

# FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## *ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE*



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### Abstract: **Albina Agnes Talasek Babovec**

At the time of this interview Ms. Babovec, nicknamed Binnie, is 99 years old. While her memory fails on some of the topics, with the assistance of her niece, Cindy Poe, Binnie shares stories about growing up in a large farming family in Rosenberg; speaking only the Czech language at home; shelling peas and canning food; and global travel during the 26 years her husband, Ben, served in the military. She worked in Houston during WWII as a welder and owned a grocery store in Rosenberg while her husband served as mayor.

15 Pages

⇓ *Scroll down for Key Words from the Interview.* ⇓

Ms Albina Agnes Talasek Babovec died on September 23, 2015. Her obituary may be found at: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/153069321>

## Interview Summary

### People (in order mentioned in interview)

Ben Babovec – spouse  
 David Allen Babovec – adopted son  
 Lucille Talasek – sister in law  
 Jerry Talasek – brother, Lucille’s husband  
 Tom Talasek – brother,  
 Cindy Poe – niece  
 Mary Babovec – mother in law  
 Edmund Babovec – brother in law  
 Edwin Babovec – brother in law  
 Mr. Rains – former Rosenberg mayor  
 Mrs. Cooper – friend  
 Charles Albert Chandler – Cindy’s father  
 Lily Ruth Babovec Chandler – Cindy’s mother  
 Ms McKinley Calendar – friend

### Places / Businesses

Temple, Texas  
 Rosenberg, Texas  
 Fort Bend County  
 Coles Theater

### Events

Born in 1916 in Ratibor, Texas, Ms Babovec, nicknamed Binnie, is 99 years old during this interview.

Due to her age and failing memory, Binnie’s niece, Cindy Poe, assisted with the interview. Additionally, her obituary, linked above, includes many fascinating details of her life and supplements the interview.

Ms Babovec shares stories of growing up in Rosenberg while her father co-owned a cotton gin. Her mother canned food and made clothes from sack cloth patterns. Once Binnie’s mother made a lunch for her and her 6 siblings and took them to the cotton fields to pick cotton all day to make them appreciate hard work.

US Army  
 Hughes Tools, Houston  
 Houston, Texas  
 England  
 The Philippines  
 Pay-Less Grocery Store, Rosenberg  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post,  
 Rosenberg  
 Rosenberg Volunteer Fire Department  
 Civil Defense Director  
 Emergency Preparedness Director  
 Fire Marshall  
 City Councilman-at-Large, Rosenberg  
 Rosenberg Water Department  
 Houston Lighting & Power  
 Rosenberg High School  
 Robert E. Lee Elementary School  
 Fort Bend County Fairgrounds  
 Pay-Less Grocery Store  
 Rosenberg Bank & Trust  
 Richmond, Texas

Binnie traveled globally with her husband, Ben, during his 26 years serving in the Army. After retiring, they moved back to Rosenberg to open a grocery store and get involved in politics.

They adopted a son, David, as their only child.

Ben served several terms as a councilman in Rosenberg and a couple of terms as mayor of Rosenberg. Binnie's brother Tom Talasek served and retired as the city's Fire Marshal and Fire Chief.

Cindy Poe, Binnie's niece remembers only hearing the Czech language being spoken in her grandmother's house. Every Sunday various family members gathered after church to enjoy a delicious meal along with her granny's homemade kolaches.