Friendly Russians adjust to Western ways

BY HUGH GALLACHER

Arnold Krieger was 12 when his family left Budapest, Hungafy, to emigrate to Canada. The year was 1955, one year before a Hungarian revolution was cuphed by Soviet tanks.

Ais year Krieger, a scansoned with Irest time and was able to see the freets of Russia's own intermity revolution away from commitment.

an exciting trip,"

was an exciting trip,"
for said. "I've always been
played by Russia, drawn
suse of the culture, history
lita impact on the world.
lieger, managing director of
ker, Wittus und Co. accounsin Southfield and a Birm
am resident, has traveled
naiwely throughout Europe,
duling several trips back to
native Budapest, but he had
er had an opportunity to visit
is until an auction at the
fest Chib. He was actually
jid, but the winning bidde
tell a trip to Faris instead, so
beer was called to buy the
siam trip.

sion trip.

Jungary's more central
ope culturally, it has allied
ff with Austria rather than
i the East," Krieger said. "I
dRussian culture totally difnt with its orthodox influo. And, I've always love
r music, Tchaikovsky,"
ioger and his traveling comion arrived in Moscow on
4.

July 4.

"Many people commented on the fact that it was a national holiday and congratulated us on July Fourth. They were very aware of the fact. They know more about the U.S. than we know about them, 'Krieger said. The trip featured three days in Moscow, an overnight train trip and three nights in St. Petersburg. The day would usually feature a bus tour or museum tour in the morning and then free afternoons and evenings.

m 'We never felt threatened. We went to a nightlife section and walked until well past midnight."

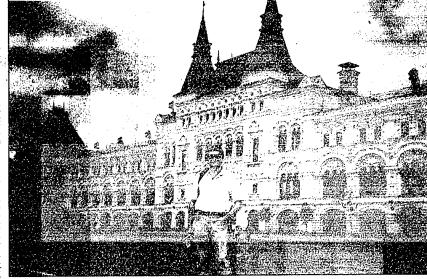
"We nover felt threafened," Krieger said. "We wend to the arbat, which is a nightlife section, and walked until well passed in the section, and walked until well passed in the section, and walked until well passed in the section and walked until well passed in the section and walked until well passed in the section system (and trying to decipher Cyrillic alphabet) or exploring the flea markets on a Saturday afternoon. He said the Russians are just beginning to understand how to live in a market ecdomy. "Russians have always been highly educated," he said. They've achieved a trempadous success in the science and the rats. It will be a bumpy rad, but they have a bright futurd." He said, it was especially upsetting to see the older people who are having the hardest time adjusting. He said they've lost their safety net provided by a state economy and aren't hoppy about it. For the young, he said, the changes are a challenge that they seem to welcome.

"I was surprised by the American influence. The American dollar was widely traded, A lot of baseball caps and blue jouns are evident," he said.

The highlight of Moscow was the Kremlin. Krieger said the grouns received the famous "fortress" which encircles Red Square.

The more westernized St. Peters-townected, 'he said. 'St. Peters-townected, 'he said. 'St. Peters-tom cred.' he said. 'St. Peters-tom cred.' h

Petersburg was a conseast of Krieger.
"Moscow is very big and dis-connected," he said. "St. Peters-burg is smaller, a beautiful city, called the Venice of the north because of its canals. The archi-tecture is harmonious and the government is spending lots of



Omate shopping: Arnold Krieger stands before the elaborately decorated GUM department store in Moscow.

money to rebuild."

Krieger said he was surprised to find he was in the land of the midnight aun. During the period he was there, St. Petersburg was dark for only three hours a day.

The high point in St. Petersburg was the Hermitage, the famous museum in the former Winter Palace. Krieger said they spent a day at the Hermitage but could have easily spent a week.

week.
"But we didn't want to spend

all three days doing one thing," he said. "We took a boat on the cannle. We did a bot of walking and spent time at the cafes drank cook and accorare," Krieger and his companion took in the usual cultural activities. In Moscow they attended the Moscow Circus and in Saint Petersburg they saw a Kirov Ballet production of "Swan Lake."

Not everything about Russia met with Krieger's approval. He said the food was not up to the standards of other European countries. And many people in

Aussia are poor by any sumdards.

"There was a huge apartment
complex, built along the shore of
the North Sea during the Stain
st era, that seemed to go for
miles and they were all boarded
in. The bateonies have been
boarded to create extra rooms
because housing space is so limited. Krieger's next trip,
Krieger's next trip, scheduled
for late August, was to be a bleycle trip through Provence, similar to a trip he took to Tuscany a
couple years ago.

couple years ago. Though Russia is far from the

Russia are poor by any standards.

"There was a huge apartment complex, built along the shore of Russian people very friendly.



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