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Gogolaks Enjoy a Happy Life After Escape From Hungary

WILTON, N. Y. (AP)—“It was a harrowing experience—a nightmare,” the doctor recalled. “At times, I wondered if any of us would come out alive.

“All around us were Hungarian and Russian police. Flares lighted the sky like daylight. We were just steps away from capture and maybe death.

“We walked all night through soggy hay fields. When a flare went up, the guide, my wife, my two boys and I all dropped to the ground and piled on top of each other, so we would look like a haystack.

“It was hard on the boys—Pete was just 14½ years old and Charlie was 12—but it was worse on my wife. She was seven months pregnant. She became very ill. Her legs and arms became swollen. She could not see out of one eye.

“We had to carry her much of the way. We did not dare to stop and rest.

“Finally, we reached the Austrian border and knocked on a strange door. We looked back. The flares were still shooting into the sky, but we did not care. We were at last free.

Flight From Hungary

“That was nearly 10 years ago. Now we are in America. Our life is rich and full. God has been good to us.”

Dr. John Gogolak, once a prominent Budapest physician and dentist, spoke in hesitant, broken English as he described his family's flight from Communist terror after the 1956 Hungarian revolution.

The grayish, bespectacled physician and his attractive, brunette wife have reason to be happy and proud of their new-found existence.

Dr. Gogolak is a doctor of psychology on the staff of Mt. McGregor School, a New York State institution for the mentally retarded, and the family lives in a neat, modestly-furnished home on the school campus in the Catskills Mountain.

The two boys who shared in the terrifying escape have grown to manhood and become two of the best known football players in this sports-minded country.

Pete, now a strapping, thick-

shouldered athlete of 23, attended Cornell University where he set records with his unique, soccer-style technique for kicking field goals and extra points; after graduation, he joined the Buffalo Bills of the American Football League and last season was a major factor in the team's winning the league championship.

Erased Brother's Marks

The smaller Charlie, now 21, is finishing his final year at Princeton, where he erased his brother's Ivy League place-kicking records and set marks that may endure for years.

Charlie, the first kicking specialist ever drafted in the first round of the National Football League, recently signed a lucrative contract with the Washington Redskins. His right foot was insured with Lloyd's of London for \$1-million.

Like Pete, Charlie approaches the ball from an angle and kicks it with his instep instead of his toe—a style cultivated on the soccer fields of Budapest.

The family has a third kicking specialist coming up in John Jr., 8, born shortly after the Gogolaks settled in America.

“John is completely American,” says his mother.

The Gogolaks represent a ripple in the homeless stream of humanity — political outcasts and oppressed peoples — who have found hope beneath the Statue of Liberty. From the end of World War II through 1965, a total of 734,217 displaced persons and refugees had been admitted to this country, most of these from Communist nations. This represents more than a third of the refugees resettled throughout the world.

When the Hungarians revolted against Communist rule in October of 1956, Soviet tanks moved in to quell the rebellion. More than 200,000 Hungarians fled the country. Of these, more than 38,000—including the Gogolaks—settled in the United States. Like the Gogolaks, they blended into American society and soon began making significant contributions.

“I grieve for my homeland,” Dr. Gogolak said, “but I have no desire to return.”