

Curriculum vitae of Hans-Jörg Hasenknopf

The boss was born on the 15th of September 1936.

„My career after the 8th grade in elementary school was actually natural and predetermined. I started my apprenticeship in the parental company. I was glad to be able to learn in the parental company because in 1949 two thirds of all boys had no apprenticeship!

What I experienced at the beginning was anything but uplifting. Two grouchy senior journey-level craft men, in addition to my extraordinarily exact and always suspicious father. He had been detached from the front and had experienced unconditional obedience towards the construction management of the bunker construction at the “Obersalzberg”. Obedience which he also requested from his apprentices.

My uncle, the metalsmith in the same company, to whom I clung, was not like that. He noticed that I liked to stand next to the fire and that I soaked up his smith's skills like a sponge.

After the apprenticeship I worked another two years at home, then I went to Switzerland where I was more active in steel construction. The time afterwards was a good time for me. Yet without worries about the rate of return, but always assigned with nice smith's works, I could pursue my passion. Then one more runaway to Munich to the metalsmith Altmann, he had the privilege to work as smith at the company Goller. Exceptionally I was allowed to work at the smithy as well.

After the wedding with my wife Hildegard the wish for my own workshop became stronger and stronger. I was lucky and could acquire a very near property. It was a nice coincidence that the former “Grabenschmiede” stood there where my great-grandmother, the saline-smith's daughter, had been born. Construction begun in 1979 and in January 1981 the first fire was lighted!“