

Erzsebet Gunst



This is one of the last photos of my mother, Erzsebet Gunst. The picture was taken in Budapest in 1966.

When I got home to Szentes in August 1945, the big shop was completely empty. There were 10-15 sacks on one of the shelves, my mother sat next to the sacks and 'sold' them. My mother got empty bags on consignment from some contacts who were Jewish corn traders.

Our house was our own and when I knew that I was coming to Pest, I wanted to sell it. There were not many idiots who bought houses in 1947, when the winds of nationalization were blowing through the country, yet I found two who divided it up and bought it. Naturally, for a ridiculously low price since I needed the money to get furniture in Pest. After selling the house we moved to Pest. My father had a cousin here, a widow who had a big apartment, which was also empty, so we rented two rooms from her and furnished it with our own furniture. I lived there with my mother until I got married, and my mother stayed on there.

Despite her 61 years, my mother was like a 40-year-old in many ways, she didn't like being idle. On top of that, my father's cousin, from whom we rented the two rooms was quite a difficult woman to bear, my mother also wanted to get away from her, so she got a job through an acquaintance as a cashier in a state enterprise called 'Clothing Store.' And my mother had very good times there, she worked for at least ten years until she retired. Somewhere there are certificates praising her work, what a good worker she was.