



A tapestry Mrs. Weber made, and a small medallion under it. Icons and pictures decorate all of the walls.

of the poor quality of the pictures," he quipped, "or whether it was due to my playing."

He soon found another job. At the end of three years he was rolling in wealth, making 350 yen a month, about \$280 in American money. The trouble was, he had to work 21 hours a day to earn it.

Realizing that his health was breaking under the stress of too much work, Weber went to Mukden in 1926. There he got a job as band leader. There he met Marguerite.

Five years later they were in Peking. From there they went to Tientsin, where he directed a band and she taught French in the British School. Then it was the port city of Tsingtao. Three months later they were in Hong Kong. Then it was Chefoo, in North China, and finally to Shanghai, where he directed an orchestra.

THE Webers remained 10 years in Shanghai and prospered. Then came the Japanese occupation. They were not bothered by the invaders, but there were no jobs for them. They managed to live by selling their jewelry and articles of clothing. They were broke by 1945, when the Americans came in.

"That," Arkady recalls with pleasure, "was the time of the gold rain. Restaurants were reopened and pianists were in demand. Why, anybody who could play the piano with one finger could get a job." He was employed by the U. S. Air Force Club. Both taught in the Shanghai American School.

Things were going along nicely until the Nationalist armies of Chiang Kai-shek began to crumble beneath the assaults of Mao Tse-tung's Chinese Communists.

Shanghai had a White Russian colony of some 30,000 at that time. They were no more popular with the Chinese Reds than they were with the Communists at home. They were caught between the devil and the deep Yellow Sea when Stalin began making overtures to them. It was "Come home, Ivan, all is forgiven."

Many of the emigres fell for that line. But not the Webers. They learned that their fellow Russians were robbed and mistreated when they returned to Russia. They wouldn't go back.

THEY left China on the last ship out of Shanghai before that cosmopolitan city fell to the Reds. They managed to reach Brazil by way of the Indian Ocean, the Suez Canal and the South Atlantic. There they started all over again, practically penniless, in Rio de Janeiro, where they remained two years. Arkady gave piano lessons while she taught French and art.

But they were not happy there.

"It had always been our dream," he said, "to be free citizens in a free country. We wanted to be Americans."

And here they are, as happy a couple as you would ever want to meet. They love these mountains. They love Pikeville. This, they feel, is the end of the road.

They have no ties with Russia any more. Both their families are gone.

The Webers have no children of their own but they look on their Pikeville pupils as theirs.

They speak English with a German accent, learned in China so that Marguerite could teach French to American kids. But they think in Russian.

They enjoy living, no matter what language they are using.

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