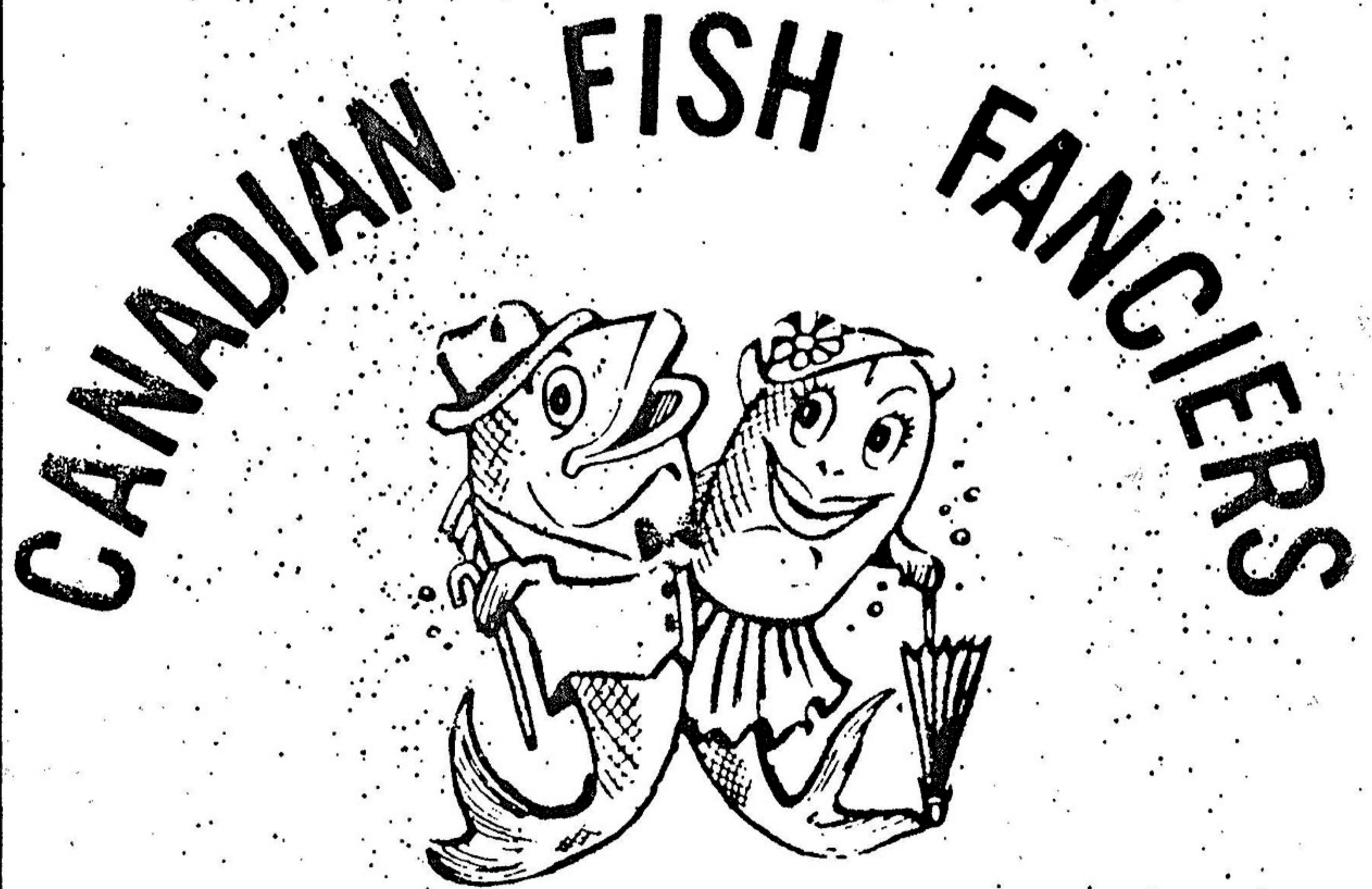


# Collectors of Aquarium Literature

Number 7  
November  
1984



serving canadian  
tropical fish hobbyists

WINTER 1973-4

60¢

CANADIAN FISH FANCIERS by Robert Harris, CAL

It surprises me to see that it has been ten long years since the first issue of Canadian Fish Fanciers rolled off the press. The editor and publisher was Ted Hilton, a well known aquarium hobbyist in the Toronto area. The idea of publishing a Canadian magazine was Ted's, not the first, but one in a long while. While being president of the Swansea Aquarium Club and publishing a monthly magazine itself, Ted felt a quarterly publication might expand an interest in both the hobby and the club. Swansea was a small part of Toronto years ago. Before commenting on Canadian Fish Fanciers I would like to mention a little on its history. The Swansea Aquarium Club formed in 1938 as a group of local hobbyists. It is unlikely they produced a publication on a regular basis, but in September, 1967, they began a good quality monthly magazine called Mollies Manual. It published ten issues a year, omitting the summer months of July and August. Mollies Manual had the same format as Canadian Fish Fanciers. Mollies Manual survived only about a year after Canadian Fish Fanciers began publishing. Due to internal strife the Swansea Aquarium Club, then Toronto's largest aquarium group, folded and was no more by 1975. I have seen only one issue of a Swansea Aquarium Club publication prior to 1967. It was an early '60's issue, simply titled Swansea Aquarium Club. It contained only local information and club politics.

Canadian Fish Fanciers was successful in that many dedicated hobbyists wrote very interesting articles in its issues. C.F.F. was unsuccessful in that most of its writers, while knowledgeable hobbyists, were mostly volunteers and guest articles, making both co-operation and deadlines often difficult to meet. Also, poor distribution and lack of advertisers forced C.F.F. to fold after 18 issues in September, 1978, Volume 5, Number 2. Ted Hilton had hoped C.F.F. would eventually issue monthly and compete with T.F.H. C.F.F. actually had a long way to go to compete with T.F.H., but this was Ted's long term goal. Even an attempt was made to obtain a grant from a local lottery to financially bail out the ailing C.F.F., but when they refused, stating that C.F.F. was not of interest to a large enough group, Ted simply did not take issue 19 to press.

It is always a shame to see a magazine cease publishing, and C.F.F. marks both the end of an aquarium club and the last professional Canadian publication on our hobby to date.

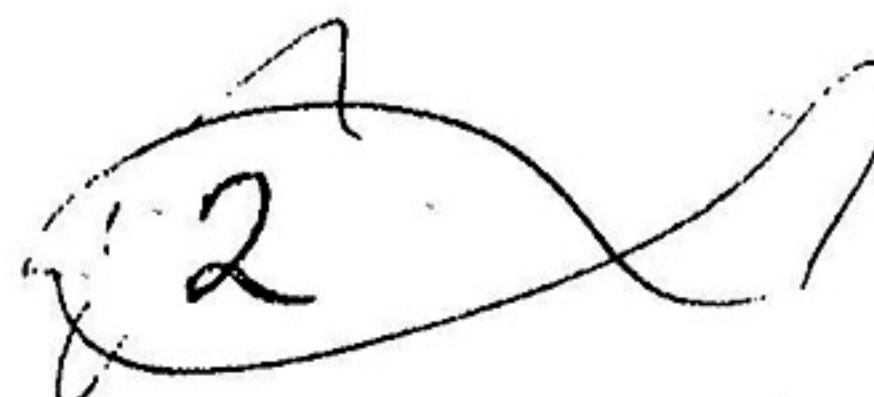
I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has any issues of Mollies Manual or other Swansea Aquarium Club publications.

The only difficult issue to locate is Volume one, Number one.

CANADIAN FISH FANCIERS

VOLUME	YEAR	1	2	3	4
1	1974				
2	1975				
3	1976				
4	1977				
5	1978				

18 issues published



Membership dues are \$10 per year which entitles you to:

Four issues of CAL and twenty lines of free ad space per issue to let CAL members know what you want to buy, sell, trade, or learn. Extra ad space is \$1 per line and payment must accompany your ad, allow three weeks lead time for Dave Hopp to publish your ad in CAL which is published February, May, August, and November of each year.

\$5 REFUND if you contribute an article to CAL. Any article of interest to CAL members earns a \$5 REFUND or Extend your subscription two issues.

Back issues of CAL are \$2.50 per issue.

CAL members can order a second subscription for themselves at \$6 per year.

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Material published by CAL may be reprinted, unless specifically denied in the article, providing that two copies of the reprinted material are sent to CAL.

Credit to CAL must appear immediately after the end of the reprinted material

and must take the following form: Reprinted from CAL. Any person interested in the Collectors of Aquarium Literature should apply to Dave Hopp, Editor, 3604 Agate Drive, Modesto, Ca. 95356.

Membership Dues are \$10 per year, overseas dues are \$13 per year.

Mail all correspondence to: Dave Hopp, 3604 Agate Drive, Modesto, Ca. 95356.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE-REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

CAL will be ordering German Books in Nov.84 and 1,3,5,7,9,11 months of 85, IF WE GET YOUR \$\$\$ IN advance. Need the title & your \$\$\$.

Cichliden I -Staeck \$43.

Cichliden II - Staeck \$43.

Cichliden III - Staeck \$43.

Fische and ihr Verhalten - Zupanc \$13.

Afrikanische Cichliden I -Linke - Staeck \$13.

Bunlbarsche aus Westafrika

Amenlsanischu Cichliden I - Staeck - Linke \$13.

Kleine Bunttarsehe

Schmettkamp - Die Zweigiuhliden Iudamerikas \$17.

Mayland Bd III Cichliden und Fiscllyucht \$26.

Mayland Mittelamerika Lebendgebarende and Cichliden \$26.

Das Buch der Labyrinthfishi - Richter \$8.



## TFH BOOKLETS

by Dan Thompson, CAL

Since 1954 Tropical Fish Hobbyist Publications has been publishing booklets covering a wide variety of aquarium subjects. Assembling a complete set of TFH booklets can be as difficult as a set of TFH magazines. When collecting these, the earliest printings are the most desirable. The approximate date of printing can be ascertained by comparing the copyright date of the booklet to the list of other books offered and the subscription form for TFH magazine found on the inside and back covers. These booklets can be broken down into several series. Catalogue numbers were first used in 1963 and for the most part determine what series a booklet belongs to.

The first series to be discussed is the "F" series which sold for 35¢ each. Most are fairly common. These were published in a 5½ x 8½ inch format. With the introduction of the Pet Library booklets in 1966 TFH trimmed the top one half inch off of the tops of existing stocks to enable them to fit the Pet Library racks.

The first edition of Tropical Fish as Pets was NOT published by TFH. It was published by House of Houston in 1953 and is quite scarce. Saltwater Fishes as Pets is the rarest in the series. It was revised in 1961 as the first book in the "E" series and is the only booklet without a catalogue number. The first printing of Diseases of Tropical Fish is also very scarce. It differs from later printings in that the cover does not have a photograph. All later printings have a photo of a pair of discus on the cover. When first published it sold for fifty cents but the price was dropped two years later. African Barbs and African Cichlids are the only two "F" series booklets to contain color photos. Two additional titles were planned for but never published, i.e., African Tetras and African Catfish.

"E" series booklets were introduced in 1961 and sold for 50¢ each. This series is fairly difficult. A very brittle heavy paper was used on the covers which tends to split on the fold if not handled carefully.

In 1964, TFH acquired rights to All Pet Books. The "AP" series consists of two titles. Keeping Seahorses by Straughan is an excellent booklet and is still carried by TFH. The second booklet, Goldfish for the Novice is fairly scarce.

Five booklets in the "PR" series were published in 1966 in an attempt to compete with the Pet Library booklets. These were 5½ x 8 inch format and sold for 25¢. These primers are quite scarce as color photos were added and the title changed two years later.

Several other booklets have been published in a group loosely called the "in color" series. Most of these are revisions of "F", "E", and "PR" series booklets. Though the titles were changed the catalogue numbers remained the same.

TFH acquired rights to the Pet Library in 1980 and assigned numbers beginning with PL. Though not booklets as



defined here, books of the "Know" series are listed here for completeness.

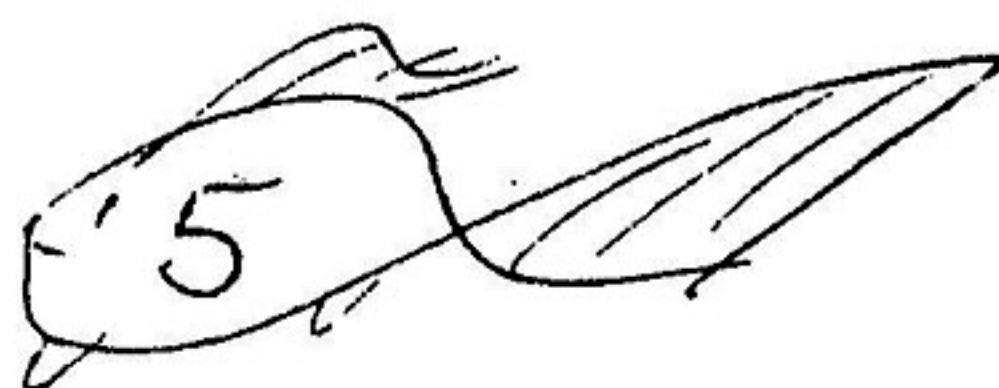
Three other booklets were published in 1980 which carry the Pet Library logo for the five and dime market. No credit is given to the authors and no mention of TFH is made. A little research revealed that they are revisions of earlier TFH titles.

#### "F" Series

- F-35 Tropical Fish as Pets, Axelrod, 1953
- F-6 Aquarium Plants, Axelrod, 1954
- F-21 Goldfish as Pets, Axelrod, 1954
- F-18 Diseases of Tropical Fish, Axelrod, 1954
- none Saltwater Fishes as Pets, Axelrod, 1955
- F-23 Guppies as Pets, Gordon, 1955
- F-11 Breeding Egglayers, Vorderwinkler, 1955
- F-12 Breeding Livebearers, Vorderwinkler, 1955
- F-31 Siamese Fighting Fish, Gordon, 1956
- F-30 Seahorses, Anonymous, 1956
- F-25 Mollies, Axelrod, 1956
- F-32 Swordtails, 1956, Gordon
- F-28 Platies, Gordon, 1956
- F-10 Beginning the Aquarium, Roberts, 1956
- F-13 Catfishes, Axelrod, 1957
- F-19 Dwarf Cichlids, Vorderwinkler, 1957
- F-5 Angelfish, Whiter, 1957
- F-26 Panchax Group, Vorderwinkler, 1957
- F-17 Discus, Vorderwinkler, 1957
- F-9 Barbs, Vorderwinkler and Schultz, 1957
- F-22 Gouramis, Kessler, 1957
- F-20 Fancy Guppies, Roberts, 1957
- F-8 Argentine Pearlfish, Boschi, 1957
- F-16 How to Decorate Your Aquarium, Axelrod, 1957
- F-27 Pencilfishes, Vorderwinkler, 1957
- F-14 Cichlids, Vorderwinkler, 1958
- F-33 Tetras, Book I, Axelrod, 1958
- F-34 Tetras, Book II, Axelrod, 1958
- F-15 Danios, Brittan, 1958
- F-29 Rasboras, Brittan, 1958
- F-7 Aquarists' Repair Manual, Gannon, 1959
- F-24 Live Foods, Gannon, 1960
- F-1 African Barbs, Axelrod, 1960
- F-3 African Cichlids, Axelrod, 1960

#### "E" Series

- E-715 Saltwater Fishes (as Pets), Axelrod, 1961
- E-711 Tropical Fish Guide, Axelrod, 1961
- E-718 Tropical Fish Primer for Beginners, Whiter, 1962
- E-703 Beautiful Goldfish, Whiter, 1962
- E-713 Platies and Moons, Whiter, 1962
- E-708 Colorful Swordtails, Whiter, 1962
- E-701 Beautiful Bettas, Whiter, 1962
- E-709 Colorful Tetras, Whiter, 1962



## "E" Series (cont)

E-717 Tiny Tetras, Whitern, 1962  
E-712 Hybrid Guppies, Whitern, 1962  
E-707 Colorful Livebearers, Whitern, 1962  
E-706 Colorful Egg-layers, Whitern, 1962  
E-721 Aquarium Water Chemistry, Geisler, 1963  
E-722 Piranhas, Schultz, 1964

## "AP" Series

AP-5310 Keeping Seahorses, Straugham, 1961  
AP-5021 Goldfish for the Novice, Roberts, 1961

## "PR" Series

PR-004 Breeding Fishes, Axelrod, 1966  
PR-008 Goldfish Primer, Vorderwinkler, 1966  
PR-001 Aquarium Primer, Průšek, 1966  
PR-002 Aquarium Plant Primer, Axelrod, 1966  
PR-010 Guppy Primer, Axelrod, 1966

## In Color Series

### Revisions-

PR-001 Aquariums in Color  
PR-002 Aquarium Plants in Color  
E-701 Bettas in Color  
PR-004 Breeding Fishes in Color  
F-17 Discus in Color  
PR-008 Goldfish in Color  
PR-010 Guppies in Color  
E-12 Breeding Livebearers in Color  
E-715 Saltwater Fish in Color

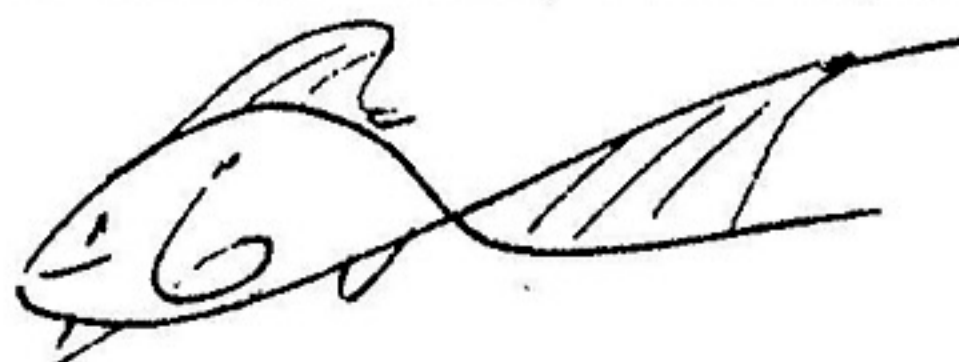
### New Titles-

PR-023 Gouramis in Color, Emmens and Axelrod, 1967  
PR-025 Mollies in Color, Axelrod, 1968  
E-726 Angelfish in Color, Emmens and Axelrod, 1969  
M-538 How to Become an Ichthyologist, Myers, 1970  
F-52 Setting Up the Aquarium, Axelrod, 1982  
F-53 Fishes For Your Community Tank, Axelrod, 1982

## Pet Library Series

### Enjoy Series

PL-301 Your Angelfish, Wolfsheimer  
PL-302 Your Aquarium, Cohen  
PL-303 The Barbs, La Corte  
PL-305 Breeding Egg-layers, Haas  
PL-306 Breeding Livebearers, Haas  
PL-307 Your Catfish, Klee  
PL-308 Your Cichlids, La Corte  
PL-309 Your Discus, Schneider  
PL-963 The Fighting Fish From Siam, Wolfsheimer  
PL-311 Your Goldfish, Cohen  
PL-312 Your Gouramis and Other Anabantids, Wolfsheimer  
PL-314 Your Guppies, Friswold  
PL-313 Your Fancy Guppies, Friswold  
PL-315 Your Killifish, Turner and Pafenyk



Enjoy Series (cont.)

PL-325 Your Modern Swordtails and Platys, Norton  
PL-316 Your Mollies, Ervin  
PL-324 Keeping Native Fishes, Walker  
PL-317 Planting Your Aquarium, Dewhurst  
PL-318 Platys and Swordtails, Kallman  
PL-319 A Saltwater Aquarium, Braker  
PL-321 The Tetras, La Corte  
PL-322 Prevention and Care Tropical Fish Diseases, Cohen  
PL-323 Your Tropical Fish Picture Book, Schneider

Know Series

PL-702 Your Aquarium, Haas  
PL-717 Your Aquarium Plants, Jacobs  
PL-710 Your Bettas, Lucas  
PL-705 How to Breed Egg-layers, La Corte  
PL-706 How to Breed Livebearers, Klee  
PL-704 How to Breed Tropical Fish, Haas  
PL-711 Your Goldfish, Teitler  
PL-714 Your Guppies, Klee  
PL-720 How to Keep Saltwater Fishes, Braker

Learning About Series

Aquariums (=Aquarium Primer)  
Breeding Tropical Fishes (=Breeding Fishes Primer)  
Goldfish (=Beautiful Goldfish)

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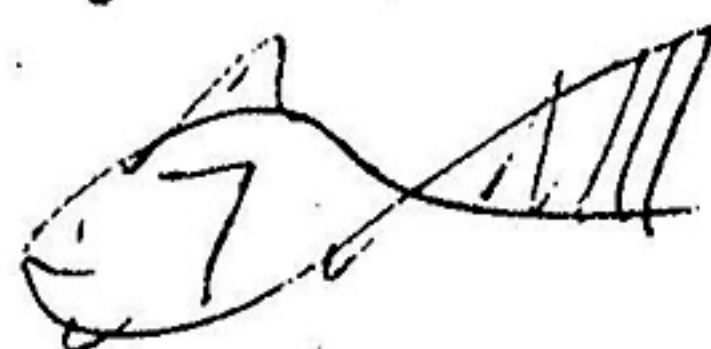
PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1984

<u>Cash Receipts</u>		<u>Cash Expenses</u>	
Dues	\$430 00	Printing	\$207 61
Magazines Sold	304.75	Postage	130.42
Postage Received	.26	English/Back Issues Bought	266.03
	<u>\$735.01</u>		<u>\$604.11</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts over Cash Expenses			<u>\$180.90</u>
Consisting of Cash \$177.30 and Postage \$3.60 which equals \$180.90.			

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"CAL says"

You will never find a copy of TFH Magazine marked on the cover Jan/Feb 1955. Although one was printed, this misprinted by the publisher and is mistakingly marked 1954. The correct information Vol.3 #3 Jan.-Feb. 1955 is marked on the inside first page. There are many other instances of this type of error. If you know of one drop us a line and we will publish it next issue. An interchange of information is what this is all about - let us hear from you.



The Aquarist's Library  
by: John Farrell Kuhns

The typical aquarist's library contains but a few books, many under a hundred pages and, in the U.S., published by T.F.H. Publications. The *real* collector of aquarium literature on the other hand often has hundreds of books on as many subjects (all relating to aquaculture) and usually knows each and every book and volume of periodicals as if they were long-time friends. Many of us can look at our book shelves and tell immediately which books are missing; someone visiting our "library", however is very often bewildered by the lack of an easily recognizable system to the collection.

It was for this reason that I began a few years ago looking into a cataloging system. It needed to be easy to follow and understand, demonstrated logical groupings of subjects, and which was especially applicable to small (less than 10,000 books) specialized collections. I had one additional criterion; the system should be a proven one and if possible, in use in a local library where professional cataloging help was available.

I have considerable experience using a local science and technology library called Linda Hall Library, and was convinced that their system of book cataloging was quite logical even though the series of numbers applied to the spines of their books meant little to me. I soon learned that the system they used was called the Library of Congress classification system.

After experimenting and talking with a couple of librarians, one in the family, I decided on the Library of Congress (LC) system, not only for my aquarium literature but for my other books (novels, medical books, chemistry books, and natural history and darwiniana). This was in 1969. I now must catalog and shelve from twelve to twenty-five new additions to my two libraries every month.

In this article and others to follow I will offer to other *librarians* information and suggestions relating to the cataloging and organization of a library of aquarium (and aquatic) literature. In addition, I will offer my assistance to any CAL members who wish to systematically catalog their libraries (see the end of this article for my address and phone number).

Most aquarists are familiar with systematic taxonomy and how it helps show relationships between closely and distantly related species of fishes and other living organisms. If one thinks of a library subject cataloging of a book along the same lines as the taxonomic "cataloging" of a fish species, then I think the following discussion might be easier to understand.

I will disregard, for the moment, the purely scientific basis of aquariums, fishes and other aquatic life, and the books which cover those subjects and focus upon those books and periodicals which cover the art (technology) of aquariums and aquarium life. A *typical* aquarium book, say, *Principles of aquarium keeping*, 2nd edition, by Jane Doe, could be cataloged, or classified as follows:



Phylum: Literature  
Subphylum: Books  
Superclass: Agriculture  
Class: Animal culture  
Subclass: Pets  
Division: Fishes. Aquariums  
Order: General aquarium culture  
Family: Environment (water, temperature etc.)  
Genus: Jane Doe  
Species: Principles of aquarium keeping  
Subspecies: 2nd edition

A more specialized book, say, *Guppies in the aquarium*, by Jan Jacobs, could be classified this way:

Phylum: Literature  
Subphylum: Books  
Superclass: Agriculture  
Class: Animal culture  
Subclass: Pets  
Division: Fishes. Aquariums  
Order: Individual fish varieties  
Family: Guppies  
Genus: Jan Jacobs  
Species: Guppies in the aquarium

Just like in the classification of living things one must usually dissect the thing being classified to truly understand its relationships with other living things. In other words don't classify a book by its cover; read (dissect) it first. A book entitled: *Egg-laying aquarium fishes*, by Bill Smith could be classified as follows:

Order: Individual fish varieties  
Family: Egglayers  
Genus: Bill Smith  
Species: Egg-laying aquarium fishes

but, if 150 of its 200 pages are devoted to barbs then perhaps a more *useful* classification might be:

Order: Individual fish varieties  
Family: Barbs  
etc.

The keyword above is useful. A classification *must* be useful and meaningful. In reality the last book would be first classified under "egglayers" and secondly under "barbs", but since the librarian may have certain, specialized areas of interest, the above book might better serve his needs if located with other books about barbs.

I have found that the LC classification system allows optimum flexibility and rigidity. One can specialize or generalize a library as needed.

The result of the above exercises is that the books can have "call numbers" assigned and/or affixed to them. Call numbers, of course, allow ease in retrieval and shelving of the books and allow for a systematic and recognizable progression of growth



of one's collection. The call numbers for the above books might look like this (on the spines of the books themselves):

SF457	SF458	SF458	SF458
.5	.G8H3	.E44S6	.B3S6
.D6			

Of course, on the shelf they would be arranged like this:

SF457	SF458	SF458	SF458
.5	.B3S6	.E44S6	.G8H3
.D6			

These numbers and letters are quite meaningful:

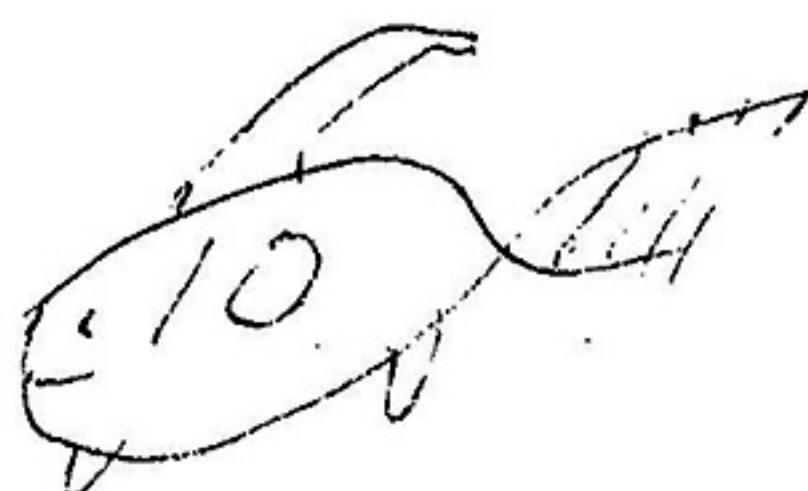
- S = Agriculture
- F = Animal culture
- 457 = General aquarium culture
- .5 = Environment (Water, temperature, etc.)
- .D = "D" in Doe
- 6 = "o" in Doe
  
- 458 = Individual fish varieties, A-Z
- .G = "G" in Guppies
- 8 = "u" in Guppies
- H = "H" in Hacobs
- 3 = "a" in Hacobs
  
- .E = Egglayers
- 44 = "gg" in Egglayers
- S = "S" in Smith
- 6 = "m" in Smith
  
- .B = "B" in Barbs
- 3 = "a" in Barbs

With the LC system a collector/cataloger can make sense out of chaos. However, for a collection (library) to be truly useful, especially to outsiders, it must have its holding (books and periodicals) listed in a catalog, and the catalog must be cross-referenced to such an extent that any possible identifier can be used to locate the book or books one is seeking.

#### LEARNED THE HARD WAY

TFH Vol 3 # 3 January-February 1955 does NOT EXIST if you can believe the front cover. It is marked January-February 1954 BY MISTAKE. February 1954 exists and is accurate

RBS



The usual catalog is a "card catalog". A card from such as catalog for one of the above books would look like this:

```

SF458      Smith, Bill
.E44S6      Egglaying aquarium fishes.

            1. Aquarium fishes-Egglayers.
            2. Aquarium fishes-Barbs.
            3. Aquarium fishes-Breeding.
            I. Title.

SF458.E44S6
    
```

Figure 1.: A book's main card

Each book, as can be seen by the other entries on the above "card", can and may have other "catalog identifiers" other than just the initial identifier. So the card catalog would contain the following set of cards with each identifier occupying the top line on a card, in turn, and the cards would be filed in alphabetical order according to the top line of each card:

```

SF458      Smith, Bill
.E4

SF458      Egglaying aquarium fishes.
.E4

SF458      Aquarium fishes-Egglayers.
.E4

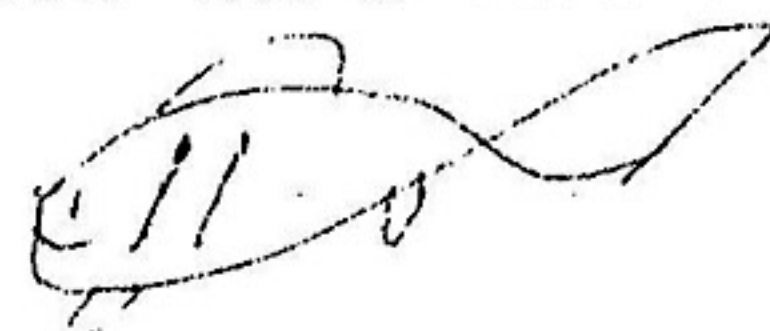
SF458      Aquarium fishes-Breeding.
.E4

SF458      Aquarium fishes-Barbs.
.E44S6      Smith, Bill
            Egglaying aquarium fishes.

            1. Aquarium fishes-Egglayers.
            3. Aquarium fishes-Breeding
            I. Title.

SF458.E44S6
    
```

Figure 2.: Card set for one book



As can be seen as each catalog identifier is placed at the top of its card it is removed from the body of the same card. This, of course is not necessary, but it does show the catalog user that he/she is not looking at the "main card". This is only important when the cataloger places extra information on the main card (i.e. cost, source, accession number, condition, binding, ISBN number, Library of Congress card number, Dewey Decimal number) which doesn't need to be placed on all of the cards. The last word on the catalog cards is this: the cards should contain, at least, all of the information needed for someone unfamiliar with the library to find the books and periodicals being sought.

This has been a brief exposition of what I believe to be a perfect cataloging system for a serious aquarist's library. I stand ready to advise any CAL member on cataloging his or her library. I have the pertinent cataloging publications from the Library of Congress and I deal directly with the Library's catalog distribution service.

Permission to reprint this article must be obtained from John Kuhns, 1100 Gentry, North Kansas City, Mo. 64116

**TE:** the exception to this system is with rare and valuable books. You will impair the value considerably by marking the spine or by any type of writing (including bookplates) inside the cover.. RBS

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CAL has two copies of the classic Innes book EXOTIC AQUARIUM FISHES 8th edition, good condition for \$9 each which includes postage  
Contact Dave Hopp

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"CAL says"

The index for all issues of Saltwater Aquarium is in Vol. 9 #6 which is the last issue and dated Nov-Dec 1973.  
Marine Life from England existed for 8 issues in 1974.  
Marine Aquarium Review featured only 7 issues in 1977.  
The June, 1917 issue of "The Bulletin" published by the Brooklyn Aquarium Society is marked Vol. 2#10 which is an error. It should be Vol. 3#10.

12

CAL SEZ

Wayne Leibel, editor of the Geophagus/Aequidens Study Group, has indicated the group will cease publication of Sifter at the end of 1984. Wayne did a great job and I look forward to reading more of his material in FAMA.

Ross Socolof, recently in London to buy material for his collection, found time to place a free ad for CAL in the July, 1984 issue of Pet Business. Thanks Ross.

A group of CAL members will hold the first CAL Convention in conjunction with the 1985 ACA Convention in Cherry Hill, New Jersey next July. Plan to be there to trade books, magazines, and stories with Ross, Paul, Dave, and Jare, .....

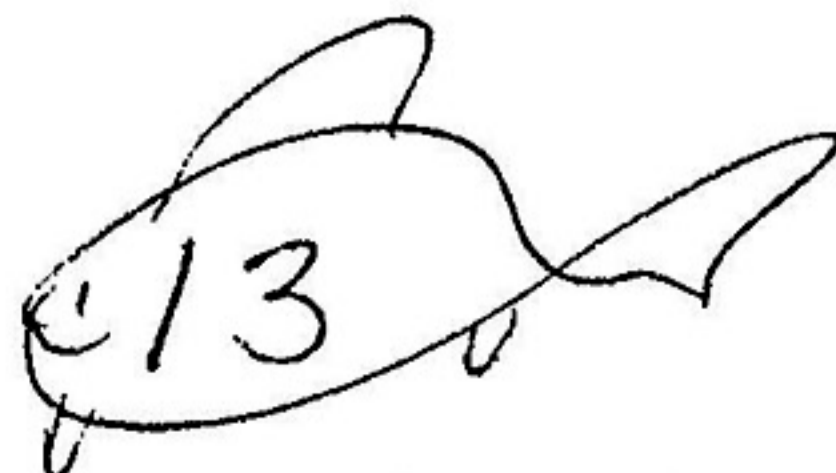
Technical Editor Ross Socolof recently found two special publications to add to the list found in CAL #5 "Our Aquarium Fishes" and "Aquarium Fishes of the World"

A set of inventory sheets including 35 serials can be ordered from CAL for \$5. Thanks to Gary Grant, Dan Thompson, and Dave Hopp for updating my records.

A Guide to the Freshwater Fish of Victoria has arrived and is worth having if you are interested in Australian Fishes.

Buy Petfish or Aquarist and Pondkeeper from CAL at \$2.25 per issue.

Cichlid Nuts will be able to obtain those highly sought after GERMAN Cichlid Books by Hans Mayland and Wolfgang Staeck. I placed the first order this month-October. Contact me with the title you want. Advance payment is required.



## An English Fish House by Stuart Elton

Thinking of setting up a new fish-house? Then I recommend you first read some books on intensive fish farming. In particular "Backyard Fish Farming" by P. Bryant, C. Jauncy and T. Atack, published by Prism Press (1980) will give you some interesting ideas on how to maximise output of healthy fish for a minimum of space and cost.

The above will indicate that I am dealing with a breeding/rearing fish house from which the best fish will be displayed in an ornamental pond or aquarium until needed for breeding purposes. A collector's fish house, exhibiting furnished aquaria is another matter entirely and not considered here.

Firstly, an informative introduction to the subject of fish farming is given which includes a definition of cold and warm water fish that may interest goldfish breeders living in temperate regions.

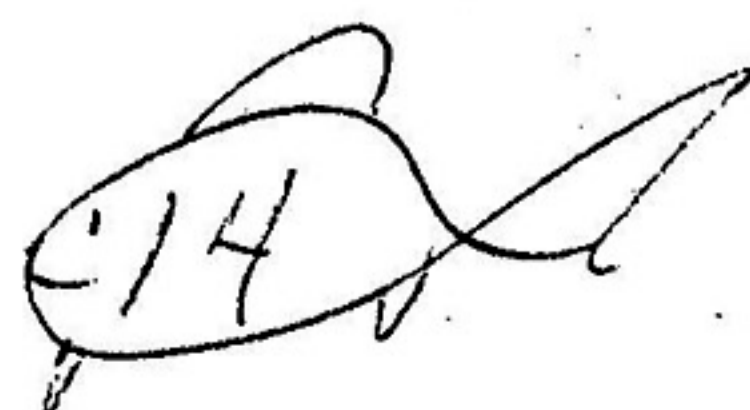
"Trout and Carp are examples of a distinction that is made in fish culture, between warm and cold water species. Trout and other salmonoids are termed cold water species because they feed and reproduce at temperatures below 20 C, and cannot survive in warmer water. On the other hand, carp and warm water fishes prefer temperatures above 20 C, and some die or cannot reproduce in conditions colder than this. There are, of course, species with intermediate requirement, but most farmed fish fall into one or the other category."

The biology of Rainbow Trout, Mirror Carp, Channel Catfish and Tilapia is then discussed. A chapter on very large cheap ponds follows and is in turn followed by three chapters on semi-intensive pond culture of the four species previously mentioned.

Chapters six and seven are the real eye-openers for fish-house designers. The first deals with water recycling systems. These are already employed in many fish-houses but this thorough and detailed account is bound to teach something new even to those who already use them.

The second gives a practical overall design for a complete recycling system. The thought of your fish being swirled around by directional water inlets in several 1 metre diameter x 3/4 metre deep cylindrical drums may alarm those of us used to conventional rows of glass aquaria, but the increase in stocking and production levels possible could easily tempt some to give it a try.

Fish nutrition is considered at length and in depth with revealing tables of input of food to output of fish weight. Had you considered that the third dimension available to aquatic



creature means that fish culture can be more productive than conventional livestock on the same area of land. And did you know that in order to produce one pound of meat a cow needs to consume twenty pounds of food, a chicken five pounds, while a fish needs as little as two !

Breeding and rearing are also discussed as are diseases and even your position regarding the law and local authorities is included for both Britain and the U.S.A. A six page bibliography puts the final seal on this most worthwhile book.

I do not however believe anyone could be inspired by Guy. N. Smith's book "Profitable Fish-keeping", Spur Publications, Saiga Publishing Co. (1979), which apart from some nice coloured plates by Jim Dunford stretches meager information into book length with the use of commercial literature and blank pages. Therefore, while I have recommended fish farming books to you, it is obvious not all can be considered as worthwhile as their topic. By a similar token I would not wish to cast a bad light on all books from the same publisher, as the Saiga Publishing Co, in the same year (1979), released what in my opinion is the best work of modern times and indeed, from the point of view of the practical breeder, the best ever reference work on the goldfish. It is "Fancy Goldfish Culture" by Frank. W. Orme. One word of caution to scientists consulting the medication section, Mr Orme refers to household strength basic chemicals ie. not 880 ammonia and glacial acetic acid !

If you keep cold-water fish and intend to build a fish-house then the following description of mine may interest you. Novices should note that this is the first fish house I have built, some of the features are experimental and, although it was started over three years ago, its low priority on my wife's household chores list means that it has only been completed for eighteen months but it has been in part use for over two years.

Firstly, if I was starting again and had one or two hundred pounds to spare I would definitely buy a sectional aluminium greenhouse kit with vertical sides, about six foot wide and as long as my money would stretch to. I would not buy the base but build one from blocks to give a height of at least five foot at the eaves. Instead of doing this I converted a wooden lean-to greenhouse already at the bottom of my garden.

I began by digging out the base to a depth of about three feet. This was the first experiment. I have often thought more use could be made of floor space than is normally the case in conventional fish houses and so mine is a pond. The considerable volume of water this holds acts as a heat sink which helps to reduce sudden temperature fluctuations. A wooden walk way provides access and the staging and tanks on either side makes it virtually impossible to fall in. All siphoning is done directly into the pond which has two bottom drains. Its level is five or six inches above that of the surrounding ground allowing easy clearance of sediment by the removal of a stand pipe for a few seconds every couple of days. Floating debris is taken care of by a surface overflow.

4/5

One drawback with the pond is the restricted access which makes catching fish more than usually difficult. I have solved this by lining the pond with nylon netting which can be pulled up to the surface along with all the fish. The 5 mm mesh size I chose is too small as it restricts the descent of mulm down to the bottom drains and needs to be tugged about every now and then to overcome this.

On one side there are two levels holding three long, shallow tanks with centre standing pipe overflows fitted. The main fish holding capacity is situated on the other side and is a very "experimental feature" but has so far worked very well. It consists of three tiers of full length (~8 ft) troughs, triangular in cross section to allow easier access to the tier below while maximising the surface area. The other dimensions are approximately twenty inches wide by ten inches deep at the back. I had hoped the all the dirt would collect in this deep corner making cleaning that much easier but as the fish spend most of their time in this area it tends to settle out in shallower parts.

The troughs are made from scaffold poles threaded through PVC coated wire fencing and supported on stout wooden posts. Wooden slats help to support the diamond link fencing along its length. The troughs are lined with polythene and fitted at alternate ends with overflows made from two litre plastic orange bottles. When the hose is turned on water passes down from the top trough through the other two into the pond.

Reading through this I realise why they say a picture is worth a thousand words but I won't give the editor more problems by including one.

Finally, the January issue of the Aquarist and Pondkeeper contains the first in a series of articles on fish house construction which, although primarily concerned with tropical fish (much of this first one was about insulation), should prove of general interest.

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CAL SAYS WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

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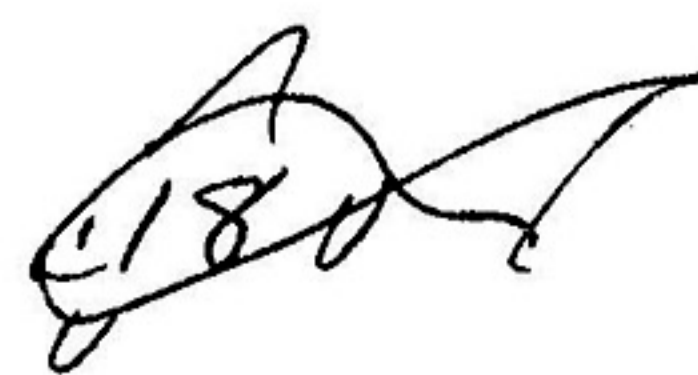
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