

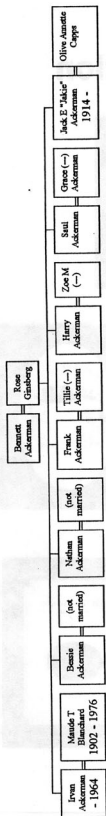
ACKERMAN FAMILY: by "Charlie" J Grandmaison

Information for this family was obtained during an interview with Jack E Ackerman at the St. Petersburg Historical Museum, and also from articles written in the Tampa Tribune by L Hawes and Tanya Isch.

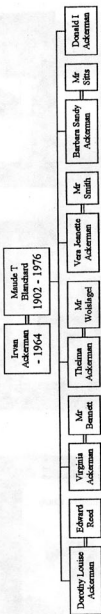
Bennett Ackerman migrated to St Petersburg from Russia with his wife, Rose Ginsberg of Kiev, Russia. The couple was married through the efforts of one of the "matchmakers" that were active in the early 1900's. Bennett Ackerman was a musician of German Jewish heritage. Their first two children, Irvan and Bessie, were born in Kiev, Russia some time before 1906. This small family of four passed through Ellis Island on their way to stay with a sponsor in Pittsburgh, PA. Four more children were born to Bennett and Rose while they lived in Pittsburgh. All sons, they were named Nathan, Frank, Harry, and Saul. Their seventh child, Jack E Ackerman was born in Tampa, FL, shortly after the family moved there. The father, Bennett A. . . . tried to make a living teaching music, but he was not successful. In discouragement and unable to make a living, he left his family! The Akermans, 6 boys, 1 girl, and the mother were left to fend for themselves. Soon after, in 1919, this family moved to St Petersburg. Irvan, the eldest son, met and married Maude T Blanchard of St Petersburg. Irvan and Maude owned and operated Ackerman's Newsstand on Central Avenue for more than 35 years. The eldest and only daughter, Bessie, stayed with the family and never married. The Ackerman boys found that selling newspapers enabled the family to live modestly well. This was especially true of the youngest of the Ackerman children, Jack E. Jack was originally named Jakie, but he later changed his name to Jack E Ackerman. He was pushed into selling newspapers at the age of three by his older brothers. Some businesses would not allow newspaper hawkers onto their property, so the brothers would set little Jakie up to go into a restaurant with newspapers for sale. He was small and freckled and cute, so the customers took a liking to him, and would not allow the business owners to put him out until they bought his newspapers. As he grew in popularity, Jack wanted to become an actor in Hollywood. When he finally did go there in 1929, his first jobs were working with animals and movie props. Although he did not become an actor, Jack built up a reputation for being an exceptional Prop manager. Some actors he worked for were Jean Harlow, Mickey Rooney, and Judy Garland.

Charts in the Pinellas Pioneer microfilm show the marriages of this Ackerman family, including the children of Jack E Ackerman. We would like anyone who has information to add, to contact the Pinellas Genealogy Society. Birth, marriage, or death data that can be added will make it easier for future researchers to complete their family genealogy. The Pinellas Pioneer microfilm contains more information and some pictures of Jack E Ackerman on pages A32 through A46. Jack lives in California but his siblings and their children and grandchildren have stayed in Pinellas County. Although Bessie and Nathan Ackerman never married, their brothers did. Frank married Tillie (no surname?), Harry married Zoe M (no surname?), and Saul married Grace (no surname?). Many birth dates/locations as well as marriage dates/locations are needed. Can you help provide these? Other surnames in the PINELLAS PIONEER microfilm records associated with the Ackerman family are Bennett, Blanchard, Capps, Ginsberg, Reed, Sitts, Smith and Wolslage. Please note also that there are Ackermans not related to this family in Pinellas County.

Descendants of Bennett Ackerman



Descendants of Irvan Ackerman



Descendants of Jack E. "Jakie" Ackerman

