

FROM RUSSIA

TO FREEDOM

IN KEN

By HELEN PRICE STACY

It was a long road from Russia to the Mountains of Kentucky, but they made it—many years and many miles ago. At Pikeville College, Pikeville, Kentucky, they are accepted as home folk and loved as such, but the road to Pikeville was rough going and they'll tell you as much. The years between 1919 and 1965 have tempered somewhat their anger with the country they fled, but not their feelings about Communism. "Communism, and especially its Soviet deviation known as Bolshevism, is purely ideological and therefore cannot change its policy. Any change, even the slightest will bring or result in complete annihilation of the regime."

Arkady Weber and his wife, Marguerite Weber, have been on the faculty at Pikeville College for 13½ years. They were married 37 years ago in Mukden, China.

But the story of the Webers and their flight from Russia goes back, way back, actually more than a hundred years when his father left his native Germany to make his home in Moscow, where as a musician he became a renowned professor in Moscow Conservatory. Teaching at the Conservatory from 1863 to 1869, the elder Weber counted as close associates the composers Tchaikovsky and Rubenstein.



Marguerite wrapped cloth around her hair, had this photo made and attached it to a fake passport during the flight from Petrograd — the name of Leningrad from 1914 to 1924 — to Siberia.

One of the professor's pupils was a countess, daughter of a rich family from Tatar who had inherited vast wealth dating back to the time of the

Great Khan. Despite his musical culture, his education and his family, his background was no match for that of the Tatar Countess and when the couple

married it was without the consent of her family and without her dowry.

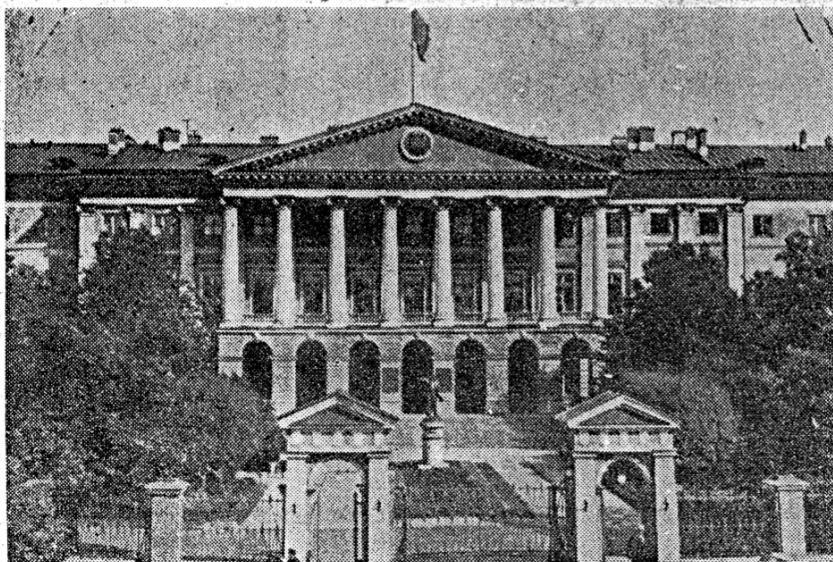
With this family background, their son Arkady Weber went into military service as a 17-year-old volunteer in the Imperial Russian Army, fighting against his father's native Germany. Wounded, he became a German prisoner for two years.



After escaping the Germans returned to Tambow. This student at Tambow Conservatory provided him a job as he transitioned now as a pianist.

He did not know it at the time, but he was to become, politically, a White Russian, a refugee, a pianist in a Chinese movie house... and eventually a teacher of piano in the mountains of East Kentucky... home.

To Marguerite Weber, St. Petersburg is not a city in the Southern U. S., but the most beautiful city she has ever known and located in the country she left behind when she became a refugee fleeing Communism. Although it now is Leningrad, to her it remains St. Petersburg. It was in this city that her father was in charge



Smolny Institute founded by Catherine the Great is attended by Russian girls of noble birth. Because Marguerite's mother taught in the school, she was allowed to study here nine years during her girlhood. She studied, in addition to Russian, languages of French, German and English.