

# Willamettans



From outside the Willamettan colony looks like an average cluster of houses, without clothes lines. The residents have a pool, a sauna, a tennis court and a beer garden. They also have a locked yellow gate to keep the perverts out.



In the winter, the colony has only 12 permanent residents, but during the summer attendance expands to several hundred. And when several hundred people take off their clothes, beauty goes out the window, resident Jenny Tucker explains. It offers a chance to see people for what they are.

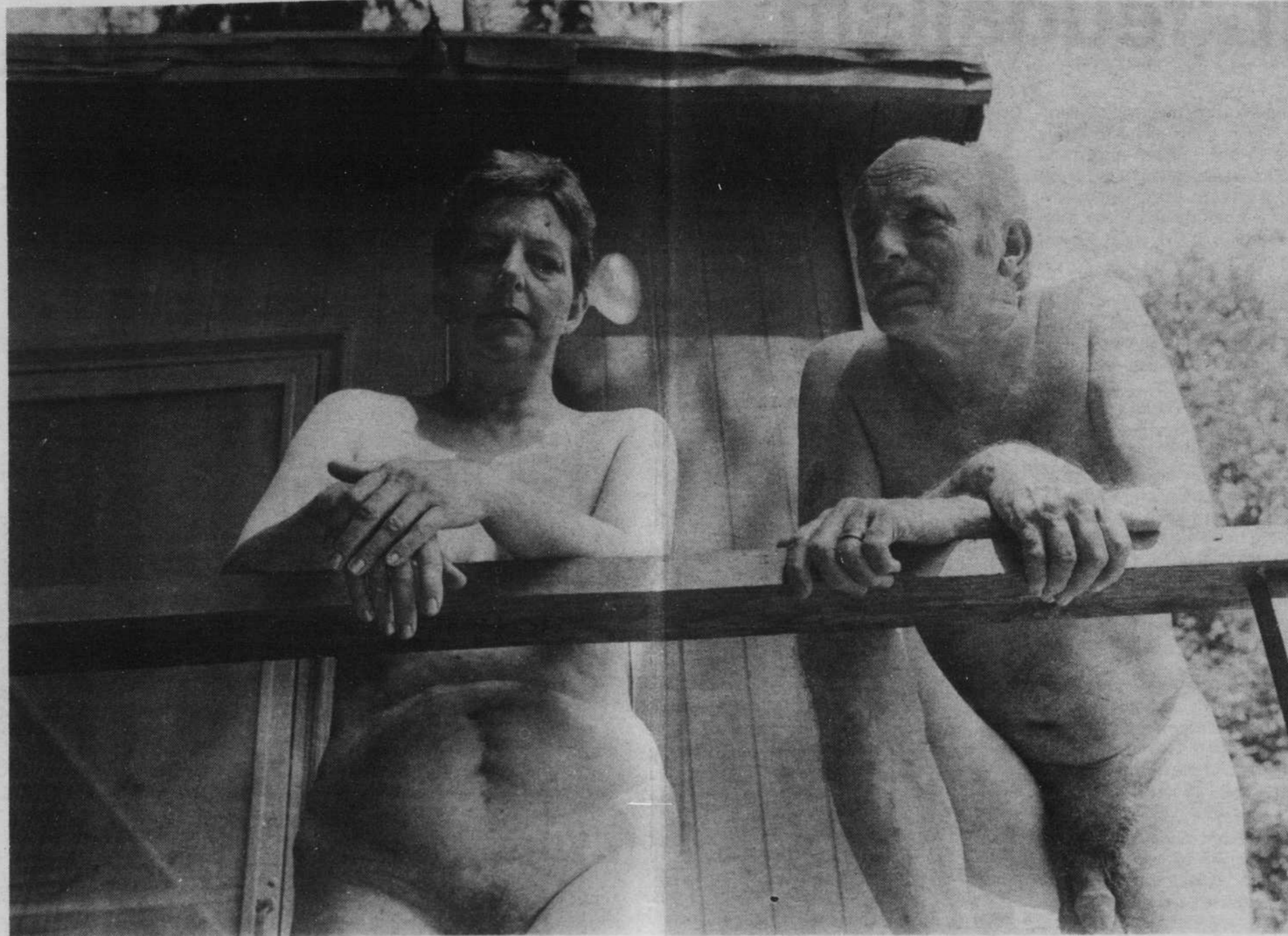
"We've got scars of every description here." They have to look at the spiritual size of people or junk the whole thing.

"It's a great equalizer. We learn to see people from the inside out."

The colony covers 40 acres of forest land, complete with a collection of wilderness trails for those interested in encountering nature in a personal way.

Since it began in 1953, the colony has always supported a family atmosphere. When members join, according to Big Ed Tucker, they must bring along their spouses if they have one in stock. "We don't want people coming up here for a 'Wild weekend,'" he explains. "This is a place to come and relax with the family."

The club carefully screens applicants. Before becoming a member, an



applicant must make one trip nude. The group then watches the applicant's reactions, and will vote on whether the applicant has the right attitude. An applicant who spends his time walking around chuckling probably wouldn't fare very well, for example. We have no hassles here," he says. "It spoils you for anything else." The only dark spot in their life comes when he and his wife have to go to town. "We dread it." Other residents choose to put on

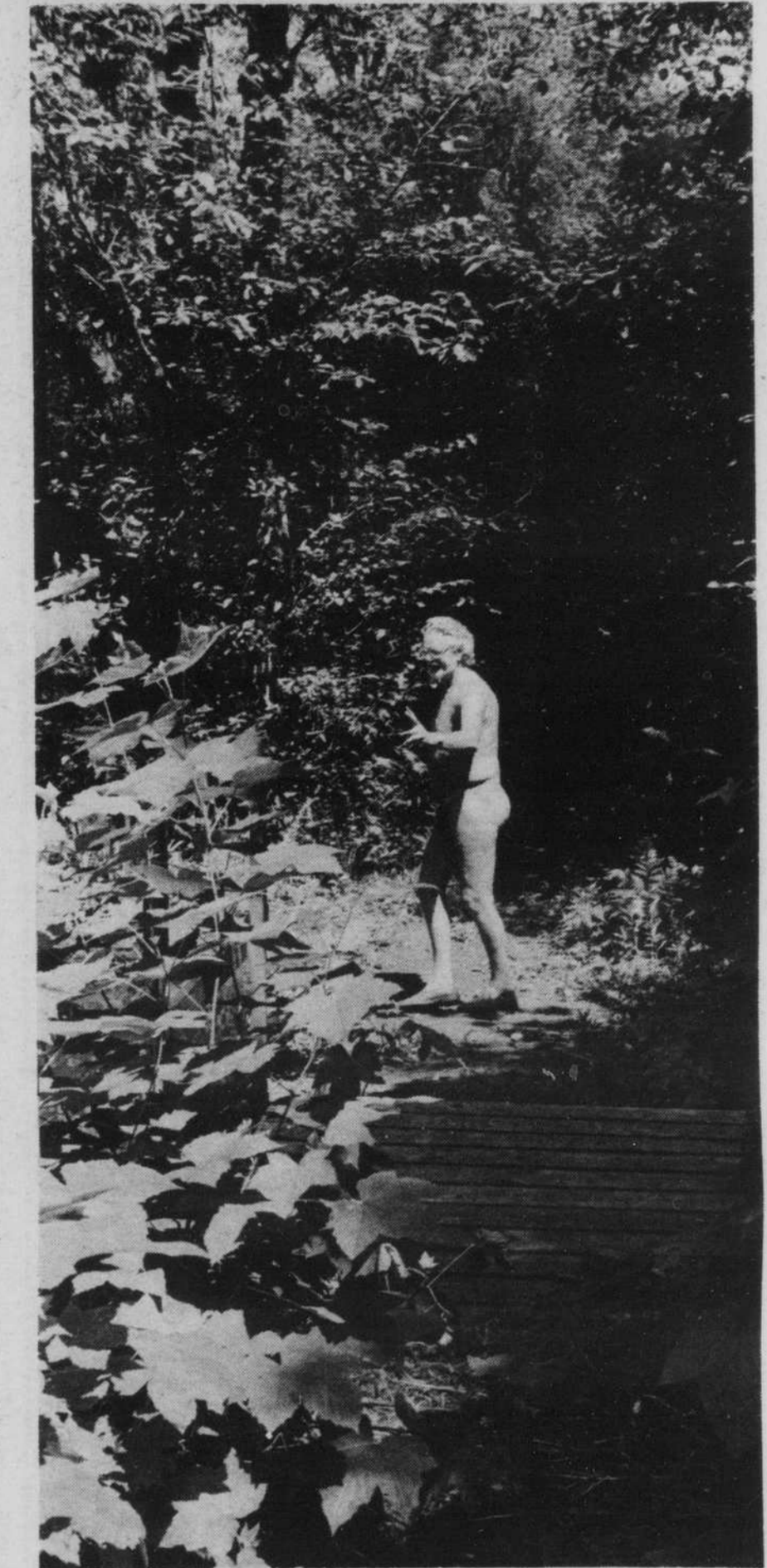
get some residents to run through a field of daisies. However, this is not their natural pose. They feel more at home doing chores or riding motor bikes. They keep the daisies around as props.

last summer that public nudity is illegal, overriding a nudists' rights movement. Nude bathers still swim in the Eugene area, but they use discretion, according to Gerald Morselle, the head of a nude bathing group. This makes the Willamettan colony the only legal stumping ground for the nudists in the county.

Public sentiment is against the nudists, Morselle feels, because of social inhibitions. "A lot of people want to skinny dip," says Morselle. "But they've been raised to believe it's wrong to enjoy sun and water completely."

The Willamettans take steps to project a good public image. They screen visitors. "We don't want perverts coming in here to oogle," explains Jenny. But once a visitor wins the group's confidence, the members are completely open. "I grew up in a family where there was never a display of nudity," explains Big Ed as he strolled about the camp dressed in shoes. He says it was a relief to join the Willamettans.

The nudists haven't disregarded all of society's pretensions. Big Ed and Jenny live in a push trailer. Visitors drive Winnebagos. They regard nudity as relaxation and feel as comfortable walking around naked as outsiders would wearing houseclothes.



Story by JOCK HATFIELD

Photos by ERICH BOEKELHEIDE

Several members bring their children into the colony and let them loose in a nudist playground for the purpose. "The best place to raise children is in a community where nudity is accepted," says Gerald Morselle, who brings his two children in regularly. "It will help them grow into more complete people."

Other members retired into nudity. Big Ed and Jenny ran a mom and pop's grocery store on the coast before becoming nudists. "I just wish I had joined sooner," says Big Ed. "In 30 years we never had time for anything but work."

Leonard Jones worked for 38 years with the railroad before becoming a resident nudist. "It's peaceful.

clothes each day to work in town. It isn't required that members run around nude all the time. Some choose to go half-and-half. Once in a while a member will wear only sneakers and a tie as an amusing social comment. An Emerald photographer tried to

Each year the American Sunbathers Association and the American Nudists Association hold conventions. The northwest nudist convention at Squaw Mountain drew nudists from all over the country. Unfortunately the volleyball and horse-shoe events were rained out, so the

The county commissioners ruled

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