

History of the Boston Aquarium Society, Inc.

By: George and Frieda Meserve

The following chapters on the History of the Society appeared in the monthly publications of the Boston Aquarium News beginning in January, 1973 Volume 25, Number 1. The nineteen installments trace the history of the Society from its Preliminary Meeting on October 27, 1916 to June, 1964.

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1. Founding of the Society - The First Year

The Boston Aquarium Society, although not the oldest society in the United States, must be described as one of the oldest organizations devoted to the "cultivation and exhibition of Terraria, Aquaria, and their Inhabitants." By the objectives outlined in the original Constitution of the Society, this was to be accomplished by the "mutual assistance of the members, by means of informal meetings, and by the circulation of literature on the subject." It is a rather remarkable thing that through the passage of many years, the objectives and the processes whereby they were to be achieved have remained unchanged, even though the originators and the early activities of the organization have been forgotten. This fact was revealed to the authors when old records and voluminous correspondence, compiled by capable and diligent secretaries of the past, were studied. Fortunately their accounts were preserved, making it possible to compose an accurate historical record with but few shadowy intervals.

The organization and early activities of the Society are to be found in the excellent reports for Mr. Walter H. Chute, the first secretary of the Society. Later, Mr. Chute was to become the Director of the John G. Shedd Aquarium of Chicago, Illinois, and was to serve in that capacity for many years. Mr. Chute records the Preliminary Meeting held on Friday evening, October 27, 1916, at Holden's Bird Store, 15 Bromfield Street, Boston. Nine aquaria enthusiasts met that evening, called together by Mr. Walter H. Copeland "to whose unflinching enthusiasm and energy the Boston Aquarium Society owes its start." The nine men are listed as Messrs. Alden, Blodgett, Coffin, Copeland, Chute, Jones, Leeds, Packard, and Ryan. These nine men "formed themselves into a temporary committee with Mr. Copeland as Chairman. Mr. Alden was later appointed Treasurer, and Mr. Chute, Secretary."

The businesses conducted at the Preliminary Meeting included the decision to send a letter to all known hobbyists in the area, inviting them to join. Notices were published also in the Boston newspapers, inviting all interested persons to attend the first regular meeting of the Society which was to be held at Holden's Bird Store on November 17, 1916.

In 1916 fish fanciers were largely interested in goldfish or in wild native fishes maintained in aquaria containing aquatic plants gathered from nearby rivers and ponds. Interest in tropical fishes was gradually developing but tropical fish hobbyists were few in number and it was difficult to obtain many desirable species of fish at the local pet shops. In this respect it is rather interesting to examine the circular letter sent out by Secretary Chute. "110 Chandler Street, Boston, MA."

"Ever keep goldfish? Ever thought of an aquarium? Not the old-fashioned, unscientific globe, but a modern, balanced aquarium fitted with beautiful growing aquatic plants, snails, tadpoles, etc., besides the "brilliant goldfish themselves, both the domestic and the lovely Japanese fringe tails, and the tiny tropical fish, swimming gracefully about and making a miniature bit of pond life transferred to the home or schoolroom."

"Perhaps you have kept goldfish, and they died, and you got more, and they died, and perhaps you finally gave it up. Why not become a charter member of the Boston Aquarium Society, now forming, and get the benefits of the collective experiences of many who have been highly successful and own rare and beautiful specimen?"

"Perhaps you are successful in keeping an aquarium now, and know the pleasure and instruction there is in it. If so, join with other good fellows and tell us how you did it. We all have our troubles, you know."

"Meeting for organization and election of Offices at Holden's Bird s Store, 15 Bromfield Street, Boston, Friday evening, November 17th, 1916 at 7:45P.M. Will you not send the Secretary a card on receipt of this invitation signifying your intention to be present at that time and bring any friends who are interested in the subject. Membership fee \$1.00."

"Boston Aquarium Society
(signed) Walter H. Chute, Secretary."

"Philadelphia (2), New York, Brooklyn (2), Chicago, Washington, San Francisco, Minneapolis, and others - all support large and flourishing aquarium societies - why not Boston?"

As a result of this publicity a slightly larger group of men met at Holden's on November 17th and after the newcomers were informed of the purpose and general objectives of the proposed organization, a Constitution with accompanying By-Laws drafted by Mr. Copeland were discussed, revised, and accepted. In general the Constitution and By-Laws were patterned after those governing the Brooklyn and New York Societies.

Nine new members were elected at this first regular meeting: Messrs. Alden, Bourne, Holman, Hutchins, Kreppal, Lawson, Naber, Stebbins, and Underhill. Mr. William C. Adams, Chairman of the Massachusetts Commission on Fisheries and Game, was unanimously elected Honorary Member in appreciation of his support and encouragement and in recognition of the excellent work of his department.

Before this first meeting ended, the following Officers were elected.

President: Walter J. Copeland
Vice President: Franklyn A. Packard
Treasurer: Charles W. Alden
Secretary: Walter A. Chute

Thus the Boston Aquarium Society was successfully launched on November 17, 1916, with eighteen active members and one honorary member. Notices of its formation were sent to the Boston newspapers and to the editor of the popular magazine Aquatic Life in time for the December issue.

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2. Progress and Development o the early Society

In common with the problems encountered by every new and rapidly expanding organization, the Boston Aquarium Society now faced one that was of prime importance; the selection of a regular meeting place. The Society was grateful to Treasurer Charles W. Alden for the use of his pet store (he seems to have been the owner or manager of Holden's Bird Store), but the quarters were scarcely adequate for regular meetings or commensurate with plans for increasing the membership. Mr. Alden was thanked for his generous contributions and the officers concentrated on a search for new quarters. This was found in a rented hall at the old Museum of Natural History at the corner of Boylston and Berkeley Streets.

A membership contest was launched to run from December, 1916, to the spring of 1917 with a prize of \$5.00 or the equivalent promised to the winner. All officers were barred from competing. To bring the Society to the attention of the public, it was decided to apply to the Boston Poultry Association for the privilege of exhibiting at their annual "Boston Poultry, Pet Stock, and Cat Show" held in the Mechanics Building. Subsequently President John Lowell of the Boston Poultry Association invited the Society to exhibit, offering free space at the show and adequate supervision.

The first public exhibition of the Boston Aquarium Society was an unqualified success due to the efforts of Messrs. Alden, Jones, and Chute. Held for a week beginning on Friday, January 12, 1917, newspaper reports describe the exhibit of 30 aquaria as one of the "most novel of the many beautiful and interesting exhibits". A majority of the tanks featured goldfish, including Comets, Veiltails, Fringe tails, Calicoes, Celestials, Lion heads, Scaleless goldfish, and Black Moor Telescopes. The value placed on these ranged from Ten to Twenty-five Dollars each. A few members, including Walter Chute and Walter Copeland, exhibited tropical's including Catfishes, Paradise, green Mexican Swordtails, and Guppies. Many aquaria contained aquatic plants exemplifying the principle of the "balanced aquarium," the objective of most early hobbyists.

The successful public exhibition of the Society in 1917 was to make this an annual event and the supreme effort of the year. As a result of the exhibition and the vigorous drive for new members, Secretary Chute, in his first annual report of October 19, 1917, recorded a total membership of fifty-nine: "one Honorary member, five Corresponding members, and fifty-three active members of who fourteen were ladies."

The general pattern of the regular monthly meetings held that first year have been more or less standard to the present time. Mr. Chute reports.

"At every meeting there has been an exhibition of some kind including exhibits of fish food, aquarium utensils, wild fish, tropical fish, and goldfish. There have been during the season two stereopticon lectures, three papers, and several informal discussions on aquatic subjects."

Of vital importance to every aquarium society today is the health of its treasury. As seen by the report of the treasurer, Mr. Charles W. Alden, in October, 1917, the treasury balance was running close to the line that first year with a credit balance of \$1.31 "and all debts paid."

The primary interests of aquarium societies in these early years concentrated on goldfish and wild native fishes. In fact the name of the Boston Aquarium Society might well have been "The Society of Goldfish Fanciers" and indicated in Mr. Chute's records. The prime objective was a "balanced/aquarium," containing fishes, scavengers (catfishes, snails, and fresh-water clams), and living plants often gathered from local ponds and streams. To this end the number of fishes in an aquarium was severely limited, "an inch of fish to a gallon of water" being one of the golden rules. Few hobbyists resorted to air pumps, air stones, or filtration - these considered to be unnecessary if the aquarium was maintained properly. Furthermore, such expensive accessories were not generally available for the hobbyist in local pet shops. The "balanced aquarium" is not quite as idealistic as it sounds, for many aquarists it succeeded in maintaining prosperous displays over long periods of time.

The second year of the Society was under the administration of President, C.L. Hawthaway; Vice President, F.S. Blodgett; Secretary, W.H. Chute; and Treasurer, C.W. Alden. The Society participated in a second annual exhibition at the Boston Poultry Show in January, 1918. Secretary Chute reports that "over two hundred

fish were shown in 35 tanks and \$45.00 in prizes were distributed by Mr. Joseph Froehlich of Brooklyn who acted as judge. This show which attracted a lot of attention from the newspapers at the time, not only was self-supporting but was able to turn a small balance into the treasury."

Mr. Froehlich was president of the Brooklyn Aquarium Society. He was accompanied by Mr. Charles E. Visel, also of the Brooklyn Society, who was known as one of the most successful breeders of goldfish in the United States. At a special meeting held during the show at the Mechanics Building, Mr. Visel lectured on the breeding of goldfish. In recognition of his assistance with the show, he was elected an Honorary member of the Society. The small profit balance may be attributed to the sale of raffle tickets on a fifty-gallon aquarium.

Several innovations during the year 1918 are worth recording. The Society purchased twelve two-gallon tanks for the display of pairs of fishes in competition both at the annual show and at exhibits held during the regular month meetings. Ultimately the Society owned several dozen two-gallon aquaria.

On March 8, 1918, President Hawthaway appointed Mr. William Guild official Auctioneer. Mr. Guild was to auction off any articles pertaining to the hobby that members wished to dispose of at the meetings. The Society was to deduct 10% of the amount realized by each sale.

In May, 1918, an amendment to Article 6 of the Constitution was approved raising the dues of the Society to \$2.00, a figure that was to remain for many years. From Secretary Chute's report of May 10, 1918:

1. The annual dues shall be \$2.00 per year, payable in advance.
2. Members shall remain in good standing for sixty days after their dues become payable, after which time they may be dropped from the membership at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Those additional sources of income enabled Treasurer Alden to report a healthier treasury balance at the end of the year: \$41.67. Nevertheless this was hardly a sufficient amount to finance the third annual competitive exhibition to be held in conjunction with the Boston Poultry Show in January, 1919, and several members donated money to a special fund for this project.

It was in 1918 that the first emblem of the Boston Aquarium Society was adopted (January 18, 1918). It depicted a Black Moor Telescope fish, the drawing of which was submitted for approval by Mr. Alexander Pope and subsequently used on the first stationary of the Society. The popularity of this unique (goldfish is indicated by the prize awarded to the winner of the 1917 membership drive: a pair of young Black Moor Telescopes. The Scalare does not appear on the Society stationary until 1921, although the Society voted to accept the design of the Scalare for use on its gold, silver, and bronze medals awarded to the winners of competitive exhibits at the Boston Poultry Show in 1920. In 1920 it became the custom to award a bronze medal to the winner of the regular monthly competition.

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3. Unforeseen Problems and the Decline of the Early Society

It is rather remarkable that the Society survived the first two years of its existence considering the fact that these were war years followed by an epidemic of influenza. The United States entered World War I on April 6, 1917, and citizens became involved in an all-out effort which encompassed many personal sacrifices until an Armistice was declared on November 11, 1918. Naturally all organizations similar to the Boston Aquarium Society were affected and many of the younger members entered the armed forces. In his report of the meeting of September 13, 1918, Secretary Chute records:

"Voted that all members of the Society in the War Service of the U.S. Government at the present time or later be exempted from further payment of dues for such time as they are in the service."

In 1918 the spread of influenza in the United States reached epidemic proportions. In October, 1918, the Boston Board of Health prohibited all public gathering and no regular meeting of the Society were held in the fall. The officers and a few members carried on the businesses of the Society in Holden's Bird Store, and in private home. On November 25, 1918, Secretary Chute reports:

"Considering the difficulties under which we have been working, especially during the last six months, the Boston Aquarium Society has shown marked progress during the year just ended We elected 32 new members during the year, three members resigned, eight were dropped for nonpayment of dues, and two were lost by death during the influenza epidemic. This makes a net gain for the year of 19 members."

Due to the unsettled affairs of the Society, it was recommended by the Nominating Committee in November, 1918, that the present officers and committees be continued through 1919, and it was so voted. Thus President C.L. Hawthaway, Vice President F.S. Blodgett, Secretary W.H. Chute, and Treasurer C.W. Alden continued to serve the Society.

The year 1919 began with another successful exhibition at the Mechanics Building and the sale of raffle tickets on a fifty-gallon aquarium helped defray expenses. It was won by Mr. W.L. Prescott of Somerville. A special feature of this third annual exhibit at the Boston Poultry Show was the publication and sale of a pamphlet called The Daphnian containing an article on the hobby, information on the Society, and advertising space purchased by dealers and manufacturers of aquarium supplies. This little pamphlet paid for itself and became a feature of later shows. The January, 1921 Daphnian contained an article by Secretary Walter J. Chute entitled The Balanced Aquarium and its Inhabitants.

The January meeting of the Society had been held in a room of the Mechanics Building during the Show, but the February meeting in 1919 had to be cancelled owing to the lack of a suitable meeting place. New England was enduring a shortage of fuel (coal) at that time and few halls could be heated for public gatherings. Apparently the difficulties were resolved in the spring, and the Society continued to meet at the Boston Museum of Natural History.

Some of the interesting items recorded by Secretary Chute in 1919 have a familiar ring for the same problems have confronted officers of the Society in more recent times. In April, 1919, members were urged to make a better showing of fishes at the monthly meetings. Because some members objected to the long discussions on Society businesses at the regular monthly meetings, various committees were assigned to conduct studies and present recommendations for approval. As a result, Secretary Chute's records of Society businesses are reduced to a minimum (much to the concern of the authors of this history).

Apparently the first outing of the Society was planned for the summer of 1919, but there is no record of the time or the place - if it ever occurred. There was always pertinent report on the status of the treasury, however, the Treasurer Alden notes a balance of \$128.50 in his annual report of October 10, 1919. On that date the election of officers for 1919-1920 took place and President, C.L. Hawthaway; Vice President, Dr. A. B. Coffin; Secretary, W.H. Chute; and Treasurer, C.W. Alden were elected to carry on the work of the Society. The committees elected at that time included Auditing: C.W. Prescott and Paul Ecks; Entertainment: Chr. W.M. Copel, Mrs. Woods, F.A. Packard, F.A. Hutchins, and E.M. Underhill; Exhibitions: Chr. N.H. Munson, G.L. Sibley, W.L. Haggett, and J.L.F. Nabor.

We have an indication of the growing strength and influence of the Boston Society in a request received in October, 1919, from Mr. William C. Adams, Chairman of the Massachusetts Commission on Fisheries and Game, and the first Honorary member of the Society. He requested endorsement for appointment to the new office of Commissioner of Conservation at the State House. By unanimous vote, Secretary Chute was instructed to forward the Society endorsement to His Excellency, Governor Calvin Coolidge. Subsequently Mr. Adams was appointed Commissioner of Conservation.

In November, 1919, the officers were preparing for the fourth annual show at the Mechanics Building and in conjunction with the Boston Poultry Show. This operated successfully from December 30 to January 3, 1920. Messrs. Visol and Chute served as judges of the competition, and as usual a large tank was raffled off and won by Mr. Reginald Osborne. The financial report submitted by Treasurer Alden in February noted a profit on the show of \$38.03 and a treasury balance of \$210.75. The Society was now on a secure financial footing. In the same month of February, 1920, Secretary Chute records the resignation of Mr. Walter Copeland from the Society. The reason is obscure. Mr. Copeland had been the instigator of the organization and the first president.

The regular competitive exhibits held at the monthly meeting of the Society continued to feature goldfish varieties in 1920. In March, Mr. Blodgett won the bronze medal for his Black Moor entry, and in April, Mr. Hawthaway carried away the honors for his exceptional "Japs." No mention is made of competitions featuring tropical fishes. The Society considered purchasing a typewriter for Secretary Chute, but Mr. Chute saved the Society considerable expense by purchasing one for himself.

An attempt seems to have been made to continue the Society meetings through the summer of 1920 but, although meetings were held in June and July, attendance must have been unsatisfactory for there is no record of an August meeting. In the November elections President, Dr. A.B. Coffin; Vice President, George L. Sibley; Secretary, Walter H. Chute; and Treasurer, Charles H. Alden took office. In December the Society voted to amend Article 5, Section 1 of the Constitution, changing the annual election of officers to the regular meeting in May, with the fiscal year of the Society beginning in October. The fifth annual competitive exhibit was held in January, 1921, at the Mechanics Building as in the past, and again the Show yielded a small credit balance thanks to donations by members, the sale of The Daphnian, and a raffle. On April 19th the Society held an outing at Lake Massapoag in Sharon, and in June the Society accepted an invitation by Dr. W.J. Middleton and held an outing at his estate in Acton.

We have an indication of the high caliber of scientific and educational lectures offered to Society members by noting that in 1921 they enjoyed an illustrated lecture on The Game Fishes of Florida by Mr. William L. Underwood, Color Changes in Fishes by Mr. Leland C. Wyman of Harvard, and an illustrated lecture by Mr. Walter L. Brind of New York on Where Tropical Fishes Come From. Mr. Brind was famous not only for his collecting trips to many countries, but was well known to hobbyists for his articles on tropical fishes appearing in the magazine Aquatic Life. Until his recent death, Mr. Brind manufactured and sold a popular brand of fish food.

Despite the seeming good health of the Boston Aquarium Society in 1921, a decline of interest in the hobby seems to have occurred - though every meeting seems to have enrolled a few new active members. Society meetings were omitted in June, July, August and September, and the October meeting in 1921 failed to draw a quorum. The December 9th meeting was held at the old South Boston Aquarium at City Point by special invitation of Mr. George F. Morse, Curator of the Boston Zoo and Aquarium. Secretary Chute presents no record of a 1922 public exhibit at the Mechanics Building and perhaps it was not held. In February, 1922, President Coffin requested members to take pictures of their tanks hoping to make slides from the negatives to show at a later meeting, but there was no response. The last brief record of a regular meeting recorded by Secretary Chute is dated March 10, 1922, and although meetings were projected for April and May, the early Society appears to have disbanded soon after that time.

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4. Reorganization of the Boston Aquarium Society

On March 3, 1928, an interested hobbyist, Mr. Robert B. Hawes, sent a letter to many known fish fanciers living in and around Boston. Mr. Hawes operated an insurance business from the Park Square Building. The following copy of his letter was addressed to Mrs. Ernest Shorrock, then living at 259 Savin Hill Avenue, Dorchester, Mass.

"Dear Mrs. Shurrock: (Shorrock)

As a Fish Fancier are you interested in re-organizing the Boston Aquarium Society which has now been disorganized for some seven or eight years? This Society is open for membership to anyone interested in Aquarium Fish.

A letter similar to this is being sent to some hundred people in and around Boston. Before anything is started, I would deeply appreciate your viewpoint and interest in such an organization, any names and addresses to who I might send this letter.

Very truly yours,
(signed) R.B. Hawes"

The response to Mr. Hawes' letter was favorable and, during the summer of 1928, plans were made for the first meeting of the reorganized Society in the fall. A preliminary meeting was held at the Brookline Trust Company arranged through the co-operation of Mr. Gardner A. Whitney, a vice president of the bank. At this preliminary meeting the following Officers were elected:

President: Mr. Robert B. Hawes
Vice President: Mr. Charles M. Lamprey
Secretary: Mrs. Ernest Shorrock
Treasurer" Mr. Gardner A. Whitney

It was decided that meeting of the Society would be held the first Monday of each month; that the dues of the Society would be \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for "Juniors" under 21 years of age, and that regular meetings of the Society would be held in the Science Laboratory of the Boston Teachers' College on Huntington Avenue. This meeting place was arranged by Mr. Lamprey, the new vice president, who was the principal of the Model School of Boston. The Model School included the Martin and Farragut Schools in which students from the Teachers' College observed and practiced.

Subsequently, the first regular meeting of the new Society was held in a lecture hall adjoining the Science Laboratory of the Boston Teachers' College on October 8, 1928. The Society was to meet here for about twenty years with varying fortunes. The public was invited to this first meeting through the following notice printed in the Boston papers:

"The first meeting of the Boston Aquarium Society will be held tonight at the Teachers' College, Huntington and Longwood Avenue, when a display of fish life will be on exhibition and a study Made of a balanced home aquarium.
The Society is organized for purely scientific purposes and is open to those interested in aquarium life in the home. Robert B. Hawes president of the Society, will preside at the meeting."

Referring to Mrs. Shorrock's report of this meeting, it was an unqualified success and the new officers were pleased and enthusiastic. Mr. Lamprey gave a lecture on Microscopic Life of the Aquarium which was illustrated by slides prepared by students of the college.

Again referring to Mrs. Shorrock's records, on November 5, 1928, Mr. Frederick W. Schumacher, who operated a shop in Jamaica Plain called The New England Aquarium, lectured on The Care and Breeding of Some Tropical Fishes. The year 1928 closed with the meeting on December 3rd at which Mr. S.B. Hulse "gave an interesting talk on his own collection of fish." The talk was followed by a question and discussion period by members who encouraged the visitors to participate.

The first meeting of the new year held on January 7, 1929 must have been disappointing from the standpoint of attendance for those who had worked hard on the reorganization. Mrs. Shorrock reports that "only eight or nine attended." The winter months have always presented problems in New England, however, and one would guess that the weather was inclement on that date, for Mrs. Shorrock reports that the next meeting held on February 4th had the "largest attendance to date."

Mr. Lamprey presented a paper on "The Balanced Aquarium" at the January meeting. As previously voted in this history, early aquarists worked diligently toward this idea and with considerable success. Mr. Lamprey notes that "we are able in the aquarium to copy Nature's pond by using fish, plants, and water" while "snails, tadpoles, mussels, and weather fish serve the purpose of the cleaners of the aquarium."

"No matter what the size of the tank ... it is possible to maintain a perfect balance with a minimum amount of attention. A balance is maintained between the animal and plant life. The plants use carbon dioxide and give off oxygen in the process of photosynthesis; the animal uses oxygen and gives off carbon dioxide in the process of respiration. The scavengers feed on the unused food and waste material and the wastes of the animal are finally used by the plants. The fish in turn feed upon the plants ..."

"The live food which the fish would naturally get in the pond is lacking. The perfect substitute is the addition to the tank of daphnia, enchytrae, various prepared foods, ... and small pieces of shredded meat, fish or liver. ... The most important thing to remember in feeding aquarium animals is to feed sparingly. ... A constant diet of the same food is not desirable."

Mr. Lamprey also cautioned against overcrowding - a common mistake of today's hobbyists coupled with the use of artificial plants, thus making aeration and filtration necessary. However, the aquarium which presents a pretty picture has merit, and the hobbyist who is dedicated to "collecting" numerous species of fishes may be pardoned. There are several approaches to the hobby.

At the February meeting, Mr. F.S. Schumacher gave a demonstration of setting up an aquarium using an earth foundation beneath an upper layer of sand. He then dealt at length with the care and breeding of Mexican Swordtails.

By contrast, at the meeting on March 4th, 1929, President R.B. Hawes set up a large aquarium using a base of sand only. Whereas Mr. Schumacher devoted his talk to tropical's, Mr. Hawes concentrated on native fishes, and brought several attractive species to install in his completed setup. At the same meeting, Mr. Charles Prescott gave a talk on "Breeding Enchytrae." and Mr. Lamprey presented cultures of the same to those members who were interested. Mrs. Shorrock concludes her report - "A supply of plants and snails was offered at the wholesale price to members wishing to purchase. A general discussion followed until adjournment at 10:00 o'clock."

A rather unusual meeting called an "Exchange Meeting" was held on April 1st. For this meeting members were invited to bring in any fish or plants that they desired to exchange or to sell. A card was sent to members with the meeting notice requesting them to fill out a list of fish or plants they wished to offer, sell, or purchase. This meeting seems to have been a huge success. Many surplus plants that had been donated were given away, and Mr. Lamprey presented many members with their first tropical fish - baby Guppies and Mexican Swordtails (green).

Mrs. Shorrock reports that the February, March, and April meetings had an average attendance of between fifty and sixty people. As the first year of the reorganized society drew to a close in June, there were about fifty paid-up members. On Sunday, May 5th, the society enjoyed an outing at Mr. Lamprey's camp on the State Road in South Sudbury. This beautiful wooded estate contained many gardens of native plants and flowers, and small ponds containing native fishes and aquatic plants. Members brought picnic lunches augmented by hot drinks served from the Lamprey cottage.

The final meeting of the 1928-1929 year was held on June 6th. At this meeting it was voted that the Society expend "not more than thirty dollars" to buy mated pairs of tropical fishes. These were to be placed in

the care of members who agreed to provide suitable quarters for the fish and attempt to breed them. Any young thus procured were to be brought to the first meeting of the 1929-1930 year in October and arrangements would then be made to distribute them among the members. Some thirteen mated pairs of tropical's were subsequently purchased.

Of general interest in the operation of this reorganized society is the fact that officers and committees met at 7:00 o'clock on regular meeting nights. All businesses were conducted before the evening's program began at 8:00. The evening's program usually ended at 10:00. This seems to have been an admirable and productive arrangement.

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5. Growth and Expanding Activities of the New Society

The year 1929-1930 of the Boston Aquarium Society is marked by steady growth in membership and progressive activities planned by capable officers. The acquisition of a regular and commodious meeting place in the Natural Science Laboratory and Lecture Room of the Boston Teachers' College was a decided influence in this growth without which some of the interesting and informative meetings would have been impossible.

Another contributing factor was the amount of dues levied on all active members. It will be recalled that when the early Society was organized in 1916, the dues were \$1.00. The state of the treasury at the end of that first year was such that dues were raised to \$2.00 - an amount that together with donations, raffles, and sales of fishes and plants, enabled the early Society to meet its financial obligations.

When the Society was reorganized in 1928 the dues for adult members were \$5.00, while members under 21 years of age paid \$2.00. The latter members were classified as "Juniors." On February 4th 1929, the Society voted to establish the dues for all members at \$2.00. Undoubtedly this reasonable fee was decidedly attractive and contributed to the steady growth in membership. Although no regular bulletin or Society paper was published in 1928-1930, several special publications were issued - the expense of which was largely borne by members owning typewriters and having access to printing facilities. A majority of the publications was in the form of a one-page mimeograph announcing meetings, programs, and including brief notices of Society businesses.

The new Officers for 1929-1930 are recorded as follows:

President: Charles M. Lamprey - Jamaica Plain

Vice President: Lester W. Ladd - Belmont

Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Eugenia S. Shorrock - Dorchester

Recording Secretary: Mrs. Richard O. Fernandez - Melrose

Treasurer: Samuel Tyler - Brighton

Program Committee: Samuel Tyler, G.S. Gill - Brighton, Thomas F. Tucker - Newtonville

The two-page bulletin issued by these officers in the fall of 1929 contained several items of interest from a talk given by the new president, Mr. Lamprey, as he discussed plans for the coming year.

"Besides lectures by experts in aquarium work and general discussions of the problems of fish keeping and breeding, it is planned to organize collecting trips during the Spring and Summer.

"A fish show will be held under the auspices of the Society during the year and will be the first which has been held in Boston for several years. The regular meetings will be held as usual at 8 o'clock on the first Monday of each month at the Teachers' College on Huntington Avenue. It is hoped to secure Walter J. Chute, former director of the South Boston Aquarium and now director of the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, as the principal speaker at one of these meetings.

"One of the proposed subjects for the coming year is the breeding and care of plain and fancy varieties of goldfish in both indoor aquariums and outdoor pools. Another is the various types of water-plants used in aquariums and pools. We hope that some of these varieties will be shown at The Massachusetts Horticultural Society's Show.

"Other subjects proposed are snails and other creatures used as aquarium scavengers, the control of algae and infusoria, the principles of feeding aquarium fish, with special attention to live food for them, and the keeping of tropical toy fish with demonstrations of tanks suitable for breeding different charities.

"It is proposed to exchange or sell, as heretofore, at small cost, for the benefit of the Society, plants, snails, enchytrae, sand and other materials needed by members, and to rear or sell or exchange fish. A number of large tanks are maintained by the Society at the Natural Science Laboratory and Lecture Room of the Teachers' College where the meetings are held, and last year a considerable number of fish were raised in these tanks.

"For members who are devotees of fancy fish culture it is proposed to hold a series of conferences with a leader, experienced in this field, who will discuss more technical problems of breeding these fish. No matter how expert one is, there is always a chance to exchange ideas with others who have special knowledge."

Records indicate that most of these admirable objectives were achieved by President Lamprey and his able assistants. An attractive and informative brochure describing the purpose and objectives of the Boston Aquarium Society including many of the above items was subsequently printed and distributed by Society members to interested friends and hobbyists. It was of considerable value in recruiting new members for the Society, as were occasional press notices that described Society activities.

In January, 1930, the Boston Aquarium Society was allotted free space at the New England Sportsman's and Motor Boat Show held in the old Mechanics Building on Huntington Avenue. This was the first public exhibition of the reorganized Society and every effort was made to make it attractive and informative. It proved to be so successful that the show management considered it an asset and assured the Society of floor space in future Sportsman's shows. The Show Committee published a pamphlet containing an article on "The Balanced Aquarium and Its Inhabitants" by Walter J. Chute. Two pages of advertisements helped finance publication and the pamphlet sold for ten cents at the Show, enabling the Society to realize a small profit. Naturally a section of the publication was reserved for a description of the Boston Aquarium Society, advising all interested persons to address communications to Eugenia S. Shorrock, Secretary.

As was expected, the publicity achieved at the Sportsman's Show filled the Teachers' College lecture room at the next meeting of February 3, 1930. In anticipation, an attractive exhibit of goldfish was planned for that meeting with William Guild in charge. Mr. Clarence Hauthaway, a recognized authority, gave an illustrated lecture on goldfish varieties. On March 3rd, 1930, Mr. O.C. Bourne, Chief Warden of the Massachusetts Fish and Game Commission gave an illustrated lecture on the propagation of native fishes and the stocking of ponds and inland waters. This was followed by an auction of surplus items contributed by Society members.

The meeting of April 7th, 1930, featured a colored motion picture on the breeding of tropical fishes. Those whose dues were paid were admitted free, but all others attending were charged 25 cents. The movie was followed by a lecture on "Breeding Beta Cambodia." Records of the meeting in May are missing but on June 2, 1930, a social gathering was held at the home of the secretary, Mrs. Shorrock, and on June 14, the annual outing of the Society was held at "Oldfield's," Mr. Lamprey's camp in Sudbury. At that time the active membership in the Society had increased to seventy-six. It had been a very successful year.

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By: George and Frieda Meserve

6. The Boston Aquarium Society in the Early Thirties

As the authors reviewed the activities of the Boston Aquarium Society during the early thirties, they were impressed by the growing popularity of the hobby and the increasing influence of the Society. The voluminous correspondence of the Secretary, Mrs. Eugenia S. Shorrock, indicates that the programs of the Society meetings, the methods of conducting Society businesses, the operation of public exhibitions, and the publication of literature pertinent to the care and breeding of fishes, were attracting favorable attention far beyond Boston and its environs.

The new Officers for 1930-1931 are recorded as follows:

President: E.J. Henriksen

Vice President: A.B. Harrington

Corresponding Secretary: E.S. Shorrock

Recording Secretary: F.H. Goodspeed

Treasurer: S.F. Tyler

Program Committee: Dr. H.B. Jackson, E.J. Henriksen, E.W. Manter, and George Rossbach

These members assumed office in October, 1930, and immediately launched a membership drive with the objective of enrolling 100 active members during their term of office. The goal was achieved and the roster for 1930-1931 records 119 active members of the Society. Regular auctions of fish and aquaria supplies featured the monthly meetings held at the Boston Teachers' College, and regular competitive exhibits of fishes were continued with ribbons awarded to the winners.

The major competitive exhibit of the year was held at the New England Sportsman's and Motor Boat Show in the Mechanics Building, Boston, February 7 to 14, 1931. The Society had profited from past experiences, and this public exhibit plus many that were to follow in subsequent years, was well organized and attractive. The Show Management provided free space for the display and gave each participating member a free season pass. Dealer members paid for the space they required. Every member entering competition in the various classes paid an entrance fee of 25 cents for each exhibit. First, second, and third prize ribbons were awarded in each class, and a handsome medal bearing the seal of the Society was awarded to the winner of each class and to the best tropical in each family group. No dealers were allowed to compete with amateurs. Any number of exhibits could be entered. The Society provided two-gallon tanks for pairs of adult tropical's. These tanks were heated and thermostatically controlled. Following is a brief listing of the classes common to most of these Sportsman's Show exhibits.

Class I	Aquarium Beautiful
Class II	Best Home-made Aquarium
Class III	Novelty Aquarium
Class IV	Home Bred Tropical's
Class V	Terrariums
Class VI	Competitive Pairs of Fish
Class VII	Male Beta Class
Class VIII	Goldfish
Class IX	Dealer's Display

The Management of the show provided porters for those members transporting large tanks and exhibition material. Although the Management provided general supervision and protection for exhibitors, two Society members were assigned to supervise the exhibit during the day and night. Since the heat was reduced after the closing time of the show, it was important that an all-night supervision of the tanks be maintained. Thus, two Society members volunteered for duty each night of the show from 10:30pm to 8:00am. They made hourly checks on all aquaria and were often instrumental in preventing loss of fish through overheated or under heated tanks, and spotting leaky aquaria.

Expenses incurred by the Society for such exhibits were partially met by the sale of a pamphlet for 10 cents a copy. As the years passed these pamphlets became increasingly important in describing the hobby, providing information on the care and maintenance of aquaria, and listing many firms dealing in fish or

equipment through paid advertisements. The 1931 and 1932 editions contained articles by the former secretary of the Society, Mr. Walter H. Chute, on "The Balanced Aquarium and Its Inhabitants." Mr. Chute was then Director of the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. The 1933 and 1934 editions contained articles on "A Fascinating Hobby" by Mr. C.H. Peters, publisher of the Home Aquarium Bulletin and President of the Newark Aquarium Society.

Secretary Eugenia Shorrock handled the advertising contracts and publication problems of the pamphlet through many years, and as the hundreds of filed communications attest, it was a long and laborious task. She deserves much credit for the many fine contacts she made and maintained for the Society during her many years of service (1928-1942).

The success of the Sportsman's Show and the evident interest of the public prompted the officers of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society to make inquiries regarding a class for aquaria they intended to include in their Spring Flower Show of 1932. In a letter dated December 7, 1932, addressed to Mr. Charles M. Lamprey, they requested a scale of points used by the Boston Aquarium Society for judging aquaria. The following year the Boston Aquarium Society was invited to exhibit at the New England's Spring Flower Show, the 62nd Annual Spring Show of The Massachusetts Horticultural Society, held at the Mechanics Building from May 13 to 18, 1933. Two classes ere open for competitive exhibits by Boston Society participants: (1) Terrariums (four cash awards, \$20 to \$5 for winners); (2) Aquariums (four cash awards, \$20 to \$5). Judging of the exhibits at this show, differing considerably from the Sportsman's Show, emphasized the variety, artistic arrangement, and condition of plant life (including aquatic) rather than fish life, although the variety and rarity of the latter were included in the scale for judging for Class 2. The fine exhibit by members of the Boston Aquarium Society that year brought an annual invitation to participate in the Spring Flower Show for many years. From 1933 on, the Society now had two prime public exhibitions which assisted materially in the growth of the hobby and the prosperity of the Society.

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By: George and Frieda Meserve

7. Incorporation of the Boston Aquarium Society

The year 1933 was an important one for the Boston Aquarium Society, for on April 12, 1933, it was incorporated under the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. At that time the following held Office in our organization:

President: Augustus B. Harrington
Vice President: Joseph P. Jewett
Secretary: Franklin H. Goodspeed
Treasurer: Samuel F. Tyler
Corresponding Secretary: Eugenia S. Shorrock

The petition for incorporation was witness by forty-seven active members of the Society at a regular meeting held on April 3, 1933, who were thereafter designated as Charter Members of the Boston Aquarium Society, Incorporated.

Gardner A. Whitney	G.A. Goodrick	George H. Meserve, Jr.
Hugh Ferris	Gladys H. Bellamy	Hobart W. Troop
Stanford L. Luce	Evelyn J. Mitchell	Helen B. Neill
Richard O. Fernandez	Robert L. Bancroft	Irving . Gammon, Jr.
Urban C. Whipple	Milton L. Webster	Samuel F. Tyler
Frederic Tudor	Edwin J. Henriksen	F.H. Goodspeed
E. Adrian Hancock	F.W. Schumacher	Joseph P. Jewett
Fred C. Gunter, M.D.	C.H. Schumacher	Eugenia S. Shorrock
W. John O'Brien	Robert E. Jameson	Katherine Bartlett
Homer J. Luddington	Charlton C. Goodspeed	Richard D. Kimball
Violette E.C. Huntress	John Johansen	Elizabeth L. Harrington
Thomas E. Bates	E.M. Underhill	Howard B. Jackson, M.D.
Ruth E. Lambert	Mabel A. Woodward	Edith M. Goodspeed
Frederick L. Bowers	Harold Frank	Marion W. Stevens
A.P. Gerhardt	J. Kenneth Stevenson	William Guild
Charles W. Prescott	Weston E. Craig	

These were prosperous years for the Society and for the hobby in general, which was rapidly acquiring new enthusiasts throughout the country. Here in the East, a new magazine, The Aquarium, appeared on the stands published by Innes Publishing Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Number 1 of Volume 1, dated May 1932, contained a colored photograph of the "Dempsey" on the attractive cover. The editors were well known authorities: William T. Innes, Allen S. Moody, George Myers, and Professor John A. Tim. The Aquarium was to be one of the most popular magazines among fish fanciers for many years, every monthly issue containing a beautiful colored photograph of a tropical fish taken by Editor Innes.

In 1935, Mr. Innes published his book Exotic Aquarium Fishes, a fitting companion for his previous publications including his book Goldfish Varieties and Water Gardens (first edition, 1917). Mr. Innes was a loyal friend of the Boston Aquarium Society and at one time served as a judge of its competitive exhibition held at the New England Sportsman's Show (1934). The Society was honored when he included the "Show Rules and Practices" of the Society in his book Exotic Aquarium Fishes. A former president of the Philadelphia Aquarium Society, he was an Honorary Member of the Boston Aquarium Society.

Although the fancy goldfishes continued in popularity among fish fanciers, by 1935 a great host of hobbyists became collectors and breeders of tropical fishes. Keeping pace with this rapidly developing interest was the birth of many small and large businesses dealing with tropical fishes and aquarium supplies. Boston and its suburbs soon had a generous quota of such businesses and the ease with which stock and supplies could be obtained undoubtedly contributed to the growth and contained interest in the hobby. Many local dealers became members of the Society and their interest was not entirely selfish, as evidenced by their willingness to work for the Society and their generous contributions to its projects. Some of the dealers operating in and around Boston about 1935 include the following:

Campbell Hardware Co., 261 Washington Street, Newton
Back Bay Aquarium, 476 Stuart Street, Boston
Ralph E. Hawes Aquarium, So. Sudbury
The Frieda Shoppe, 267 South Broadway, Lawrence
J.W. Day & Co., 145 Oxford Street, Lynn
Rollins Aquarium, 21 Church Street, Milton
Blue Hills Aquarium, 21 Church Street, Milton
Otis A. Campbell, 556 W. Roxbury Parkway, West Roxbury
Lang Bros. Bird Store, 11 Portland Street, Boston
Calef Aquariums, 43A Atwood Street, Wellesley
New England Aquarium, 761 Center Street, Jamaica Plain
W. Ludlam, 34 Boylston Street, Boston
Ray's Pet Shop, 91 Washington Street, Boston
Breck's, 85 State Street, Boston
M.E. Sweetser, 2 Hilltop Avenue, Lexington
Oak Knoll Aquariums, Natick
Raymond A. Sanborn, 32 Rockdale Street, Mattapan
Broadway Pet Shop, 371 Broadway, Chelsea
Daniel Low & Company, Salem
Atlantic Coast Aquatic Supply, Waltham

As can be surmised, local hobbyists did not have to travel far to purchase an aquarium, equip it with accessories, or stock it with fishes and aquatic plants. To be sure some dealers in tropical's did not stay in the business very long. Wholesale purchases transported in insulated metal cans were not always satisfactory. Tropical's often died in transport or soon after arrival and the losses resulted in high prices for what we would consider rather common species today. But transportation methods improved, fanciers learned how to spawn and raise desirable tropical's, and prices gradually declined to reasonable levels. New shops have gradually replaced the old and today, Boston and most of its suburbs still provide ample resources for the tropical fish hobbyist.

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8. The Early Volumes of the Boston Aquarium News

Article II of the original By-Laws of the Boston Aquarium Society reads follows:

“Purpose: The purpose of this corporation shall be to encourage the study, cultivation and exhibition of Terraria, Aquaria, Garden Pools and their Inhabitants, by mutual assistance of the members, by regular and field meetings, by exhibitions and by the circulation of literature on the subject for educational and scientific purposes.”

From the early years of the Society beginning in 1916 this statement of purpose was closely followed and as described in previous parts of this history, regular meetings generally provided scientific and educational information through lectures given by members or invited guests. Public exhibitions increased in size and scope to culminate in sizeable displays and competitions conducted at the annual Boston Sportsman's Show and the Spring Flower Show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. During the 1930's various groups of Society members organized field trips - often in the spring and early summer - searching for Daphnia, Fairy Shrimp, native fishes, and aquatic plants for the home aquaria. The year usually ended with a Society picnic held in June at a State Park or on the estate of some Society member.

The circulation of educational and scientific literature as stated in the “Purpose” of the Society, had never been neglected but was largely confined to booklets sold at the various shows and to occasional newspaper articles. In the year 1934-1935 the officers decided that the Society should have a regular monthly publication which could serve as a “voice” for its members and provide a permanent record of their experiences and contributions. The first issue of the Boston Aquarium News, edited by the authors of this History, appeared on January 7, 1935. It was a modest beginning consisting of eight mimeographed pages. This first issue was followed by twenty-three others, the last of this series appearing on December 3, 1937. These twenty-four issues have been since designated as Volumes 1 and 2. Publication of the News was not resumed until January, 1951, which issue was designated as Volume 3, Number 1. The authors continued to edit and produce the Boston Aquarium News until their retirement in December, 1963 (Volume 15, Number 5).

Looking back at Volume 1, Number 1, we find this introduction to the publication:

“The executive committee of the Society sincerely hopes that this first issue of a Society news sheet meets with the approval and hearty endorsement of the members. For a long time it has been felt that the Society should have some written record of the discussions, experiences, and suggestions of the members as they accumulate data in the pursuit of their hobby. That, in short, is the purpose of the Boston Aquarium News. As long as it can serve as a useful instrument in the life of the organization, it will be published monthly.”

After this introductory issue the News was to be divided into (1) an Editorial Section, (2) a Question Box, and (3) a Reading Reference Catalogue. Articles for the Editorial Section were to be provided by the members of the Society, the Question Box would attempt to provide accurate answers to questions submitted by the members, and the Reading References would list important articles of the month published in various periodicals.

Editorial articles of this first issue included Dirt as an Aid to Plant Growth in the Aquarium by Carleton C. Goodspeed, Butterfly Fish Spawn by Eugenia S. Shorrock, One Way to Heat the Aquarium by David Paige, These Latin Names by Stanford L. Luce, Cryptocoryne Blooms by Charles W. Prescott, Some Notes on the Red Platy by George Meserve, and Heteranthera by Melvin H. Hall.

Included in this first issue was an alphabetical list of Society members. In January, 1935, the Society totaled 118 active members, 10 Junior members, and 6 Honorary members. The latter included Mr. O.C. Bourne, Supervisor, Massachusetts Department of Conservation; Dr. William T. Innes, author and publisher of The Aquarium; Mr. W.J. O'Brien, Director, Marine Park Aquarium, South Boston; Mr. C.H. Peters, Editor of The Home Aquarium Bulletin; Mr. Albert C. Roth, publisher of the Aquatic Life magazine.

The Executive Committee of the Society in 1934-1935 when the News was first published consisted of George J. Meserve, President; Carleton C. Goodspeed, Vice President; David M. Paige, Secretary; Kenneth L. Stevenson, Treasurer; Eugenia S. Shorrock, Corresponding Secretary, and Frieda M. Meserve, co-Editor and

typist of the News.

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9. Progress of the Society in the Late Thirties

In the late thirties of Boston Society experienced an era of increasing popularity and prestige. Much of this was brought about the excellence of its competitive exhibits at the Boston Sportsman's Show usually held during the first week of February, and the Spring Flower Show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Both of these exhibits were held at the old Mechanics Building on Huntington Avenue, the present site of the Prudential Center. Thousands attended these notable events and the Society was indeed fortunate in being invited to participate and to be allotted free space. Only dealers who exhibited and advertised their stock were charged a fee.

The Sportsman's Shows of 1935, 1936, and 1937 were particularly impressive. The first was supervised by a show committee, chaired by Mr. E.J. Henriksen, the second chaired by Mr. Carleton C. Goodspeed, and 1937 supervised by Mr. Edward Y. Perry. Active members of the committees included Mr. Melvin J. Mabey, Mr. Otis A. Campbell, Mr. James T. MacAfee, and Mr. Melvin H. Hall. Messrs. Campbell, MacAfee, Hall, and Perry were later presidents of the Society. Much of the success of these public exhibitions may be also attributed to the efforts of the corresponding secretary, Mrs. Eugenia S. Shorrock, who contacted many notable leaders of the hobby in the East, obtained judges for the competitive exhibits, wrote informative articles for the local newspapers, and organized the material for the annual Society pamphlets sold at the shows.

The Society exhibits at the New England Spring Flower Show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society were subject to the Horticultural Show judges. The emphasis on these exhibits was on Terraria, aquatic plants, and plant variety and arrangement in an "Aquarium Beautiful" class. Exotic aquarium fishes, although an adjunct to any aquarium setup, were considered secondary in importance.

The Sportsman's Show exhibits emphasized both fish and plants with many pairs of exotic fishes entered in competition in addition to the "Aquarium Beautiful," "Home-made Aquarium," and "Novelty Aquarium" classes. Notable judges obtained by the Society for the Sportsman's Shows of the late thirties included Mr. Frederick H. Stoye, author of Tropical Fish for the Home; Professor John A. Timm of Yale University; Dr. William T. Innes, author and publisher of The Aquarium; Mr. G.H. Peters, Editor of the Home Aquarium Bulletin, and Mr. Edward Kandidas, President of the New York City Aquarium Society. Acting with many of these as a second judge was our own Mr. Clarence L. Hawthaway, naturalist and noted authority on goldfishes.

The late thirties were not the years of air-transport. When a judge from outside the state was obtained for the Sportsman's Show exhibit, the Society paid his round trip train fare, and arranged for his meals and lodging during his stay in Boston. The exhibit was judged on the morning of the opening day of the show and award stickers were attached to the aquaria before the public was admitted in the afternoon. A banquet was held in the evening either in a small hall of the Mechanics Building or at a local hotel. The judge of the show was the guest speaker. This meeting was considered one of the gala affairs of the year.

The public never knew of the tremendous effort of the Society members in staging the Sportsman's Show exhibitions. Held in the latter part of January or the first week in February, the weather was invariably cold and often stormy - not an ideal time to transport tanks, water, plants, or fishes. Snow often covered the ground adding to the miseries of transportation.

Although the Mechanics Building was warm enough daytimes when crowded with people, it rapidly cooled at night, and the two Society volunteers who stayed all night were often busy replacing failing aquarium heaters or rescuing chilled fish. The week of the 1935 show, the building temperature dropped low enough to freeze the pump which operated a fountain in a decorative pool of goldfish. A leaking tank was a real headache - demanding immediate attention, emergency measures, and a hurried call to the owner. Surprisingly enough, because of the all-night vigil of the volunteer custodians, few fishes were lost and leaking aquaria were quickly emptied and replaced. The Spring Flower Show exhibits, held at a more benign time of the year, were usually easier projects (excepting the show of March 11-17, 1956, when the show closed with one of the worst blizzards in Boston history. The authors were custodians from 5:00 to 10:30 that memorable night and arrived home at 2:00am, walking the last mile in knee-deep snow and a howling wind).

In 1935, our Society became closely allied with a new society, the North Shore Aquarium Society of Salem, Massachusetts. Speakers for society meetings were exchanged and some Boston members

participated in the North Shore shows held in the ballroom of the Hotel Hawthorne in Salem. Prominent members of the North Shore group included Mr. Lawrence Howie, President, Mrs. Florence E. Howie, Mr. Daniel Low, Mr. Harold Ropes, Mr. Harry Weinstein, Mr. Cecil Weinstein, and Mr. Bradford Adams, Mrs. Howie was also an active member of our own Society. Harry Weinstein and his son Cecil were collectors of fishes in their native habitats. On April 17, 1936, the former gave an excellent lecture to the Boston Society entitled "Bringing The Back Alive," a resume of which appears in Number 13, June 3, 1935, of the early BAS News. Brad Adams was the first local hobbyist to successfully spawn the *Corydoras aeneus* catfish, an account of which appears in Number 11, March 6, 1936 issue of the News.

The North Shore Aquarium Society was severely affected by the death of its first president, Mr. Lawrence Howie, on May 16, 1936. He had been one of the capable leaders of the Society and although the organization continued to function for several years, his enthusiastic support and able direction was greatly missed.

Our friend and Honorary Member, the late Dr. William T. Innes, was much in demand as a judge and lecturer in those times. He was the judge of the Third North Shore Aquarium Society Show in 1935. Mr. Lawrence Harding of the Pennsylvania Fish Culturists Association judged the 1936 show, and a few of our own experienced members were called upon to judge the 1936 show, and a few of our own experienced members were called upon to judge some of the later competitive exhibits.

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10. Literary Contributions, Activities, and Innovations

Many of the articles published in the early (and later) editions of the Boston Aquarium News indicate the enthusiasm and enterprise of the Society members. They included articles on the breeding of tropical fishes, the propagation of desirable aquatic plants, the construction of aquaria, various recipes for dried foods, maintenance of live-food cultures, aquarium gadgets and accessories, and detailed summaries of experiments. Some of these articles found their way into national magazines and many were copied by editors of numerous society bulletins.

Following is a partial list of notable articles appearing in the early issues of the News. The wide range of subjects indicate the interests and the activities of the Society members in those years (1935-1937).

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Issue</u>
<u>The "Phantom" Enchytrae</u>	E.J. Henriksen	# 2
<u>Formula for Homemade Fish Food</u>	H. Schumacher	# 2
<u>A Plea for the Goldfish</u>	Dr. H.B. Jackson	# 3
<u>Ichthyophthirius (Ich)</u>	Dr. H.B. Jackson	# 4
<u>About Water lilies and Other Things</u>	F.W. Schumacher	# 5
<u>The Value of Scientific Terminology</u>	H.A. Nichols	# 5
<u>Pool Repair</u>	E.S. Shorrock	# 5
<u>Winter Accommodations (for pool fishes)</u>	J. Jewett	# 5
<u>The Fishes of the Genus Micropoecilia</u>	F.H. Stoye	# 6
<u>The June Meeting (Speaker W.T. Innes)</u>	K. Goodspeed	# 7
<u>Building an Electric Immersion Heater for Aquarium Use</u>	C.C. Goodspeed	# 8
<u>Color in Fishes</u>	Dr. J.H. Welsh	# 9
<u>Culturing Daphnia and other Live Fish Foods</u>	D. Linnehan	# 10
<u>Spawning Rasbora Heteromorpha</u>	J.T. MacAfee	# 11
<u>Spawning Corydorus Aeneus</u>	B. Adams	# 11
<u>An Aquarium Oddity (Freshwater Sole)</u>	G.H. Meserve	# 11
<u>Breeding Pterophylum Scalare</u>	M.F. Webster	# 12
<u>Bringing Them Back Alive</u>	H. Weinstein	# 13
<u>Nitella</u>	O.A. Campbell	# 16
<u>Selecting Your Aquarium</u>	U.C. Whipple	# 17
<u>Polyanthus</u>	O.A. Campbell	# 17
<u>This Hobby of Ours</u>	G.H. Meserve	# 18
<u>Aphids in the Aquarium</u>	M.F. Webster	# 20
<u>Care and Breeding of Cichlids</u>	H. Schumacher	# 20 & # 21
<u>The Dwarf Nanacara or Toy Cichlid</u>	U.C. Whipple	# 22
<u>Hatching and Growing Brine Shrimp</u>	U.C. Whipple	# 22
<u>Breeding the Smaller Egg-layers</u>	J.B. Dawson	# 23
<u>Scatophagus</u>	O.A. Campbell	#24

The editors of the later editions of the Boston Aquarium News (Volume 3, 1951 to an including Volume 15, 1963) compiled indexes for each volume at the end of each year. These indexes added materially to the value of the publication - both as a Society record, and as a source of ready reference to various phases of the hobby.

In 1937 the Society considered the possibility of informal gatherings of interested hobbyists at the homes of various members in the intervals between the regular monthly meetings. The first of these was held on April 7, 1937, at the home of Mr. Otis A. Campbell, then president of the Society. Some twenty members attended and the success of this informal meeting led to similar gatherings at the homes of other members during 1937 and 1938. This innovation ultimately resulted in meetings and often involved so much time and discussion that the planned program for the evening suffered. Decisions reached at executive meetings were presented by the secretary to the members of the Society in the form of reports. Brief discussions or voting might follow, but the major part of the formal meeting was thus made available for scientific or educational lectures of general interest to hobbyists. The arrangement was also a courteous consideration for guest speakers who might not

be interested in Society businesses and would resent being delegated to a restricted time late in the evening.

In 1937 members of the Society discussed the idea of eventually relinquishing the privileges at the Boston Teachers' College and establishing quarters of their own, large enough for regular meetings and where aquaria could be maintained. This project never was realized however, though the idea has never quite died. It has been reviewed again recently.

Although the years of 1937 and 1938 were fairly prosperous years for the Boston Aquarium Society, the events of the following years brought about a rapid decline in interest and membership. In 1939 the German military forces began their march through Europe and Americans began to worry about their own possible involvement in the conflict. In 1940 the United States began producing armaments for those nations described as "opponents of force" and on September 16, 1940, the "Selective Training and Service Bill" became a law. Fortunately the United States was not totally unprepared when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and Congress soon declared war on Japan, Germany, and Italy.

As could be expected, the decline of the Boston Aquarium Society during World War II was rapid and nearly total. Many members left for military service and others with important skills worked long hours in various industries related to the war effort. There was little time for hobbies and little interest in pursuing them. The Society continued to function only because of Presidents Edward Y. Perry and George E. Shelley many meetings were held in private homes. The greatly reduced membership made it impractical to continue meeting at the Boston Teachers' College.

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By: George and Frieda Meserve

11. Society Growth Following World War II

With an active membership reduced to about twenty-one hobbyists during the war years, the Boston Aquarium Society again experienced an extremely lean period. Gasoline rationing instituted in 1942, reducing the average driver with an A sticker to three gallons per week, hastened the decline. Occasional meetings were held at the Boston Teachers' College which could be reached by surface trolleys, and others were held in private homes located near public transportation facilities. Businesses of the Society often were conducted by telephone and at one particularly low period, the officers seriously considered bring the activities of the Society to a close.

However, many of the older members rejected the idea of phasing out the Society. These included Mr. and Mrs. Edward Y. Perry, James R. MacAfee, Mrs. Eugenia S. Shorrock, Milton F. Webster, Melvin Hall, Miss Hilda Masterson, Miss Carolyn Houses, Miss Margaret Waite, Mrs. And Mrs. James O'Leary, Otis A. Campbell, Joseph B. Dawson, Irving P. Gammon, Frederick W. Schumacher, C. Heinz Schumacher, Melvin Mabey, Urban C. Whipple, George E. Shelley, and the authors of this history.

Thanks to the loyalty and persistence of this group, the Society survived and experienced a gradual expansion during the year 1946 to 1950. Regular meetings in the Boston Teachers' College were abandoned in 1948 and monthly meetings were held thereafter in the homes of members until 1952 when the increase in membership made such meetings impractical. At that time the average attendance at the regular meetings approached forty and there were only five or six homes that could accommodate such a group.

In the spring of 1948, members of the Society discussed the possibility of installing and maintaining aquaria in various Boston hospitals. A committee chairmaned by Mr. Melvin Hall was appointed and, at the meeting of the Society on June 4, 1948, Mr. Hall reported that the Marine Hospital in Brighton would be very happy to have an aquarium there in the summer of 1948 and subsequently several members donated fishes for the exhibit. This was the first of several aquaria established and maintained by the Society in Boston hospitals.

At the regular meeting of the Society, held at the home of Miss Hilda Masterson on October 6, 1950, Society members voted to renew publication of the Boston Aquarium News and George Meserve, the former editor, and Frieda Meserve, Corresponding Secretary (1942-1963) agreed to accept responsibility for the publication. Thus Volume 3, Number 1, of the Boston Aquarium News appeared in January, 1951, during the administration of President Melvin Hall. The issue comprised nine multilithed pages with no advertisements.

The contents of this first issue of Volume 3 included: an introductory statement; a brief history on the founding of the Boston Aquarium Society by Walter H. Chute, Director of the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago; Raising Daphnia for Home Use by James T. MacAfee, 3rd.; The Planarian by H. Austin Meserve; a section called The Editor's Notebook, and a section called the Beginner's Department. The author's son, H. Austin Meserve, who joined the Society in 1951, was to submit several illustrated feature articles in later issues of the News, together with many humorous cartoons which were much appreciated.

To help defray the cost of publication there was charge to Twenty cents per copy. Although this charge did not make the News completely self-sustaining, it removed a considerable burden from the Society treasury.

By 1951, many new aquarium societies were being organized throughout the United States. Some, like the Boston Society, published papers or news letters and an exchange of publications was promoted. Four new aquarium societies were functioning in Massachusetts with who we maintained friendly and helpful relationships: The South Shore Aquarium Society, The Lawrence Aquarium Society, The Bay State Aquarium Enthusiasts (Worcester), and the Pioneer Valley Aquarium Society (Springfield).

On November 2, 1951, the regular meeting of the Society was held at the Pacific Restaurant on Tyler Street, Boston, with forty members in attendance. A delicious dinner of Chinese specialties was served followed by an important business meeting. Among the topics discussed at length was the question of promoting the growth of the Society of limiting its membership in order that meetings could continue to be held in private homes. After many pros and cons it was decided to continue the policy of unlimited expansion and, if necessary, look for a central meeting place which would accommodate the membership.

Another important discussion at this meeting concerned the possible organization of a junior group of Society members. Such a group might meet on a Saturday afternoon, and conduct its own meetings and programs under the guidance of an adult member. Juniors could call upon the senior group for speakers and meet with the senior group on occasion. They would achieve the status of Junior members at a reduced fee, have the use of the Boston Aquarium News with its material and information, and avoid the necessity of attending a regular Society meeting that functioned during late evening hours.

History of the Boston Aquarium Society, Inc.

By: George and Frieda Meserve

12. Projects, Competitions, and Meeting Places

The decade of the fifties marked a return of prosperity and a rapid growth in membership of the Boston Aquarium Society. The period began in 1951 during the administration of President Melvin Hall assisted by Vice President Ray S. Jones, Recording Secretary Miss Carrie Heuser, Corresponding Secretary Mrs. Frieda Meserve and Treasurer Dr. Richard Packard. In that year the Society resumed publication of The News after a lapse of fourteen years. Undoubtedly the News was instrumental in a "soft-sell" advertising of the Society and its work both locally and distantly as copies passed from hand to hand and copies were sent to many aquarium societies in the United States desiring to exchange publications. By 1960 the News had found its way to societies in several foreign countries: England, Scotland, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, India, Canada, Cuba, South Africa, and Chile.

The officers of the Society in 1952 continued the excellent work of the preceding administration. The new executive committee included President, Ray S. Jones; Vice President, J. Austin Meserve; Treasurer, Dr. Richard Packard; Recording Secretary, Miss Carrie Heuser; and Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Frieda Meserve. There was only one change in this list of officers in 1953 when Miss Betty A. Gourley succeeded Miss Carrie Heuser as Recording Secretary. The authors of this History are grateful for the excellently detailed reports submitted by these two secretaries and their successors. Their interesting and well written documents were regularly published in the Boston Aquarium News.

The decade of the fifties witnessed many changes and innovation in the activities of the Society. During the administration of President Jones the following interesting items are recorded:

1. Regular meetings of the Society begin promptly at 8:30.
2. Dues are to be raised to \$3.00 per year.
3. Refreshments are to be limited to doughnuts, coffee, cream, sugar, cheese and crackers - the cost of which will be paid by the Boston Aquarium Society.
4. Mrs. Ruth Jones and Miss Hilda Masterson will head the committee on refreshments.
5. Executive meetings will be held on the second Friday of the month at the home of the President.
6. The Corresponding Secretary will henceforth send mimeographed notices of Society meetings on single postcards instead of double to eliminate some cost on postage. (Double postcards had been sent to active members that returns might be made to the host and hostess holding meetings in their homes.)
7. Globes are purchased for display of competitive pairs of fishes at Society meetings.
8. New ribbons for such competitions are to be purchased.
9. Rules for such competitions are to be formulated.
10. A special Project Page is to be a regular feature of the Boston Aquarium News.

Under the guidance of the 1952 officers three new projects were subsequently instituted:

Project #1. Raising Tropical Fishes

To provide information and guidance for members and friends of the Society in the breeding and rearing of tropical fishes. Members were to indicate their choice of species and submit a monthly report for publication in the News.

Project #2. Competitive Exhibits

To create interest among members of the Society in various species of tropical's through competitive exhibits at regular meetings of the Society. Also to provide suitable recognition for outstanding specimens of tropical fishes owned or raised by members.

Project #3. Display Aquaria

To provide entertainment for the sick or the convalescent in hospitals or other institutions where a display of tropical's in aquaria provided by the Society is desired or requested. For this project the President appointed a special committee and subsequently several aquaria were established and maintained in Boston hospitals.

All of these projects were successfully promoted in 1952 and 1953. Project #1 provided many fine documentary reports for publication in the News as well as furnishing material for several lectures by the participating members at regular Society meetings. Projects #2 and #3 never have been completing abandoned. Competitive Exhibits became a feature of the monthly meetings of the Society and some of the large aquaria originally established in Boston hospitals are still maintained.

It became increasingly evident during 1952 that even the larger homes of the members could no longer accommodate the gradually increasing membership of the Society. As a result of a survey by an appointed committee in the summer of 1952, the September meeting of that year was held in the Community Church Center (non-sectarian) at 565 Boylston Street, in Copley Square, Boston. The Center was a four-story building which included a small hall on the second floor and a small dining hall on the third. Both of these areas were available to the Society for a fee of \$20.00 per meeting, and the distance of the Copley Square transit station. There were no parking facilities however - which was the one disadvantage. The Society met at the Center until January, 1953, when it moved to new quarters at the Boston Museum of Science, where it remained until 1958.

In 1953, the Society accepted an invitation from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society to resume exhibiting at their annual Spring Flower Show on March 15-21. Although at the time there were only 43 Active members in our organization, the officers decided to accept the challenge and the result was one of the most attractive and unusual public exhibitions offered by the Society. Mr. Edward Y. Perry was appointed Chairman of the Show Committee and 27 members contributed their time, their work, and their money to make the project a success.

An alcove in the basement of the old Mechanics Building was allotted to the Society and the exhibit of 17 aquaria and 2 Terraria were arranged in a semicircle within it. Green burlap concealed the new benches, decorative drapes concealed the building walls, vases of flowers separated the aquaria, and two huge cardboard Scalare constructed and painted by J. Austin Meserve were hung above the exhibit and against the background drapes. The Scalare together with a professionally painted sign identifying our Society were spot-lighted. The exhibit was unusual in that it was non-competitive - no awards, no ribbons, and hence no disappointed or disgruntled participants over decisions of judges. Each tank bore the exhibitor's name together with a legend identifying the fishes and aquatic plants displayed. Two members guarded the exhibit day and night, and literature pertinent to the hobby and describing the work of the Society was available for interested visitors. In appreciation the Massachusetts Horticultural Society forwarded a special award of \$50.00 to our treasurer at the conclusion of the show. Unfortunately this bonanza was offset by the loss of a large roll of green burlap which disappeared during the dismantling of the exhibit.

The Flower Show that year brought about a tremendous number of applications for admission to the Society. By June - three months after the show - membership in the Society increased from 43 to 80 and the new quarters at the Boston Museum of Science were nearly filled.

History of the Boston Aquarium Society, Inc.

By: George and Frieda Meserve

13. The Junior Aquarium Society and Other Innovations

For some time officers of the Boston Aquarium Society had considered the special problems confronting young hobbyists who wished to join the adult group and attend the regular meetings of the Society. An editorial published in the May issue, 1953, of the Boston Aquarium News describes the situation and the resulting innovation. Following is a copy of that editorial.

"There have been many inquiries in the past concerning junior membership in the Boston Aquarium Society. Actually the By-laws of the Society specifically provide for junior membership as stated in Article III:

'Every member of the Society under the age of 18 years shall be known as a Junior member; shall Have no right to vote and shall pay annually to the Society the sum of \$1.00.'

"In the past there has been little effort to promote junior membership. The problems involved have included the time of our regular meetings (more suitable for adults than youngsters), transportation difficulties, the lack of adult supervision. We do have several young members of our Society at present, who attend meetings with their parents - who are also members of the Society. Obviously there is no problem here; but what of the youngsters who are interested in tropical's, who would like to join an active aquarium society, but whose parents are not particularly interested in either aquaria or aquarium societies?"

"Earlier this year the Executive Committee of the Society discussed this problem, and among the possible alternatives to actual membership in the Boston Aquarium Society was the possibility of several small independent junior organizations operating in or about Boston. Such junior groups would be sponsored by the Boston Society which would provide responsible adult supervision. Otherwise the Juniors would be independent of the adult organization - operating under the administration of their own officers and planning their own meetings and activities in their respective communities. Such Junior organizations would participate by invitation in activities of the Boston Aquarium Society and ultimately become eligible for active membership in the adult group."

"Acting on the above plan the Editor and his wife (George and Frieda Meserve) invited several young friends in their neighborhood to participate in such a Junior Aquarium Society. The results have been the formation of the Medford Junior Aquarium Society with a nucleus of six boys ranging in age from 13 to 15 years. A drive for additional member is now in progress and the possibility of doubling the present membership within a short time is certain. A page of the Boston Aquarium News will be devoted to the activities of this group each month - with similar privileges accorded any other junior group sponsored by the Society.

"If you as a Society member would be interested in working with youngsters in your community, please inform a member of the Executive Committee or call your Corresponding Secretary."

The authors have a complete record of the activities of the Medford Junior Aquarium Society from its first meeting at their home on May 2, 1953 to the last meeting on July 7, 1956. Andrew Zero, David Foley, Paul Dempsey, and John Britt were the "charter members."

Regular meetings were held on Saturday afternoons and were patterned after procedures in the adult society: a brief business meeting, a lecture or discussion on the maintenance of aquaria and the breeding of tropical's, followed by light refreshments (punch and cookies). As the authors maintained over forty aquaria at the time there was ample opportunity for live illustrations. Prizes were awarded (fish and plants) at each meeting by drawing lucky numbers from a hat. By June, 1953, active membership had increased to 22.

Several adult members of the Boston Society devoted their time as guest lecturers - or provided transportation for collecting trips or visits to co-operative dealers and fish fanciers. An annual outing to Paul Stetson's "Paradise Gardens" in Whitman was a popular event and Paul was an exceptional host. The authors were particularly grateful for the assistance provided by the officers and members of the Boston Society: Ray S. Jones, J. Austin Meserve, Chester H. Gourley, Dr. Richard W. Packard, Anne Hamilton (now Mrs. Packard), Rolf Martens, Carle Sargent, John J. Burke, Edward Y. Perry, Erving and Gladys Pfau, Leon Blanchard, Philip and Helene Durfee, Charles Basle, Dr. and Mrs. Everett M. Priestley, and Mr. Gilbert Merrill, assistant director of

education at the Boston Museum of Science.

The Medford Junior Society prospered from 1953 to 1955. Youngsters (boys and girls) joined the organization, became engrossed in the hobby for a time, and then resigned. Although active membership seldom exceeded 25, 40 youngsters were enrolled the first year, and ultimately the secretary's records included 63 names - all active at one time or another. Dues were set at \$1.00 per year, and in 1955 the group purchased a 17-gallon tank and reflector, furnished it with fishes and plants, and exhibited it in conjunction with the Boston Aquarium Society at the Boston Flower Show in March. The decline in interest in the Medford Society during 1956 was due more to age differences than any other factor. Older members were not particularly enthusiastic about meeting with the very young. Many resigned, a few joined the Boston Society as full members, and the remaining dozen disbanded on January 7, 1957.

It is interesting to note that not all of the boys and girls were residents of Medford. Many came from surrounding towns including Somerville, Arlington, Stoneham, Melrose, Lynn, Malden, Winchester, Cambridge, and Jamaica Plain. Mrs. Meserve and I still hear from some of the group - now grown and with children of their own, and have been privileged to show our collection of fishes to young members of this second generation.

Among other innovations established by the Boston Aquarium Society in 1954 was the operation of a "Trader's Corner." A section of the News was devoted to those members of the Society having surplus stock or equipment that they would be willing to trade.

Beginning in February, 1954, the News began publishing a series of short biographies describing the backgrounds and contributions of the Society officers. It served as a "get-acquainted" project and proved to be of interest to both old and new members.

The Society was proud of its dealer-members and in March, 1954, the News listed six dealer-members: David Chin (Brighton), Joseph Faucon (Somerville), Edward Y. Perry (Jamaica Plain), Erving S. Pfau (Newton Centre), Dr. Wesley Smith (Reading), and John Van Lier (Roslindale). Although the Society did not exact a fee for listing their names and addresses in the News - each dealer agreed to make a sizeable donation for the Society auctions. Thus, contributing in turn, the dealers made it possible for the Society to profit from auctioning their gift or selling chances on the item at the regular meetings. By June, 1954, five new dealer-members had joined the Society: John Burke (Medford), Peter Fisher (E. Braintree), John F. McElroy (Woburn), Louise and Richard Philips (Holliston), and Paul Stetson (Whitman), making a total of eleven.

In June, 1954, there were 86 members in the Boston Aquarium Society, 6 Honorary members, 4 Junior members, and one Corresponding member.

In October, 1954, the Society voted to amend the By-Laws. Whereas, the term of office for all elected officials had run from January to January, it was voted to change the term of office from September to September, with elections held in May. The change went into effect in May, 1954 - the elected officials for 1953 carrying through to that time.

History of the Boston Aquarium Society, Inc.

By: George and Frieda Meserve

14. The Society in the Late Fifties

The late fifties witnessed some of the most successful and progressive years in the history of our Society. All of the elected officials were active hobbyists, including the chairmen and chairwomen of the various committees. Efforts were made to involve more members in administrative tasks with the result that some twenty members assumed duties and responsibilities for the various activities each year.

A study of the Society records from 1955 to 1960 indicates that the tremendous surge in membership during those years was sparked by the favorable publicity received following exhibits at the annual Boston Flower Show. Fortunately, interest in the Society and its work was sustained by the excellent programs devised by the Society officers and their appointed committees.

In 1954-1955 when active membership had doubled within a few months, the following officials served:

President, Ray S. Jones; Vice President, Chester H. Gourley; Recording Secretary, Miss Betty A. Gourles; Treasurer, Dr. Richard W. Packard; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Frieda M. Meserve; and Librarian, Mrs. Gladys Pfau. Chairman of Committees included Mrs. Ruth Jones (Refreshment), Mr. Erving Pfau (Program), Mr. Rolf Martens (Auction and Door Prize), Dr. Everett M. Priestley (Project), and Mr. Chester J. Gurley (Outing). Committees usually were comprised of at least three members.

The Boston Aquarium News, published monthly from September to June, was edited by George J. Meserve, assisted by members of the Executive Committee and Donald Moreton (Business Manager), Frieda Meserve (Associate Editor and Typist), H. Austin Meserve (Cartoonist), Leon Blanchard, Jr. (Feature Articles) and George J. Partridge. The News was printed at Northeastern University, Boston.

IN 1954-1955 the general form of the regular monthly meeting was established and continued through subsequent years with minor variations. The meeting was opened by the President, followed by the Vice President who welcomed and introduced special guests and visitors. Reports of the Recording Secretary and the Treasurer were read, followed by reports of any special businesses conducted by the Executive Committee at their regular monthly meeting. The speaker of the evening was then introduced. Equipment was provided for chalk talks or for slide projection or movies. The evening ended with a social hour and refreshments. The Corresponding Secretary was in charge of the Guest Book and applications for membership. Meetings usually began at 8:30 and ended at 11:00 in the Museum of Science.

Variations in this routine might be occasioned by auctions, fish competitions, or special programs such as the annual Christmas party held during the December meeting.

The influx of visitors and prospective members from 1955-1960 brought about the appointment of two hostesses. These women introduced the visitors to the Society officers and members, and made sure that their names and addresses were entered in the guest book. It became the policy of the Society to send notices of meetings to such visitors for a period of three months. If they had not indicated an interest in joining by that time, meeting notices were discontinued.

A few of the speakers and their subjects during 1954-1955 follow. They are indicative of the caliber of talks in the late fifties.

Sept. 1954.	<u>Aquascapping for Beginners</u> Erving S. Pfau (Biologist)
Oct. 1954.	<u>Brine Shrimp of the Great Salt Lake</u> (Movie) <u>Auction</u>
Nov. 1954.	<u>Native Aquarium Fishes of the U.S.</u> Dr. C.W. Nixon
Dec. 1954.	Christmas Party
Jan. 1955.	<u>Breeding Angel Fishes</u> E.Y. Perry
Feb. 1955.	<u>History of Fishes</u> Dale Osborne <u>Auction</u>
Mar. 1955.	<u>Tropical Fish and Juvenile Delinquency</u> Rev. W. Roche
April 1955.	<u>The Sea Around Us</u> and <u>Battling Betas</u> (Movies) Held in the Morse Auditorium, Museum of Science. (About 350 members and guests attended)
May 1955.	<u>The Care and Breeding of Aphyosemion and Related Fishes</u> Francis Horton

June 1955. Dinner and Annual Meeting
Tallino's Restaurant, Brookline, Mass.

In 1954, the Society purchased a new Remington typewriter and a Speed-o-Print duplicator for the use of the Corresponding Secretary and News typist, Frieda Meserve. The typewriter was equipped with a new style of letter which appears in the September, 1954, issue and subsequent publications. The duplicator was used largely for printing meeting notices.

The Society now owned a typewriter, duplicator, a coffee urn and other refreshment equipment, sturdy benches built by Donald Moreton for use at the Flower Show exhibitions, and sundry decorations. It was to acquire several large, fully equipped aquaria for installation in local hospitals, and bowls, a stand, and reflectors for occasional competitions of tropical's at the regular monthly meetings.

Of more than passing interest to Boston hobbyists was an item which appeared in the Boston Herald on September 22, 1954. The aquarium at Marine Park, South Boston, was to be closed on October 1, 1954, because the Park Department could not afford to pay for the necessary repairs. The few remaining fish were to be taken to the Franklin Park Zoo and kept there until they died, according to Mayor Hynes.

The forty-two-year-old Marine Park Aquarium had been a boom to Boston, and the Boston Aquarium Society had held occasional meetings there in the past. The director, Mr. W.J. O'Brien, was an Honorary Member of our Society and a staunch supporter. Several years were to pass before a new aquarium was built, the New England Aquarium, where regular meetings of our Society are held at the present time.

History of the Boston Aquarium Society, Inc.

By: George and Frieda Meserve

15. The Society in the Late Fifties (Continued)

The successful administration of the Boston Aquarium Society under the leadership of President Ray S. Jones was followed by the equally impressive progress under the leadership of President Chester H. Gourley. In 1955-1956 President Gourley was assisted by Vice President Francis N. Horton, Recording Secretaries Miss Madalene F. Brown and Miss Lillian Weiner, and Treasurer Dr. Richard W. Packard. In the June elections of 1957 only two changes occurred in the executive committee, Mr. Leon A. Blanchard, Jr., becoming the Vice President and Mr. Donald P. Moreton succeeding to the office of Treasurer. Mrs. Frieda M. Meserve continued to serve as the Corresponding Secretary.

A new section was added in 1955 to the Boston Aquarium News devoted to translation of articles published in foreign magazines. These included the German Die Aquarium - und Terrarien Zeitschrift and Datz, the French magazine L'Aquarium et les Poisson's, and the Cuban magazine Acuario printed in Spanish. A friendly correspondence was established with the editors of these journals who readily granted permission to use their published material providing proper credit was given to both the magazine and the authors. Thus from 1955 to 1957 over a dozen translations of articles written by German, French, and Spanish ichthyologists appeared in the News. Our translators who served as members of the News staff were Mr. Philip S. Durfee and Mr. William J. Grimes. The News staff was further strengthened by the addition of Dr. G. William Nixon, a professor of Biology at Northeastern University and Simmons College in Boston. Dr. Nixon contributed many fine articles during this period.

The activities, procedures, and contributions of our Society became well known through the Boston Aquarium News both at home and abroad. Exchanges of society bulletins were made with some 35 associates in the United States ranging from the Artic Aquarium Society in Anchorage, Alaska to the Honolulu Aquarium Society in Hawaii. Outside the United States exchanges were made with the South African Aquarists Association, the Canadian Aquaria Society, the Montreal Aquarium Society, the Winnipeg Exotic Fish Club, The Aquarist Society of India, the National Aquarium Society of London, England, the Aquarium Society of Victoria (Australia), and the New Zealand Aquarium Society.

During these years our Society co-operated with several Massachusetts societies and often assisted in their projects and exhibitions. These included the Fireside Aquarium Society of Brockton, Tropical Fish Fanciers of New England (Lawrence), the Worcester Aquarium Club, the Massachusetts Aquarium Club of Melrose, and The Pioneer Valley Aquarium Society, Inc., of Springfield.

The monthly meetings of the Society from 1955 through 1957 continued to be of fine quality and of general interest to hobbyists. Among the guest speakers were some of our local dealer-members: Edward Y. Perry, Vincent Mason, Paul Stetson, Erving Pfau, and Gordon Proctor. Hobbyists as well as dealers, these men had much to offer. Novel programs included the use of panels comprised of three experienced members who answered questions from the audience and led discussions on the spawning and rearing of tropical's. Gordon Proctor, Dr. Everett Priestly, and Frank Horton served on the first panel and the success and popularity of this type of meeting prompted the use of other panels in later years.

The executive committee endeavored to formulate programs far in advance of the actual occurrence with a minimum objective of six months. Such planning enabled the corresponding secretary to contact guest speakers or forewarn panels and special committees of their expected participation. The executive committee was assisted in this planning by the use of a "Suggestion Box" which was brought to every meeting. Society members were invited to use the box by dropping in requests for prospective speakers or future programs - as well as criticisms on the short-comings of current operations. The "Suggestion Box" could not be overlooked. It was constructed and decorated by our treasurer, Donald Moreton, and placed beside the speaker's lectern at the start of every meeting.

Of probable interest to officers of today's Boston Aquarium Society as well as to executive committees of other societies who may receive copies of today's Boston Aquarium News, is a resume of operation expenses appearing in the March, 1956, issue of our publication. At that time the active membership was approaching 160 with over 100 attending the monthly meetings. To quote directly from the News under an editorial entitled "The Business of Our Society is Yours":

“Did you know that the average meeting of the Society during the past year including hall rental, refreshments, postage, installments on Society equipment and special prizes approximated \$60.00? Did you know that the annual Christmas Party and the annual outing or dinner are not considered average meetings because of the likelihood of extra expenses? Did you know that a fixed income of less than \$450.00 per year was augmented by income from sales and auctions to successfully meet over \$600 of expenses? Did you know that over a period of 5 years the Boston Aquarium News has been practically self-sustaining thanks to low production costs, and the loyalty of some 80 regular subscribers?”

Considering today's costs of operating an organization similar to ours, these figures offer an interesting comparison. As implied in the above, auctions became a regular and necessary function with three or four held during the year. Surplus fish, accessories, and supplies were often donated by the members, by dealer-members, and by companies dealing in aquatic supplies. The latter were compensated by acknowledgement of donations in the News and a letter or appreciation from the corresponding secretary. Member-dealers made one major contribution annually in return for listing in the News. But a major contribution to auctions was made by the members themselves who often gave generously and bid freely for desirable items. Auctions were lively affairs and a definite attraction at regular meetings.

The annual exhibition of the Boston Aquarium Society at the Spring Flower Show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society continued to be the major project of the Society. Here, in the old Mechanics Building on Huntington Avenue, the hobbyists continued to display colorful tropical's in attractive “Aquarium Beautiful” settings. As thousands attend the annual Spring Flower Show, the exposure of the hobby to the public invariably resulted in an increase in visitors to Society meetings and the ultimate enrollment of many new members.

In 1956, sixteen aquaria were exhibited by Edward Y. Perry, Jay McGune, Colin MacGillivray, Chester Gourley, James Hayton, Edwin Hilker, Richard Letson, David Chin, Robert Foley, Jan Van Lier, Helene and Philip Durfee, Donald Moreton, Gordon Proctor, Leon Blanchard, Leslie Jordan, and Paul Siu. The Society was awarded a silver medal for the display.

In 1957, members exhibited fourteen aquaria and three Terraria. The exhibitors were Marjory Gourley (terrarium), Ben Morrison, Elizabeth Kelleher (terrarium), Chester Gourley, James Hayton, Clarence Sylvester, Donald Moreton, Eleanor Sylvester, Colin MacGillivray, Joseph Chouinard, George Meserve, Leon Blanchard (terrarium), Kenneth Beaulieu, Frieda Meserve, Gordon Proctor, Leslie Jordan, and a 45 gallon tank setup through the combined efforts of Robert Roth, Richard Letson, and Edwan Hilker. The Society was again awarded a silver medal by the Horticultural Society for the display. Twenty-two visitors attended the April meeting following the Flower Show in March, fifteen of which applied for membership and were subsequently accepted - an indication of the favorable publicity created by public exhibitions of this type.

With the surge of membership in the Society during 1956 and 1957 it became increasingly evident that the small hall used at the Museum of Science was becoming uncomfortably overcrowded. The situation was discussed at length by the executive committee and at the regular meetings. Once more the Society faced the problem of finding new quarters at a reasonable price for rental, with some provisions for parking, and within the network of public transportation. Such a combination of ideals was not easily attainable in the city of Boston.

History of the Boston Aquarium Society, Inc.

By: George and Frieda Meserve

16. The Society Moves to New Quarters

In June, 1957, the following officers were elected: President, Mr. Leon A. Blanchard, Jr.; Vice President, Mr. G. Benjamin Merrison; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Elizabeth J. Kelliher; Treasurer, Mr. Donald P. Moreton; and Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Frieda M. Meserve. With one exception, these members were to hold office until 1959. Our popular Vice President "Ben" Morrison died suddenly of heart failure on October 9, 1957. He was only forty-three years of age. Subsequently, Dr. Everett Priestley was appointed to the office and served as Vice President until June, 1959.

Under the direction of Mr. Blanchard the Society continued to prosper with over 100 active members regularly attending the monthly meetings and the small hall at the Museum of Science filled to capacity. The importance of regular auctions, the proceeds of which helped defray expenses of operation, brought about the appointment of an official "Auctioneer". Former President, Mr. Chester H. Gourley, was the first to hold this office.

Among the many innovations of this period was the organization of a Boston Aquarium Society Camera Group in October, 1957, under the leadership of Colin MacGillivray. The nine active members of this group drew up the following objectives:

1. To provide a means of exchange of ideas and experience in aquarium photography between members.
2. To accumulate technical data for use in setting up standards, ground rules for beginners, and later, to publish details and procedures for the more advanced photographer.
3. To assemble a set of color slides that may be shown at a meeting of the Society.
4. To make available pictures for printing in our "News" and other publications.
5. To consider production of a movie depicting various phases of our aquarium hobby.

On April 14, 1958, the Camera Club provided evidence of their achievements by conducting a "Photography Night" in the Morse Auditorium of the Museum of Science. Colored pictures taken at the annual Flower Show and pictures of aquaria and fishes taken in the home of Society members were shown, plus two moving pictures on aquatic life borrowed from the Boston Public Library. Over 200 members and their friends attended this successful meeting, and in April, 1959, the Camera Club conducted a similar "Photography Night".

The Boston Aquarium News continued to publish excellent feature articles which were well received and often quoted in other aquarium society magazines. The News usually comprised 21 to 23 pages but on occasion splurged to 25 and 27 pages. Aside from feature articles, regular sections were devoted to meeting reports by the recording secretary, "Notes and Quotes" by the corresponding secretary, an "Editor's Notebook," a "Beginner's Department," Book Shelf Notes, a list of dealer-members, and information relating to the organization and operation of the Society. Two hundred copies of the News were printed each month and by sale and subscription the publication managed to stay in the black.

A new feature of the News from 1957 to 1959 included short biographies on our dealers-members by Joseph Kelleher and Leon Blanchard. New dealer-members included Joseph Chouinard (Cape Aquarium, Bridgewater, Mass.), Gordon Ellis (Doll House Aquarium, Lancaster, N.H.), Guy M. Smith, (Melrose, Mass.) Watuppa Aquarium (North Westport, Mass.), and Paul Ferris (Suntaug Aquarium, Lynnfield, Mass.).

Our Translation Editor, Mr. William J. Grimes, appeared on the television program "Dateline Boston" on January 14, 1958, exhibiting two small tanks and discussing the hobby. His plug for the Boston Aquarium Society brought an increase in applications for membership. Another active Society member, Mrs. Helene Durfee gave a series of lectures entitled "Fanfare about Fin-fare" to the Woman's Educational Industrial Union of Boston.

The Society received another silver medal for its exhibit at the Spring Flower Show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in March, 1958. This was the last show held at the old Mechanics Building on Huntington Avenue which was soon to be razed to make room for the Prudential Center. The Spring Flower Show of 1959 was held in smaller quarters in Horticultural Hall and there was not space enough for an aquarium exhibit.

The annual Society exhibit at the Boston Flower Show was replaced for three years (1958-1960) by exhibitions at the Topsfield Fair held in September. Through contacts made by our president, Mr. Leon Blanchard, free space was allotted the Society. Chairmanned by Leon, assisted by Donald Moreton and Joe Kelleher, the 1958 exhibit received a State Award from the Department of Agriculture and special mention at the Governor's Dinner. Each exhibitor received a blue ribbon representing an Award of Merit.

By June, 1958, it became evident that because of the increased in Society membership, the small hall used by the Society since 1952 at the Museum of Science was inadequate and a move to larger quarters was imperative. Through the kindness and friendship of Mr. Arno Nehrling, Executive Secretary of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, the officers of our Society were able to procure a new home in the Horticultural Society building at the corner of Huntington and Massachusetts Avenues. The first meeting was held there in September, 1958. The "lower hall" rented by the Society would accommodate 150 persons comfortably, and a larger hall was available for special events. There were kitchen facilities and tables that could be set up for catered dinners. Meetings were regularly scheduled on the third Monday of the month, excepting July and August, and the reservation were from 7pm to 12 midnight.

Horticultural Hall was handy to public transportation (Symphony Station of the MBTA). The one disadvantage in the otherwise admirable home was the lack of free parking space - unless one was fortunate in finding an unoccupied space on a side street. The charge for night parking in a nearby lot was \$1.00. Nevertheless, our new home was about all that could be desired and we were welcomed as new members of The Horticultural "family".

The authors of this history were pleasantly surprised at the meeting of the Society on October 20, 1958, when they were voted Honorary Members and presented with certificates of appreciation for their long service. As the administration of President Leon A. Blanchard, Jr., drew to a close in June, 1959, the following items are noteworthy:

Active Membership 118 (down from a peak of 158 in Dec. 1958)

Corresponding Members 5

Honorary Members 10 which included:

O.C. Bourne

Walter J. Chute

William T. Innes

George J. Meserve, Jr.

Frieda M. Meserve

Edward Y. Perry

C.H. Peters

A.C. Rau

August Roth

Margaret L. Waite (Miss)

The drop in active membership by June, 1959, may be attributed to the lack of free parking facilities at or near Horticultural Hall. Few cared to avail themselves of public transportation via the MBTA and parking facilities that had been free and readily available at the Museum of Science were greatly missed.

History of the Boston Aquarium Society, Inc.

By: George and Frieda Meserve

17. The Early Sixties

The notable administration of President Leon Blanchard came to an end in June, 1959. He was succeeded by President William Creighton, assisted by Vice President Dr. Everett M. Priestley, Recording Secretary Mrs. Florence Flecchia, Treasurer Donald Moreton and Corresponding Secretary Mrs. Frieda Meserve. As in the past the Society was blessed with a vigorous and active membership with many hobbyists engaged in research and experimentation. There was seldom need to go outside the Society for guest speakers and some members were in demand as lecturers by other Societies. Active committees assisting the Executive in 1959-1960 included the Project Committee, Refreshment, Photography, Library, Host and Hostess, Auctioneering, Prizes, Notices, Show, and The Boston Aquarium News.

The September, 1959, issue of our News records the death of one of our past presidents, Edward Y. Perry, on July 23, 1959. After his retirement from the banking business, Ed has opened a tropical fish shop in his home on Paul Gore Street, Jamaica Plain. He was one of our most active dealer-members and his death in Florida at the age of 70 was a deep personal loss to many members who had profited from his advice and friendship.

That same issue of the News also indicates the interest in our Society as expressed in letters received by the corresponding secretary during the summer:

"Thank you for your most appreciated monthly bulletin which I always sit down and read from cover to cover each month on its arrival" ---

Mrs. Patti Allen, Editor, Orange Belt Aquarium Society, San Bernardino, California.

Our dealer-members in Auburn, Maine (Rock Ledge Aquarium), Anita and Stan Gallagher, urge members of the Society to visit their shop during their travels. Stan writes "Our Black Shark is 18 inches long and weight 3 pounds. I have in in a 100 gallon tank and he sure is a beautiful creature."

From Eastern Province Aquarium Society, Port Elizabeth, South Africa ---

"Dear Mrs. Meserve: Many thanks for your letter and for copies of "The Boston Aquarium News" which followed --- The members were most impressed with the copies of your magazine --- (and) were unanimous that a magazine will be the answer to our problem of falling membership."

Mr. Harold Dunbar, Hon. Secretary-Treasurer of The Aquarium Society of Victoria, Australia, writes: "I have pleasure in sending you our latest number of "Finchat" which I hope you will like. Our circulation is now about 350 copies per month and slowly increasing. We look forward to the "News". ---

"I would like to refer once again to Dr. Priestley's article on Aponogeton undulatum from seeds. Perhaps you would care to ask him if he would forward a few seeds so that we might try our luck to grow it here?"

(Dr. Priestly sent hem seeds.)

Our friend Mr. James Hopgood, editor of the Cuban Gambusia and the English equivalent Acuario, requests some numbers of our News to complete his library collection. The requested numbers were mailed to Mr. Hopgood.

The year 1959 closed with a gala Christmas Party held at the new Society quarters in Horticultural Hall. A record player provided music for carol singing and a trio of professional entertainers, the "Multi-tones" received a standing ovation for their performance. Members and their guests filled two large cartons with children's gifts marked "boy" or "girl" which were later delivered to the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children and to the New England Home for Little Wanderers. A long banquet table was filled with home cooked food contributed by members. This was, perhaps, the best Christmas party ever held by the Society. It was co-chaired by Mr. and Mrs. Ingolf Melberg and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Valentine. They were assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Terrill Coffelt and Mrs. Edna Thomas.

During 1960 the Society listed 113 active members, 4 corresponding members, and 9 honorary. This membership remained fairly constant through the early sixties. Regular meetings were well attended and the lower hall of the Horticultural building was usually filled to capacity. The problem of parking cars in the area

remained and the situation became chaotic when the Boston "Pops" operated. Undoubtedly this was a real handicap to the growth of the Society and the 120-130 average membership through these years was only maintained by admission of new members replacing some of the old who had dropped out.

Panels of three or four Society members well versed in the hobby continued to be popular and were usually assigned about 15 minutes participation in the regular monthly meeting. Some of the lectures conducted during the administration of President Creighton (1959-1960) included:

"What's New in the Hobby" by Gordon Proctor
"Home-raised Daphnia" by G.H. Meserve
"Breeding and Feeding Betas for Beauty" by Miss Priscilla Folsom
"Future of the Hobby" by Dr. C. Wm. Nixon
"Cichlids" by Dr. Theodore Sprague
"Tropical Fish Hobby in England" by Frank J. Dorey

Auctions of fish, plants, and aquarium supplies donated by members continued to bolster the treasury and a catered dinner in the Society quarters in May at a cost of \$2.50 per plate was a huge success.

The new officers of the Society elected in June, 1960, were: President Dr. Everett M. Priestley, Vice President James Flecchia, Treasurer Donald P. Moreton, Recording Secretary Mrs. Florence Fiecchia, and Corresponding Secretary Mrs. Frieda Meserve. Re-elected in 1961, this executive committee was to serve for two years (1960-1962).

The third and last time that the Society was to exhibit in the Topsfield Fair took place in September, 1960, under the direction of our Show Chairman Leon Blanchard, assisted by Donald Moreton. Fourteen aquaria were displayed and each exhibitor received an Award of Merit from the Fair officials. Leon received a Special Award ribbon for his artistic arrangement of the setting. Exhibitors included Carl J. Brown, Jr., Joseph Chouinard, Dorothy Shubarth, Gordon Proctor, Everett Priestley, Maurice Romanow, Leon Blanchard, Frances and Richard Letson, Joan and Russell Gallini, Dr. Stephen Shoheit, George Meserve, Robert L. Meserve (son of George and Frieda), and Florence and James Flecchia. The choice of the Topsfield Fair date (week of September 4th) was a fortunate one for all of the exhibitors' tanks were home safely before hurricane Donna reared up the Atlantic coast during the following week.

In December, 1960, there was a change announced in the future publication of the News. Beginning in 1961 (Volume 13) publication was reduced to five times per year instead of the usual ten. Thus, beginning with February, 1961, the News was issued on the months of February, April, June, October, and December. (At a later date under new editors a ten month publication was resumed.) The cost of the News to members for a year's subscription of five issues was \$1.00.

Several factors influenced this reduction to five issues per year all of which are familiar to editors of aquarium bulletins: the time required of editors working with a small staff, the increasing difficulty in obtaining good articles for publication, and the rising costs of production and mailing. It was becoming increasingly difficult to remain in the black financially without resorting to paid advertising with its many problems - and there were few volunteers for that task.

History of the Boston Aquarium Society, Inc.

By: George and Frieda Meserve

18. Changes and Innovations in the Sixties

At the regular meeting on May 21, 1962, the following officers were elected for the year 1962-1963: President, Mr. James Flecchia; Vice President, Mr. Russell Gallini; Treasurer, Mr. Leon Blanchard, Jr.; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Florence Flecchia; and Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Frieda Meserve. As was the custom in the past, the retiring president was presented with an engraved tray bearing the Society seal and the wording: "Presented to Dr. Everett Priestley, in appreciation. President 1960-1962." Retiring treasurer, Mr. Donald Moreton, was also presented with a tray in recognition of his many years of service. The tray bore the Society seal and the tribute: "Presented to Donald Moreton, in appreciation. Treasurer 1955-1962."

Jim and Florence Flecchia were to serve for two years (1962-1964) in their respective offices and the Society continued to prosper under their leadership. They represented the Society at many meetings and exhibitions of neighboring Societies and were instrumental in gathering tropical fishes and plants for the several aquaria maintained by the Society in local hospitals. Forty-four active members made regular donations of plants, fishes, equipment, or money during these years and dealer-members also helped with some of the project needs. In 1962 the Society maintained eight large aquaria at the following locations:

Marine Hospital, Tuberculosis Ward, Brighton.

The Boston Floating Hospital, Children's Medical Center, 20 Ash Street, Boston.

Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, 476 Parker Street, Boston.

Family Society of Cambridge, 5 Lee Street, Cambridge.

East End Union Settlement House, Spring Street, Cambridge.

Jimmy Fund Building, 35 Binney Street, Boston, (established in honor of Donald Stewart, a young Member of our Society, who died of leukemia on September 9, 1954).

Washington Hospital, 41 Morton Street, Jamaica Plain.

Massachusetts General Hospital, White Building, Rehabilitation Center, Fruit Street, Boston.

The Marine Hospital aquarium was the first one established by the Society in 1948 during the administration of President Melvin Hall. Although Society members provided some equipment for this aquarium, it was donated and largely maintained by Mr. Hall.

The Society as a whole established the 29 gallon aquarium at the Boston Floating Hospital in 1955. It was set up by Mr. Charles T. Basle, re-set in 1957 by Mr. William Creighton, and repaired and set up again in 1962 by Mr. James Flecchia. It was located in the lobby of the hospital.

The aquarium at the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children was established by Dr. Everett Priestley in 1955. The daily maintenance of this aquarium was done by Mrs. Zelda Latour, an employee at the home and a member of our Society.

The aquaria at the Family Society of Cambridge and the East End Union Settlement House were set up in 1957 by Dr. Everett Priestley and maintained by him. They were refurbished by Dr. Priestley in 1962. Located in lobbies of the buildings, they were much appreciated by the children and adults in these homes.

The Donald Steward 29-gallon aquarium in the Jimmy Fund Building was set up by Mr. James Flecchia in 1960. It was located in the main lobby of the hospital. All of the equipment for this tank was stolen in 1961. It was reset by Mr. Leon Blanchard in 1962 and was populated with goldfish rather than tropical's at that time. The Donald Steward Fund was established to provide for the upkeep of this aquarium. Bruce and Dorothy Stewart, parents of Donald, and Miss Lisbeth Leighton, Donald's aunt, contributed annually to this fund.

The 29-gallon aquarium at the Washingtonian Hospital was established in 1961. This project was supervised by Dr. Theodore Sprague, a board member of the hospital and member of our Society.

The 29-gallon aquarium at the Massachusetts General Hospital, set up on the sun porch of "White 9," was also donated by the Society in 1961. This project was supervised by Mr. Russell Gallini.

The Society was saddened by the death of two of its members in 1962. Miss Lillian Weiner died of cancer on March 2, 1962, and Mr. Herbert L. Valentine died on September 28, 1962.

Lillian had been an active member of the Society since joining in 1954. She served on several committees and was Recording Secretary in 1955-1956. A tropical fish enthusiast for many years, she maintained two beautiful aquaria in her apartment where she and her mother lived. The seriousness of Lillian's illness was not generally known and her sudden death at the age of 41 was totally unexpected.

Herbert Valentine was another one of our active members. He and his wife Helene, together with Mr. and Mrs. Ingolf Melberg, joined our Society in 1957. Mrs. Melberg is Helene's sister. For over two years (1960-1962) these two couples prepared and supervised the distribution of refreshments at the regular monthly meetings - a chore which was not always easy nor particularly envied.

Through several years of the Society had been endeavoring to build a library of papers, magazines, and hard-cover books related to the hobby. These could be borrowed for a period of one month at no charge. In 1962 our librarian, Mrs. Betty Scott, revealed that some books were not being returned promptly and in November of that year the Executive Committee voted that all members be fined 25 cents for returning books late. Also, for each succeeding month that the books were not returned, an additional 25 cents would be added. The money collected on fines was to be used to purchase new books for the library. Within a few months the library was restored to its normal content.

Eighty members were present at the annual Christmas meeting and party held on December 17, 1967, at Horticultural Hall. Members brought gifts for children which were forwarded to The Salvation Army for distribution. Christmas decorations, music, and tables laden with refreshments greeted the members. Mr. William Murray was the featured speaker of this enjoyable evening. He told of his adventures skin-diving in the water off Ascension Island in the South Atlantic and illustrated his talk with underwater movies of colorful fishes taken at the location, and movies of the island itself. His talk aroused considerable interest in skin-diving among younger members of our Society, and the possibility of a skin-diving club associated with the Society was discussed.

The speaker on Monday, March 18, 1963, was Mr. Emanuel Ledacky-Janecek, a member of our Society and the exhibition-curator of the proposed New England Aquarium for the city of Boston. As might be expected, Mr. Ledacky spoke to a record crowd. He illustrated his talk with slides showing architect's sketches of the future Aquarium and of the projected exhibits.

A new Aquarium for Boston had been widely discussed since the closing of the old Aquarium in South Boston. In September, 1962, an article appeared in the Christian Science Monitor and other Boston newspapers announcing plans and hopes for a new Aquarium for Boston. The non-profit New England Aquarium Corporation comprised of Boston business men and philanthropists was established and by 1963 was working closely with the Waterfront Development Division of the Boston Chamber of Commerce. Long wharf off Atlantic Avenue was chosen as the possible site for the future Aquarium.

Needless to say, the New England Aquarium is now a reality and is attracting thousands of visitors. Through the co-operation and permission of its directors, the Boston Aquarium Society, Inc., now holds its regular meetings in the new structure. The transition from Horticultural Hall to the New England Aquarium did not follow a direct route however. For an interval the Society lived in the Brighton Municipal Building.

History of the Boston Aquarium Society, Inc.

By: George and Frieda Meserve

19. The Sixties (Continued)

In 1963 the Boston Aquarium Society fully co-operated with Mr. Emanuel Ledecy-Janacek in promoting the establishment of the New England Aquarium. On February 28, 1963, Mr. Ledecy, Leon Blanchard, and John Skehan appeared on Dateline Boston, a television program of Boston's Channel 5. The interview featured the propagation and maintenance of Zebra fish and Goldfish and provided publicity for both the Boston Society and the proposed New England Aquarium.

Judging from the many activities and projects of aquarium societies and scientists, the year 1963 seems to have been a notable one in the study of aquaria and their inhabitants. In May, an International Guppy Show was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The magazine Newsweek published an article on the therapeutic value of "fish-watching" which "rests the eyes, loosens tense neck muscles, and smoothes away everyday worries." Scientists of the Bell Telephone Laboratories experimented with fishes in their studies of sound and its effects which they hoped would lead to more advanced communications. Here in the East, Harvard's School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology, was doing a research involving the tropical Zebra Danio (Brachydanio rerio). The cell stages of Zebra eggs were studied in an effort to discover the reasons for deformities in human babies. Our own Leon Blanchard played an important part in this project. As an employee of the laboratory he was responsible for obtaining the eggs from spawning Zebras - not as easy a task as might be surmised.

In May, 1963, the Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies, Inc. held its annual business meeting and competitive fish show in Taunton, Massachusetts. One hundred and forty aquaria were exhibited and Mr. Emanuel Ledecy was thy guest speaker. In June, the Fireside Aquarium Society, Inc., held its annual show in Norton, Massachusetts, and the American Killifish Association with headquarters in Lombard, Illinois, was conducting a drive for membership. This rather unusual year in fish research and aquarium society activities achieved a climax in October when The Aquarium Publishing Company (The Aquarium magazine) sponsored a tour to Europe to visit many of the large Aquariums including the Amsterdam Aquarium, the Bunker Aquarium in Dusseldorf, and the Exotarium at Frankfort. The tour of 21 days duration included sightseeing tours of Vienna, Paris, and London for a total cost of \$748.00 per person.

At the September meeting, 1963, which opened the new year for the Boston Aquarium Society, President James Flecchia extended suitable recognition to chairman of the various committees who had served during the past year. After summarizing their particular contributions, President Flecchia presented a carnation corsage to the women and a boutonniere to the men. So honored were Maurice Romenow (bowl show), Mr. and Mrs. Henry Scott (librarians), Mr. and Mrs. Howard Cronk (host and hostess), Ernest Washburn (donation and new bowl show stand), and Sol Schneider (prize committee chairman). Leon Blanchard was then called upon to make a special award of a silver tray to Ms. Frieda Meserve who was retiring from the office of Corresponding Secretary after serving in that capacity 21 years. Leon said that it would be hard to imagine the Society without Frieda as one of its officers and, if a title could be given to her, it would be "Mrs. Boston Aquarium Society." He then presented her with a corsage and the silver tray with the engraved message: "Presented to Frieda M. Meserve in appreciation. Corresponding Secretary, 1942-1963".

In October, 1963 a new point system was instituted by the Society, designed to increase attendance and stimulate interest in the Society activities. A suitable award to the one accumulating the most numbers of points was to be made at the end of the year. Points were to be given as follows:

Attendance	1	Bowl Shows:	
Committee Work	2	Entry	1
Contributions to <u>News</u>	5	1 st Place	4
Speaker at Meeting	5	2 nd Place	3
Ticket Purchase	1	3 rd Place	2
		Special, if given	4

The officers for 1963-1964 are listed as: President, Mr. James Flecchia; Vice President, Mr. Russell Gallini; Treasurer, Mr. Leon Blanchard; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Florence Flecchia; and Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Joan Gallini. In December, 1963, George and Frieda Meserve resigned their office as co-editors of the Boston Aquarium News. They were succeeded by Mr. Joseph Prudhomme who assumed the office of Editor in January, 1964.

In June, 1964, the new officers for 1964-1965 were elected and the following assumed office in September: President, Mr. Henry Scott; Vice President, Mr. Nicholas Koopman; Treasurer, Mr. Henty Toomajian; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Betty Scott; and Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Janice Koopman. The Society continued to prosper under the leadership of Mr. Scott with an average attendance of 60 at the regular monthly meetings and total active membership of 138. Aquaria were maintained at eight local hospitals and the Society continued to correspond with many societies in this country and abroad which, in 1964-1965 reached a total of 61. The formation of many new societies in these years and the active participation of their members in Society projects as recorded in their bulletins and magazines is an indication of the continued and growing interest in our hobby.