

Dagmar Lieblova



This picture is from Stare Splavy.

When I was very small, we spent a few holidays in Stare Splavy near Machovo Lake, where we stayed in a hotel. The car does not belong to us same as dog Baryk.

We would always go somewhere in summer, and if it was warm, we would head for Vidlak Pond, which is about 15 km away.

We even went there on workdays, after dad finished work. On the weekends we would go swimming, often in the River Sazava. We also went to Caslav, which is about 15 km away.

That is where my mom's cousin on my grandfather's side, Vera Mullerova lived. She was also married to a doctor, Lev Muller, and they had two sons, Jirka and Zdenek, who were a year older than me and Rita.

We often went on trips with them. We also went to places on vacation, twice in the Tatry mountains in Slovakia. Each year we would spend from two to three weeks in some place or other.

I can remember going to the swimming pool in Luhacovice when I was five or six. Steps led up to the big pool from a children's paddling pool where we were supposed to stay.

One day I tried the first one, then the second one, which was already under water, and then the third step, by which time I was under water and had started to drown.

A young lady pulled me out and I got a smack on the bottom from my parents, but then they put me in for swimming lessons. I also remember being at Velichovsky Spa in 1938, where the locomotive organs were treated, as they still are.

The spa is in the border regions and I can remember walking on the ramparts. Aunt Helena was a furtive smoker and I can recall her handing cigarettes to soldiers from her car.

In winter we used to go skating; mom even bought some skates and boots and went along with us. Kutna Hora is all very hilly, so there were also lots of opportunities for sledging.