Ferenc Legányi was born in Budapest in 1884, but he lived in Eger in most of his life – from the age of 14. The Legányi family bought a familying between the south side of the Nagy-Eged hill and the Kis-Eged (Small-Eged), where plenty of agricultural developments were brought into practice. They started to build up terraces into the hillside and planted vineyards and orchards. Meanwhile enormous amount of soil and stones were moved manually. Ferenc Legányi became interested in archaeology because of the emerging fossils.

He made up his huge, own collection from the 40 million year-old fossilized fish and leaf remains turning up from a ditch on the south side of the Kis-Eged also raising the interest of the experts of the Hungarian National Institute of Archaeology. From that point on he was in contact with the well-known experts in the country and his interest turned also towards other territories of the Bükk. The ditch – from where his collection was revealed – cannot be found any more as it was filled up during agricultural activities and the stream running across their yard under the Os-toros stream this way avoiding the Kis–Eged.

Even a small fish pond was established on the stream. Later the yard was sold at an auction, and the building itself became the property of Eger-vin, the winery of Eger, having already been closed down by now. The ruins has become fully weedeaten, the streams are diverted elsewhere, the orchards and vineyards are completely devastated. However, the vineyards have been recultivated since the 2000s, only the ancient almond trees blooming each and every spring keep the memories of the once prosperous estate.

ENGAGED TO SCIENCE IN HARD TIMES AS WELL

In the beginning of the 1900s a rock road was planned to be built together with Eger in order to connect the city with the vineyards of Eged hill. Based on the initial agreement the expenses would have been shared equally between the city of Eger and the Legányi family. The construction progressed rather slowly, and by the time the road had been finished, the Legányi family engaged huge bank loans, but finally managed to pay the workers. However, the city did not keep its word and never paid its share, so the estate of the indebted family was sold at an auction. Only a cart and two horses were left from the estate, and the family moved in a house in Eger in Dózafalak Street.

"És mine először az út, magam sem hittem volna tén már foghatunk és menni kell, ket lót maradít a vész után." he wrote this poem in his diary.

From then on he earned his living by transportation and as a sump-man. This time he started to be interested in the clay field of the Wold brick factory, where he discovered many new fossilized species. The sediment of the shallow sea having waved here 25–22 million years ago, preserved numerous skeletons of different creatures, like echinus, corals, comb shells and tower snails. Based on his researches this period of the geological era was named „the layer of Eger” in literature.

He donated his collection to museums, to the Institute of Archaeology, to the Museum of Natural History and to the Hungarian National Museum. In the II World War and in 1956 these collections and the host institutes got damaged at a great extent, moreover a significant part of them was totally destroyed. Ferenc Legányi himself could not bear the stress of the war either: while cartage his hands got frozen, so from that time on from early autumn until late spring he wore sheepskin gloves and never softened hands any more. That is how he became the eccentric hermit, who the kids stared at tremulously, as he wore gloves day and night, he had shabby clothes, big boots and a big sleep on is back, walking continuously back and forth in the Bükk collecting stones. His outcast was highly intensified due to his ancestry as he became politically incorrect in the newly formed communist system.