

JEWES OF ORANGE COUNTY

OUR STORY

ORANGE COUNTY'S JEWISH PIONEERS 1881-1920

As Orange County separated from Los Angeles County (in 1889) and continued to grow, the Jewish community grew right along with it, mostly free from the antisemitism of Europe, Africa, and the East Coast. Sadly, that would soon change.

Jewish owned stores include (3) S.S. Federman - Clothing, and (4) Cahen's Store on Los Angeles Street (now Anaheim Blvd.).



1892

The Federman Building, with its prominent turret, was built in the late 1880s by Polish Jewish immigrant brothers Samuel and Charles Federman. It was a symbol of success and of their standing in the community.

Harry Davis, son of OC Jewish pioneers Gustav and Helen, in his Loara School 9th grade graduation photo. Note that there is one other minority student in the class, Rita Rivas, demonstrating that at this time the schools in Orange County were not yet segregated.

1893



1891

Max and Julius Reinhaus started out working for fellow German Jewish immigrant Levi Gilmacher before branching off on their own. They were well known for their excellent prices and honesty in business dealings.



The Reinhaus Millinery (hat) store on 4th Street in Santa Ana was run by sisters Therese, Emilie and Pauline; today it is a bridal shop.



Jacob Stern and his cousin, Joseph Goodman, arrived in Fullerton in 1889 and opened a small general store. Stern-Goodman Street in Fullerton is named for these two OC pioneers.

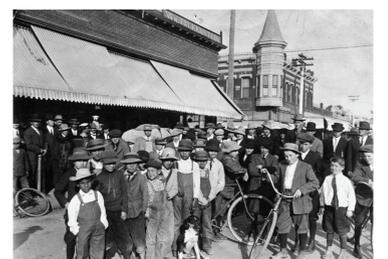
1908



1909

Gertrude Asher was selected to be queen of the 1909 Santa Ana Carnival of Products, an early version of the Orange County Fair. Born in 1889 in Orange County, where she grew up, she was the daughter of Jewish German immigrants Isadore and Ida Asher.

William Falkenstein was a German Jew who immigrated to the U.S. in 1890, eventually arriving in Anaheim, where he opened Falkenstein's Department Store, as seen here. He was an active civic leader in the early Anaheim community.



Orange County pioneers Nathan and Rose Fainbarg arrive in Santa Ana with their sons John and Abe (later called Allan) in 1919; daughter Florence would be born in 1926. The family had, and continues to have, an enormous impact on the OC Jewish community.



Orange County's first synagogue, B'nai Brith, was established in 1920 in Santa Ana but never fully got off the ground; the OC Jewish community would have to wait until 1943 for its first successful synagogue, Temple Beth Sholom of Santa Ana.

Betty Zirinsky, daughter of Jewish immigrants Joseph and Lena, is seated second from left on a delivery cart for Jewish-owned Sam Stein's Stationery Store. The Zirinsky family was in the restaurant business and owned numerous local eateries.

