

In the fifties and sixties all women in the Soviet Latvia, who were at the working age worked as employees until the age of 55. It was not a custom for women to stay at home and raise children. If children were born in the family they were either taken to the kindergarten when they became one year old or they were looked after by the grandparents – pensioners. The salaries were not big enough for the family to suffice with the father's salary alone. At that time it was easy to find a job because all newspapers in the Soviet country announced vacancies – shop assistants, factory workers, train attendants, bus ticket sellers were wanted. After graduating Year 8 or 11 at school one could enroll vocational schools and acquire a profession. After graduating the secondary school one could enroll a higher education institution. After graduation from the vocation or higher education institution one had to undergo the mandatory distribution and work for two years at the workplace to which one was appointed. As it was so easy to find a job people used to change employers frequently looking for better remuneration opportunities or for employment at the workplace where the queue for the receipt of an apartment was moving faster.



*The first skills of Santa's grandmother.*

The questionnaire completed by Catherine's grandmother, for example, proves that it was possible to climb the career ladder – she started to work as a kindergarten teacher, then she became an educationist for preschool institutions, then the head of the kindergarten, later she enrolled St. Petersburg (Leningrad) University of Pedagogy and acquired the Bachelor's degree in the profession of pedagogy. Afterwards she worked in the system of the Ministry of Finance and later as a teacher in Riga Ezerkrasts Secondary School.

Aiva's grandmother told, that she was 17 years old, when she finished secondary school. She liked sport a lot, therefore she went to Academy of Sport but fell out in exams. And then her greatest dream to be a Sport teacher was lost. After she finished Medicine School and started to work as a nurse in the clinic. She was only 20 years old at that time. She wanted to continue education, but there wasn't possibility to do, because the family didn't have much money. She stayed in the first job all her life.

*Information aggregated Katrina Merzvinška - form 8 and Agnese Skestere - form 8. Latvia*