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**November 5, 2019, Novi Sad, Serbia**

### **Summary**

Éva Cékus Faragó was born on October 16, 1927 in Kishegyes (Mali Iđoš), Yugoslavia. Her father, Andor Faragó was a timber merchant from Szabadka (Subotica). He came from a well-to-do Jewish family. He had a brother, István and a sister, Ella (married name, Havas). Her mother, Margit Árpádfy was the youngest child in a big family. After her mother's early death, her oldest brother, who was a physician in Budapest raised her. Her mother's family was Catholic. Excepting her paternal grandmother, no one was religious in the family. There were no resentments in either family of the other's religion.

She attended the four-year elementary school in Kishegyes. She named Margit Kovács and Irén Varga as classmates, with whom she stayed in touch all her life. They spoke Hungarian, since the majority of the population was Hungarian. There were not many Jewish families in Kishegyes. She remembered the Kertész, Fischer, and Frankl families. Her father was a big soccer fan and became the president of the local soccer club. He sponsored building a soccer field.

She visited the first year of high school in Szabadka, living with her grandparents. She learned Serbian at that time. She liked her grandmother who sometimes took her to the synagogue. Szabadka had a large Jewish community. She spent the subsequent two years of high school in Ujvidék (Novi Sad), living in a convent.

She did not remember the Hungarian occupation [April 1941], and the massacre of Jews in Ujvidék [January 1942].

In 1942 or 1943, her parents sent her to Budapest to high school, to the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary (*Angol Kisasszonyok*). She remembered that her mother went to Budapest and took her to a town in the Upper Region (Felvidék, now in Slovakia) to see her father who was in a forced labor company there, together with his brother. Her mother knew that he was being transferred to the Soviet front, and he wanted to see them. He perished in forced labor: she said at the Don [unlikely in 1943 or 1944].

After the German occupation [March 19, 1944] she went back to Kishegyes. Her grandmother was already deported. She had died in Auschwitz. She said that the town clerk, who was sent there from Hungary proper organized the concentration of local Jews and the expropriation of their property. The elegant apartment of her grandparents with furniture and all belongings was expropriated.

Her father's timber yard was confiscated. The machinery and inventory were taken over by Miksa Friedrich, a local merchant with the help of the town clerk.

While it happened, she and her mother were locked in their apartment.

Her aunt Ella, a journalist, was in hiding and survived.

She took her final exam of high school after the war in Budapest.

She worked in clerical functions first in Topolya (Bačka Topola), later in Ujvidék where she moved with her husband. Her husband was not Jewish.

She considered herself a Catholic for whom religion did not matter and held her Jewish heritage close to her heart.

She arranged for a plaque for her father in Kishegyes. She and the interviewer referred to a book of Jews in Kishegyes.

She claimed throughout the interview that there was no discrimination or bad blood among the nationalities before the German occupation. After many years of peace, the same national and religious animosities flared up again when [Slobodan] Milošević came to power [1989].