

Trabing



Mostly about People

By Wally Trabing

It all started last year with a fat goldfish in a gallon pickle jar.

Someone gave it to Mr. and Mrs. John Woodward, 139 Benito avenue.

Neither of them had ever been fish landlords before.

How novel, they concluded. They put the pickle jar on top of the television set where the fat goldfish swam up and down rather than back and forth — like an elevator with a broken main spring.

This wasn't how Woodward had pictured life in the watery world.

"It made me very nervous," said Woodward. "That fish was unhappy and I think he was trying to tell me something."

Like — "Get me the *&?% out of this pickle jar."

So John and his wife Georgina went down to a pet store and bought the goldfish a five-gallon tank and fancy tank equipment; and, because no one should live alone, they also bought eight friendly guppies.

Was the fat goldfish appreciative?

Ha! He ate three of the guppies before his regular feeding time. So the Woodwards put the fat goldfish back in the pickle jar and exiled him to a neighbor lady. They gave him the Siberian treatment.

The next day, the fat goldfish had a trauma and jumped out of the pickle jar . . . may his soul rest in peace.

But the die had been cast. A new world of tropical fish-keeping came into their lives.

They bought a 20-gallon tank and started a new subdivision of finy folk. They bought books on care and feeding, nursing and breeding, wining and dining.

They bought a glass fish which they named Mr. Pane. It was transparent and carried its stomach up behind its head where most people do — in reality.

They bought mollies, one of which became Madame Chairman; Berlin Platies; turtles; sword tails; and angel fish.

The tanks were set up in a spare bedroom.

They found their new hobby fascinating. Now that the fish were swimming back and forth rather than up and down, a sense of calm laziness prevailed. This was fun.

But down there in H2-O land, among the tule reeds in the turgid tropic warmth of the tanks, fish will be fish.

Several Guppies went ga-ga. Romance flared — nay, exploded — and the Woodwards found themselves Godparents 150 times over.

More tanks were purchased. Angel fish became pregnant. The male zebras became zippy, the mollies became maternal, and the Woodwards became frantic.

Their back bedroom began to

resemble Steinhart aquarium.

"Some of the fish spawned heavily, depending on how happy they were," he said. Such happy fish they've never seen since.

By last month they had crammed 25 fish tanks into the bedroom — around the walls and in rows across the room.

"We sold some to help pay expenses and purchase new tanks," said Woodward. "It was sort of like a family selling some of its children to pay for additional bedrooms on the house."

Feeding time was three times a day. The tank water had to be cleaned once a week. Electrical equipment had to be checked.

There were no vacations.

Counting the assembly line production of blessed — or cursed events, the Woodwards early this month estimated their back bedroom population to be around 5000. That did it.

They shuddered and sold the lot — all except one tank and eight fish.

Even this may go.

They're sort of looking for something for the top of the TV set — like a fat goldfish in a pickle jar.

Business Mirror

Business Leader For Corporate

By Sam Dawson
AP Business News Analyst

New York (AP).—Business and administration are drawing up their lines today for another round in the perennial battle over taxes. At conferences here and in Washington. At conferences here and in Washington the two sides are outlining their views. The debate is as much over the kind of taxes as over the high rates.

The final stands may be made clear when the president addresses a group of businessmen here December 14 and perhaps reveals the forms his proposals to the new congress will take.

At today's hearing in Washington businessmen are telling the internal revenue service their objections to and perplexities about the new rules it proposes on expense account deductions. Commissioner Mortimer M. Caplin says the hearing well may lead to a relaxation of some of the proposed crackdown.

In New York, business and federal legislators are discussing the wider problem of tax reform at a meeting of the Tax Foundation, a non-profit research body long dedicated to seeking lower tax burdens and less government spending.

And the complications of the tax rules decreed in the revenue