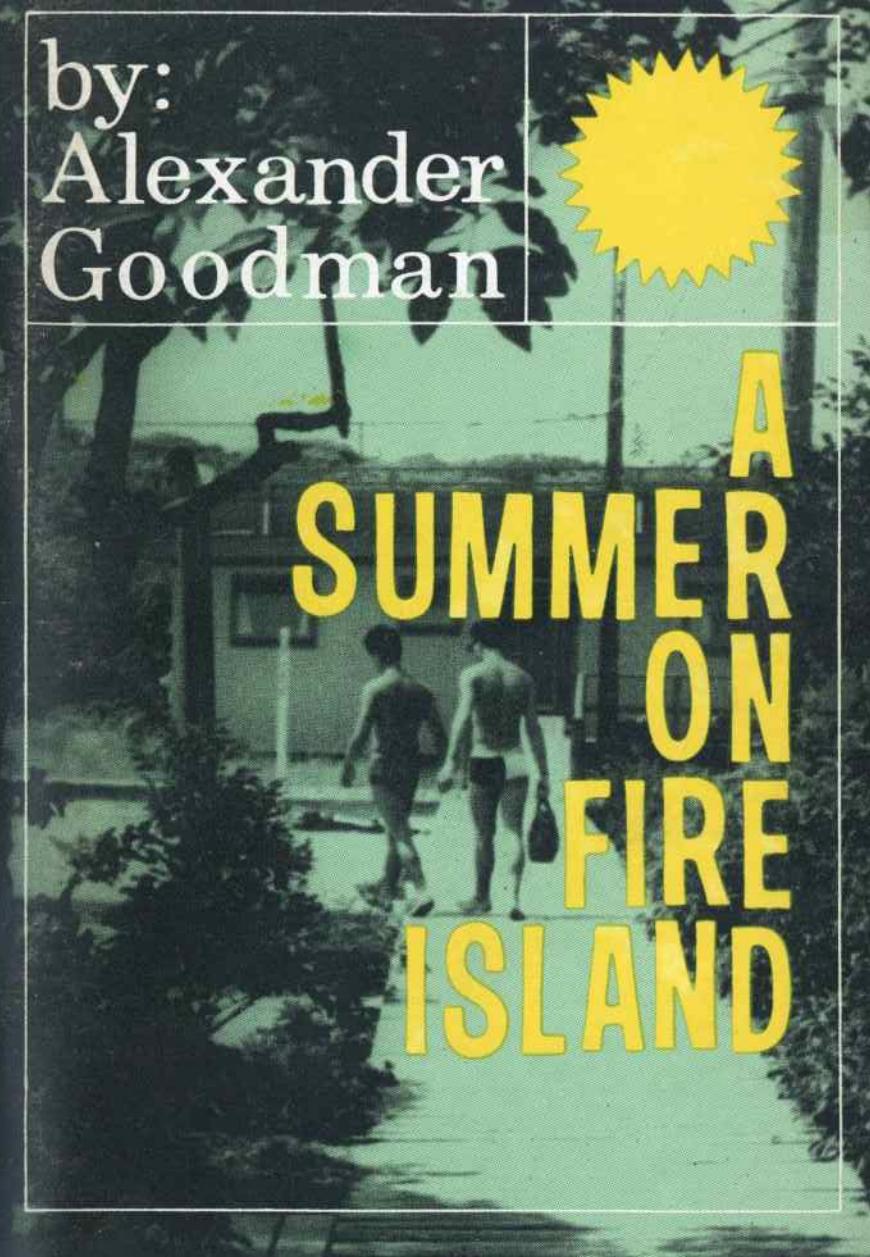


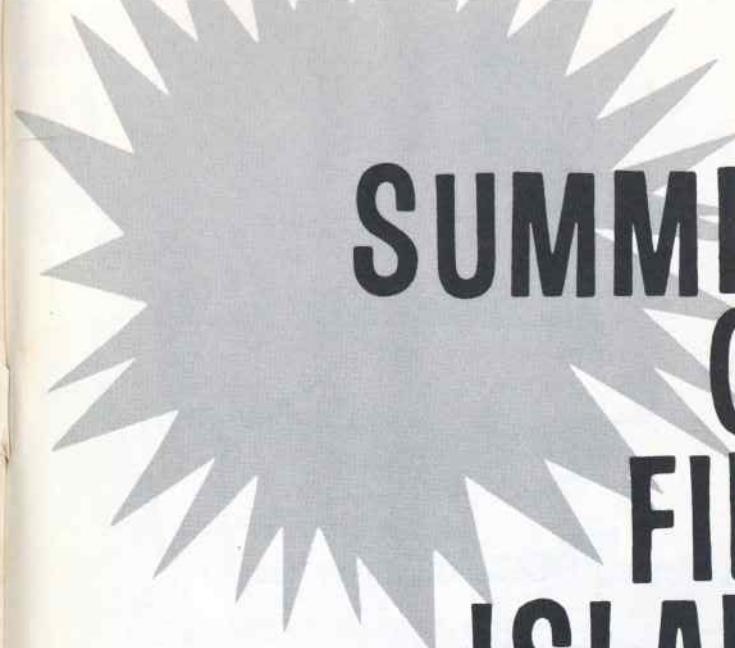


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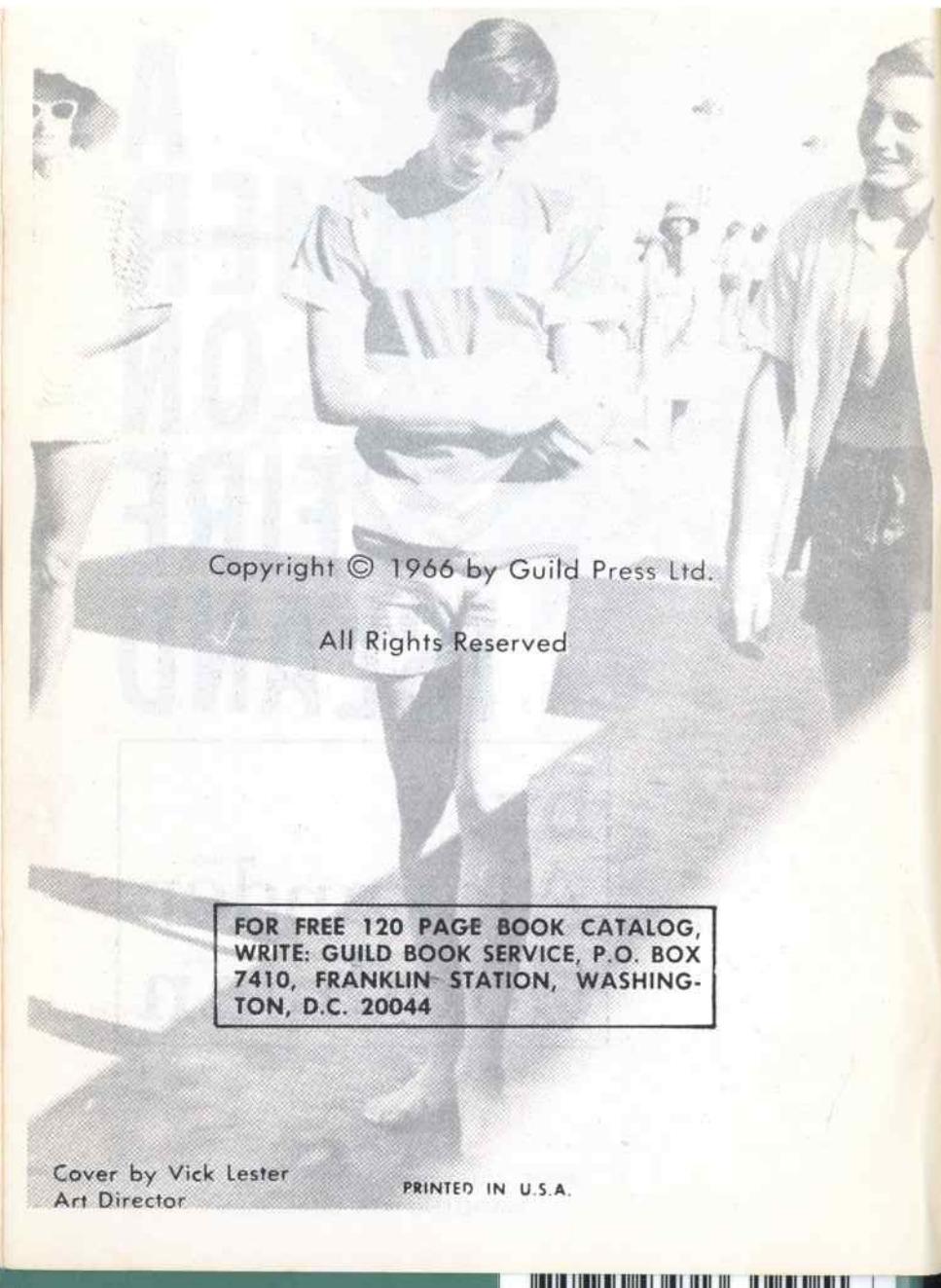


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two solid days building the facade of an ocean liner for their "Bon Voyage" gala.

Each costume party has a theme: the Baby Shower, the Arabian Nights, Luau, Hadassah, Voyage to the Moon, Hollywood, Shakespeare. And each invited household appears in costumes which complement each individual and also fit in with the main theme.

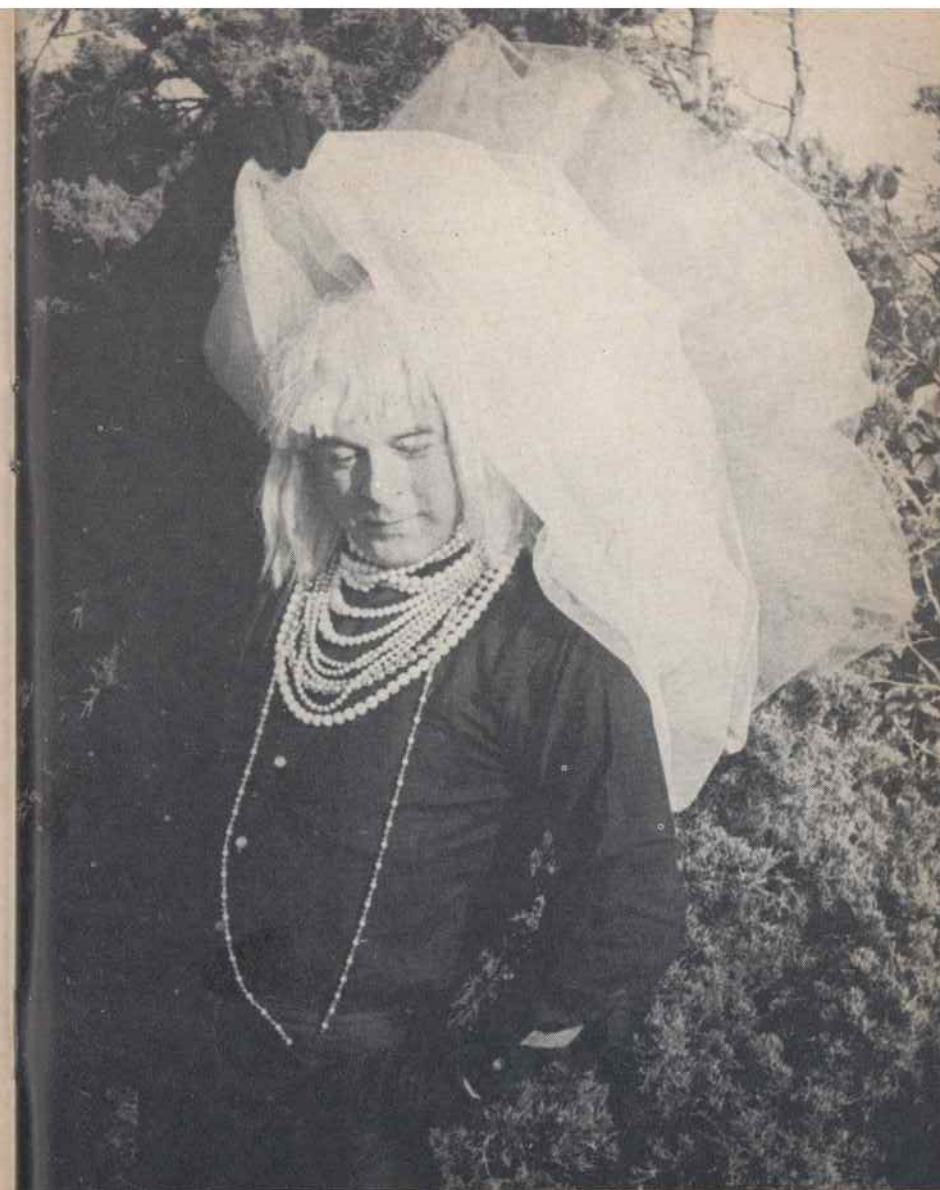
For "The Reign of Terror" ball, for instance, Marie Antoinette in a towering wig and hoopskirt came with four executioners with axes and black masks. For "Egyptian Nights" a Negro Cleopatra lay on a bepillowed golden chaise held aloft by four white stripped-to-the-waist muscle boys.

Just for a lark, let us drop in on one of the really successful affairs of a few years ago.

For the "Annual Academy Awards" party, champagne is flowing from a fountain. In the front yard of the host cottage, a platform stage has been put up in the center, facing the fountain. A table on the stage holds rows of golden statuettes (of slender, androgynous figures), called "Marys." At the very end of the affair they will ceremoniously be awarded to: The Handsomest Male on Fire Island, The Busiest Belle in the Meat Rack, The Boy with the Greatest Physique, The Biggest Mouth in Cherry Grove, The Most Elegant (or Swishiest, or Prettiest, or Bitchiest) Queen on the Island, etc. Each lucky fellow receives his award to enthusiastic applause and fanfare.

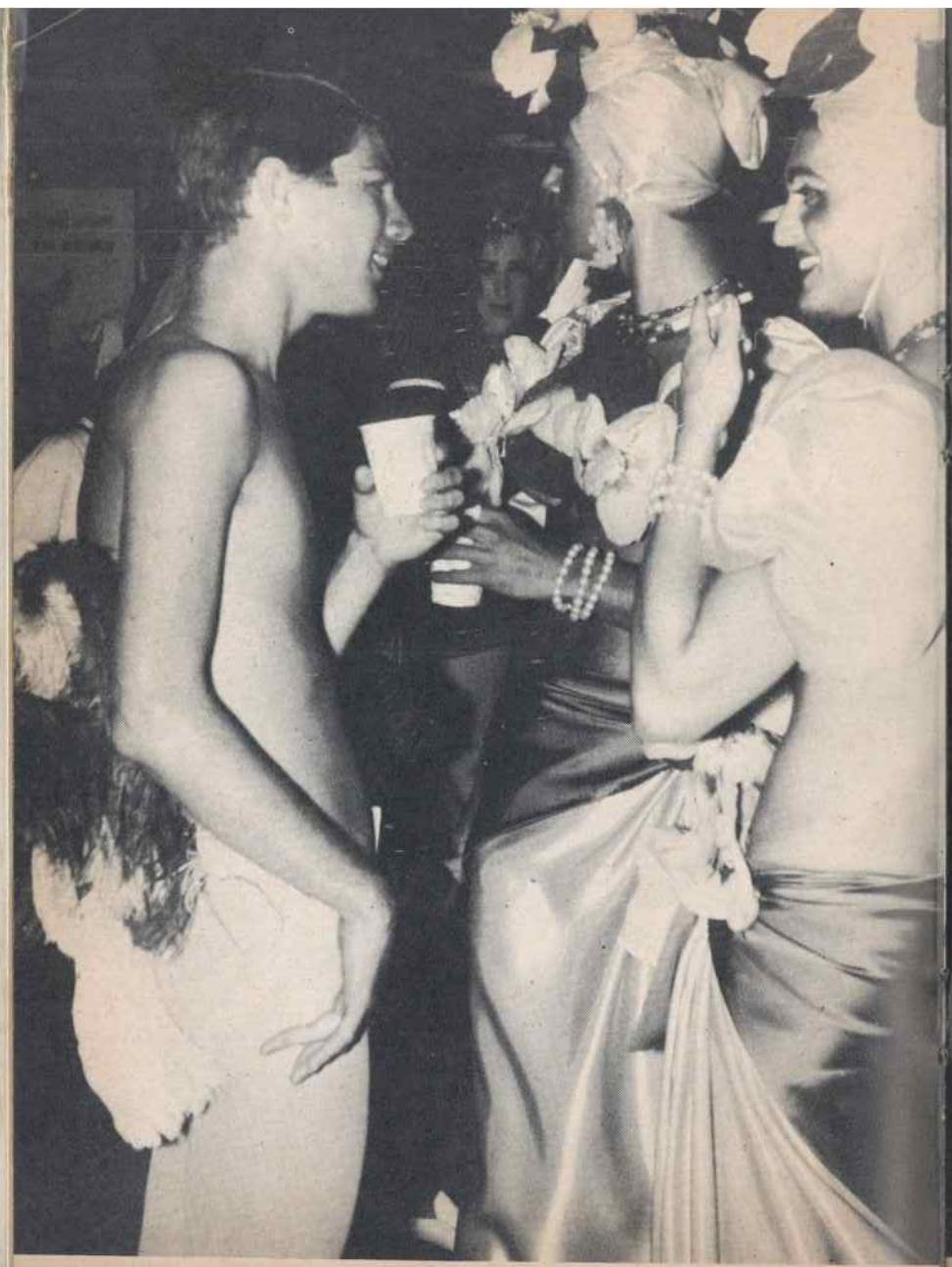
The party officially starts at 9. But everyone knows that any really chic Cherry Grover always arrives at least an hour late.

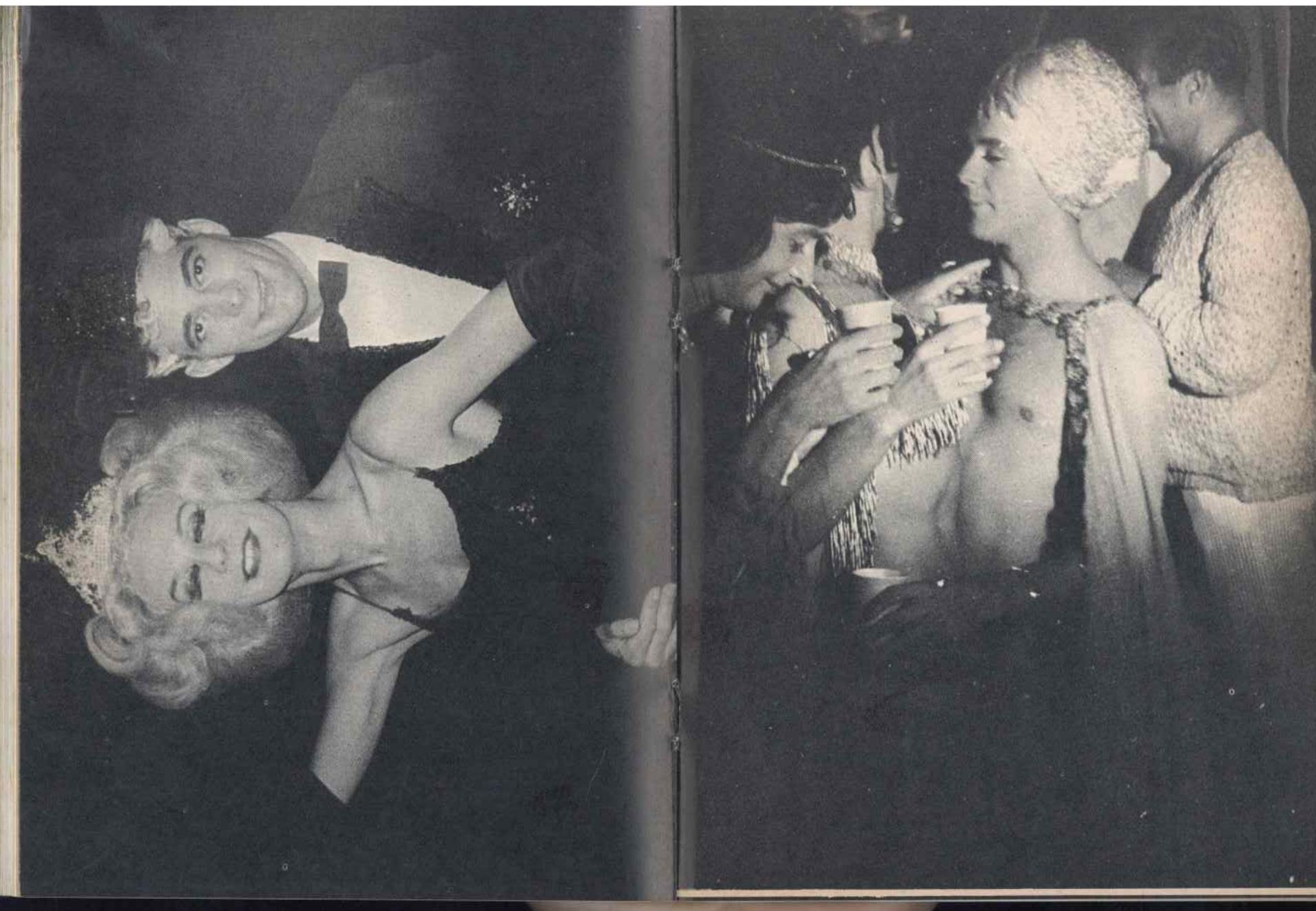
As it becomes darker, sightseers gather around the front yard fence; floodlights bathe the entranceway



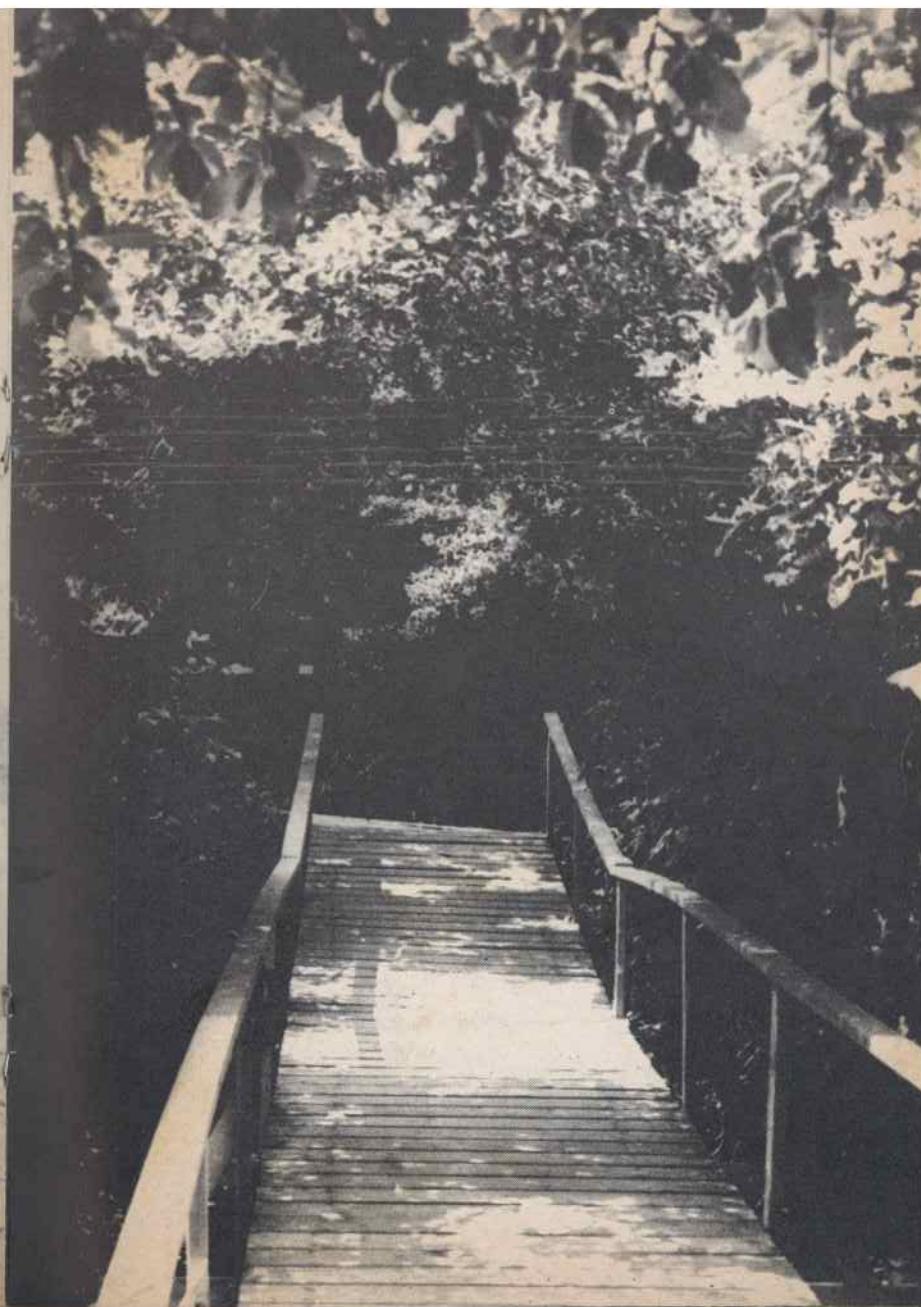
The cast of characters is always changing and the costumes are a tribute to ingenuity and imagination.







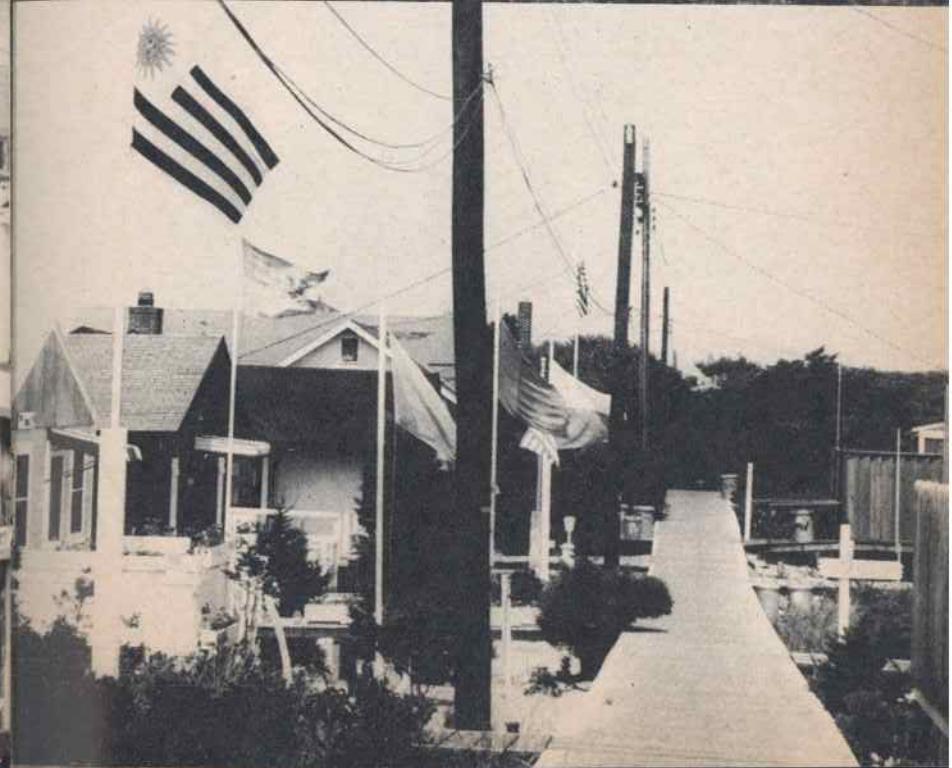
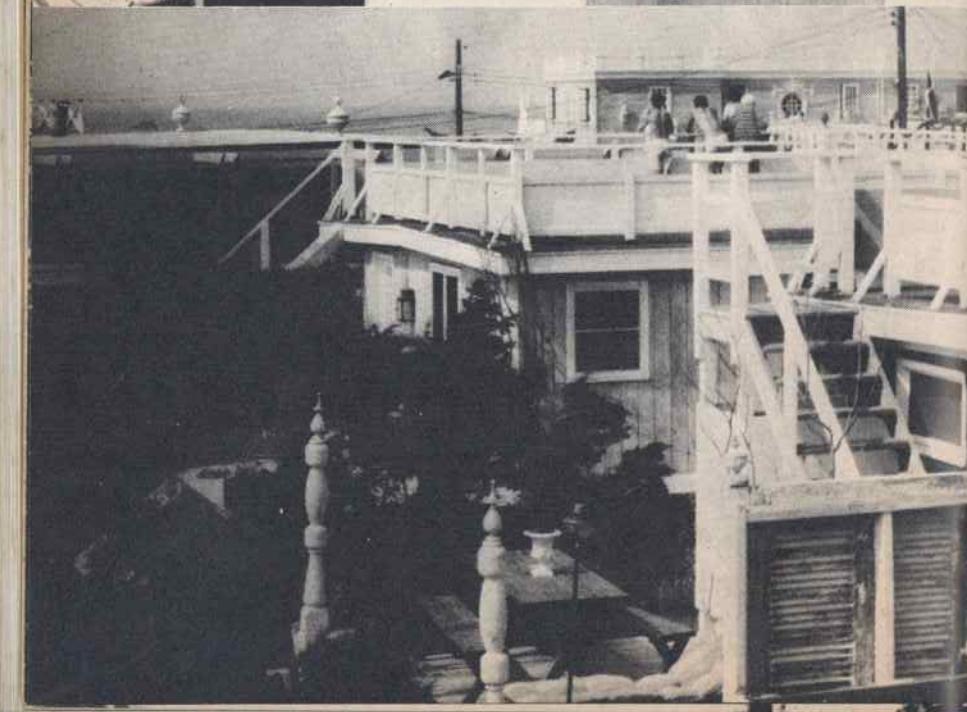
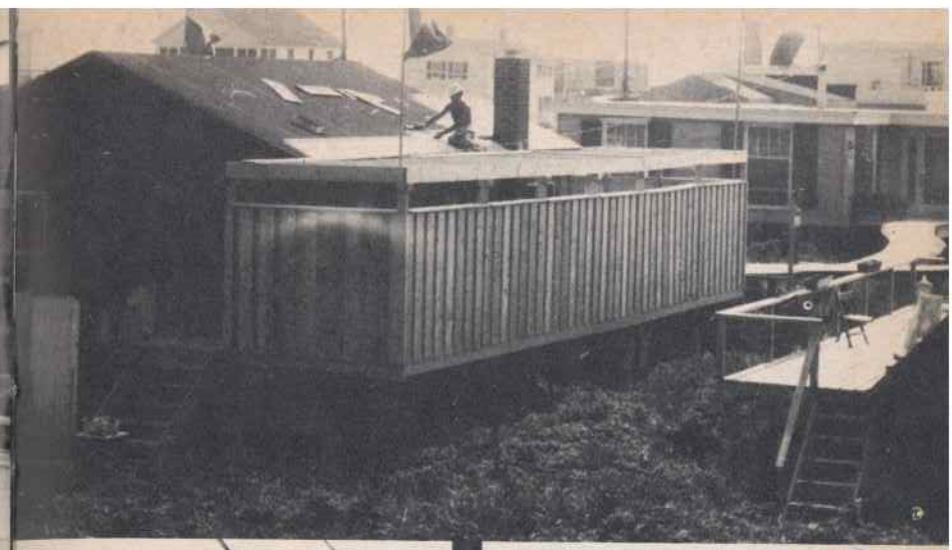
The Beach is one of the really beautiful things at Fire Island. Across the way you see a wooden sidewalk end and one of the many pathways which lead wherever you want to go—but all of them lead to the famed "meat rack" itself, pictured on the following page.



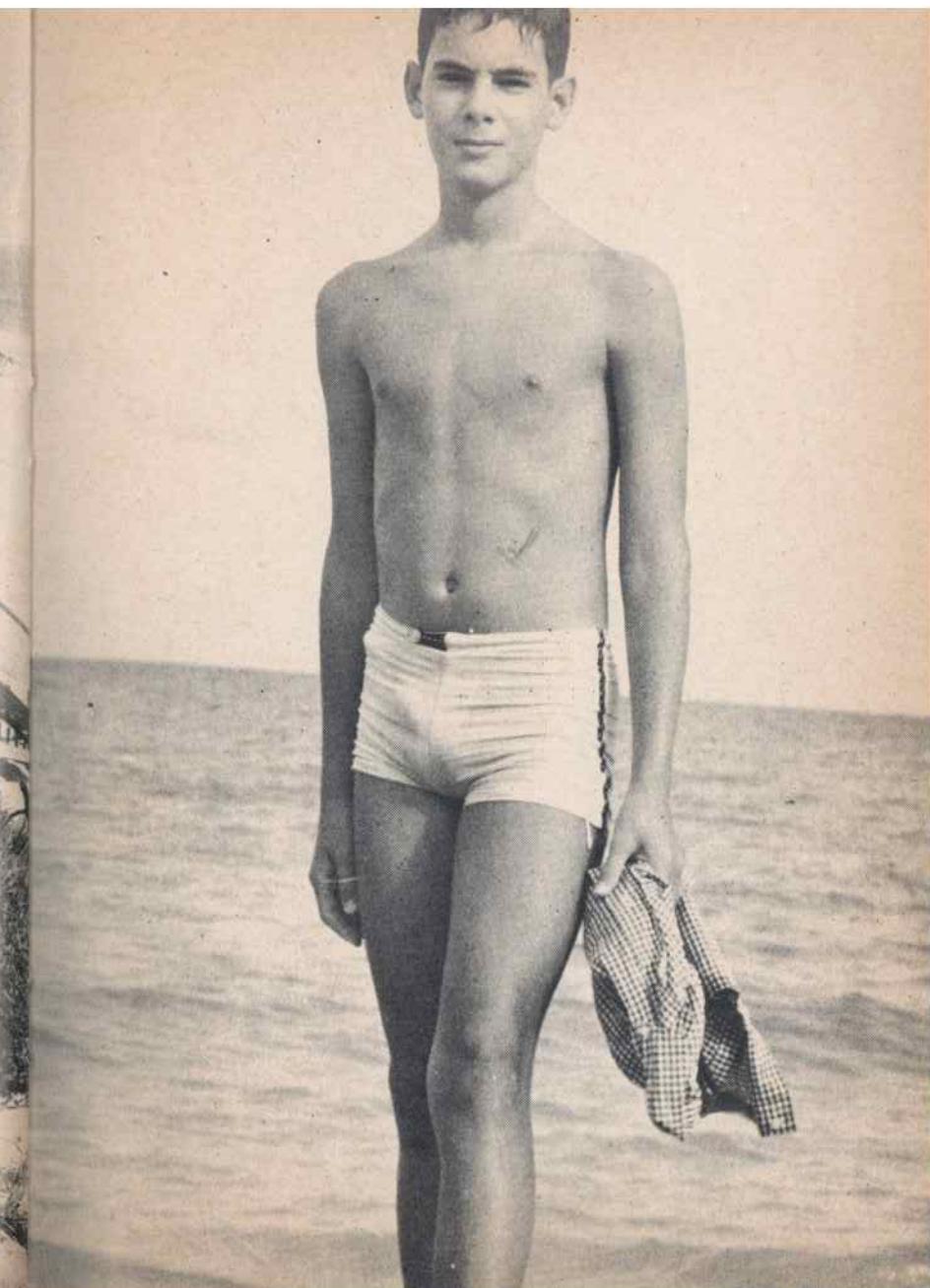
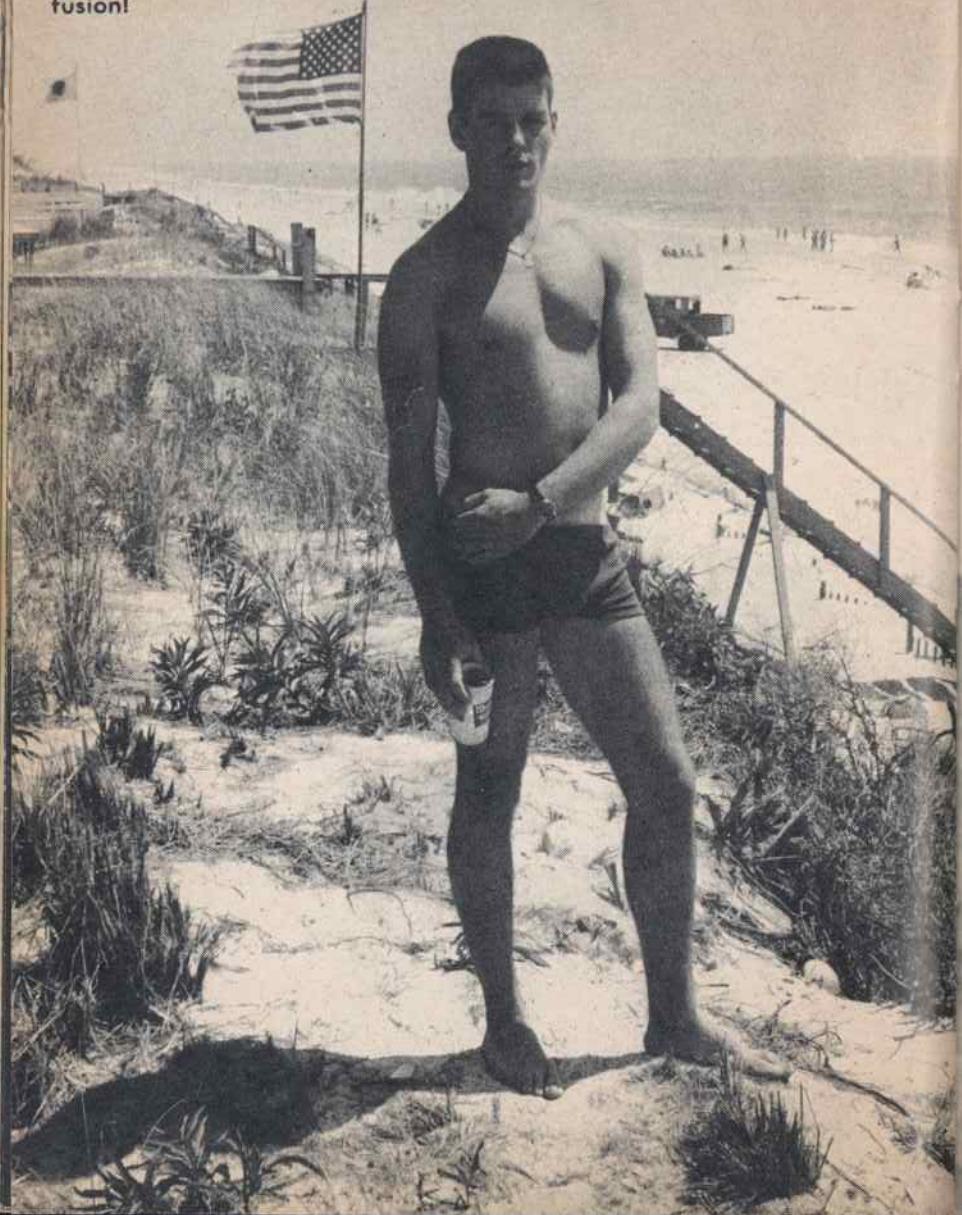


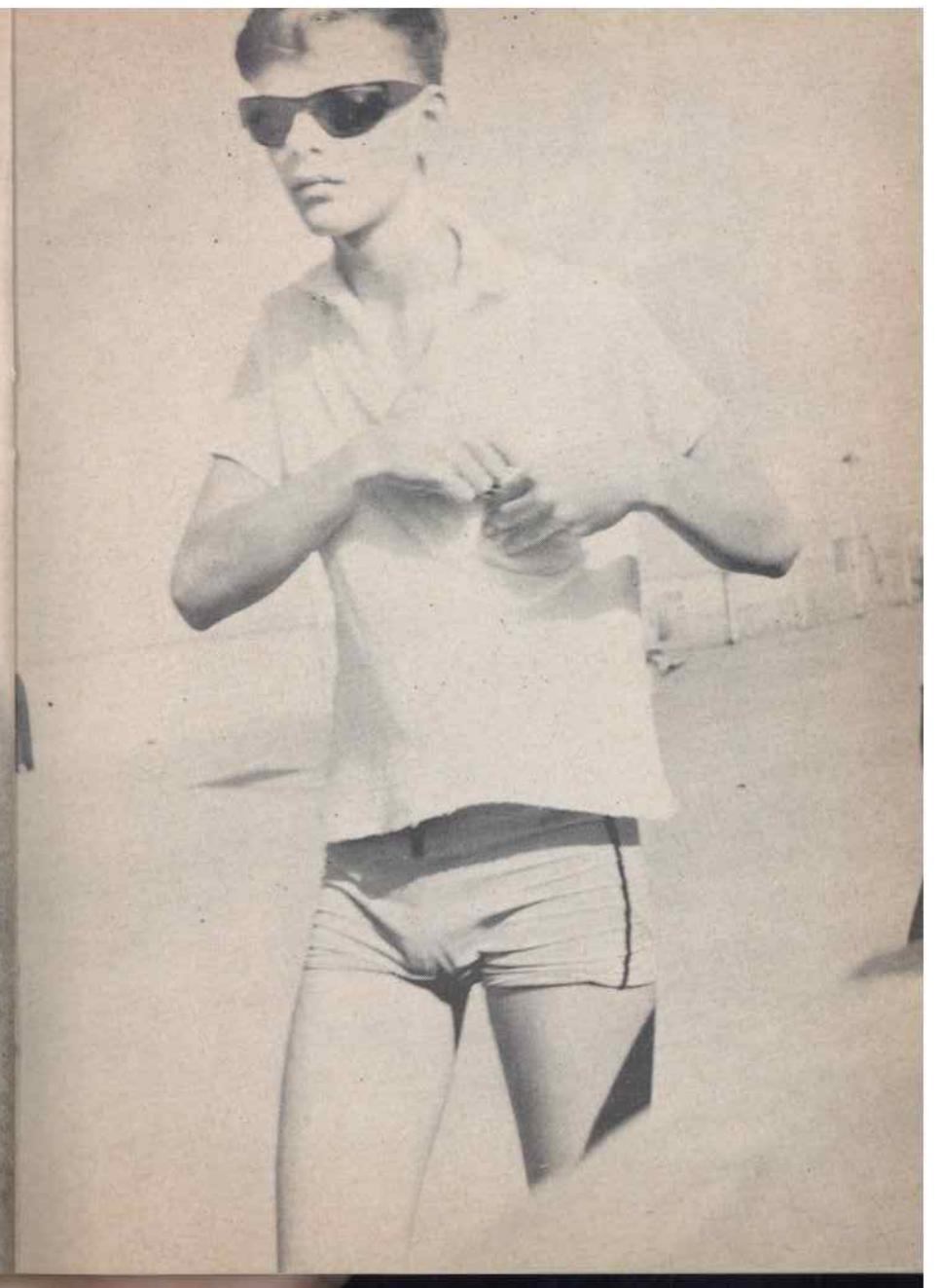
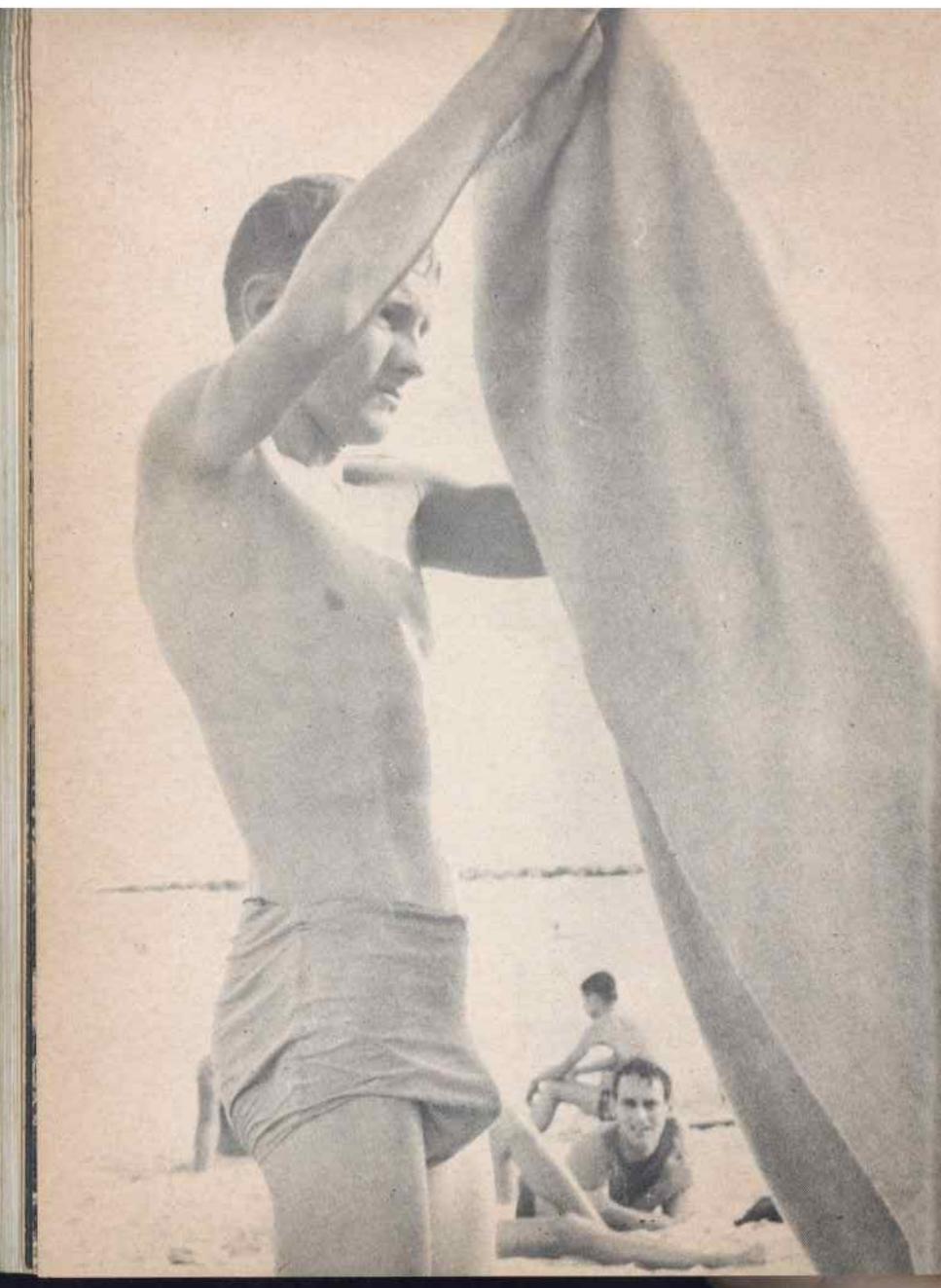
Across the way is a clearing in the "meat rack" and below we have a closer view of the dunes and underbrush that surround famed glade.

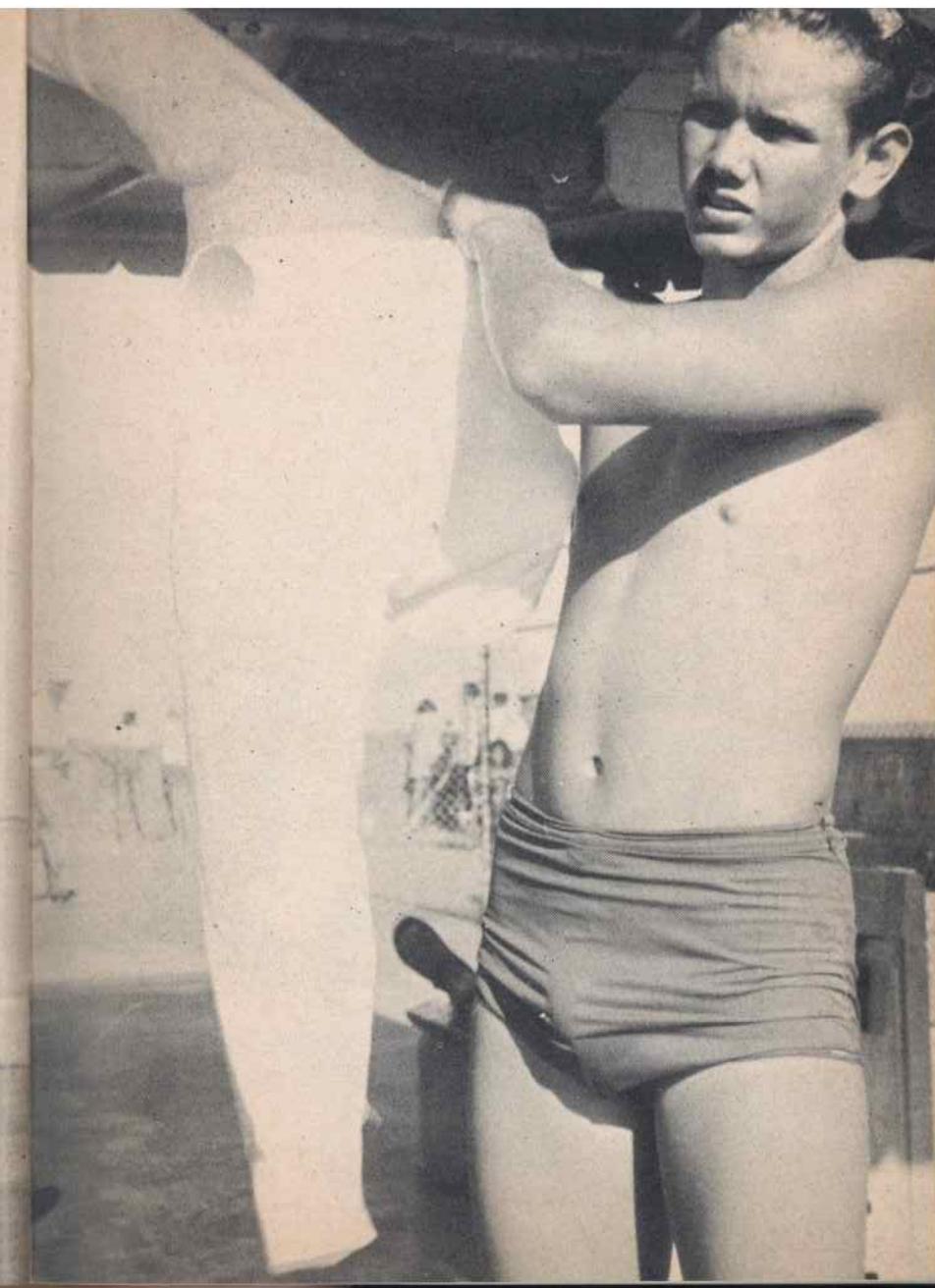
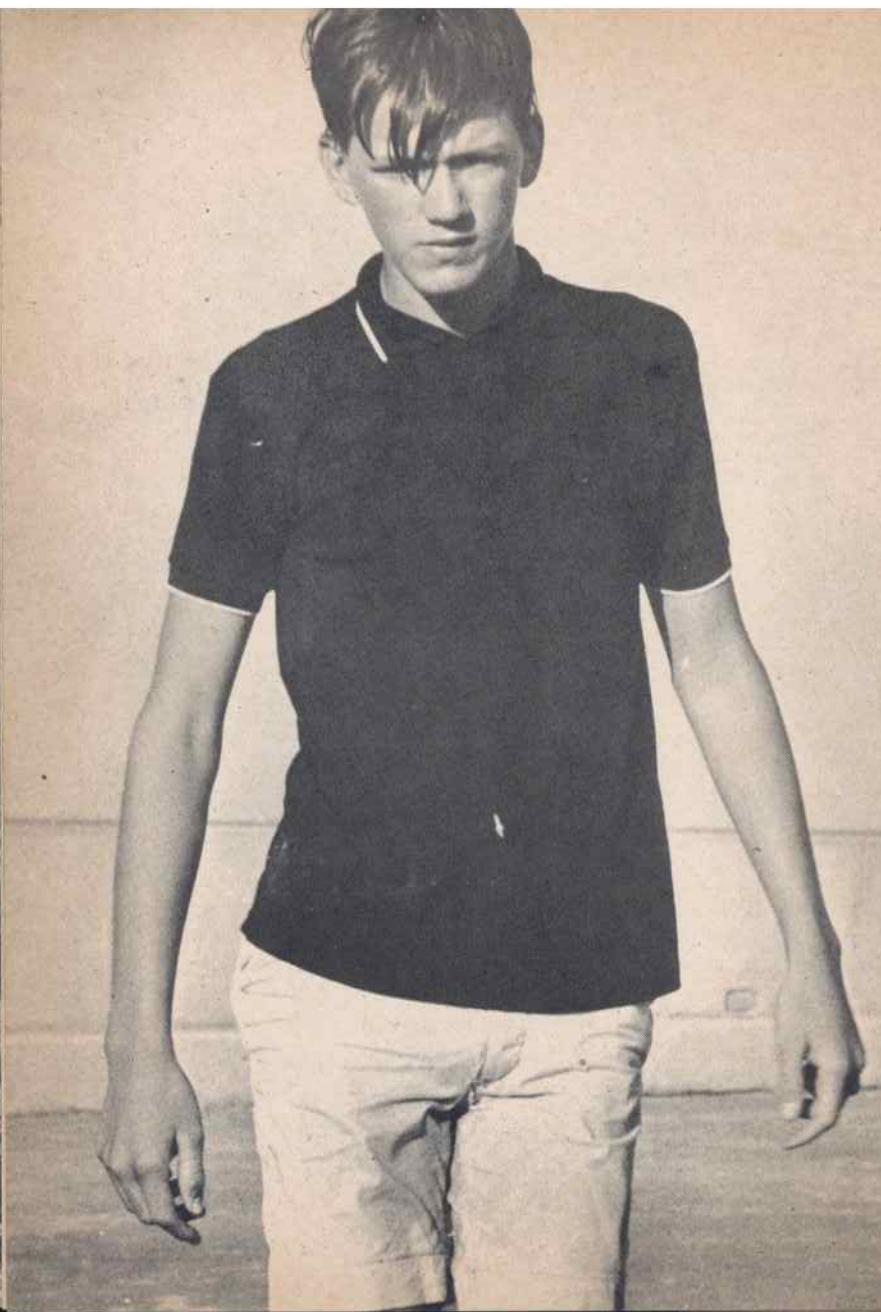


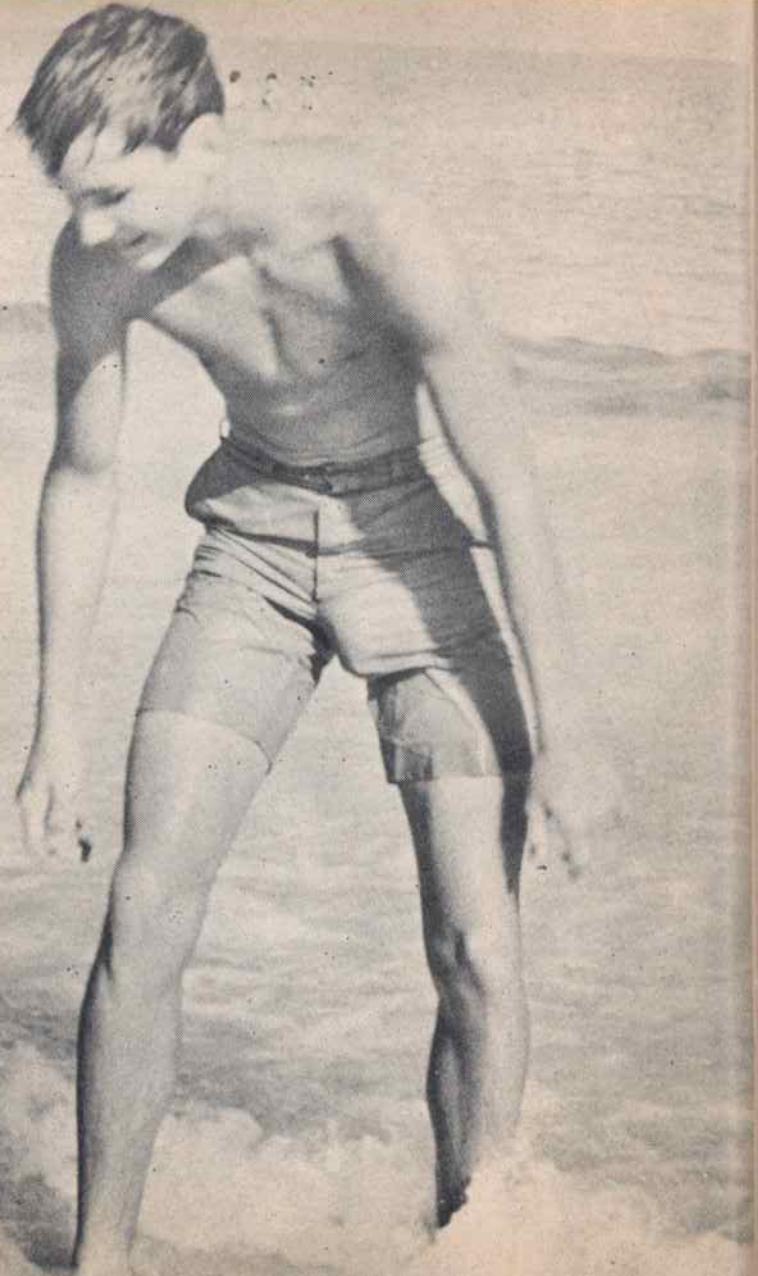


Yes, there are boys; some available, some not; some free, some expensive; some beautiful, some unattractive; but they are there in profusion!









in glaring white light. One by one bedazzling visions of Ziegfeld Girls, Leading Ladies, Stars, Starlets (all boys, all accoutered in the most extravagant of plumages) push through the clamorous sightseers to the main promenade on which they elegantly saunter up to the stage where they are pithily interviewed by the Mistress of Ceremonies. After daintily stepping down from the platform they make a mad dash for the champagne. Now holding their wine-filled paper cups, they stand with friends and vehemently dish the stars now arriving.

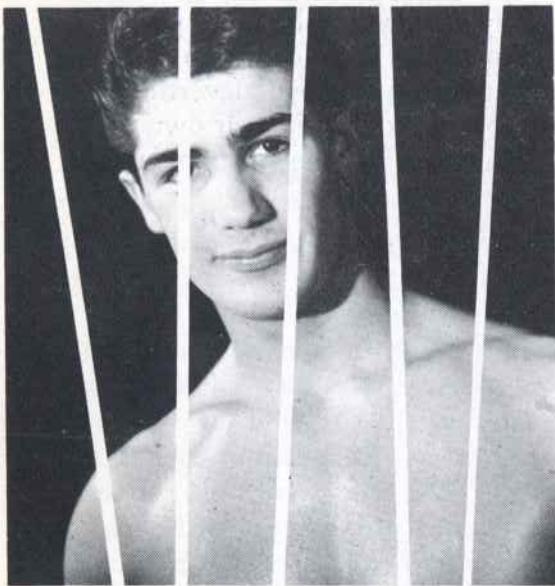
The Mistress of Ceremonies tonight is Lana Turner, out of drag a stocky muscleman, but dressed tonight in a billowing muumuu of pink feathers and a sleek, shiny blond wig, she is all gregarious femininity. With the microphone in her hand, she effusively greets her star-studded guests as they grandly walk toward her through the bright lights and the cheering throng.

A stunning brunette in a tight-fitting blue evening gown majestically swishes up the walk with her escort of three handsome chorus boys dressed in top hat and tails.

"And now, Ladies and Gentlemen," says Lana, seething with excitement, "who do I see coming toward the stage? Who can it be? Is it really— Is it possibly— Yes, it is, Ladies and Gentlemen—one of the greats! It's none other than that fine actress and a great personal friend of mine, Ava Gardner! Give Ava a hand, everybody!"

And in his exquisite gown and wig and makeup, the boy does look like Ava Gardner, only a younger and prettier version.

"Now, Ava, you know how much we all adore your movies. It's really a great thrill to see you here tonight. Would you mind saying just a word or two to all your



QUOTES:

"Didn't you get a look at his equipment?"

"Then he comes over to me with that thing of his looking like a big hammer and says 'Turn over.' "



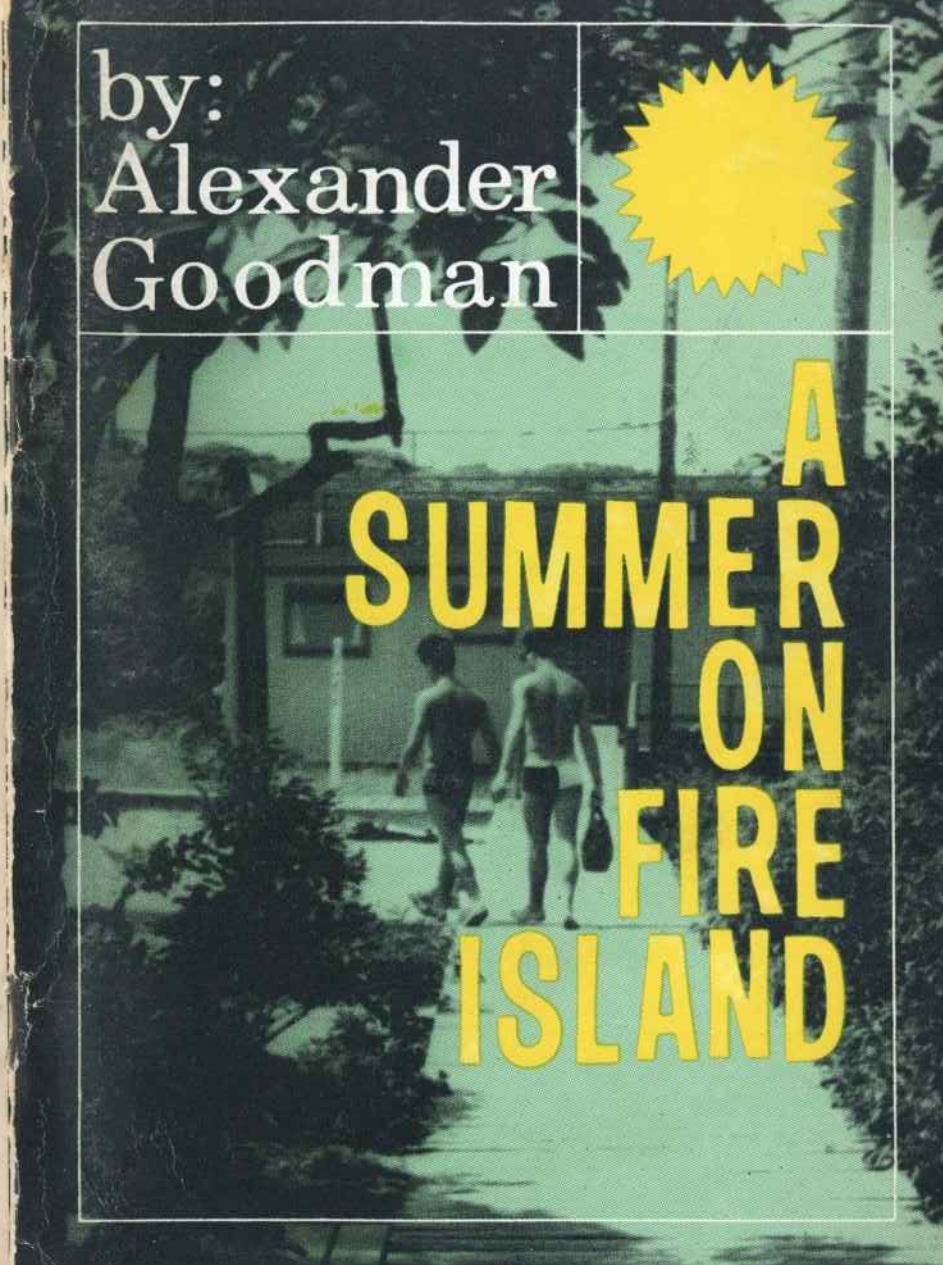
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