Ron Shanessy: I'm living in a huge double house

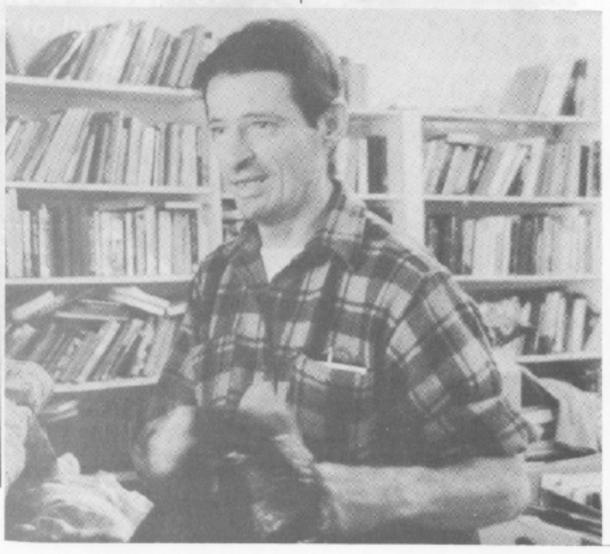
with about eighteen other people. Everyone has their own room, My rent is very reasonable, but I've been stuck in the same place for over 20 years now. It's getting a little bit confining. Junk keeps piling up.

You have to line up in the morning to use the bathroom. If anybody on the first floor is using water you don't get any on the second floor.

You're embarrassed to have people over because you don't like the look of the bathroom or the kitchen. And it's not your fault; it's the other people in the house. You may be out during the day, but some people are in the house all day. And when you come home, it's the same mess again.

After rent, I have \$40 a week. It's enough money to exist, but that's about it. I used to paint, but I can't afford art supplies. And I haven't got the space. I'm hoping that my doctor can get me on disability benefits, so I can improve my situation.

I wouldn't want to live in subsidized housing. I'd rather be in an
area where I know everyone else
isn't going to be in the same boat;
where everybody isn't categorized as
a little group. I think a mixed area's
better, with some people who do
have money and some who don't.
It's not just the house you live in that
can make you afraid – it's the area



you're living in as well. It would be nice to have an apartment of my own, with my own bathroom and kitchen, and only myself to clean up after, not a whole bunch of people. I might live with one other person, if I could find someone to get along with. But after all this time living by myself, meeting someone is almost impossible.