(G Šternberk 1)

The story of Ms. Hradilová

Ludmila Hradilová, her maiden name Šimečková, was born in 1934 in Tršice, a village near Olomouc. Her parents ran a local shop where the whole family helped out. As the firstborn of three children, Ms Hradilová was expected to take over her parents' business. Unfortunately, she could not enroll in an economic school because of the newly established communist regime. So it seemed as a suitable solution for her to enroll in the new social school in Přerov which was transformed into an pedagogical high school in the next year. when she finished her studies , she received a position (educated employees could not choose their position, the were given one by the state) in Rýmařov. In 1958, she met and married Jindřich Hradil, whose family owned a farm in Haná.

Ms Ludmila's life was deeply affected by events that took place at the fault line between two eras: nazism and communism. Neither was any good. After the war, everybody was expecting a period of peace and calm, while the communists were silently preparing to overthrow the government. After the year 1948, an era of censorship, fear, uncertainty and confiscations followed. Worst off were those people who did not comply with the system, such as wealthy farmers. Ms Ludmila's father-in-law owned a large estate in Bolelouc and his son Jindřich was expected to take charge of it. The communists kept increasing the compulsory contributions so that the norms were impossible to fulfill. These worries had deletrious effect on the father-in-law's health. One day, he lost his nerve and he assaulted a clerk, , for which he was condemned to jail. His bad health saved him from imprisonment. Subsequently, due to relentless pressure, the family “donated” their property to the state. The parents were left homeless and robbed of all property.. There was the option for them to move to the deserted country along the border but thanks to their sons' assistence a small house was built for them so they could stay.

The family business of Ms Ludmila's parents also fell through to the state. As she recalls, her husband, despite his better education, was forced to take jobs far below his possible because he didn't fit into the charts of thetotalitarian regime.

Ms Ludmila finished her story with the following words:

“Democracy doesn't mean only the rights but also the responsibilities.”

Ms Hradilová's father, Mr Šimeček, whose bussiness was confiscated by the regime.

Ms Hradilová with her younger sisters, shortly after the war.

Ms Hradilová's husband with his brothers.

Ms Hradilová with her sister. In the background we can see the arriaval of German military trucks.

Šternberk high school

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