

# Hungarian Revolution now almost memory

By LINDA KLEIN

The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 is now an almost unreal memory to one who escaped during the turbulent days of Nov. 4 and 5, 1956.

"I waited until the last minute, when the Russians were already there," says Dr. Julia Fraknoi, new staff psychologist at the Child Diagnostic and Development Center, "because we were all sort of drunk; until the last minute, we really thought the Revolution would succeed."

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FRANKOI, Julia dr. 1965

DR. FRAKNOI arrived in Wilmington from her previous post in Philadelphia to serve as chief of psychological services at the new clinic, where all childhood handicaps involving the neuromuscular systems, vision and hearing will be diagnosed, and a rehabilitation program for the child arranged.

Dr. Fraknoi, a charming strawberry blonde with the European's gift for hospitality, could speak of the frightening years of Communist brutality, but says that world has become almost unreal to her.

"When you are living in one reality," she explained, "the other must be unreal. The other is indescribable to one who has not experienced it. And now America is like a big breath of fresh air.

"I am extremely grateful to Radio Free Europe," she added, "for telling us about the advance of the Russians."

Because of the general strike in the country, she could find few trains going out of the city, but there was one train going west which took her about a third of the way towards the Austrian border.

"The next day," she said, "there was nothing, but on the highway I found a truck going my way. In the next town, there was again no train and I rode on a tractor."

SHE spent one night in a hospital, and another in a Hungarian peasant's home. "And the next night I was safe in an Austrian peasant's home."

Conditions in the Austrian peasant's home, she said, were unbelievably higher than those in the Hungarian peasant's home, only a short distance away.







Staff Photo by Nelson Brooks

**EUROPEAN HOSPITALITY** is a key-note to the charm of Dr. Julia Fraknoi. She assumed the duties of chief of psy-

chological services at the new Child Diagnostic and Development Center of Delaware in January.



From there she went to Vienna and to Salzburg, and only six weeks later was in the United States.

The most frightening experience of the ordeal was her arrest, along with nine other people, when she was very close to the border. The arrest was made by Hungarian soldiers, supposedly under the command, at this time, of the Russians. They were taken to a small military post, and an officer tried to telephone

for a truck to have them taken back. This, for some reason, took several hours.

"The Hungarian soldiers," Dr. Fraknoi explained, "really sided with the Revolution, and closed their eyes whenever they could."

At one point she asked one of the soldiers what was happening to them.

"WHILE they're on the telephone," he replied, "why don't you escape?"

"I asked if he would shoot me, and he said no. I tried to persuade the others to go with me but they would not, so I ran alone."

And so it was by running, alone, through fields, that she finally reached the safety of the border.

Dr. Fraknoi revisited Europe after she arrived in the United States on a half-business, half-pleasure trip, and found herself hurrying back to America three days early.

"IT BROUGHT back the same feelings of fear and anxiety," she said. "I would ask myself, 'Will I make it?'"

About her feelings for the United States, she said, "When you get something so prized, you cherish it."

Dr. Fraknoi chose to come to Wilmington because she likes the size, its proximity to New York and Philadelphia, where she has many friends, and for the opportunities offered by the new Child Diagnostic and Development Center.

She is particularly interested in the problems of the autistic child, who has a type

of emotional disorder which causes the child to withdraw into a "shell," refusing to speak or have any contact with other people.

Dr. Fraknoi's warmth and charm are visible in her hospitality—she keeps imported French croissants on hand to serve to guests, and always makes coffee in three small pots rather than one large one—"I think it tastes better that way.

"WE EUROPEANS," she laughed," always assume everyone is starved, and we must 'feed up' our guests.

"It would be nice to find that this is a place to settle down and be at home. It is hard to settle down in New York though I want to stay close.

"I would like Wilmington to be my home now."

