

Our Beat girl told: beat it

ITALIANS UPSET AT "ZOO"

From A. R. McELWAIN

ROME, Thur. — An Australian woman and her Austrian husband, who call themselves "The Original Beatniks," have been ordered to leave their mountain shack in Italy.

Ex-dancer Valerie Killiam and husband Rudy Rappold, both in their thirties, have lived in their "Little Eden," near the fashionable resort of Positano, for 10 years.

They keep a small "zoo" of dogs, cats, chickens, donkeys and goats.

And that's what got them into trouble.

Local authorities say the goats have been eating young trees in an afforestation area and chewing up plants in vineyards.

Valerie and Rudy, an architect, have been told: "You've got until the end of the month to leave."

GIFTS

There is also talk about the couple having "no visible means of support," but visible or invisible they've never been known to starve.

Both are good cooks. "They can make goat taste like turkey," a colleague told me.

In summer, the couple come down into Positano—on the Amalfi Coast—about every second night and the locals give them gifts of food and wine.

In the resort's leading nightclub, a table near the orchestra is reserved for them.

They dance and furnish an "added attraction" for locals and tourists.

Valerie wears deathly white makeup. Her eyes

are always heavily accentuated by layers of mascara.

She wears her long, red hair scraggly, to below her waist.

Rudy wears a moustache and beard which he sometimes dyes black.

Both dress in rough clothes.

Valerie's make-up is in keeping with her philosophy.

"I hate the sun," she says. "Its harsh light strips the world of the spirits who are as much alive today as they were in pagan times."



VALERIE and Rudy with two of their donkeys outside their mountaintop shack near Positano. — Today's picturegram.

Quick look around the world



VALERIE and Rudy and friend . . . one of scores of animals in their hilltop shack home.

A REPRIEVE

POSITANO, Italy, Thur. — An Australian woman and her Austrian husband, Valerie and Rudy Rappold, variously described as "the last existentialists on earth," and "the original beatniks," can stay on in Positano for the time being.

The couple have lived in a hut on a hill here for seven years. They became one of the resort's tourist attractions.

Police had told them to leave by the end of the month. But following letters from many inhabitants of Positano, the police order has been rescinded, temporarily. — AAP.