top, causing the eyes to be gradually directed to the vertical position. Then by selective breeding to the fish so artificially treated, the Chinese produced a standard strain of Celestial Telescope fish whose eyes point constantly toward the heavens. By some Orientals it is considered sacred on account of its constant upward gaze, and they keep a place for it in their temple.

The Celestial Telescope Goldfish is probably the most difficult to breed that the world has ever known, and until a few years ago has never been bred in the United States. However, in recent years very fine specimens have been produced in this country. No peculiar contrivances of any kind were used, but the American strain was produced from the imported stock from China.

Mrs. Loffredo is having a special compartment built in her plane to carry these two mascots in a specially built container filled with about five quarts of water, weighing altogether less than ten pounds. She feels confident that they will bring her luck as she will be flying in the direction that the goldfish are looking—skyward. The Celestial fish are sym-

bols of lofty ideas and for centuries have been known as the symbol of achievement by the progenitors of accomplishments which were thought impossible by the ordinarily intelligent.

Much local interest is aroused locally (Buffalo) concerning the airplane flight from Buffalo to Rome. From a clipping we read the following:

Besides thousands of letters which will be sent by Buffalo people to the Pope, Mrs. Lofferdo will carry two Celestial Telescope Goldfish from Putnam's Fisheries, Buffalo, New York, as mascots. These she expects to present to the Pope upon her arrival in Rome.

Celestial Telescopes were formerly considered by the Chinese the maximum of good omen and at one time were held sacred, being kept only in temple pools as they were thought to be especially favored by the gods. This variety of fish until quite recently has been almost unobtainable in America and the prices prohibitive, until a few years ago the Putnam's Fisheries started to specialize in them together with Lionheads, Orandas and some of the other rarer varieties. Now, during the regular season they are obtainable from this firm at very reasonable prices.

These Telescopes will be the first goldfish ever transported by plane across the ocean—the Lindberghs of the goldfish world. Every pound counts in an ocean flight as all available space is considered necessary for fuel. Only 137 pounds of letters and baggage are allowed on the trip, and even the clothing Mrs. Loffredo wears is limited to a certain weight.

A specially constructed shipping can is being made by Putnam's Fisheries to transport these fish, and Mrs. Loffredo is having a special compartment constructed to carry the shipment. The shipping weight of the

fish, including the specially constructed fish can and water, will be ten pounds. Change of water of course will be impossible and not necessary on this non-stop flight. The average temperature of the compartment in which the fish will be carried is low enough to retain oxygen in water.

The fish are being well fed and conditioned for the trip, being kept in a small container and fed exclusively on Putnam's Bug Food for about ten weeks. No food will be necessary during the trip as metabolism will be low, owing to the confinement in the small container and the agitation of the water en route. Of course, the agitation of the water in the shipping can is the key to the problem as water, when agitated, gathers fresh oxygen, thereby keeping itself pure and re-aerated.

When only a boy in school, Mr. Putnam started to breed goldfish. His first efforts were confined to a few tubs sunk in the ground and about a dozen pairs of good brood fish. Fortunately for him, his breeders were of excellent quality. Otherwise, as boys are often enthused over new ideas only for a short time, his enterprise might have soon been abandoned. However, since his parent stock was of good quality, at the end of the season, though the hatch was of limited quantity, he realized some very welcome pocket money from the young fish he had raised. They were of good type and found ready sale; besides he had a summer of real fun raising them.

He wintered his brood stock in tubs in the attic (the basement would have been better) and could hardly wait for spring to come again to reopen his miniature goldfish hatchery. His expansion in the fish business was rapid and soon after his entry into high school he had established a business that required a helper.

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His fish industry increased steadily. He had to employ more help to "keep the business running" so he could finish his education. At the end of eight years he had six people in his employ. Today it takes over three hundred acres of water to furnish the millions of fish that he ships all over the world. Recently he had an order for goldfish from Cape Town, South Africa. Orders from Europe, Havana and other foreign countries come in frequently, and transcontinental shipments are almost an every day occurrence.

The Putnam's Fisheries have had an exceptionally successful season's breeding. They report that they have more goldfish this year than ever before, and of larger, finer quality. Last year, although the entire country was in the throes of depression, the Putnam's Fisheries increased their business over 50% over the preceding year. This season bids to be even greater as the demand for goldfish seems to be steadily increasing, and the quality and excellence of their stock is such that new customers are being added to their list at the rate of over 100 per month.

Besides millions of common goldfish, they produce every other known kind of goldfish, specializing in all the higher grades of fancy varieties which many breeders hesitate to attempt.

This will be their 32nd year in business. Their new catalog which will be issued in the near future will contain many new numbers at prices in accordance with times, some of them astonishingly low.

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Any really wide awake dealer can devise a scheme to get some world wide publicity without expense.