

* DELTA TALE *

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Inc.



POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY, inc.



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1987 PVAS OFFICERS

President: Gene Aldridge
Vice President: Pete Thrift
Treasurer: Gerry Hoffman
Corresponding Sec.: Bob Pallansch
Recording Sec.: Lea Spickler

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Ex-officio: Bob Roser

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BAP: John Jessup
HAF: Alex Cummins
Library: Pete Thrift
Membership: Pat Gore
Spring Show: Pete Thrift

Fall Workshop: Gerry Hoffman
Bowl Shows: Jason Kookan
Programs:
Ways & Means: John Stieringer
FAAS: Gerry Hoffman
Delta Tale: John Mangan

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FRUM THE EDITORZ DESK

Just when I thought I was finally going to have a free evening to write some letters I suddenly remembered- it's Delta Tale time again. Oh well, only two more issues after this one and i'm gone (remember from last issue- I retire in Dec.), plus everyone I correspond with already thinks I'm dead because i'm so far behind, so a few more days won't matter.

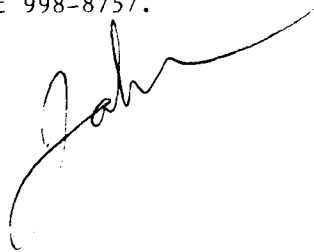
The fall Workshop/Banquet/Auction is coming up fast. Information can be found elsewhere in this issue, along with a registration form for Workshop and Banquet. Be sure to register early, especially for the banquet. I urge everyone that possibly can to attend the workshop. Everyone that went last year had a very good time and learned a lot too. We have an excellent group of speakers lined up for this time. So make plans to be there.

Elections are coming up soon too. See the election committee report for details.

Please notice the change in the date for the Oct. meeting. John C. Wood is closed on Columbus Day so the meeting will be Oct. 19, the third Monday in Oct. instead of the second.

We are starting a new service to aid our newer members. Anyone having any questions about PVAS or any of its programs or are having problems with their fish. Will be able to contact a PVAS member that can assist them. Hopefully by next we will have a list of names and phone numbers printed in Delta Tale. In the meantime you can contact Gene Aldridge at 998-8757.

Until next month...



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Bowl Show- Cichlids- New World Mouthbrooder, Pseudotropheus, Open.
Egglayer/Livebearer- Goldfish & Koi, Characins, Open

Program

Mini-auction

Raffles & Doorprize

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee, consisting of: John Mangan, Pat Gore, Alex Cummins, Tom Hetzel, George White, submits the following list of candidates for office in 1988.

President- Gene Aldridge

Vice President- Pete Thrift

Treasurer- Gerry Hoffman

Corresponding Sec.- John Mangan

Recording Sec.- Lea Spickler

Board of Governors- John Jessup & Ray Hughes (2 positions open)

This list is the recomendation of the committee only. Elections will be held at the Nov. general meeting. Prior to the election nominations will be accepted from the floor for any of the above positions. I urge everyone to **consider running** for office. Most, if not all, of the above candidates are running because no one else would volunteer for the job. (Also- I just got a tip that the Miami Herald has them all under surveillance.)

John Mangan
Nominating Committee Chairman

RETRACTION - CORRECTION - RECANTATION

In the minutes of the August 1987 PVAS board meeting your corresponding secretary gave the wrong location for our upcoming Fall Workshop. (He was hallucinating after U.D.-ing on Gene's power chip dip). The '87 PVAS Fall Workshop will be held Nov. 7-8 at the

MANASSAS HOLIDAY INN!

So Solly

Robert J. Pallansch

OOPS!

AARRGH!

HOO-BOY!
GOOPED!

Having the MESS: Organizing the PVAS Exchange Library
or
Having to Read 38 Variations On "The Joys Of Raising Mealworms"
Pete Thrift, PVAS Librarian

For some time now, the PVAS library hasn't had much impact on the general club membership. The real impact has been on the club librarian, who has had to figure out how to store an ever-growing MESS (all caps - my wife's term) of exchange newsletters from dozens of clubs all over the country and dating as far back as 1975. When I inherited the library from my predecessor Mark Westling (who had made a valiant attempt to do something with the MESS, then fell into deep despair and had his company transfer him to Texas) and actually saw what I was in for, my first thought was to head south myself. My second thought was to use the boxes to hold up my son's model train layout till the fall elections, when I could dump the MESS into someone else's basement. However, after reading some of the newsletters, my third thought was that there actually was a lot of good stuff hidden within the MESS and that this stuff should be made easily available to the club membership. How to do this? My first idea was to prepare a general subject index, but that would take too long and would not solve the problem of storing so much paper. Then I hit on the idea of removing the articles that would be of interest to PVAS members, discarding the remainder of the newsletters, and grouping the articles into file folders for easy reference. This really wasn't such a brainstorm - I later learned that several clubs on our exchange list do something similar with their exchange libraries.

Well, gang, after about six months of reading/wading through the MESS, the basic library is finally ready for member use. Twelve boxes of newsletters has been reduced to four boxes of file folders. A preliminary list of subjects is on the next page. As you may notice, I have initially used the club's annual show competition classes for most of the subject categories. I felt this was as good a scheme as any to initially organize the library. In the near future, those subject folders with numerous entries will be further subdivided, perhaps into genus and even species levels. I will also be asking club members with recognized expertise in particular subjects to review the library's information for accuracy and discard any articles that are repetitive, incorrect, or just out-of-date. Eventually a much more comprehensive subject index will be prepared, making it easy to see if the library holds any information on a specific species or topic.

These folders can be borrowed by any PVAS member in good standing for up to one month. Only one folder may be borrowed at one time. Out of consideration for other members who may wish to borrow the same folder, please be sure to return the folder within the requested one month period. A \$5.00 deposit is required when a folder is borrowed, which will be refunded when the folder is returned.

I will bring the entire library to the next few monthly PVAS meetings for members to browse through. I hope to write several articles for the Delta Tale over the next few months concerning the contents of the exchange library.

Please take the time to look this information resource over - the MESS is now a MINE of good stuff.

INDEX OF SUBJECTS - PVAS EXCHANGE LIBRARY

Aquarium Health and Safety Hazards
Aquarium Photography
Aquarium Chemistry (General/Freshwater)
Aquarium Chemistry (Marine)
Aquascaping
Aquatic Plants

Basic Breeding Techniques
Beginner's Articles - Freshwater
Beginner's Articles - Marine
Bowl Show Preparation

Cichlids - Malawi
Cichlids - Other Rift Lake
Cichlids - Angelfish
Cichlids - Discus
Cichlids - New World Dwarf (under 4")
Cichlids - New World Medium (4" to 7")
Cichlids - New World Large (over 7")
Cichlids - All Other
Cichlids - General Articles

Disease Prevention & Control

Egglayers - Characoids Under 3" Mature
Egglayers - Characoids Over 3" Mature
Egglayers - Betta Splendens
Egglayers - Other Bettas and Anabantoids
Egglayers - Sharks and Loaches
Egglayers - Barbs
Egglayers - Goldfish and Koi
Egglayers - Killifish
Egglayers - North American Native Fish
Egglayers - Danios, Brachydanios, and Rasboras
Egglayers - Corydoras Catfish
Egglayers - African Catfish
Egglayers - All Other Catfish
Egglayers - All Other

Filtration
Fishroom Construction

Live Food Cultures
Livebearers - Guppies
Livebearers - Mollies
Livebearers - Swordtails and Platies
Livebearers - Goodeids
Livebearers - All Other

Marine Aquarium Management
Marine Invertebrates
Marine Fish
Miscellaneous Tips & How-Tos

Product Reviews

Show Judging/Standards

The Potomac Valley Aquarium Society

ANNOUNCES ITS FALL 1987

WORKSHOP ● BANQUET ● AUCTION

SATURDAY, NOV. 7 & SUNDAY, NOV. 8

HOLIDAY INN, MANASSAS, 10800 VANDOR LANE, MANASSAS, VA. 22110

FEATURED SPEAKERS

- **Peter Lewis: "Fishy Trivia"**
"Fish Keeping for the Advanced Aquarist"
- **Charlie Grimes: "Live Foods"**
"Killifish"
- **Sallie Boggs: "Success with Oddball Fishes"**
- **Steve Somermeyer: "Tanganyikans Cichlids"**
- **John Burleson: "Salt Water Invertebrates & Corals"**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, November 7 -8:30 am Workshop Registration

9:15 am - 4:30 pm Speakers

(Lunch break at about 12:15)

6:30 pm Social Hour (Cash Bar)

7:30 pm Banquet & Dinner Speaker

Sunday, November 8 -PVAS Annual Fall Auction

9:00 am Registration of Auction Items

11:30 am Auction Begins

TWO GIANT RAFFLES

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS DURING THE AUCTION: Tickets 3 for \$1
GRAND FINALE: 55 GALLON TANK, STAND, SET UP: Tickets \$1 each

EVERYONE WELCOME

AQUARISTS OR THOSE INTERESTED IN BECOMING AQUARISTS!

Over Please for Registration Information

WORKSHOP/BANQUET REGISTRATION FORM

Registration:

# of People	Total \$
_____ Pre-Registration (Before Nov. 1, 1987) - \$10/person	_____
_____ Late Registration (Nov. 1 - Nov. 7, 1987) - \$12.50/person	_____
_____ Banquet Registration (Buffet Dinner) - \$15/person	_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Please Send to: Gerry Hoffman, 347 Hunton St., Warrenton, VA 22186

For Further Information Call 703 - 347 - 7486

Holiday Inn/Manassas:

Motel Rooms are available at the site of the workshop. Rates are: Single \$44.00/night
Double \$49.00/night

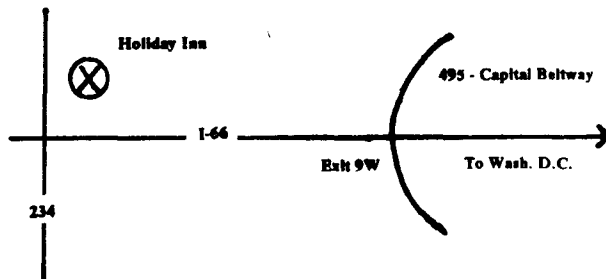
Call or write the Motel (Not PVAS)

Holiday Inn, Manassas, 10800 Vandor Lane, Manassas, VA 22110.

Phone: (703) 361 - 0131

Directions:

Take Exit 9 West off the Capital Beltway
Continue on I-66 West until the Manassas
Exit. Take Rt. 234 North, then the first
immediate right.
The Holiday Inn is visible from I-66.



PVAS FALL AUCTION - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

RULES FOR THE SELLER:

1. You do not have to be a PVAS member to buy or sell hobby-related items, including fish, plants, equipment, etc. in the auction.
2. Registration of items for sale will begin at 9 AM and will end promptly at 12:30 PM on Sunday, November 8th.
3. The auction will begin promptly at 11:30 AM, and will continue, with periodic breaks, until all items are sold.
4. All items must be labeled with the identity of their contents, to include number, sex (if possible), and other pertinent data. Use a permanent marking pen and adhesive label. Labeling equipment will be available at the auction, but labeling must be accomplished before the items will be registered.
 - a. Fish: 'Pair' means one of each sex. 'Mated Pair' means a pair that have spawned WITH EACH OTHER. 'Trio' means one male and two females. 'Reverse Trio' means two males and one female. 'Mixed Sexes' means at least one specimen of each sex. If you are uncertain, label the bag 'Unsexed'.
 - b. Supplies: All aquarium equipment MUST be labeled as to working condition or missing parts.
5. Proper fish bags must be used. Live items must be bagged with ample air and water. Fish packed in "baggies" or similar bags will not be registered. If a fish is registered in a bucket, tank, or bowl, the container will be considered part of the item and will be auctioned as a unit. There will be a supply of fish bags for sale at the registration desk. After registration, PVAS reserves the right to re-bag any item as is necessary.
6. Registration is limited to fifteen (15) items per person.
7. A limit of five (5) bags per species or color form/variety is allowed, unless prior approval is obtained from the Auction Chairman.
8. For every five (5) items registered in the auction, one (1) colored sticker will be given to the seller to attach to the item of his choice. These items will be auctioned first.
9. Bags will be offered 'as is' and will be sold as one item. Once registered, the contents of a bag may not be split.
10. Each item carries a \$1.00 minimum, unless the seller assigns a higher minimum. The seller may lower the minimum on an item that does not sell during the auction.
11. No payment will be made to the seller on the day of the auction. Payment will be forwarded by mail within ten days after the auction date. It is the seller's responsibility to give PVAS a proper name and address to receive payment. Envelopes for this purpose will be filled out during registration.

12. The seller receives two-thirds of the selling price. PVAS retains one-third.
13. All items not sold must be claimed at the close of the auction, or they will be disposed of at the discretion of PVAS.
14. The auctioneer retains the right to set aside any improperly bagged or marked item, or any sick or otherwise unsaleable item.
15. Fish species that are restricted by either federal or state statutes will not be accepted. These include, but are not limited to: piranhas, Texas cichlids, and walking catfish.

RULES FOR THE BIDDER

1. All persons wishing to participate in bidding are required to register with their full name and address. Bidding numbers will be assigned to all buyers.
2. Items may be inspected only before the auction and during the intermissions.
3. All bidding raises will be in dollar (\$1.00) increments. The auctioneer has the right to alter this procedure at his discretion.
4. Successful bidders will have their items brought to them, at which time payment is expected. An authorized bidder may run a tab, or pay by check. Please see the Treasurer before the auction. Proper identification will be required in these instances.
5. In all cases, the decision of the auctioneer is final.

PERUVIAN AMAZONIA

by Eugene T. Aldridge, Jr.

SATURDAY

I started out at noon on 27 June 1987 on one of the greatest adventures of my life - going to the Amazon River through Iquitos, Peru to collect Tropical fish - by leaving for Dulles Airport. The first stop was Miami where I was to meet the other members of the group. My flight did not leave until 2:15 PM Eastern Daylight Saving Time (EDST), but I wanted to get to the airport in enough time to get something to eat, check in, pick up my seat assignment and get out to the mid-field terminal that United Airlines now has at Dulles. I got something to eat at a snack bar as the sit down restaurants would have taken too long. My carry on luggage was a small bag with a camera, a 28mm wide angle lens, two of pairs of under pants (to cover potential problems during 22 hours of flying or sitting in airports) and three pairs of socks. All the rest checked in a large cardboard box with two styro's in it or in a medium sized duffel bag. The rest included my other camera, 20 rolls of film and other clothes and extras were in the checked luggage.

The flight left Dulles on time, but it was six hours later that I landed in Miami. A normal flight takes about two and a half hours, and we got close to Miami on time only to get caught in the edges of a terrible rain and thunder storm. After going way out to sea in a holding pattern we were told that the Miami Airport had been closed because of the storm. After circling for about an hour the pilot told us the airport had reopened for 15 minutes but had closed again and he was going to have to land the plane somewhere to pickup fuel. From past experiences, I knew the situation was not serious but the plane could not continue to circle for an extended period. We landed at the West Palm Beach Airport for refueling and then sat for an hour. A little after 7:00 we left West Palm Beach and got to Miami Airport without further trouble at about 8:00 PM.

A Sky Cap with a wheelchair picked me up, picked up my luggage and took me to the Faucett Airlines Ticket Counter to check in and get my tickets reissued. Originally, we were supposed to go directly to Iquitos from Miami and our tickets had been issued accordingly. However, two weeks before leaving we were advised that we would have to go through Lima. The Sky Cap took me to a closed counter then went behind the counters to get a clerk. A clerk came and asked me what I wanted, I told him, he then took me away from all the hassle and told me to wait and he would be back with my new tickets in a few minutes. There were people in droves waiting in line for tickets and seat assignments so the place was a mad house. The Sky Cap needed the wheelchair back so he found me a chair and left. In about 15 minutes the Faucett clerk returned with my new tickets and bag checks and asked me to wait there until about 10:30 when some one would pick

me up, it was now about 9:00.

I did not see anyone I was going with, so I decided I should get a something to eat at a nearby snack bar with chairs. I ended up with an oversized hot dog and some lemonade. I took my time and watched all the traffic going to the Faucett counter. A few minutes after I finished eating, I saw John O'Malley, one of the group going with me, so I followed him to the counter area and as there were no empty chairs just sat on the floor with many others. I sat and watched John's carry on luggage while he went and stood in line for seat assignment and reissued tickets. Shortly all arrived but Paul Loiselle. The 10 of us going were: Chuck Davis, Lee Finley, John and Jay Stankevitch, Gian Padovani, Wayne Liebel, John O'Malley, George Fear, Paul Loiselle and me. I watched all the carry on items while they stood in line to get seat assignments, new tickets and luggage checked in. At this point a young lady representing Holbrook Travel arrived to see what she could do and after going to the counter to see if she could help those standing in line left about 30 minutes later. During this period Paul arrived. With an hour before the plane was to start loading we went to a nearby bar for a drink. I had a "Lite" Beer and took my time drinking it as I did not want to spend all night running the to John.

Close to loading time we walked down to the loading gate. Luckily, it was only a short walk from the bar. I found a seat though most of the them were full. At about 11:30 PM they started to load the plane and and having Seat 2C, I was one of the last to get on. The plane was a 727-200 having some 200 seats all filled. I did not count the seats. The plane was so full they asked if someone would give up their seat. Not understanding the request made in Spanish I asked Paul later what had happened. It was after midnight when we finally got off the ground. After we had all settled in our seats, we were given drinks and a lite dinner. They had NO beer and the alcohol was FREE. For dinner we had a slice each of a cotta type salami, turkey and cheese with some cole slaw. After eating I tried in vain to get to sleep without any success. Part was my own fault for eating then immediately trying to go to sleep, part was the seat size and the knee and foot room were smaller than I was used too and finally behind me was a man and wife with 3 teenage kids. The woman had been very loud telling the others where to put the luggage in the overhead racks with particular empasis on where to put the one with the medicine. Then to make everything VERY NICE, for the rest of the night every about 15 minutes or so one of them would get up and either go to the bathroom or rummage around in the over-head for something. To keep from going completely nuts and doing something I should not do, somewhere between 2:30 and 3:00 AM, I started to write notes, in the dark, on what had happened so far.

SUNDAY

A little after 3:00 AM the plane landed in Panama City, Panama for 45 minutes to refuel. We were allowed to get off the plane if we

wanted, a few did though I did not. The next leg in the flight from Panama City to Lima was uneventful. Close to 5:00 AM EDT, we were given a breakfast consisting of a croissant with a slice each of ham and cheese, a small sweet roll, a fruit cup and coffee. At this point I turned back my watch from Daylight Saving Time to Standard Time by. We landed in Lima about 5:10 AM EST. Lima is in the same time zone as we in the eastern part of the U.S. is but on Standard Time. They use Daylight Saving Time during our winter. Being south of the equator the seasons are reversed.

I was picked up in a wheelchair and after waiting a long time for my luggage was told that some of the luggage had been offloaded in Miami as the plane was too heavy. Both of my checked pieces and one of John O'Malley's were in the offloaded group. We were told that it would be in in a few minutes as it had been loaded onto a cargo plane leaving Miami at the same time we did. Well it did not get there. We were met by a charming lady from a local Lima travel agency acting for Holbrook. She took care of all the running around concerning my missing luggage then filled out the required forms. John and I had to leave our passports and papers with her so our luggage could be collected and passed through customs. She took us to the other end of the airport and got us seat assignments on the flight to Iquitos.

The flight to Iquitos was on a 737, and I was given Seat 1C. Luckily, no one was in either Seat A or R so I was able to get some nice pictures of the Andes Mountains. The window was a little dirty and the air slightly overcast so the pictures are not the best. The Andes is a range of mountains with most of them well over 10,000 feet, and in some parts there are plateaus at the 15,000 foot level. During the two and a half hour flight from Lima to Iquitos, we played Bingo (a filling the whole card type) with the prize being a ticket on any Faucett flight. I am sure there were limitations but I heard none. The numbers were spoken in both Spanish and English so you had to be careful and listen. The flight attendants on all the Faucett flights I was on both men and women could speak and understand English very well so getting questions answered was easy. In Iquitos I was expecting a small "back water town" of maybe 5,000, and was QUITE surprised to find out this little "back water town" was a city of 500,000. Oil had been discovered in the late 60's on the east side of the Andes up close to Ecuador's border making Peru oil self-sufficient. The oil production and all that goes with it caused Iquitos to grow to 500,000 people in a little over ten years.

On landing there was no wheelchair this time so I walked slowly the 200 or so feet to the terminal. My legs showed the effect of sitting for 22 hours in an airplane and airports. Those with luggage picked theirs up and then we were met by people from Amazon Camp, the group taking us on the Amazon River. We drove through Iquitos to the water front. The streets were in a TERRIBLE condition with all kinds and sizes of potholes with some big enough to swallow a car. Luckily we did not hit any. We saw a lot of cars, trucks and

cab. Most of the cabs were three wheeled bicycles with a double seat for passengers and a little one or two cylinder lawn mower type motors. They acted like they were driving big Mack trucks. The traffic was terrible with no one minding the lights or stop signs.

On getting to the river I looked down a 200 foot bank made up of rocks, stones, logs and dripping water. I figured I would wait for eve gone to get down as we had gotten there just as two large bus loads got there for other Amazon Camp boat trips. I was told to come on that I would be helped. I WAS WITH A MAN ON EACH ARM AND A THIRD TELLING ME WHERE TO PUT MY FEET, WE WENT DOWN. Under the circumstances I made it down without any trouble. The ten of us from the U.S. got on the M/V Margarita at about 10:00 AM without trouble. At this point John and I talked to a Company representative about our missing luggage. He said he would do what he could but made no promises. He told us it could cost up to \$200.00 for a speed boat to find us on the river after we left and deliver our missing luggage. I just said it was too much for me to spend for that purpose, and then others close to our size offered us things we could wear. If my luggage was really lost, everything could be replaced but the passport, so what the heck!!!! I found out later that we were talking to the company "workerbees" not the "bosses". I was sure someone would hold on to it. I had the money but did not really want to spend it. We had been advised in a pre-trip letter that there was no real need to change "dollars" into Peruvian money as dollars were accepted everywhere. So I took about \$70.00 in "ones" and another \$75.00 in "fives" figuring this would give me plenty of small bills. At this point we discovered that we were to have an additional passenger, Pat, a charming young lady working for the company to take pictures for new advertising material. Some of the group were a little unhappy, but as there was nothing that could be done about it, so we just went along with it.

Close to noon we started out down the Amazon River with our first stop just outside of Iquitos at Naval Base. It was necessary for the Navy to check out our passports and approve some collecting papers. Luckily I remembered my passport number so it and my name were put on a sheet of paper along with the others. A company representative that had left with us got off the boat and went to a shack where a Naval Officer was stationed to have our papers approved. In a few minutes, the Officer in the shack came down and got on board so I was expecting trouble. However, in a couple of minutes I saw him leave with a piece of raw red meat. A little further down the river we left the company man off. Now we really set off down the river to where we were to spend the first night.

At this point Alfredo, the company trip leader, introduced himself as "Tour Captain", Nancelo the "Boat Captain", Moises the upper deck steward, Maria the cook, and the four guides. We were given a few rules for the road and told how we were to get our drinks and be charged for them. Beer was \$1.00 a 16 ounce bottle and soft drinks in the old style thin 7 ounce bottles were \$.50. It was a

local Peruvian beer and tasted a little sweet to me. The M/V Margarita is a typical two-decked Amazon River boat 76 feet long and 21 feet wide. The lower deck is for embarkations and disembarkations, storage of ships gear and small boats. There was a sign on the lower deck that said no shoes are allowed on the upper deck, only flip-flops or shower thongs. An exception was made for me which I was very grateful as my brace has become a very necessary part of me. The upper deck has four cabins with one lower and one upper bunk and two cabins with three bunks. The bathroom facilities are communal, with two john shower combinations and 3 sinks. The rest of the main deck is open. At this point we selected our cabins and room mates. Paul Loiselle and I bunked together again as we did in Costa Rica. Greatfully, Paul took the top bunk so I would not have to climb. There was not very much room between the bottom and top bunks, maybe two feet, so I could not sit up straight.

We were now going down the river at a fairly good clip in an 8 to 10 knot range. We passed by the place where the Napo River came into the Amazon River. The Napo River is a large black water river and the black shows up very clearly coming well out into the Amazon. Until you see these rivers you have no concept of size. The Amazon River at this point is roughly two miles wide and some of the rivers coming in to it are just as big. We stopped for the night at a small village called Oran on the river and tied up close to the bank, no more than 5 or 6 feet. The villagers all came down to see the us and the boat. The crew seemed to know all the villagers so there was a lot of give and take talking. For dinner we had pacu in a very good mild cajun type sauce, a local short grain rice, a salad and fruit for desert. The fish had been cut into 1 to 2 inch cubes and was very good. I wish I had gotten the recipe for the sauce, it was that good. Also it would have been fun to try at home. We had some variety of fish at least once a day for the whole trip. I did not go ashore as the bank was 15 to 18 feet up over rocks and mud. Though most of the group got off to visit or to go on a walk through the forest after dinner, I did not go. I later learned that the walk was pretty rough even if I had gotten up the bank. Some of the men stayed on shore for a long time playing some game up on a field I could not see. Later on they even had a celebration with the natives. The small children and most of the girls and women stayed on the shore by the boat until way after dark. They were quite good looking reminding me of the western American Indians. Paul told me they were from the same stock coming out of South China ages ago and settled most of Polynesia. The young girls were quite nice looking and in my mind stand up to any of our girls until their late teens or very early 20's, the hard life they lead takes its toll early. Most of the homes I saw were up off the ground on piles, with what looked like log floors and thatch walls and roofs. Most had a covered porch and maybe a window but with no glass or screen. Some of the houses were fancier than others but nothing like we are used to. From what I could see most were neat and clean.

Everything was quite lush and green giving evidence of a great

PAGE .-

deal of rain and moisture. We are now in one of the largest rain forests in the world covering about 2.5 million square miles, equal to the U.S. west of the Mississippi River. The Amazon River system discharges enough water into the Atlantic Ocean every minute to supply New York City for nine years. The Amazon River is 4,000 miles long and includes a system of 200 major tributaries with 17 more than 1,000 miles long and 10 discharging more water than the Mississippi River. The mosquitos come out about an hour before sunset and stay for a couple of hours then do the same thing so there was a urgent need for mosquito repellent. Luckily, some one gave me some to use. Two strains of malaria are carried by SOME mosquitos so you have to be prepared. Any doctor can give you prescriptions for malaria pills and somthing for the ever possible and present Montzuma's revenge. We were advised to eat only the food on the boat as it was carefully prepared and safe and drink ONLY bottled water. The boat had bottled water that came from the local Iquitos Coca Cola Bottling Plant. Alfredo told us they did a big business in bottled water. They would take the local water and do everything to it: filter, boil, colorinate, and purify it for use in cokes. It tasted better than the water we could get in Arlington.

About a quarter of a mile up river from where we stayed for the night there was a small black water stream coming into the river. It looked like a nice place to go into to collect fish, but we were told there was not enough time now to go there. About 10:00 PM I went to bed smelling terrible from sweat and mosquito repellent. I am very reluctant to go around to much at night without my shoes, so I just went to bed stinking.

-To be continued next month-

ed. note- Gene has also submitted this article to the White Rose Aquarium Society and the Cichlasoma Study Group.

TRADING POST

Ads for the trading post should be sent to Tom Hetzel, 5601 Seminary Rd. #1702, Falls Church, VA 22041, by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

For Sale: Crystal 20L woodgrain tank and glass canopy. As new \$24.

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aquaristic. It is not all that difficult, but someone overseeing the program (whether or not they're actually keeping one these species or strains) must keep in frequent touch with those doing the work, monitoring their progress and/or problems. Those aquarists doing the work, monitoring their progress/problems and such must be competent, trustworthy and dedicated to the task at hand. Also, we can't overburden any one hobbyist with excessive lines to maintain. No more than one or two species/strains per individual is realistic. Because of this limitation, the specialty societies are probably better suited in maintaining and redistributing to the hobby those types of fishes they are concerned with. This leaves local clubs to pick up the slack on the rest. If some group a few years back had begun such a program, we might still have the Meteor Minnow, Tutwiler Butterfly Betta and other species/strains non-existent in the hobby anymore.

We, as aquarists belonging to a society, can make a lasting effect on the hobby for its betterment - if we really want to. Now is the time to start, and don't assume that enough others are doing their part that you won't be missed. Procrastinate and we may lose another strain tomorrow!

* Editors Note - the ALA also has a species maintenance program. J.M.

Reprinted from The Tropical Breeze, The San Diego Tropical Fish Society, April 1986

The Guy Jordan Fund of the American Cichlid Assn. is proud to announce the availability of an

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POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



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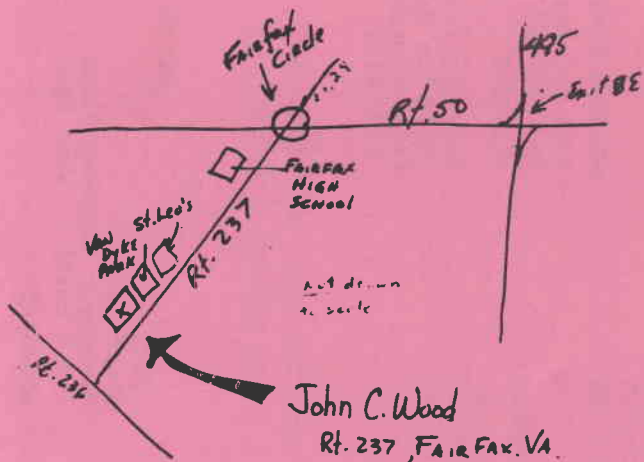
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The Potomac Valley Aquarium Society will meet on the following dates in 1981:

Jan. 12	May 11	Sept. 14
Feb. 9	June 8	Oct. 14
March 9	July 13	Nov. 9
April 13	Aug. 10	Dec. 14

Meetings are held at the John C. Wood Facility, Rt. 237 (Old Lee Hgwy)
Fairfax City, VA. Doors open at 7:30, meetings start at 8:00 PM. Everyone
is welcome.