

Hungarian refugee alone in Lincoln

By Amy Struthers

He came to Lincoln without a cent in his pocket and unable to speak any English. It was the final stop on a journey that began almost ten years ago in an escape attempt from his communist homeland.

Sandor Szentes (pronounced Shandor Sentesh), a Hungarian refugee, has begun a new life in Lincoln that seems to push eight years in a Hungarian prison far into the past. Jailed because of political remarks, Szentes twice risked his life to escape from Hungary. This time he was successful.

Born in a rural community of eastern Hungary thirty-four years ago, Szentes received eight years of schooling before attending a vocational school for three years. At the vocational school, he studied mining, and after completing his studies, became a coal miner.

Indoctrination failed

But this upbringing did not indoctrinate Szentes in the communist philosophy. He found that his Catholic faith closed many doors in his face.

And he never learned to be silent. In 1966, after first speaking out against the government, Szentes made his first attempt to escape to freedom. His attempt failed when he was wounded by a shot, tried, and imprisoned for eight years.

While in prison, Szentes was trained in leather work. He made footballs, handballs, and a variety of special, noncommercial leather pouches and cases.

Police surveillance

After his release, Szentes was placed under police surveillance and restriction. But his desire for freedom provoked another escape attempt on Sep. 2, 1974.

Szentes was successful and escaped to Austria, where he was placed in a refugee camp. The organization in Austria for Hungarian refugees had been infiltrated by communists who would send the refugees back to prison in Hungary. So Szentes was cared for by the American Fund for Czechoslovak Refugees (AFCR) in Vienna.

He was given travel documents, a U.S. visa, and an airplane ticket to New York City. He traveled with a Czech refugee, but the two could not communicate, because neither one spoke the other's language.

In New York City, the AFRC sent Szentes and his Czech companion by bus to Lincoln. Lincoln was chosen because of its sizable Czech community and low unemployment rate.

Two UNL professors

In Lincoln, the two refugees were greeted by Evelyn Caha, who arranged rooms for them. Caha also began a search to find Hungarian-speaking Nebraskans who could help Szentes in his adjustment to American life. She was successful in finding two UNL professors, Edward and Joyce Megay, who have talked with Szentes about his experiences.

Caha also found Szentes his present job as a dish washer in the Cornhusker Hotel, and enrolled he and his roommate in an English class for foreigners at UNL.

According to Mrs. Megay, "The big problem for Sandor is language. Not knowing a word of any other language besides Hungarian, he can't even communicate with his Czech roommate."

A second problem is finding a job for Szentes which will employ his skill in leather working. The Megays are asking that anyone who knows of a job opening in a leather good store, luggage or shoe repair shop contact them at 423-4264, and they will act as intermediaries.

The Megays also are encouraging any person who can speak Hungarian to visit Szentes at the YMCA, room 418. The companionship of young people will be important in his adaptation to the Lincoln community.



Four injured, two arrested Midnight fight draws 500

By Chuck Beck and Steve Boerner

A crowd of about 500 students turned 16th St. into a battleground late Monday night in a snowball fight resulting in four injuries and extensive damage to two UNL residence halls.

At about 11:30 p.m. nearly 300 students from various fraternities, sororities and residence halls began trading volleys of snowballs across 16th St. The number swelled to 500 within one-half hour.

The snowball fight apparently began after posters pinned to bulletin boards at the Cather-Pound-Neihardt Residence Hall complex Monday afternoon advertised a fight that was to begin at 11:45 p.m.

Policemen pelted

At about 12:30 a.m. Lincoln Police Dept. cruisers stopped in front of Neihardt Residence Center and immediately were pelted by snowballs.

The police officers were continually bombarded by snowballs and shouts from the crowd. At 1 a.m. 10 officers blocked 16th St. from Vine to R streets, police said.

Two arrests were made, they said. A few other near-captives escaped as they were being taken to cruisers.

Police blockade

With the area blocked by the police, the

snowball fight began again in earnest, with opposing sides facing each other across the street.

Campus Police officers were stationed at most of the residence hall complex doors to limit entry to residents of the complex.

One fraternity member complained of the police presence.

"Why can't the police just let us have a snowball fight?" he asked.

A ninth-floor Cather Hall resident complained of a lack of support from the other residents.

"We made a few good charges," he said, "but we didn't have anyone to follow us up. About 20 guys and a couple of girls charged with us, but the other dorm people just watched us."

Dr. Kenneth O. Hubble, acting director of the University Health Center, reported that one student suffered a dislocated shoulder and was sent to Lincoln General Hospital. Two persons were brought in with eye injuries, he said, and another with a cut on the scalp.

The Lincoln Police Dept. estimated \$7,000 damage to Cather and Neihardt halls, mostly in broken windows. Campus Police and Housing Office estimates put the damage between \$1,500 and \$2,000.

Two hours after the fight started, the crowd began to break up and the snowball flinging subsided.



John Fairbank

Scholar: China will survive

The People's Republic of China may survive longer than the United States, according to a leading American scholar on China.

John Fairbank, director of the East Asian Research Center at Harvard University, discussed "Chinese-American Relations in the Post-Mao Era" Tuesday in the Nebraska Union.

"China has more survival capacity, comparing its way of life with the United States," Fairbank said.

He said the development and continuous evolution of China without Western intervention has contributed to China's continuity. Fairbank said that as a result of Maos reorganization, elementary public health, peasant literacy and technological growth have all aided in Chinese self-sufficiency.

He said the United States would better understand the People's Republic of China if they would realize that China is not going to play a trading game.

No menace

"Chinese expansionism isn't a menace to anyone," he said. "A major difference between the two countries is their form of agriculture—the United States is mechanized and China still uses muscle power," said Fairbank, a 1972 guest of Prime

Minister Chou En-lai. He said this ancient use of manpower exemplifies China's social order which cannot part with the past. However, he pointed out that China's efficient mode of agriculture yields more crop per land than America's.

Fairbank, who is a Francis Lee Higginson Professor of History at Harvard, said that because of the Chinese people's nationalism, they will avoid any domestic disorders. But he said the Chinese already have dug air raid tunnels to be ready for any Soviet invasion.

Loyalty to Peking

He said patriotism in China means loyalty to the Peking Regime and a tradition of unity through literature, language, and belief in the revolution.

Fairbank called Taiwan's status vital and that neither China nor the United States can claim sovereignty.

Fairbank said China is not without problems, especially with higher education and decentralization, but that because of the Chinese people's positive social attitude, these problems won't last long. He said he hopes President Ford's trip to China later this year will improve American-Chinese relations.