

NUDIST EXTRAORDINAIRE

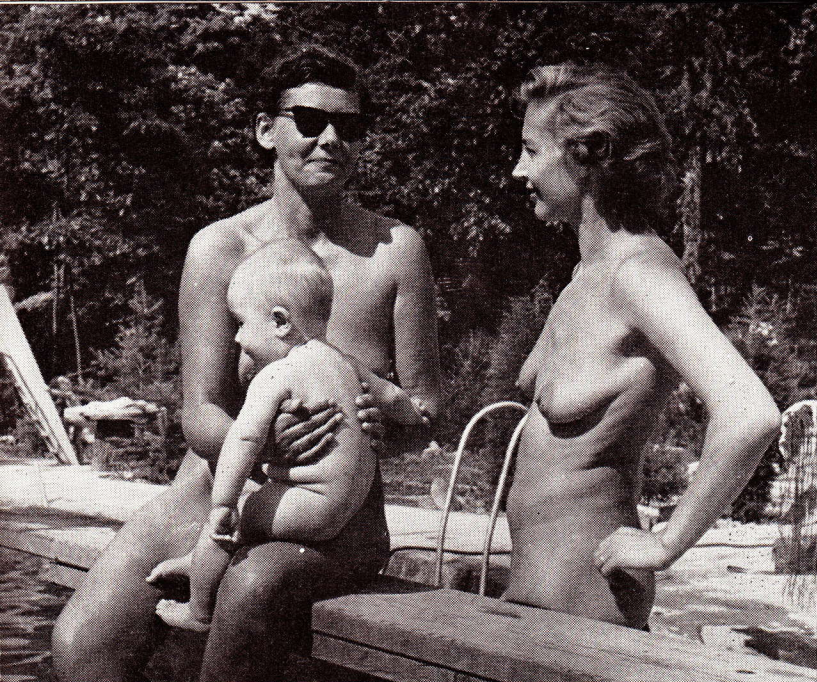
By L. B. BOWER



The Ruehles, popular nudist promoters, devote all efforts to spreading truths of nudism by operating year-round club, lecturing, writing. They see such teen-agers as Diane, facing page, as nudism's future pillars.

Nudism survives not by accident. Its growth, success, acceptance are due to dedicated men who make nudism full-time venture.

HISTORY IS IN THE MAKING in the nudist movement and a bright history it is. In a matter of a brief 35 years, it has grown from scratch to a practice that has become legally, socially and psychologically acceptable. Not that all Americans are flocking to nudist parks in huge numbers on a warm summer's week end, but the trend is in that direction. New parks such as Sunny Glades in Chatham, Ontario, are opening, special TV programs carry the story of nudism and MODERN SUNBATHING circulates freely on the nation's newsstands. Should an historian decide to write a definitive history of nudism in America, he will want to study its growth. He will learn about the group that met in a New York city gym in the early days. He will come across Jan Gay's famous book (famous in the early 'Thirties, that is) *On Going Naked*.

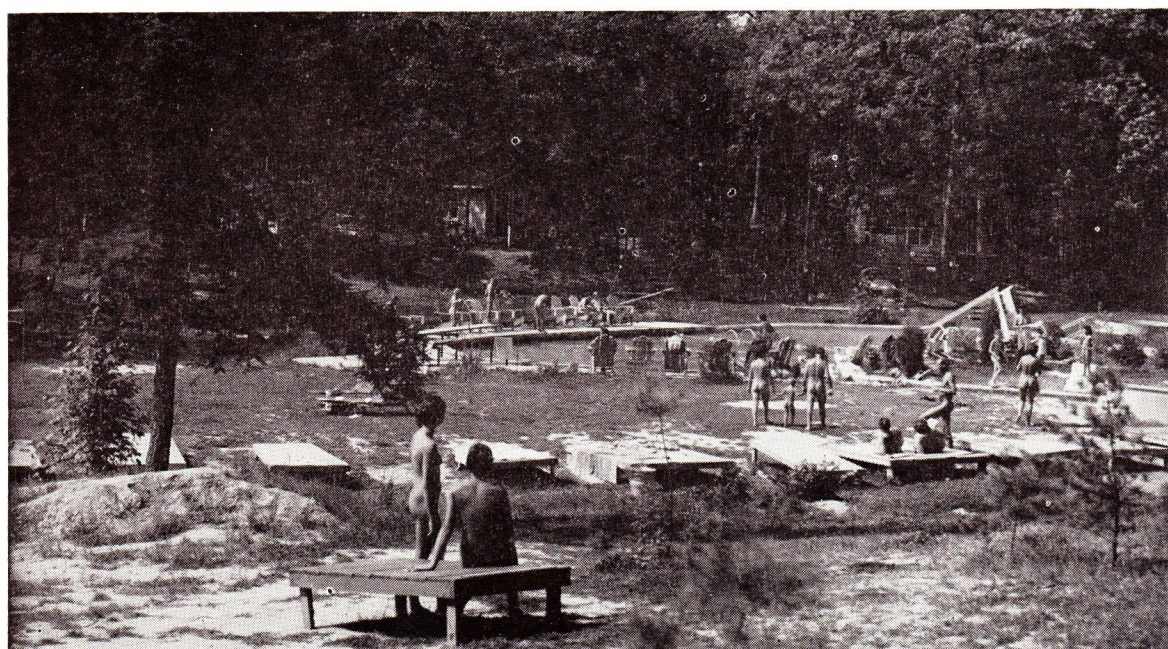


Strong believers in family togetherness, Ruehles encourage parents to include even tiniest tots in nudist activities. Large well-equipped play area, below, provides recreation facilities for young and old.

RUEHLE continued



But most important will be the record of people who have provided the leadership. Some of the pioneers of course have passed on but are remembered for their vision and dedication. Others, to our good fortune, live on to become the elder statesmen, offering their wisdom to the younger ones coming along. One such younger person is Karl Ruehle, founder and proprietor of Sun Valley Gardens located near Niagara Falls in Ontario. For Karl and his attractive wife Marlies the nudist movement is important enough to constitute their full-time activity. Lest anyone think that running a park is merely a seasonal undertaking, let it be known that Karl Ruehle keeps going 12 months a year under a full head of steam. On the several occasions I have visited in the off-season, Karl has been plugging away as if the day would not be long enough.

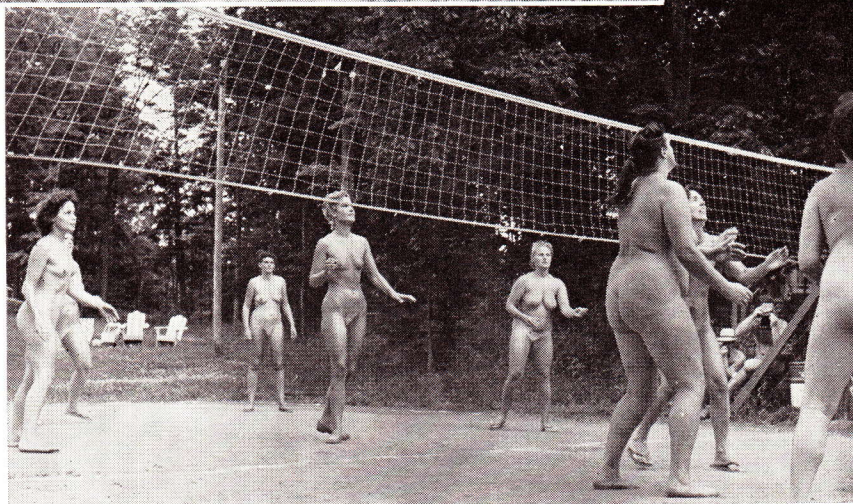






New building will house sauna bath. Karl intends to welcome public twice a week to further promote nudism.

Everyone plays ball now with additional court. Karl urges winter sports by chopping through ice, jumping in himself.



RUEHLE continued

During the summer Karl's work is obviously cut out for him but as the season comes to an end there's the yearly maintenance work to be done. Jobs that were sidetracked before the advent of summer can be resumed. In the short while before the snow flies, new construction can be undertaken. Awaiting Sun Valley members at the beginning of the 1962 season will be a second volleyball court where the visiting teams can work out. There will be a building to house new shower rooms and a mud bath, its roof providing a sun deck. (continued on page 41)

and the interest nudists have in nature. Even our girls walk the shores with net in hand in search of the ever wary turtle. So be it fish, turtles, examining colored stones, trees, flowers, or the beauty of the autumn leaf, nudists are closer to nature and interested in all that God gives us. And shouldn't it be this way? It's surely better than standing on some street corner wasting time or just plain getting bored in front of the idiot box.

The stress and strain of our daily living cause us sometimes to forget to use one of the best antidotes for nervous tension — nature combined with nudism. It's a fascinating and endless challenge no matter where we are, and the experience of enjoying nature without the confinement of clothing is an experience one must try to appreciate. Words are inadequate to describe the rewards.

Perhaps this desire and the tranquilizing satisfaction derived therefrom stem from man's unconscious memory of his beginnings as a child of nature. If you disagree, I humbly ask, why are billions of dollars spent on the enjoyment of water sports, be it a sea voyage, swimming, scuba diving, water skiing, boating, sunbathing on an air mattress as nudists do, or just the old swimming hole? But you ask, "Why do it in the nude?" And my answer is, "Why not?"

I have tried both the nudist and non-nudist ways and for complete realization of a dream come true, I will choose the nudist way. You must try nudism before you can disagree with me — and be honest please! I'll be at Zoro Nature Park to listen to your arguments, and you'll probably find me at the lake or pool with the rest of my friends — just doing what comes naturally. ■

Run-Around

(continued from page 9)

lace mantilla trimmed in silver threads. This helped make my short reign as WSA Queen-for-a-Day a unique experience. After the convention I fully expected to drop back into the interesting but unspectacular routine of Sundial Club committee and board meetings. Within a few months I found that my brief plunge into royal razzle-dazzle was to lead directly to a whole series of fascinating new opportunities.

Shortly after the beginning of 1962 a new publishing firm was organized by a fellow Sundial Club member. I wasn't surprised when the publisher asked me to pose for photographs intended for publication by the new firm, but I was stunned when he asked if I would be interested in serving on his board of directors. I was used to having my picture appear in nudist magazines but I could hardly claim that I was thereby qualified to participate in the dozens of corporate policy decisions involved in the publication process.

After recovering from my initial surprise I was advised that my experience as a photographic subject had very little to do with the opportunity being offered. It was the publisher's intention to staff the board of directors with a representa-

tive cross-section of the people active on the nudist scene. He had already secured the services of Dalton Atherton, owner-director of Sycamore Valley Ranch. The remaining position on the three-man board was being reserved for a woman — preferably one who was active in nudist administration and association activities. My term as Chairman of the Sundial Club Membership Committee fit this requirement exactly, with my big day as WSA queen adding an extra ingredient of firsthand knowledge about association events. Before the interview was over I found that there would also be an opportunity to use some of my art school training on the design of a corporate insignia and promotional material. I had no trouble deciding to accept the position.

My printer's devil days had a short reign and I was soon busy with the staff editing and making up the first of our two publications. It was a real thrill for me both as a nudist and a newcomer to publishing to see the first pages fall together with news of our nudist friends and their special and everyday activities. As a change of pace, our other publication will cater to you city-dweller nudists. (Please read our ad on page 42.)

During our first board of directors meeting at Sycamore Valley Ranch I submitted a proposed design for the basic corporate insignia and was understandably pleased to see it adopted. We also designated February 11 as the date for the first Annual Urban Nudist Day at Sycamore Valley Ranch.

Every week it seems that my position as woman member of the board of directors gets expanded to include some new project. One of these added tasks will be the handling of all of the correspondence from the readers. I am especially looking forward to hearing from those readers who have a question about the nudist idea from a woman's point of view. Inquiries about any facet of the nudist idea should be addressed to me, Ellie Edwards, Box 9366, North Hollywood, Calif. ■

Karl Ruehle

(continued from page 16)

During inclement weather Karl turns his attention more and more to his voluminous paper work. And this he apparently handles with efficiency if you consider that answers to the morning's mail go out in the afternoon! He prepares the monthly Sun Valley News which keeps members, friends and other clubs up to date on happenings at the park, plans for the future, major developments in the movement and milestones in the lives of members.

He keeps plugging away for complete acceptance of this new way of life — urging government authorities to set aside certain areas of public beaches for nude bathing and encouraging members to write in commending a certain broadcast which dealt favorably with the nudist movement. Karl appears as a lecturer to explain nudism, helps interested persons establish new groups and holds open house at Sun Valley Gardens if only to

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prove that nudism is something open and above board. If there could be a new wrinkle for spreading the word, it's a good bet that it will occur to Karl Ruehle.

If nudism is good for the summer time it should be good for the winter time too, Karl reasons. A feature of Sun Valley Garden's winter program is a scheduled member's day at a nearby club which has a steam bath. When present building plans materialize Sun Valley Gardens will have its own elaborate sauna. Always looking for a way to further nudism, Karl plans to have two days a week reserved for non-nudists of the community, one day for men and another for ladies. The other days will be for members and their families. Karl believes that the family day should prove attractive to the non-nudist families who have to split up and come out on separate days.

In one respect a good many people will undoubtedly feel that Karl has gone too far in trying to promote nudist activity. During the fall Karl kept reporting in the Sun Valley News that people were still going swimming even though the fall was well advanced. In the January issue he reported chopping a hole in the swimming pool ice and going in for a dip. He then claimed that it was quite refreshing and he'd be glad to chop a hole in the ice for any interested members.

As history records the efforts of Karl Ruehle on behalf of the nudist movement it will also note in bold strokes the effective efforts of Marlies Ruehle. Although slight of build and soft of voice, Marlies is a tower of strength for Karl and, as I see it, is responsible in no small measure for the outstanding success of the nudist partnership of Ruehle and Ruehle.

If you live in the Ontario region or the western part of New York state, why don't you and your family visit the Ruehles as prospective members? They will welcome hearing from you. If you're a member of another group they will be delighted to have you as a visitor. And while you're in the area you can visit that other famous attraction, Niagara Falls. ■

Badgers

(continued from page 32)

all the main towns in the Harz Mountains and stayed the night in five of them. We stayed in youth hostels and enjoyed the experience very much.

During the tour we visited three sun clubs, at Bielefeld, Hannover and Göttingen, where we were welcomed and quickly shown the lovely cool swimming pools.

The Bielefeld Club was just behind a small airfield and glider club. It was quite a walk to the club and we were very thankful to jump into a cool swimming pool. The square pool had been very carefully built. We did not stay there very long but we enjoyed our short visit.

We stayed the night in Hannover and in the morning were received by the Oberbürgermeister in his historical Rathaus. We were given grape juice to drink to the health of the friendship between

the English and German people. Then we had a guided tour of the town in our own bus. While in Hannover we visited the Hannover Club which was harder to find, but we stayed there longer. We all loved this club because there was so much to do there. They had a large pool that looked natural and had a lovely soft sandy bottom. Although it rained, most of us went for a swim and played a mad very wet game of ball. There was a large faustball court and our boys played against the Germans. The large playground had some ingenious swings and slides for the children to play on.

The thing that most amazed us was a lake that was going to be built to cover 1000 acres. The town wanted to build a new autobahn but there was a lake in the way. They moved the whole lake, in stages, quite a distance from its original position, into the Hannover Club grounds and the earth was taken from the club to build the autobahn.

We continued our tour and visited the Volkswagen works at Wolfsburg, Osterode, where the Stadtdirector took us around the town, and Hohegeiss, where we saw a lot of the zone boundary. We had seen color slides of the border back in Cologne and in Hohegeiss we could see for ourselves the roads that suddenly stopped, the propaganda posters and barbed wire with the ten-meter strip. None of us will forget these in a hurry!

The next club we went to was at Göttingen. The leader of their youth group met us before we got to the club and came back with us afterwards to have supper at the youth hostel. The club was very nice and had a wonderful faustball court of which the members were very proud. The court consisted of the best kept emerald-green grass any of us had seen for a long time. They also had a pool which was deeper than it looked. Most of us had a lovely cool swim and the boys played faustball again. That evening we went to the swimming baths in the town of Göttingen. The club had booked it for an hour and we could swim with no costumes on. The showers in the baths were warm and this was the first time that any of us had washed in really warm water since we had left England. It had been all this Spartan stuff and ice cold water every morning. During the evening there was a relay race: Deutschland vs. England. We won by a fraction of a second with Tony, our last swimmer, catching up wonderfully.

We next visited the Friedland Refugee Camp where we spoke to some people who had fled from East Germany. Then we returned to the Helios Club in Cologne to stay for the Friday night, Saturday (when we went to the town to buy souvenirs and presents for our families) and Sunday morning. On Sunday afternoon we left the club for our long journey home. Home where everyone speaks English, and understands any insults thrown at them, and where money is not so plentiful for us poor, overworked, deprived teenagers. (Don't you believe a word of it!) We were tired but happy, and already planning a further trip to our second adopted home, Deutschland. ■