

KALNOKY
FARKAS

1959

A Hungarian count with a tongue-twisting title became plain "Mister" today, but not by much. He nearly missed his own citizenship ceremony.

Farkas Dietrich Hugo Maria Kalnoky von Korospatak, a 23-year-old noble from Hungary's Carpathian Mountains, rushed into Judge Alexander Holtzoff's chambers in United States District Court this morning just in time to hear his name called.

Raising his right hand, he repeated in front of Judge Holtzoff and 50 other new citizens:

"I hereby renounce the title of count, heretofore held by me, so help me God."

Window Display Arranged

A moment later, the count was "Mr. Kalnoky," ex-noble from a family which traces its lineage back 600 years; ex-United States Army corporal, ex-waiter, ex-false teeth salesman, and currently an employer of Hechinger's where he arranges window displays.

"I overslept," he said.

The Countess Marie Kalnoky accompanied her nephew.

The new citizen, who has two

sisters and another brother in this country, has been pondering his latest move since he arrived here in 1949. He could have become a citizen after five years in the United States, but for one reason or another he delayed.

Then in 1956, said Mr. Kalnoky, he decided against it because of United States policy in the Hungarian rebellion.

"America could have gone into Hungary and done something," he said.

Title Was a Burden

One of the reasons that finally moved him to take out citizenship papers was the burden of his title.

"It was a social inhibition more than anything," said Mr. Kalnoky. "I could never be sure at parties whether people were friendly to me because of myself or my title.

"Nobody over here calls me count anyway except the snobs and social climbers.

He was born in Germany, but moved as a child to Korospatak (the last name of his title) in the Carpathian range, "where Dracula comes from and that poseur in 'My Fair Lady' who oozes charm from every pore."

Forced to Hide Out

His father, now dead, was an anti-Nazi newspaper editor who was forced to hide out in a remote Hungarian village when the Germans invaded in 1944. He rejoined Mr. Kalnoky and the rest of the family in Nuremberg after the Russians moved into Hungary a year later.

When the Kalnokys finally reached America in 1949, the father took a job as legal analyst for the Library of Congress. The count was drafted into the Army and served three years in Korea, Japan and the United States.

Count Naturalized; Renounces His Title

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