

The Grocery Store Of The Oblath Siblings



The name of the shop was Zsigmond Kertesz and co. grocery and spice shop, Zsigmond Kertesz was Aunt Linka's husband, who died at an early age of tuberculosis. Ferenc Oblath, my natural mother's brother, must have been his partner. Later, he didn't work anymore, and then the other brother of my natural mother, Miksa, or Miska, as we called him, took over the shop. This was a small grocery shop, I don't think they had any employees. They sold cheese, cold cuts, and some spices. If I remember rightly, when you entered the shop, the counter was on the left hand side. But what sort of cash register they had - I don't remember at all. The shop had a back area; my uncle kept the cheese there. In 1929, they still had this shop, I used to go to the Trade High School in Miklos Horthy Road, not far from it. But I went to school in the morning, and when school was over, I went home. I only went to the shop a few times, maybe just once or twice. I think, they must have had it until about the middle of 1930s. Uncle Miska married very late, around 1940, and I think he must have married a well-off woman, because when he was already married, he wasn't in the shop anymore, but in their candy shop on Erzsebet Avenue, next to the Hirado cinema. And very late in life, he had a little boy. He committed suicide before the war, sometime around 1943 or '44. And then his wife stayed in the shop. She was from Kisvarda, she had many siblings, and her son, Jancsika stayed in Kisvarda, I think. He was deported from there, with his grandparents and his aunties. He was a little boy, He wasn't even at school yet, I think. And after the war uncle Miska's wife left for Australia, and died there.