

Fuller Aquarium & Animal Hospital

A relatively new addition to Kingsport's South Shore, the Fuller Aquarium & Animal Hospital was founded about thirteen years ago by the vibrant and now unfortunately deceased Dr. Ellen Fuller. With Kingsport's fascination with and love of the sea, it comes as no surprise that the Fuller Aquarium has become a fixture within the greater Kingsport community, both as a destination for visitors and as a mainstay of the city's educational provision.

For a mere ten cent admission, visitors to the aquarium can take in the wonders of sea life in the aquarium's twelve tanks, enjoy a scenic wildlife observation deck overlooking the cliffs of Kingsport, wander through a carefully cultivated aviary, and even interact with the aquarium's informal mascot, Malakai, a dark red octopus known for performing tricks in exchange for treats. The halls are often filled with chattering children, as the schools of Kingsport make frequent use of the Fuller Aquarium for field trips and excursions. In addition, students of marine biology from Miskatonic University serve as interns and part-time tour guides at the aquarium, conducting tours and performing animal care tasks in between research projects.

However, the Fuller Aquarium's Animal Hospital may well win the popularity contest against the aquarium proper. Run by the effusive and cordial Dr. Alice Jemison, the adjoining facility serves both the aquarium as well as the general public, treating Kingsport's beloved pets and livestock in addition to its aquarium residents, and even vulnerable local wildlife. Jemison has become known for her quirky sense of humor and gentle smile, both of which ease any ill news for a pet owner.

Unfortunately, Jemison has come into no small degree of conflict with her business partner, Allen Fuller, nephew of founder Ellen Fuller. The pair divide responsibilities, despite their differences, with Fuller overseeing the aquarium's day-to-day management while Dr. Jemison handles the operation of the animal hospital. While the two appear publicly to have a cordial relationship, the *Kingsport Gazette's*

attentive society pages have reported infamous behind-the-scenes spats, according to both hospital and aquarium staff. While the pair have maintained a civil working relationship for the past six years ever since Ellen Fuller's presumed death, one cannot help but feel that the pair's underlying tension may soon come to an explosive head.

