

Hello, here I am!,

well, I couldn't make my appearance on this planet known like that. It was Friday the 4th of April 1958 a Good Friday zodiac sign Aries Chinese zodiac sign Dog, but of course I didn't know that yet. My two sisters also had no idea what kind of bundle had arrived. I had two sisters, one was 5 years older and the other 9 years older than me. Anyone who can still remember and write down the time from 0 to 3 years at the age of 62 is either very memorable or a fraud. I am neither one nor the other. Much of what is written here was told to me or I really remembered it. I was probably not that different from others. My oldest sister once told me that she had to take care of me and that is how she drove to the playground with the stroller and a friend with a stroller. After enough play, my sister put me on the swing and it wasn't long before I fell off the swing. I must have yelled a lot that my sister took me to the pediatrician right away. She probably thought something had broken with me (she should be right). But the doctor found no harm in me. Hello, but something can be overlooked. In any case, it wasn't a total write-off, I would certainly have noticed that. Against all rules, I continued to grow and was soon able to run properly, but of course not a half marathon. I already had my first task in the morning.

I was supposed to get the newspaper for us and a neighbor. So I walked down Bogengasse to the market square and got the two newspapers. The neighbors gave me a puzzle for Christmas as a present to collect. Incidentally, I deliberately do not show dates or my age. A few things happened to me, but the date is missing and is not mentioned. When I was supposed to go to kindergarten, I didn't really feel like doing it. None of my playmates went to kindergarten either. I went to kindergarten after all. My mom, who for me is the best mom in the world, even bought me a breast pocket (for my breakfast, mothers think of everything). The bag was hung around the neck so that it hung in front of the chest. I had gone there maybe a week before I told my mom that I didn't want to go there anymore. She just mumbled something about early childhood education and that this would be the best for me now and here and at all. Otherwise she left me alone again. Incidentally, I am quite sure that my playmates taught me the necessary early childhood education. They were just professionals in raising children. In connection with this, the following story also occurred to me. My mom, you know, the best, etc. was asked by a business woman from Weilburg when the street boy (by that I was meant, editor's note) goes to kindergarten. My

mom apologized but immediately said that she had registered me, but he just doesn't want to. If you are not careful then it will be a real "I don't want type".

The big collecting started in autumn. Chestnuts were collected for the zoo in Hirschhausen. Most of the income was on the Lahn opposite the Hainkaserne. There were 4 or 5 large chestnut trees. Then our papa has them

Chestnuts driven to Hirschhausen. They were weighed and you got a few pfennigs for every kilo (by the way, that was meant to be food for the winter).

I also had a girlfriend in the school alley. One of her relatives or even her father was usher in the cinema at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday. So when we wanted to see a movie she would tell her relative. Then we are from Schulgasse to Schwanengasse and then to Hundtengäßchen. There was one of three exits from the cinema. Then we knocked on the door and your relative opens the door. We then sat down quite inconspicuously in a row of seats, everything just so that we wouldn't be noticed.

After the cinema we ran to the playground and replayed the scenes as far as possible. Once a kissing scene was shown in the film. That should work for us too.

Now show me what you learned from the film. We tried hard until it finally worked.

What you can learn in the cinema, just great.

I also had a friend who even invited me to lunch once. That was because her parents had a bar on the market square between the Nickel toy store and the arched passage from the market square to Bogengasse. There was even a nice beer garden. My girlfriend ordered goulash with noodles twice. And so this is what the meal looked like that I had enjoyed with my girlfriend in the beer garden for the first time.

I also learned to roller-skate much earlier than to ride a bike. We couldn't park bicycles in the stairwell. First I got my sister's old roller skates with metal rollers. They made a lot of noise on the asphalt. When people first heard the noise, they probably thought something big was about to come here. And then, disguised as a three-cheese high, I shot around the bend from Bogengasse to Schulgasse at walking pace. You could also say, "Tell me what noise you are making and I will tell you how you are at the moment. The school alley was hardly frequented by cars and so we could play our games in peace and quiet, such as badminton (or amateur badminton), soccer or rubber twists. Once a week a pickup truck drove the rubbish from our butcher's shop to a collection station or the cuckoo knows where to go. The

smell lingered on the street for at least 10 minutes. Of course, such a small town offered many opportunities for children to play.

Especially the bridge, that is a strip of land between the castle wall and the banks of the Lahn. The bridge is overgrown with trees, bushes and hedges and can be used to play hide and seek. The fountains and the slope from the street "Über dem Hainberg" are also ideal for playing. I never went to the Lahn or even near it because I couldn't swim yet and because I didn't want to drown and die in the process.

There was something else. Some will say that we lived in simple circumstances. On the one hand this is true, on the other hand it is not. As my mother told me, we had no washing machine, no refrigerator, and we didn't have a TV, for example. In return, we had important intangible values such as a great family with a cultivated tone and the friends were reason enough to forego a lot of material things.

As a child, I once had rickets (vitamin D deficiency). Then I got sunshine several times and was in the fresh air and the sun as often as possible.

Then the problem ended after a few weeks.

Oh yes, I started school in the summer of 1965. I couldn't decide between school cones and school pretzels. In the end, both had to believe in it. The way to school from Schulgasse to the Jakob Mankel School on Waldhäuser Weg was not entirely easy. Especially when it rains or in winter. I liked school quite well except for math, religion and sports. But that is about to change.

We lived very cramped on Schulgasse 9. My sisters shared a room and I slept in my parents' bedroom.

### The year 1967

The year 1967 and the following years are imprinted on my memories.

It started with the fact that we wanted to look at an apartment. The house was near the Weilburg fairground. When we got there a woman looked out a window. and said when she saw my mom and me if there were any more children. My mother said yes, three more children. Then the woman said that it wouldn't be for us then.

Now my dad has been working for the Hessian Road Construction Office in Weilburg / Waldhausen for some time. An old road keeper's house (built in 1903) has now been offered for rent. We looked at the house and rented it. In 1967 I was in 3rd grade through the short circuit years. Now the way to school was much shorter. But then I had to work in the downtown Komödienbau for two years. But from the 7th grade onwards, lessons were again in the Jakob Mankel School on Waldhäuser

Weg. Several times the neighbor who was a teacher at the school took her son and me to school. In winter, my neighbor and I could go sledding. The slope is now developed and is called Konrad - Adenauer Straße and all side streets. When we moved up there there was a concrete plant where there is now a supermarket. Here, concrete was mixed with all the ingredients and then poured into the concrete transporters. After the concrete factory, there was a window factory. What was alien to my mom and the rest of the family was the lack of business. While there was one store after another in the city (sixties). Here you had to look for the shops. We often went to the Form (or Kontra) on Westerwaldstrasse in Waldhausen.

I actually got to know my neighbor while playing badminton. We had had quite funny stories with my neighbors. Once we were walking in the direction of the forest in the tall grass. Suddenly my neighbor had to go really bad. And shortly afterwards there was a scream. My neighbor peed on a pasture fence hidden under the grass. And the wire was live.

But nothing happened, after all, he became the father of two children.

We even wanted to build a tree house. Once when he was 10 he told me to go to confession. The call came from his grandma. Then my neighbor said he wouldn't have done anything. At the age of 10 I agree with him, but 10 years later I would think of a lot.

Then came the news that our house was going to be sold in 1970. We got the right of first refusal. There was a long calculation and thought until we were of the opinion that the purchase and a conversion was possible. Now it was time to get to work. Although my dad did a lot himself and I was allowed to help, the renovation was a laborious process.

From 1970 to 1980 my mother worked for a snack manufacturer (Hultsch) in Weilburg - Waldhausen. She only finished work because she walked through a closed glass door in the evening when it was dark. As a result, the right hand was partially paralyzed.

1972 was my confirmation. Since the renovation could also be seen as a renovation, we let the celebration take place in Haus Hubertus in Waldhausen. In 1973 the conversion was largely finished. Now my dad can go back to his main job dedicate to the garden. For me, sweeping the street and mowing the lawn was my hobby. In the summer of 1974, I graduated from school at the age of 16. In autumn 1974 the amateur radio course came to an end after about a year. Incidentally, I

changed my career goal with the amateur radio course. Before that, I wanted to do something in the chemical industry. In Weilburg there was also a chemical company, the Weilburger Lackfabrik, today Weilburg Coating. I had changed my career aspirations to electronics technician. However, I also knew that I couldn't learn a radio and television technician. My fear of heights got in the way. For example, if I had an antenna in one hand and an antenna cable in the other, this would be difficult on a roof if I am afraid of heights.

But then we talked like that at school and a classmate said that he had applied for an apprenticeship as an electronics technician at Philips. He knew that from Philips because his girlfriend's father worked at Philips. Then I applied to Philips and also to the post office in Giessen as a telecommunications technician. The invitation to Philips came earlier than the invitation from the post office. The test was tough and lasted from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. including lunch.

The first morning test was very math related. The other tests were dexterity and German. We had to describe an experiment and say why the experiment works the way it did.

At the end there was a bit of an oral test and then you were told whether one was taken or not. Me and my classmate were taken. Oh, by the way, I got an invitation from the post office, but I refused it. I had an apprenticeship at Philips. Only now did I find out that my neighbor had also completed an apprenticeship at Philips and then trained as a technician. Now he works in a company where printed circuit boards are sold as finished devices or as kits. He offered me to assemble and solder circuit boards in my homework. I liked it so much that I wanted to check circuit boards too. Especially the light organs that were so popular at the end of the seventies. For this I needed a sine wave generator with a different frequency and amplitude. My neighbor gave me a circuit diagram, the components and a suitable housing. The generator was quickly soldered together and the scale was labeled on my neighbour's frequency meter. In any case, now I could equip and check the light organs. A little later there was a self-made power supply unit with 0 volts to 30 volts and in the current range from 0 to 1 ampere. Now the training could actually begin.