



ERASMUS TRANSNATIONAL MEETING

SEGOVIA 2016

LETTERS

FROM CZECH GRANDPARENTS

Hi, my name is Marie. Marie Tesařová. And when I'm writing this letter I'm sixty five years old. I have three children. A daughter and two sons. I have also four adult grandchildren. All in all I'm a very happy person.

I was born in 1952 in Zářičí and as a child I lived in the town called Kroměříž. My family had a big house. I have one older sister, so I'd always been the sweet one, the protected one and simply the young one. My sister had to take me everywhere, to the kindergarten, to school, to hobbies...

As a child I didn't follow the political situation. But when I started studying I found out that there were so many things that I couldn't do. Well, I couldn't travel to countries which I knew just from maps. Now when I'm a senior I can speak Russian but it's useless in today's situation. When I go abroad it is hard to go anywhere just on my own because I don't understand, so I must travel with a travel agency.

I met my husband at the disco what I think was the worst mistake of my life. Because he was lazy and he always ignored me, despite this I loved him. When I was 20 years old, our first son was born. I was so happy, that he was a boy. And a few years later my daughter was born. Almost after eight years later my last son was born. But those days I had to divorce with my first husband, we couldn't stand each other. So my last son was with my second husband, with whom I am till now. When I had my last son I had also work on the field so it was my daughter who had to take care of him and the household. As I remember I was a very strict mother. My daughters were so different but I had so many rules so they had to be obedient.

When the communistic regime failed, I didn't notice it. Something like Velvet revolution was nothing special for me. But today I like this democracy system, I think it's simply better. But there is also one thing that I liked about the communists. There were no homeless people, no unemployed people, no-one was as lazy as we are today and that's the only thing I miss.

Hi, my name is Hana. Hana Mondeková. And when I'm writing this I'm sixty three years old. I have two daughters and six nice grandchildren, all in all I'm a very happy person. Although I'm at pension age, I still work. Not just for tailor's company but also as a self-employee. I have never worked in any other industry. I love my job and I can't stand doing nothing.

I was born in 1952 in Jeseník and as a child I lived in a small village called Vápenná. My family had a house, which is nowadays for sale. I have one older sister, so I've always been the sweet one, the protected one and simply the young one. My sister had to take me everywhere, to the kindergarten, to school, for a walk...

As a child I wasn't interested in the politic situation. But when I started studying I found out that there were so many things that I couldn't do. Well, I couldn't travel to countries which I knew just from maps (but my husband has been to Moscow). Now when I'm a senior I feel so isolated, because I can't speak any foreign languages. At school we had just Russian. No English, no German.

When I finished the school, I started to work as a tailor at OP Prostějov. And there I'm working for more than 40 years.

I met my husband at the disco, which was the worst mistake of my live. Because he was lazy and he always ignored me, despite this I loved him. When I was 20 years old, our first daughter was born. I was so happy, that she was a girl. And a few years later my second and last daughter was born. As I remember I was a very strict mother. My daughters were so different but I had very many rules.

When the communistic regime failed, I didn't notice it. Something like the Velvet revolution was nothing special for me. But today I like this democracy system, I think it's simply better. But there is also one thing that I liked about the communists. There were no homeless people, no unemployed people, no- one was as lazy as we are today and that's the only thing I miss.

Hello, my name is Bohumila. I was born in 1928 in Poštorná, which is a village near Břeclav. When I was a child we moved to Břeclav and I grew there with my four brothers and mother. My dad lived there only till 1944 then gestapo came and took him to the Nazi concentration camp in Landsdorf. When my dad was in Landsdorf we had nobody to care of us. So my 2 older brothers had to find a job and supported us. My mum had to find a job too. So she was a maid in a rich family. In my childhood I met the President T. G. Masaryk twice. I met him twice at my school, because he was travelling via Břeclav when he was going to his summer residence. I grew through 2 World War era so I grew up in fear. When I grew up I became a tailor.

When I was 21 years old I moved to Jeseník because of my job. In Jeseník there was a big factory producing clothes from flax, it was called Moravolen. For a really short time I was working there, then I became a cook in the canteen for Moravolen and then I became a caretaker in a secondary school. In Jeseník I met my husband Josef. I married him and had with him one son George. Some time we lived in a flat but when George was older we decided to build a house. Our son George, my brothers and our friends helped us. But one day when my husband was building he got a heart attack and he died. For me and George it was really terrible. George was a teenager and he needed his dad. It was a really bad period in my life. I needed to finish the house but I didn't have any money and also I had a child and I had to take care of him. But my brothers and my friends helped us to build the house. I'm really thankful.

I remember when in 1939 the Germans came and occupied all Czech-Slovakia. Then when the Soviet occupation started in 1968 and the revolution in 1989 when our republic became a democratic state. I think I got over all of these changes well, sometimes I didn't like them much and sometimes I did.



Hi Silvie,

I would like to tell you something about my childhood. Maybe you can then better understand that things and opportunities you have now weren't always there.

I was born on 15th July 1947 in Unicov. My mum was German, but my dad was Czech, so I had to deal with this situation. I was growing up in a cultural surrounding. I was a part of a choir and folklore association. My dad was a painter and a restorer. He was in touch with famous artists from the whole Czech Republic. My mum always led me to music and she also took me to a music school. Then I started studying music. I became a teacher in a music school, which was my one and only job.

In Unicov there was a car factory 'Skoda', where the most of my classmates' parents were working. There was also a sugar refinery. Instead of it there is now a shop Kaufland. There used to be muck from carriages carrying the sugar beet from fields and in winter you could smell the yeast. This atmosphere isn't there anymore. But in fact the historical part of the town hasn't changed much. There are the same shops and a few pubs.

I wasn't noticing the political situation much. I was going to a pioneer club and religion classes. We didn't have television until I was 13, so we played games like hide-and-seek, we were pretending a war between Russians and Germans (Russians always were the good ones and I always had to play German) and we were picking bugs. When it rained we played with dolls in our attic. In autumn we did some part time jobs. We used to pick up root beet or potatoes. Everybody was looking forward to the end of the job which meant roasting potatoes. At school we got addresses from Russian children who we were supposed to exchange letters with. At Christmas I remember getting chits which you could exchange for exotic fruits like bananas and oranges. At Christmas also father Frost with Snow White came to a Cultural house and they brought us some presents.

Travelling situation was really bad. My mother at first even couldn't visit her parents and siblings who were pushed back to Germany. After many years she could travel there for a limited time. My first time in a different country was when I was 40. Now we can travel every day in a country we like. There is more of freedom and affluence but people are wasting their

time sitting in front of a computer. And it's not the only bad thing about nowadays life. Our government has sold a lot of historical buildings and factories. We let a lot of foreigners come to our country and they control the business and even our everyday lives. I don't even like using words from other languages (e. g. club card) as ours own.

I have to carry these things out. And maybe it sounds strange from someone from a mixed marriage but I really miss our Czech country with beautiful Czech language.

Bye for now,

Grandma Carmen

Hi , my name is Helena Ivanová. I was born 23rd May 1950, so I'm 66 years old. I was born in a small town called Valašské Meziříčí. I have got 3 siblings- one sister (Libuše) and 2 brothers (František and Bohumil). My dad was a pastry cook and my mum worked in an office. I grew up in Valašské meziříčí too and I lived there for 19 years. After my graduation I moved to Jeseník and I started to work here in municipality. I got married in 1970. I have 2 daughters (Jane and Susan). I have 4 grandchildren. I and my husband, we have travelled to every country in Europe. I worked 41 years. Now I'm retired. I like knitting, walks, calling my family in ValMez, baking and reading.

Now, I will tell you about my hometown. When I was young I lived in a town called Valašské Meziříčí (I wrote it in the first paragraph). It was a very small town in a valley in the Beskydy Mountains. It is in Silesia. Living there was pleasant and nice. This town lies at the confluence of 2 rivers: the Rožnov and Vsetín Bečva. Near the square there is Vsetín Bečva. Now is ValMez bigger than before. There is a lot of industry and there are new shopping centres and new residential areas. When I was a child there lived about 15 000 people, now about 23 000 people. I visit my family in ValMez every summer.

When I was younger there happened lots of political events. For example: In 1968, when I was a student, the protests against the communist regime began. People started to say their opinions. But in August 1968 Soviet soldiers occupied Czechoslovakia.

In November 1989 communist era finished and democracy started. From this moment people can travel to other countries in the world, people can run a business and say their opinions and in shops there are a lot of things which we couldn't buy until 1989. In 1993 Czechoslovakia was divided to the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

I like these changes. It wasn't hard. I think this life is better than before 1989. We can do things which we couldn't do before. I got used it very fast. I think that me and nobody else wants to return to the past.



My grandmothers name's Eva. She was born in Kroměříž in 1947. She was a teacher and a headmaster in a kindergarden. I visited the kindergarden too, when I was small. She said that the town where she was born is bigger now and because she was born nearly after the Second World War the houses and buildings were not in a good condition, but now everything is repaired and beautiful. For example the Castle garden or the square. The city is in the UNESCO too. When she was small, there was a totalitarian regime so everything was forbidden, they could not travel anywhere, they could not buy anything what they wanted like today and everything was limited a lot. The main political event she experienced was the occupation by The Soviet Union in 1968. After that everything changed. Everything got worse than earlier. And the second one was the Velvet revolution in 1989. It was a big change for everybody. They could do almost everything after the Velvet revolution. After that there was more money and she could do anything she wanted and studied anything she wanted. Everything seemed better, and it actually was and still is. My grandmother thinks that it was a change for better times. The occupation was hard to carry, but she had to get used to it. We can travel anywhere we want, we can buy everything we want and there are many other possibilities. If there is something what she misses from the past, it is a better interpersonal relationships. Behaviour of people was better than now and she misses it. I think she is not the only one who misses it.



Hi. This is a letter about my grandmother. She's sixty-four years old and she lives with her husband in Jeseník in a little flat.

When and where was she born? What was her job? What was her family like?

She was born at home on 5th of July 1952 in Lipová. It was a home birth. She's the eighth child of her parents and has eight siblings. Between the oldest and the youngest one there are 23 years of difference. Only two brothers and my grandma still live here. She didn't meet her grandparents because they had died before she was born. She was a weaver in Jeseník for forty-one years, it is more than a half of her life.

What was her home town like when she was a child, compared with what it is now?

When she was a child, the village, Lipová, was a spa centre. Obesity was treated there. Now the spa is closed. There used to be a station of steam engines, which is closed. There were loads of pubs, but now there are only few.

What was the country's political situation and what main political events did she live?

During her life, there were eight presidents and three countries political situation. From the time when she was born to year 1968 there was socialist period, communist period lasted till 1989 and now we have democracy. She lived in little village on the edge of our country in a poor family. They didn't have information about politics. She is never said anything ugly about political system. She was feeling good in every political situation or period.

How has her life changed as far as the economic, professional and social conditions are concerned?

When she was a child everything was seven times cheaper, but the salaries were smaller. In her job, she was satisfied and really good. She didn't need anything else. She had enough money, husband and two kids. They had a three-roomed flat and a car.

**How does she like these changes? Was it hard to carry them out?
Does she miss anything from the past?**

She hates every change, but she knows that is it important. She really misses the possibility to travel to other countries e.g. near the sea and she misses her true father.

Yes, could be better, but she is satisfied with her life and decisions. And



what's



more?

Hello, my name is Antonie Šimíková, before I got married my surname was Veličková. I was born on 23th March 1929 in Staré Hamry. Staré Hamry is in the Beskydy mountains. When I got married in 1955, I became a saleswoman. I have got two daughters and one son. I have 14 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. I had a sister and a brother, their names were Marie and František. My father was in the First world war. My mother's name was Marie and my father's name was František. In Staré Hamry we could buy many things, there were many shops and trades for example wheelers. But in 1964-1969 there was built a water dam Šance and many houses were flooded. So now there are only cottages and no more shops. I lived in the period of the Second world war and of the beginning of our state. In 1935 when I was a child, I went to school for eight years and my teachers were really patriotic.

Then the Second world war began in 1938. Some people were helping partyzánům, but officers arrested them or sent them to concentration camps. Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, our first president of Czechoslovakia, died (1937).

In our country and in the world many events happened in the period from 20th century to 21th century. For example in March 1939 there was created protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and after a while the Second world war started and in March 1945 it ended in Europe. In 1945 Edvard Beneš was elected the president of the Czechoslovakia. German residents were moved out and many people were moved to the border, so was I. I started to help on rectory and then I got married in 1955 and I became saleswoman. In 1948 Communists began to reign. There happened many events until Czechoslovakia became the Czech Republic in 1993.

And what changes happened and do I like them? Now I see people in beautiful clothes and because of clothes they are pretty. But if I'm talking about farmer situation, I'm sad, because in the past almost everybody had a field and was farmer, but now we import much food. And in the border region we haven't got a lot of factories. And when I was young a girl I went to dancing parties, but now I don't think, that many young people are doing these decent meetings. But I'm in pension and I live in my son's house, so I have everything maybe I miss the youth, but I like to think about my memories from a childhood to today.

LETTERS

FROM FINNISH GRANDPARENTS

ALINA

LETTER FROM MY GRANDMOTHER

My grandmother was born in Porvoo, a town in Finland, but she spent her childhood in Heinola and Helsinki. She still lives in Helsinki. She thinks that the traffic has increased in sixty years. In the past you could ski and ride freely in the city although it was the capital. My grandmother thinks it was lovely. To her family belonged mom, dad, big brother and little brother who was 8 years younger. She is close with her big brother and took care of her little brother when they were kids. In my grandmothers childhood Finland had to pay a lot of money to the Soviet Union because of the war, and food was rationed which means that you could only buy limited amount of food. My grandmother got her first toothbrush when she was in school and her first doll when she was 3 years old. She didn't have a hobby but she skated, skied and played baseball in her free time. The Same hobbies haven't lasted. My grandmother's life hasn't changed much, but she misses the peace and that she can enjoy the nature, nowadays there are too many cars. She thinks that the changes are confusing, there weren't TV or computer in her childhood. But she still understands modern technology. My grandmother even has a tablet, computer and a smartphone. It was pretty similar at school, the only differences are a student counselor and information technology which we do have nowadays.

Letter from Caren's grandmother

My name is Anne-Ly Linnumäe. I was born on the 1st July in 1972. I was born in Tallinn, Estonia. I don't have any sisters or brothers. I really wanted a sibling. I just lived with my mom and dad in our own house where we had a big garden. My parents have sadly passed away.

We had a lot of animals, for example: cows, sheep, chickens, ducks, cats and dogs. As I mentioned earlier, we had a big garden. There we grew a lot of fruit trees and berry bushes.

Our house is located in a small village, named Uuearu village. That's where I grew up and raised all my kids. The village hasn't changed at all, there are only maybe a few new people who live in the houses but it still looks the same.

I did have some jobs when I was a child/teenager. When I was about 11 I helped out with cattle and earned some extra money. By the time I was 14 I sometimes cleaned offices and stuff like that. I have also worked in a gas station and later in a youth house when I could go to work after my kids were old enough. Then after that I worked as a tutor for a 6 year-old in pre-school. At the moment I am studying to get a vocational qualification in business and administration and sometimes I help out in my old work place.

When Estonia was part of the Soviet Union we really struggled to get our daily food. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union daily food items were rationed which means that you were given coupons which allowed you to buy only certain amount of for example meat or sugar.

We lived in a Soviet Union which dissolved in 1991 into independent republics. Estonia, too, became independent in 1992 the first president of Estonia, Lennart Meri, was elected.

I don't miss anything from the past. Things have only gotten better.

Estonia is more democratic now, which is a very good thing. Estonia had a very good president Toomas Hendrik Ilves. In my opinion, he isn't just a communist, he is a foreign Estonian. He saw things in other perspective. Things got better after he was chosen.

My name is Rakel Ahola , I was born on 6th of December 1940 in north of Finland, Pyhäjärvi. I worked as a psychiatric nurse .

My family consisted of three brothers and two sisters. In addition my grandfather, my deaf aunt and the brother who was adopted used to live with my family.

My home town was in the countryside and we had a small farm where we had animals like: cows, chickens, sheep and so on. Now I live in a city where there are public transport like metro and tram which we didn't have in the countryside.

In the countryside we got milk direct from the cow and it was fresh but now we buy milk from stores. Before we wrote letters and sent them by post but nowadays we send messages by modern communication devices like smart phones and social media.

There was a war against Russia between 1940-1945. In the war Finland lost most part of Carelia to Russia. After the war there was a lack of foods and in cities food was regulated by coupons. In the countryside there was lack of sugar and coffee but some foods we grew ourselves.

The main industry in cities was trade and in the countryside agriculture and forestry.

The presidents of Finland during 1940-1956 were:

1. RISTO RYTI
2. GUSTAF MANNERHEIM
3. JUHO KUSTI PAASIKIVI

I moved from countryside to city, I studied and graduated and got a job.

I had hobbies like culture (dance , theater and so on ..), travelling , meeting people and so on.

In the city I had a chance to travel abroad and have many hobbies .

Information technology changed and it was hard to learn skills first but now it's easier to contact people by social media.

From the past I miss the community of countryside because people care and help each other but in cities everyone lives in his/her own life and people don't care so much about each other. I also miss the tranquility of countryside because in cities the lifestyle is too busy.

JAANI

I was born in 1948. I lived my childhood with my dad, mother and sister in Lahti. Lahti was a young growing city. Nothing big changes ever happened. Now I'm retired but I have worked in different assignments such as social work and the aids-support centre.

I have experienced a variety of changes in political situations such as a strong period of growth and industrialization, and after the 90s, the recession, which in a way still continues.

The school was appreciated and also children from poor families had the opportunity to study. Today, we're going in the other direction.

Now I'm retired which has weakened my economic situation.

Unfortunately the value differences in people are increasing fast. I don't really miss my past, but I'd hope that old traditions and nature would still be respected.

MIIKKA

Hi,

My name is Pirjo Perttula and I was born on 4th of August in 1949. I'm now 67 years old. I was born in Iitti, southeast Finland. I didn't live in Iitti for very long, we moved to Vilppula which is in central Finland.

I have a big family mom, dad and 8 brothers and sisters altogether. We had cows, pigs and a horse. We were farmers for about 30 years. I have been a farmer for almost my whole. There were only 50 people living in my home village.

I now live in Isokyrö and there are 5300 people living there. Nowadays machines are better to use than horses in farming.

Finland's political situation was not very good after the war. The world's political situation wasn't very good either and president Kennedy died. It was cold war time, east versus west.

Economical situation is now better, most people have enough money to buy important things like clothes and food and even something extra. We didn't have a phone or tv in the past, so every time you had to write letters or go ask friends.

School was different in some things. It was for example legal for teachers to hit you with a pointer. We didn't have cool toys like kids today, we played with cone cows.

I don't really want anything back from the old times.

ONNI

My mother was born on 19th August 1929 in Rauma. Rauma is an old town in western Finland. Her family was mother, father, 3 brothers and 2 sisters. She was the second child in the family. Her family was working class family at the war time (1939-1945.) The streets in Rauma were cobblestones and houses were old and wooden. The museum building in Rauma was stony and very charming. Rauma has lots of parks and an old beautiful stone church called Rauman Linna (Rauma castle). Today old Rauma belongs to UNESCO world heritage site.

The political situation was very excited and my granny lived when Kekkonen was president. War had just finished and Finland paid war reparations to Russia. Finland had ceded Petsamo, Salla and Karjala to Russia. There were lots of evacuees. Freedom of talking was limited. Some of the foods items were limited. Times were very hard and that made my grandmother and other Finnish people very meek and hard workers.

Today my grandmother feels that the current political situation is even more confusing than before. She feels that the EU has changed it and unfortunately not for better.

She misses most old book stores, sociability, her family and joint activities.

LETTERS

FROM SPANISH GRANDPARENTS



SAMUEL'S GRANDMOTHER

I was born on the 31st of May in 1947 in Madrid . At the beginning , I lived with my mother, my father and my sister . My sister's father was supposed to be dead a few years before. He was a Spanish refugee that was in France when the Nazi regime captured him and took him to Germany. They thought he had died during a bombing but more than 10 years after that, we received a letter of his 'dead' husband saying that he was alive but he was ill and he was in Paris.

That happened when I was only 5 years old. We had to move to Paris and to leave my father in Spain because my mother was married to my sister's father. Since then I lost contact with my real father and I was brought up mostly by my mother.

So my mother, my sister and I had to travel to Paris in 1952 on foot and using carriages . I grew up there and I became a normal French girl with my stepfather, my mother and my sister.

At the age of 16 I fell in love with a young Spanish man that was working in Paris at that time. I got married to him and we had our first children in the next year. When I was 23 years old, in 1970 I had already had three children.

Then, we decided to move to Spain at the end of the dictatorship. I remember how big the change of living on Spain was. This was a strange country for me and I felt like if I had travelled to an under-developed country. In Paris we had cinemas since the 50's and here even supermarkets did not exist. When you had to buy food they distributed you the food depending on the quantity. I was amazed about that because I had grown up in a very different place.

When Spain changed into a democracy I could see how the country evolved in a short period of time.

At that time we didn't have too much. We lived in a small flat when we had two other children. I had to bring up 5 children and I opened my own business of household appliances. I also helped with my husband's company. At that time, my husband opened his own plumbing company and he worked 12 hours per day. With much effort we could afford to build our own big house and we could have a better quality of life.

When our children left home we could have a more relaxed life and I stopped working in the shop. And this has been like this until today.

Obviously, everything has changed in a positive way but if I miss something, it is the close relationship that there was between neighbours , people used to share many things of their life with their close people , but now we are more individualist and narcissistic .

LAURA'S GRANDMOTHER

My name is Victoria. I was born in Sigueruelo a village about 40 kilometers from Segovia, in 1937 during the Civil War so I didn't suffer it because I was a child. My father was killed in the War so I haven't known him. After the Civil War my mother, my brother and me moved to Segovia. When I was three years old my mother took my brother and me to the hospice because she didn't have enough money so she couldn't bring us up. Four years later we left the hospice and we started to go to School in San Lorenzo, a suburb near the city centre. At that time it was very difficult to get money so at the age of 13 I started to work serving in a house and my brother moved to Brazil to work. He used to send letters to my mother and me all months.

When I was 25 years old I got married and I had 3 children then I left my job and dedicated my time to my children and the housework. I started to be a housewife. When I was 32 years old my mother died and my brother couldn't come to the funeral because he didn't have enough money. Some months later I lost touch with him and nowadays I don't know anything about him.

My husband and me set up a clockmaker's workshop, but some years later we decided to change it for a lamp business. It worked very well.

At that time Franco ruled Spain, I lived well but I recognize that nowadays I live better because Spain was very poor and now we have more education, health service, advanced technology and more freedom especially women because we couldn't do anything without the permission from our father or our husband.

My city has changed a lot, it has grown very much, now there are more houses and more people, many years ago Segovia was like a village.

From the past I miss my family and my youth because I could run, jump, swim, play... with my friends, only with these things we were happy we didn't need more things.

JAIME'S GRANDFATHER

Hi, my name is Pedro Garcia.

I was born in 1938 in Revenga, I was born in the postwar period.

When I was a child there was not enough money and food and there were ration cards and with that the council delivered different pieces of food for each family.

I was living in a little house in the center of the village and my family kept the animals inside the house so that they could not steal them.

When I was 10 years old, I didn't go to school because I had to help my father in the mountain because he was one-armed, I was a "bargee", these were the guys who went to the mountain to catch firewood; this was my job.

All 21 men years old had to do the military service.

Later, I met my current wife, her name is Soledad and with her I had three sons and two daughters.

We had not got much money, so a neighbour lent us enough money to buy our present house.

Interesting stories I have lived?

Ok, when I was 7 years old I took the cows to the mountain, and one day when I was going up with my friend we found an unexploded bomb, I don't know why, but we threw stones to the bomb and the bomb exploded. We survived but my friend lost one of his eyes.

Another thing is that I worked to build the first tunnel that connected Segovia with Madrid

MARINA'S GRANDFATHER

My name is Alejandro.

I was born in the house of a road worker between San Rafael and El Espinar, on the 2 June of 1945.

The road workers were people that fixed the roadsides and the roads. Nothing to do with the asphalt machine. In the past all was manual...

There wasn't electric light... Or WiFi...

When I was 3, I used oil lamps to illuminate the rooms. Later, the charcoal appeared, that was better. There weren't any heaters and we wouldn't be in our homes in short sleeves.

I was the fourth of seven siblings. Only 4 of them live because in the past it was frequent that the children died. There weren't many hospitals.

I went to school for a short time, because I had to help at home. When I went to school I had to walk 4.5 kilometres. I ate with a family that fed me and my brother.

When I was older I went to school on horse, but it wasn't for too long. And when I was 12 I started to work.

I had a few things: one peg-top made by my father... all very basic without batteries ... But we were very happy!

Until I was 18 I was feeding cows. When I was 18 I moved to Otero because there were many jobs. In Otero I met the woman that is my wife now, after 7 years we got married, and we moved to Tartalejo. We didn't have a car so we had to move on motorbike.

There, Jesús was born, our first son. After a year we moved to Madrid. And then, Marina's mother was born.

We returned to Otero and I started to work in Riofrío. Too many different jobs!

In 1977, after our third son was born, I started to work for Jesús Gil the owner of the residential area, Los Ángeles de San Rafael. There, I learned my job until 2010: electrician.

In 1990, I had my own workshop as an electrician, with the help of my children.

I retired in 2010. I have 8 grandchildren.

I have learnt to swim, I like reading, I have a computer where I read the news and watch videos on youtube and I also travel a lot.

This is my life... There have been too many changes in these 70 years.

RAQUEL'S GRANDMOTHER

Hello,

My name is Juana. I was born on May 16, 1946 in Cuellar (Segovia). I was born at home because at that time we were not born in hospitals, they called a lady, a midwife, who helped the children to be born.

My family was a poor family, we lived in a small house, the house had only a kitchen and a large room divided into two rooms by a curtain, rain water fell through the roof of the room. The animals lived in the house, separated by a small wall block, those animals ate meat and drank milk, we often had to find food on the farmland.

My childhood was very happy, it was wonderful, I played, laughed and sung, as if my house were the princess' medieval castle of my village, I was very happy and was always very mischievous but always determined and positive. I was not a good student, so soon I had to work, in order to work I had to get permission from my parents and I started working at the age of 18, but while most women worked at home cleaning or as maids, I worked in a fruit warehouse selecting fruit, something that was strange because it was not well considered that women worked outside their home and still I proudly shared work with other women my age. My parents were strict but I think modern, as I am for my age.

As for the political situation at home there was not much talk, after the civil war Franco Ruled in Spain and my father was of the same ideology. My father had to fight in the civil war and found that without knowing his brother was fighting on the other side, my uncle was killed during the war. But my parents always ensured that the political situation did not affect me and I could be happy.

Then when I married I also worked outside, although in average families men worked and women looked after the house and children, and I spent more than 30 happy years working in a hospital going through different positions.

With this letter I want to thank my parents who taught me to have the values I have.

Greetings to all, thank you

JESÚS' GRANDMOTHER

My name is Josefa Fernandez Herrero and I am 94 years old.

I was born in Madrid in the neighbourhood of "Cuatro Caminos" on twentieth of august of 1922, I had a brother.

I lived my childhood in Segovia with my aunt because my mother and my father died when I was 12 years old. I lived during the civil war, this period was a really hard time for my family because I had to move to Bilbao with my other aunt.

After the civil war period I moved back to Segovia again, my family was very poor because my aunt was a washerwoman and she didn't earn enough to maintain the family.

My economy was improving as my age increased, I worked as a nurse, as a midwife, as a washerwoman and as a maid. I got married when I was 33 years old and I had 3 daughters and a son .As all women in that period I had to give up working because I was married. I had a lot of friends but not to go to a party only to chat with them from time to time.

My husband died when I was 46 years old and then I started to work again. I had to work a lot to provide for my family.

If I had the possibility to make changes I wouldn't want to change anything in my life, I am lucky to have the family that I have. Perhaps I would only like to change one thing: being younger!

LAURA 'S GRANDFATHER

Hello! I am Laura's grandfather.

My name is Meinardo. I am 78 years old, and I was born In 1938.

I was born in my house because there weren't many hospitals then. I was a builder, this job was very dangerous.

In my house there were my mother, my father, six brothers and one sister; we were many people in my house!

My mother died when I was fourteen years old, because she had a disease. My house was very small and we had so many animals like dogs, chickens, cows, goats, etc. Houses now tend to be bigger and there are not so many people in every house.

I was born when the war ended, and the political situation was very bad. I couldn't go to school because I had to help my parents, I started to work with my father when I was eight years old.

When I was eleven years old, there was a plane accident in the mountain of "Mujer Muerta", and I had to ride up with the horse to rescue the corpses.

I think that there are a lot of differences between the past and present because in the past there weren't phones or TVs, etc.

However, I miss many things from the past.

CARLOS' GRANDMOTHER

My name is Carmen San Juan Andrés. I was born in 1942 in a village called Tejares, in Segovia. My family had only enough to live because I was born in the post-war time, a time in which Spanish families were very poor. My father was a farmer and my mother a housewife. We were two sisters and one brother but my sister died at the age of 18.

Now I will tell you a story from my life in the village where I was born. When I was a little girl I had to go to the neighbouring village (Fuentesoto) to get water. Me and the other girls went riding a horse to Fuentesoto . We were not very well received because the population of the neighbouring village wanted all the water from its source for them. When we arrived in the village, we stood up in the horses to pick up some fruits of the trees, but when the farmers saw us picking up fruit they pursued us and we had to go back home very quickly. Unfortunately, when we came back home, we had only half of the bottle full of water. After a few years Fuentesotos' water was used up and they built a source in Tejares so Fuentesoto's population had to go there to get water.

I got married at the age of 20. At the age of 22 I gave birth to my first daughter and when I was 23 I went to live to Extremadura with my husband and my daughter. At the age of 24 years, I gave birth to my second daughter and, finally, at the age of 30 I returned to my home town, Segovia.

Nowadays, I miss some farm food and naturalness that was everywhere in the past. But thanks to the changes in the country, since 1960 I have been able to live a more comfortable life and since I had grandchildren I have loved and enjoyed travelling everywhere.

Recently I have bought a smartphone and I can see how I am able to adapt to the new technologies too.