

Peter Aradi

Inducted January 28, 2005

After escaping from Hungary in 1956, Peter Aradi considered himself fortunate to arrive in the United States. Staying with relatives, Peter began learning the English language and continuing his college studies he began in Budapest before the revolution. Peter worked for IBM, RCA, and AT&T before moving to Tulsa to work with American Airlines. In between, he joined the Air Force and was stationed in the Pacific where he met his wife, Shigemi. While he always played recreational soccer for fun, Peter found he had a talent for another sport- volleyball. He played for the Air force team competing against the Japanese National Team and other squads.

Peter and family moved to Tulsa to work at American Airlines and found a number of international players working at American. In 1974 at a tournament at Tulsa's Boulder Park, his teammate convinced him to referee the match because no one else would. Peter's reputation for knowledge of the game spread and he was asked to coach a youth team. "I discovered I was not a player nor a coach." says Peter. But Don Jones requested that Peter put on a referee class in the summer of 1975. In the fall of that year, Oklahoma registered its first USSF referees.

After returning from New Jersey in 1977, Peter attended a Region III referee instructor class in Dallas. He came home and organized the first referee instructor class held in Oklahoma and in 1978 attended a national referee instructor course in California. Upon his return, Peter was named State Director of Instruction for Oklahoma.

When the Roughnecks of the NASL came to Tulsa, they were required to have a local assessor at each match. Peter soon became an assessor for both the NASL's Roughnecks and the United Soccer League's, Oklahoma City team.

By 1978, Peter was named both SDI and State Director of Assessment and he began developing an assessor training program for Oklahoma. The first national Assessor Course for USSF was held in 1981 with Peter attending and teaching. For a year he was the USSF National Director of Assessment before resigning for health reasons.

Education was important to Peter and he obtained a liberal arts BA and master's degree from OU and a master's in history from TU while living in Oklahoma.

Retiring from American Airlines in 1990 and active refereeing, Peter continued to assess and assign officials with USSF and NISOA for several years. His focus after retiring was on teaching and Peter taught 9 years at Rogers State College and semester courses at TU. Fully retired now, he is proud of the referees he assisted in becoming national referees and the number of soccer fields he sees in Tulsa. He is also proud of his two sons, Roger: his wife Teresa, and twins Tristan and Genieve who live in Austin, TX; and Eddie, who lives in Dallas.