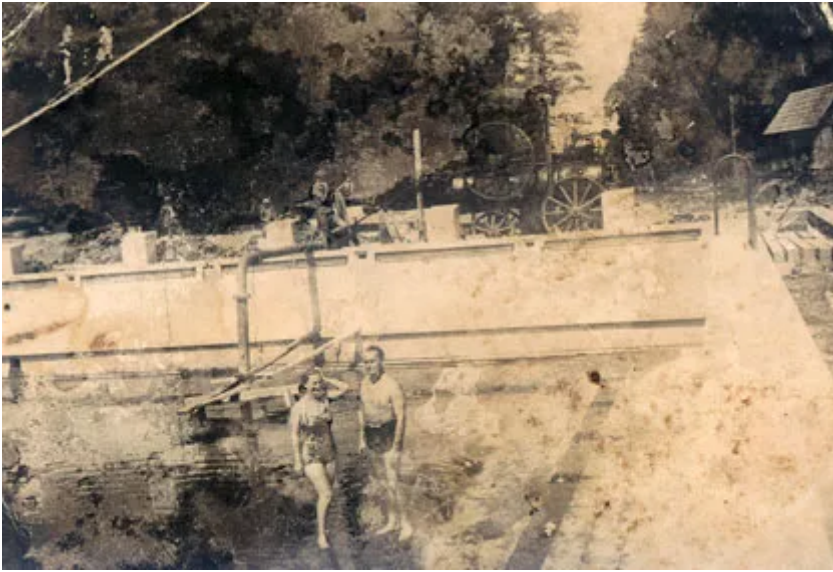


Bella Steinmetz In Banffyfurdo



This photo was taken in Banffyfurdo, I was there with my husband. The person on the photo is a friend of my husband. He had a car, and we went there to take a bath at the Banffy baths. My husband took a picture of us. One can see what kind of swimming costume I had already. The bath was built recently. Before that a smaller wooden house had been there, its water, it had a natural source, had 23 degrees in winter as well in summer. It didn't freeze in, it contained some mineral. Somebody, an entrepreneur made a large basin. However the sources couldn't fill a 20 m long basin. We have so much water, one sinks just a little and finds water in all Transylvania. There was a fresh water source, they let it in the basin, so the bath was ready. So we could swim in it. Well, in fact one doesn't need to swim in a 23 degrees water during summer, moreover, when the sun heated up the former Banffy it was so warm like piss! This basin got enlarged. People came to bath, on Saturday and on Sunday it was always full. I didn't come often from Marosvasarhely. Once or twice, when we visited my parents, for one or two days, if mammy couldn't come.

I finished school in 1927-28, I already knew my husband, because his elder brother, Izold Almasi was a bank director for a while in Toplica. He moved then to Kolozsvar, he was transferred there to a bank. He had a family and children. His wife was called Irma, she was from Segesvar [today Sighisoara]. My husband, Andor Almasi was already enrolled at the university in Kolozsvar, he was a correspondent student. He studied to be a lawyer. He got his doctoral degree in Kolozsvar [at the University of Law]. Nagyvarad, Iasi and Kolozsvar had such universities. Back then one didn't have to get a doctor's degree in all places, Kolozsvar emitted the diploma only if he took his doctorate. Fortunately there wasn't any university in Marosvasarhely yet, that's why it was cheap, it was a small town with 45 thousand inhabitants. In summer he always came to visit his brother, there was the Banffy bath, he liked bathing, so we knew each other. And it came once to my sister-in-law, to Irma's mind to put me in touch with her brother-in-law. She was successful. Thus he came more and more often.