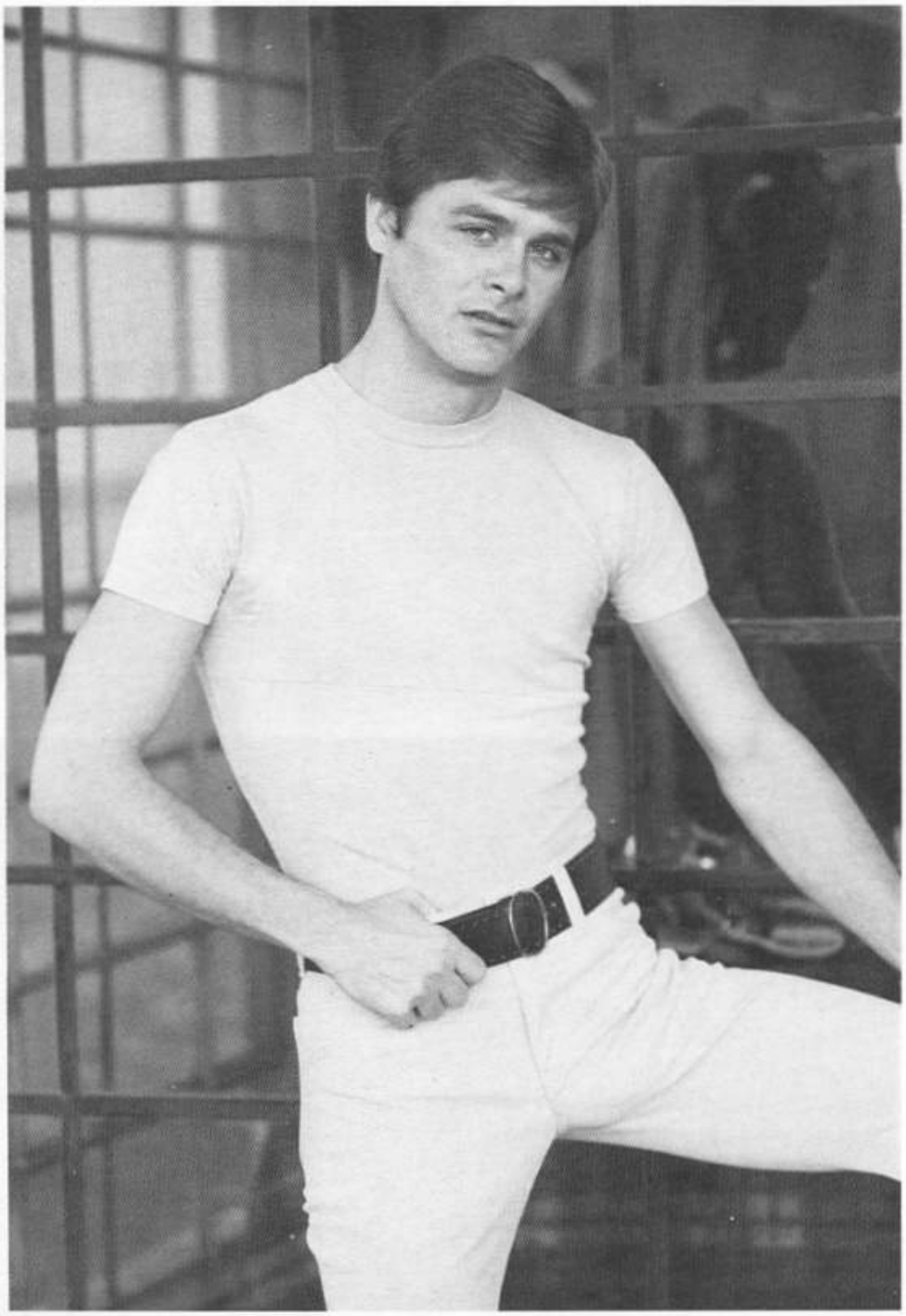
discovery

TAKING STOCK .. WALLY WILLEMET

By Thom Taylor
Photographs by Hy Chase



What do you say about a twenty-five-year-old bank officer who is gay and gorgeous? Wally Willemet is an account worth banking on. As these pages reveal this young businessman is nothing short of super in the buff, yet until IN TOUCH was fortunate enough to catch him that way, Wally had never been photographed. In fact, he has no pictures of himself at all.

"I've never had my picture taken before. I don't even have any of the little wallet kind that a lot of people carry around." A tribute to his lack of vanity?

Unlike many — perhaps even most — that hover under the skirts of Hollywood, he has no desire to work on stage or before the cameras. This has been a one-time experience for him that we are lucky to share.

"I've never done anything like this before, and I don't plan to ever do it again. I was really nervous at first working in front of the camera, especially when we did the outdoor nude shots. There were a couple of people watching us, and that bothered me. The pictures we shot at the market must really have been terrible. There was like a crowd of people standing around, and that shook me."

But one could hardly blame the spectators, he is certainly a guy who deserves a second look, and that is what our agents thought

when they saw Wally and a friend in costume at the GGRC Ball in October. When contacted later about doing a centerfold, he pleased us—and surprised himself—by saying "Yes." And we say "Thanks."

There is nothing about him of the staid old bankers sitting stuffily behind their desks. In fact, according to Wally, there is little about the bank business that is that way (except, perhaps, in *Mary Poppins*).

"They're very open-minded. They have to be. Too many people that work for them are gay. In fact, several employees have even gone through the sex change. They asked the bank officials if there would be any problem in changing their gender on the records from Mr. to Miss, and the authorities said, 'No.'

"The gay scene is becoming more natural and acceptable to society all the time. People are becoming more open-minded as more and more are getting into it. My parents know that I'm gay. They accept it, but it's never discussed."

Wally went into the banking profession as accidentally as he came into modeling. "I was interviewing for work. I just walked in their door one day, and they hired me."

Now, several years later, he has progressed to a position of responsibility and authority as the head of his department in Installation.

"I hope one day to be a vice-president." Quite an aspiration, but from this point of view, his credentials are fine. And if he attacks it with his characteristic enthusiasm, it should be merely a matter of time. Wally will thrive on the challenge because conquering is one of the strongest fibers of his being.

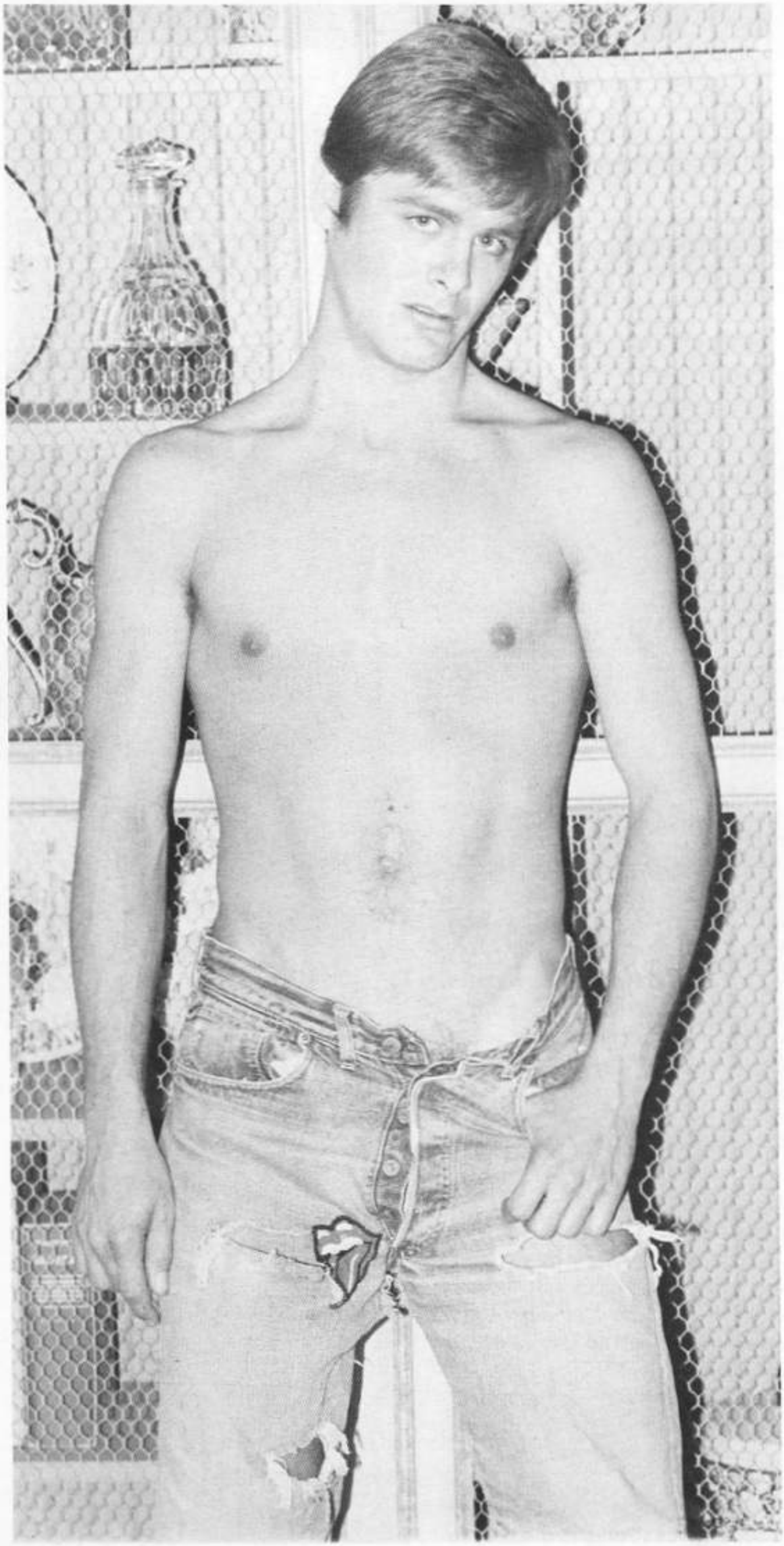
"I enjoy doing things that present a challenge. I like to try things that I've never done before and see if I can do them. Like, for instance, I decided once to try skiing. I'd never done it before, but the first time out I stood up and did it. The same with ice skating."

It is his acceptance of challenges and his eagerness and willingness to create his own that add such depth and charisma to this handsome young man. He is a problem tackler, and one who doesn't give up easily.

"I love to do crossword puzzles and jigsaw puzzles. A couple weeks ago I was doing one, and I stayed up almost the whole night before I finished it. Once I get started on something like that I don't like to leave it unfinished. That's just the way I am," he says, eyebrows lifting to emphasize the statement.

Wally exudes an air of self-control and confidence, not in the sense of one who has superiority feelings but one who knows where he's going, what he wants, and what he as a person is all about.

His introduction to the West Coast came while he was a student at Louisiana Tech. "I was going home for a vacation, and I decided to come to Los Angeles instead, so



I flew out here for the weekend."

When he did return to California, it was to San Francisco where he lived for four years until his bank transferred him south. Still a relative newcomer, he finds the Southern California life-style fast-paced but very rewarding, always a chance to meet new people and form new friendships.

He has become an avid fan of Mexican cuisine. "I've learned to like so many more foods since living in California. I love to do my own cooking. I like to bake apple pies and things like that. I really enjoy it. There is such a variety of cultures and foods here."

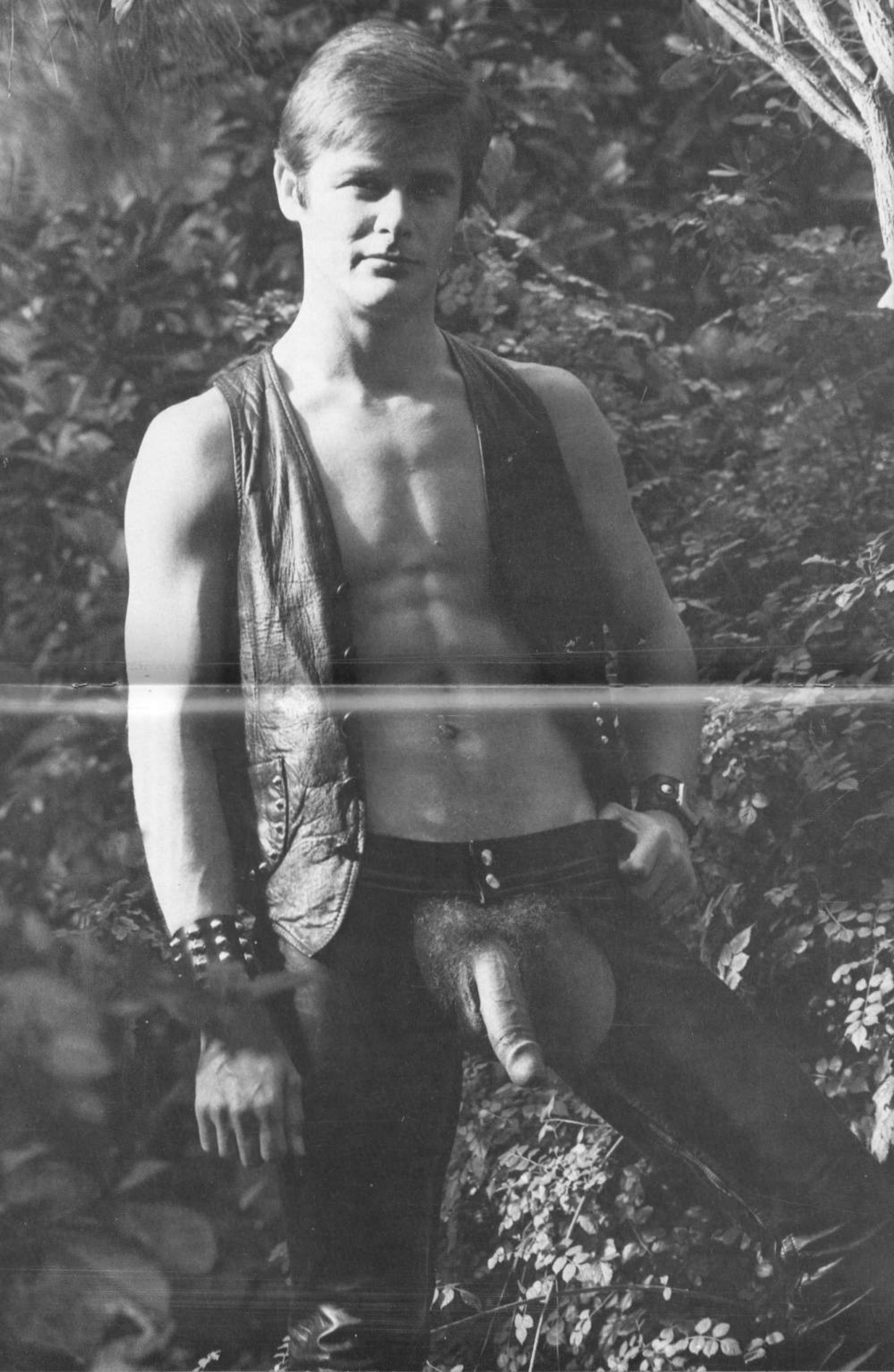
Here is home as opposed to the French Quarter of New Orleans where he grew up with three brothers. The first year of his life, however, was spent in Australia, his mother's native home. She was born in Sydney.

While in the third grade, Wally began his still current romance with music. Inheriting an unwanted trumpet from his older brother, he taught himself to play. His interest in music continued through high school into college where he majored in the clarinet and classical piano.

"I love to play the piano. I can sit and do that for hours."

An attractive and easily likable person with a body conditioned through years of swimming and gymnastics, Wally recently—and easily—found a special someone with whom he lives and shares his life. The two of them, together with Wally's two German Shepherds, share a house in Hollywood. He loves being in the thick of things, where life is bright and busy.

"We go to bars every now and then and to films. I love movies. A few months ago I saw my *first* stage play, *Two Gentlemen of Verona.* I hope to see a lot more in the future. There is so much to do here. I'm always on the go."

On the go and going upward. . . . This Aries ram seems to have the bull by the horns, and he knows exactly what to do with him. "I just take each day as it comes and plan as I go."

Undoubtedly, Wally Willemet will one day have a bank to which we will all rush to make our deposits.