

Mehmed Ćosić – Construction of a small town

My name is Mehmed Cosic. I was born in 1938 in village Dolina. I studied primary school and crafts in Zavidovici. After that I served in the army, and after army I got a job in Krivaja, where I worked until retirement. As for the construction of the city, I remember how the city looked before. There were small houses - there was only the building of the military department. Everything else is new construction.

I remember when first buildings were built: the school "29. November", made in 1954, then the buildings at today's Alija Izetbegovic street (former 27. Udarne divizije street). I remember the high buildings: Visoko, Grbavica 1 and 2, Mostarka, Žepača, Parnjača and area across Parnječa building. I worked on construction of buildings called "Klek" in June 1979.

The old city was on the left bank of Bosna river. There was "Zema" store for the textile and equipment, you could buy the record player but there was no TV, across the street was the old hotel (Stari hotel), then "Skudina" bakery, above barbershop, and grocery items shop, shoe store, textiles store, then Ramiz cafe (where there is the Monument now).

In 1953 began construction of Dom Kulture building (House of Culture), Dalmatians worked with stone materials. On the "Old ramp" area the stones were processed and then incorporated in the building. The foreman was Friedrich Dojmi from Gobarica. I worked on the building, we assisted in bringing and stripping materials.

School "Sutjeska" was made in 1957, as was the previously one was located at today's "Omladinsko naselje". There was a building - dormitories for single workers, later transformed in school. That building was outdated, so it was built a new school "Sutjeska" on the location where is today. The old building has been demolished.

The craftsmen who worked on the school "29th November" were not from "Krivaja" company, when they finished construction works on that school, they constructed the building across the "Socijalno". This company was later shut down. Later in 1957 were constructed ground buildings at the Majlis (Medžlis), I worked as a skilled craftsman on them.

On the "Parnjača" building Salih Mehić has been the foreman. Kasim Muhic was foreman on that building next to "Parnjača". As for Grbavica 1 and 2, and those buildings were not habitable until I came out of the army – they were inhabited in 1961. Construction of the building "Visoko" was launched in 1960. When I finished works on "Mostarka" building, I passed to work on "Visoko" building. It was completed in 1963.

As for the prefabricated buildings in Novo Naselje, story house were built in 1964, a floor building (steel structures with 2 and 3 floors) were done in 1966, 1967 and 1968. Kristal hotel was built in 1975 - Galib Starcevic was foreman.

"Sutjeska II" was made in 1982, 1983 and 1984, because people from the old "Kolona" were moved out there, in order to build Krivaja's "Furniture 4". Here I was foreman - it was day and night job. Later there were built classic buildings "Sutjeska I" (built by Krivaja's construction department). Work on the settlement "Klek" initiated in 1979. I worked there until 1981, there were 10 sections. Later I went into the field work, outside Zavidovici.

During the war we worked on settlement of prefabricated houses near the “garage”. The main investor was the Italian "Caritas". There was built the new settlement, which was completed in 1996. That was my last job in Krivaja’s construction. Then began the damn privatization, when constructions disappeared and everything else.

