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The Newsletter of the *Naturist Action Committee* and the *Naturist Education Foundation*

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NEF Research Library Begins Digital Lending of Videos

(And it's free!)

Digital Lending was first announced back in February 2020, only offering a small amount of naturist music at the time. Through much of 2020, I posted reviews of the audio tracks while digitization activities were happening. By the end of 2020, everything was digitized (except one pesky Pathé record), making NEFRL's collection the biggest group of skinny dipping, streaking, and nude-related music available for free through the Internet.

Another section available for Digital Lending is the "Other Stuff". These are all the odds-and-ends items at the library. I've been cataloging each item while I digitize them, either photographing the item or using a flatbed scanner. Some of these items are pretty unique.

Our video library has always been a challenge. First and foremost, we hired the services of a company to digitize our eight 8mm celluloid films, and our one 16mm celluloid film. We announced the availability of these films in April 2020. The longest celluloid film is about 15 minutes, so the resulting file was small enough to fit on our web server.

Before any further films could be offered, we needed a whole new web server that allowed for larger files. As you saw in the December 2021 newsletter, our new websites were announced. Following that, there was some effort to transition the Digital Lending system to the new web host. So far, it's working great!

The next priority is to digitize the DVD's, starting with the Fiction section. Then, the Non-Fiction DVD's, and eventually the VHS tapes. It's a long process, and we'll keep rolling out new videos as we can make them available.



Read more about free Digital Lending and sign up at:
<https://naturisteducation.org/programs/nefrl/digital-lending/>



*Roses are red,
 Violets are blue,
 We couldn't achieve our goals
 if it wasn't for you...*



*The Naturist Action Committee
 The Naturist Education Foundation*

Film Review: Eves On Skies

By Reb Belstner

Director: Michael Keatering (Pseudonym of Edward Craven Walker – inventor of the lava lamp.)

[Editor's note: While verifying this, I found Walker's Wikipedia entry very interesting! He was a member of a naturist camp in the 1950's and that's where he met his second wife Elizabeth Gilbert.]

At the opening of this film we are informed it is the third in a series to feature well-known "naturist ambassador" Elizabeth, having been featured in the previous films "Traveling Light" and "Sunswept" (the latter of which has a prominent product placement early in this movie). The sad truth is we actually see less of Elizabeth and more of nubile sisters Jill and Caren (yes, that's with a "C" and not with a "K").

At thirty minutes in length, we start off in swinging London with 17-year old Jill, our innocent heroine who happens to be a nudist, dance-skipping through the town and reading newspaper articles about naturism over the shoulders of older men.

In this film, we are early on shown flashing scenes of the electric nightlife of London in the Sixties. I had thought, at the time, I was going to see a narrative juxtaposition of the artificiality of city life vs. the upcoming purity of nature in the alps. Sadly, the diametrically opposed settings were not used again to what I felt would have been great affect. It seemed to me the only point in the urban setting was to get a promotional song called "Stalemate" by a group going by the name "The Condors".

In a move that would make the late great Doris Wishman proud, none of the actors featured have any speaking lines. Instead voice overs are provided by different off-screen actors to give narrative to what I suppose is to be a slice-of-life documentary.

As we transition from narrative speech by actors representing first Jill, then Herbert, and finally Elizabeth – the nominal star of the show – we meet up in the Austrian alps with Karl, your guide, who teaches you to climb hills, etc, on skis. Not very informative, from a documentary point of view, but interesting none the less.

I guess it gets warm up there! After a short while Herbert sheds to a sleeveless undershirt and wipes sweat from his brow. Soon enough, 15 minutes into the film, everyone loses their clothing and finishes the uphill climb to the hut where they will spend their vacation.

It may seem counter-intuitive, naturism in the alps in winter, but the fact of the matter is the sun reflecting off the fields of snow actually generates a



Now Available for Digital Loan

Celluloid (8mm or 16mm)	
video100	The Take Off (ASA)
video101	World Without Clothes
video102	Jacqueline
video103	Tivoli Film
video104	Start Sunbathing
video105	Natural Beauties
video106	Topless Beach Babes
video107	Balled Up
video108	Untitled
Non-Fiction	
video671	Chasing the Sun
Fiction	
video200	American Nudist
video202	Anarchy TV: The Movie
video205	Bashful Bikini
video207	Beast that Killed Women and The Monster of Camp Sunshine
video213	Confetti
video224	Eves on Skies ←
video226	First Nudie Musical
video234	Gone With the Sun
video237	Hideout in the Sun
video238	I'm Alright Jack
video239	Le Gendarme De Saint-Tropez
video246	Luz del Fuego
video248	Magic Glasses
video249	Maslin Beach
video250	Mon curé chez les nudists
video254	Naked: A Psychological Thriller
video255	Naked as Nature Intended

good deal of warmth – enough to make you want to go down to your skivvies and beyond.

Upon arriving at the hut, the rest of the film devolves into a typical "nudist" film with sunbathing and even a beach ball! Because of the alpine setting there is the obligatory snowball fight, but also an interesting vignette concerning igloo building.

In the end, I found "Eves on Skies" a fun little jaunt but was unsure as to what it wanted to be: a film promoting the virtues of naturism or, as it seemed to turn into halfway through, a "nudie cutie" in which there were a dearth of men and the women were given the most screen time. I would also have liked to learn more about Elizabeth, the supposed "naturist ambassador"

who got very little screen time.

If you have 30 minutes to spare and want to see igloos built in the buff, this movie is for you!

[Editors note: If you're a registered library patron (which is free), you can view this film by requesting "video224" (also free). Learn more about Digital Lending at NaturistEducation.org, under the NEF Research Library page.]



It Takes Two to ~~Tango!~~ *Catalog!*

By Doug Hickok

Prior to 2018, the NEF Research Library was basically a very large storage closet. Trusted researchers were granted access to the library by appointment. The website had a decent list of books, audios, and videos. Some sections weren't cataloged at all. (Some things in the lists weren't actually on the shelves either.) The biggest section, all the nudist magazines, only had a list of titles and a count of how many were supposed to be on the shelf. Did we have *Sunshine & Health* Volume 25 number 12? I had absolutely no idea, without driving there and rummaging through the shelves.

Since 2018, NEF has turned it into a functioning library. Visitation is still by appointment, but researchers can also access materials remotely through a standard Research Request process (similar to other libraries) or through Digital Lending (also similar to other libraries, who typically rely on the "Overdrive" app to provide this service.) Of course, none of this addresses the biggest task: Cataloging. How can people know what to request if they don't even know what we have?

My lovely wife, Amanda Hickok, happened to have experience working at a library, had time available, and had an eager willingness to spend weekends with me at the NEF Research Library. The efforts she put in were astounding!

We spent five very full weekends cataloging (or at least indexing, and sometimes completely re-sorting) nearly 16,000 magazines. I pulled magazine holders off the shelf and read through the titles, dates, volume & issue numbers, all while she typed the data in at a speedy rate. Alone, there's no way it could've been done in ten weekends. Each of us were fast at the tasks we did, and we worked in the perfect harmony that only a long-time loving couple could do.

Beyond the initial cataloging effort, Amanda took the lead on the one-person job of carefully merging in new donations. We had a sizable wall of incoming donations, after at least a few years of neglect, that Amanda tackled head-on and prevailed.

There's lots of other cataloging to do, and with Amanda's passing last November, it may not happen as fast as it should. I'm cataloging the videos right now, and books and booklets will be sometime well into the future if no other volunteers come forward.

Amanda and I never did learn to tango. We could only foxtrot. 



Amanda Hickok, making the job look effortless.



The 16,000 magazines. It may not look like much, until you count the shelves and consider how thin magazines can be.

Last Month's "Caption This!" Winner



- Submitted by Jon

NEF Grant is Hard At Work

The Western Nudist Research Library, at Glen Eden (California), has been busy working through the archive donated by Dr. Cec Cinder. As announced in the December newsletter, NEF provided a \$16,000 grant to aid WNRL in the acquisition. Among the 34 boxes of materials were books, magazines, and some artwork with a little mystery.

Book Collection

As reported by WNRL:

“There are a total of 238 copies of 202 different titles. The books were published over a 105-year period of time ranging from 1906 to 2011. While the historical significance of these books has not yet been fully considered, as shown here, the collection includes 15 titles that were published prior to 1930.”

A few of the more significant books/manuscripts of note that were found, as described by WNRL:

- ▶ A prepublication draft of Cec Cinder's *The Nudist Idea*. It was apparently written in 1988, ten years prior to publication. It will be interesting to learn how the manuscript changed over that ten year period.
- ▶ The ultimately unsuccessful 1974 proposal by Beachfront USA to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to create a clothing-optional beach.
- ▶ *The New Gymnosophy: The Philosophy of Nudity as Applied in Modern Life*, written and signed by Maurice Parmelee in 1927. There is currently a signed copy of this book on sale at Abe Books; the seller is asking \$800.


Magazine Collection

As reported by WNRL:

“19 of the 34 boxes of the material we received from the Cinder residence contained mostly magazines, and the large majority of them were published in the United States. Our inventory of US magazines that were found in those boxes included copies of 83 different magazines, totaling 1,396 copies of 884 different issues. While the collection we received goes as far back as the 1930's, the large majority of the 884 issues (73%) were published in the 1950's and 1960's.”

Artwork

As reported by WNRL:

“Along with the 34 boxes we received from the Cinder residence was a roll of six canvases containing 3 ft x 4 ft paintings of nudes by an Indian artist by the name of Savithri. The story I've heard is that when she painted nudes in India, she potentially put herself in danger because of how the government might respond. But eventually that concern lessened, and she ended up displaying her art at galleries in Bangalore, Bombay, and even Rawhide Ranch in California (now Laguna Del Sol). We have no explanation for how Dr. Cinder acquired the paintings or what his relationship to Savithri was.” 

Caption This!

This ongoing series highlights a time when cameras were allowed and cheesy photographs were encouraged. (See the May 2021 newsletter for more details.) All photos are from items held at the NEF Research Library.

About this Photograph

From *Sunshine & Health*, December 1956, this handsome gentleman is clearly trying to serenade these lovely gals. What is he singing? What are they thinking?

Now it's your turn to Caption This! 

Send your caption ideas to:

Doug.Hickok@NaturistEducation.org

Please include:

- ▶ Your name that we can print if yours is selected. (Full name, or first name, or nickname, or anonymous...whatever you prefer)
- ▶ The type of caption (Title above, Caption below, Speech Bubbles, or a mix of all these).
- ▶ The caption wording, or who said/thought what.

Winners get fame in the next newsletter!



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Newsletters provide you with original content about:

- ▶ the activist efforts of the Naturist Action Committee,
- ▶ the educational & public outreach efforts of the Naturist Education Foundation, &
- ▶ the preservation of naturist history by the NEF Research Library.



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– The NAC and NEF Board Members