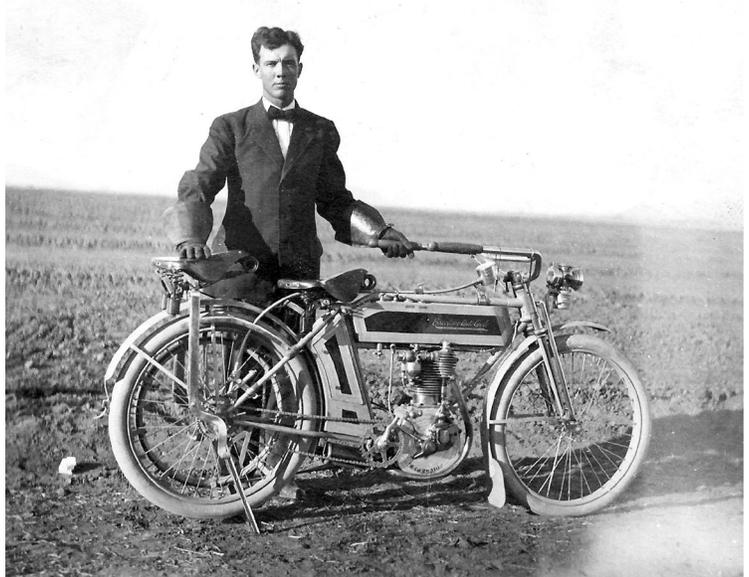


Walter Zeiders - 1909 from Pennsylvania by Motorcycle

In 1909, 22-year-old Walter Zeiders left his home in Pennsylvania and headed west with a couple of his friends. They were all riding motorcycles and their plan was to stop when they ran out of money and work until they got enough to continue their journey.

Eventually Walter left his friends and rode across the desert to Southern California arriving in San Bernardino with \$17 in his pocket.

Walter worked on the Chaffin, Reynolds and Newport ranches before he started farming on his own. He married Frances Evans, daughter of Henry and Ella Evans. The couple raised 3 sons, Cecil, Leslie and Merle.



The Zeiders family first lived at a home on Antelope Road at Keller Road. Later Walter bought property on today's Zeiders Road south of Scott Road. He built a workshop and garage in 1932, his home in 1934 and in 1938 his Pennsylvania Dutch style barn. Walter farmed all his life in Menifee, acquiring large acreage and leasing other parcels.

Walter's youngest son Merle was born in 1928 at a midwife's home in Hemet. Ina May had been living with her brother Chester for the summer when she met Merle. They were married in 1950 at the Bailey Ranch, home of her aunt and uncle. Just like his father, Merle was a wheat farmer. One of his sons David is still farming wheat here today.

The house Merle and Ina May live in today was actually built further north at the corner of Murrieta and Chambers Road, where Merle's father owned some land. They moved into the home in 1958 and lived there until 1972. Merle is quoted as saying, "*We dragged the house across the valley, right through the fields. There were no roads around back then.*" That house sits on the same property where his father built his home in 1938.

Merle celebrated his 90th birthday in 2018. Five generations of Zeiders' continue to live in Menifee.

