

The Search for Trojan Leather Sportswear

A mirage. A fever dream. The Keyser Söze of vintage leather jacket makers.

That's how I saw Trojan Leather Sportswear when I first discovered the brand. New to the leather jacket scene, I was captivated by their sharp designs and the striking label of a Trojan warrior that defined their identity.

It struck me as strange that a brand whose jackets were made 80 or 90 years ago could be adored online by people who knew nothing about its creators. Considering the blood, sweat, and artistry poured into these pieces, I set out to uncover the story—and the people—behind Trojan Leather Sportswear.

(Source: Rin Tanaka's Motorcycle Jackets: A Century of Leather Design):

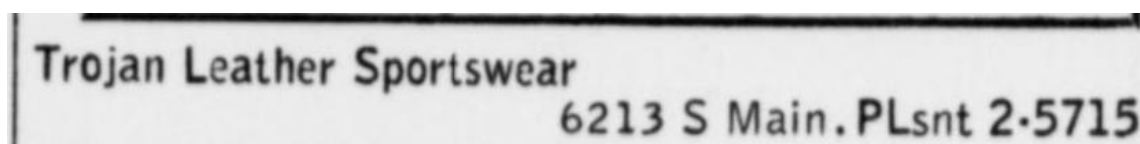


Following the Paper Trail

My search began in the winter of 2024. I started where any good paper trail might lead—the California Secretary of State's business database, home to records of corporations, LLCs, and partnerships.

But Trojan Leather wasn't there. Not a trace.

From there, I turned to archived Los Angeles Yellow Page directories, chasing any lead I could find. Eventually, one surfaced: a single entry in the 1957 Los Angeles Yellow Pages—

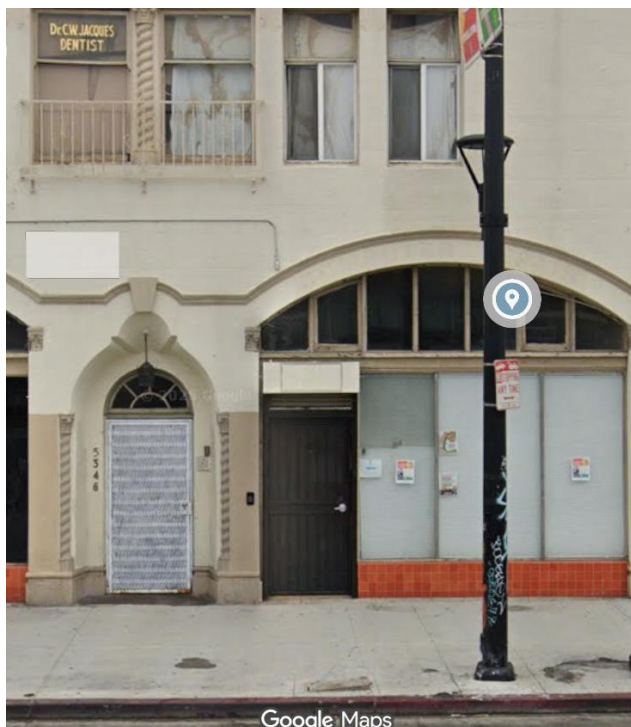


A small line of text—but the first real clue in the mystery. I continued searching through the winter, though only passively, and paused once spring arrived. This fall, I picked up the trail again, revisiting dozens of archived Yellow and White Page directories and expanding the search to include address directories—records showing who lived or operated a business at a given location.

The first solid lead on who was behind Trojan Leather appeared in **March 1960 Los Angeles Street Address Directory**, which listed Rose D and William A. (W.A.) Cox as proprietors.

5346 Crenshw (Woodruff Apts)	
Rm 3 Bramhall Edith E chr sci pr.....	AX 3-2393
Apt 4 Azhderian V H.....	AX 3-8445
Ofc No 5 Mackie Wm H ins.....	AX 2-1933
Apt 7 Chetham Thos D.....	AX 5-2059
Apt 9 Cox Rose D.....	AX 2-6008
Apt 9 Cox Will A.....	AX 2-6008
Apt 10 Stahlman Anna	AX 2-8794
Apt 11 Richardson Alice M.....	AX 4-1062
5346 Crenshw Jacques C W dntst.....	AX 1-4912
5348 Crenshw Bl Cox Rose	AX 5-1745
5348 Crenshw Bl Cox W A Trojan Leather	
	Sportswear. AX 5-1745
5348 Crenshw Bl Trojan Leather Sportswear	
	AX 5-1745

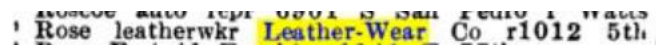
Not coincidentally, they also lived at 5346 Crenshaw, which connects to the apartments directly above 5348 Crenshaw—what I believe was Trojan’s final location. Below is how it looks today, with the old shop door still visible on the right:



Armed with a name, I began searching for any information I could find on William A. and Rose D. Cox. The trail led back to 1935, where a directory listing showed a Rose Cox working as a leatherworker at Leather-Wear Co. Interestingly, the company also ran classified ads seeking operators skilled in leather coats:

Los Angeles City Directory 1935

Volume: 1935 Date published: 1935



Rose leatherwkr Leather-Wear Co. r1012 5th

The Los Angeles Times

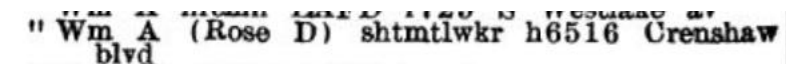
Sat, Jul 27, 1935



LEATHER coat, oprs., exp. Steady work.
Leather-Wear Co., 843 S. Los Angeles st.

The next hit for William and Rose came in the 1936 LA city directory. This was important because it shows that William A. was a sheet metal worker by trade and not aligned with the leather industry. Rose was the leather worker and likely driving force behind Trojan:

Los Angeles Directory Co's Los Angeles City Directory 1936



Wm. A. (Rose D) shtmtlwkr h6516 Crenshaw
blvd

The following Yellow Pages ad comes from the 1948 edition and lists their address as 420 S. Main Street. This location is notable because it makes a brief appearance in the film *The Street with No Name*. I believe this may have been Trojan Leather's first address, and that they operated there only for a short period. Furthermore, I believe the 1932 date highlighted in their advertising may mark when Rose first began working with leather.



TROJAN LEATHER SPORTWEAR
Factory To You-Retail At Wholesale
420 S. Main.....MUTU 1953

Stills from the film of 420 S. Main Street:



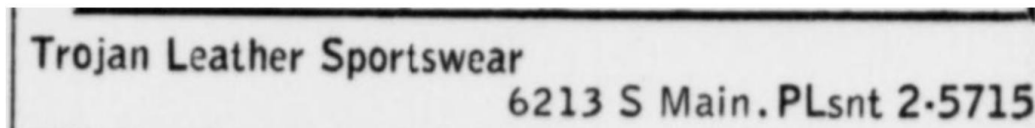
The next-to-last directory listing for Trojan Leather (the 1960 listing being the last, as noted above) dates to 1956–1957, once again showing the Coxes’ names associated with Trojan and/or its address. Notably, the Coxes appear to have done little local advertising, likely focusing more on motorcycle-related magazines. By 1961, both ads and directory listings for Trojan had disappeared entirely.

Los Angeles Street Address Directory, 1956, May

Volume: 1956

6213 S Main Cox Leather Coat Repairing. PL 2-5715
 6213 S Main Cox Rose PL 2-5715

1957 Yellow Pages



Where Was the Trojan Factory?

My research suggests that the Trojan factory—made famous by the “Largest Factory to You” slogan on their labels—was located at 1024 South La Brea, as shown in some advertisements.

“Factory” might be a loose term, though, since I found only one name associated with that address: Cecelia Lozier (née Klinger), listed as a *dressmaker* from the early 1940s through the late 1950s.

(Advertisement from 1956, source: Rin Tanaka’s *Motorcycle Jackets: A Century of Leather Design*)

TROJAN LEATHER SPORTSWEAR
FACTORY TO YOU SINCE 1932

The TROJAN NIGHT RIDER



The Night Rider — a two-tone jacket of top grade horsehide with detachable white sheepskin. Added protection for riding after dark.

Top grade front-quarter horsehide by FLYNNANT. 100% nylon lining quilted on wool. Leather pockets. Inside breast pocket, inside leather bottom bands, zipper sleeves and pockets, belt loops. All our jackets are individually tailored — no assembly line methods. Guaranteed to fit or money back. This price is factory to you — no dealers. We make 'em!

Either style — Night Rider or Champion . . .

Sizes 36 to 44. Larger sizes at slight additional cost. When ordering give height and weight. Detachable laskin lamb collar \$5.00 extra.

BELTS \$1.95

Deposit required on all orders. Add 3% sales tax if in California. We pay postage on prepaid orders.

\$34.95

The TROJAN CHAMPION



LADIES' JACKET
Top grade steerhide
\$22.95

1024 SOUTH LA BREA, INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA

I have never seen Trojan's "Night Rider", as pictured in this advertisement from Cycle, December 1954.

Cecelia's husband's 1942 draft card also lists this address, further linking her to the operation.

L. F. Form 16 1807

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)

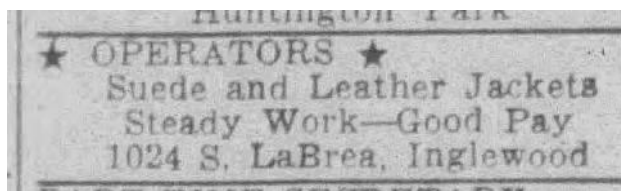
SERIAL NUMBER	1. NAME (Print)	ORDER NUMBER
U 1676	Alexander (None) Lozier (First) (Middle) (Last)	
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print)		
1025 S. Orange Dr. L.A. Cal. (Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)		
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]		
3. MAILING ADDRESS		
1024 S. LaBrea Ave. L.A. Cal. (Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)		
4. TELEPHONE	5. AGE IN YEARS	6. PLACE OF BIRTH
WE 6670	54	
DATE OF BIRTH		(Town or county) *
Dec 7 1888 (Month) (Day) (Yr.)		Romania (State or country)
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS		
Cecilia Lozier-1024 S. LaBrea Ave. L.A.		
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS		
U.S. Gov't. U.S. Engineer - War Dept.		
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS		
751 S. Figueroa Ave. L.A. Cal. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
D. S. Form 1 (Revised 4-1-42)	(over)	10-21630-2
		Alexander Lozier (Registrant's signature)

1956 Los Angeles Address Directory for Cecelia Lozier

01	1019 S La Brea Av Futterman & Gach...	WE 6-8166	1
01	1019 S La Brea Av Shoppers Market genl ofcs	WE 6-8166	1
47	1020 S La Brea Hygienic Dry Clnrs.....	WE 6-3157	1
14	1021 S La Brea Haynes Bike Shop.....	WE 4-1905	1
14	1022 S La Brea Av Jo-Mar Beauty Salon.	WE 9-8883	1
14	1024 S La Brea Av Cecelia Mme drsmkng.	WE 8-6670	1
14	1024 S La Brea Av Lozier Cecelia Cecelia Mme	drsmkng. WE 8-6670	1
31			

Ad for Leather Operators From The Southwest Wave

Los Angeles, California • Thu, Apr 12, 1956Page 26



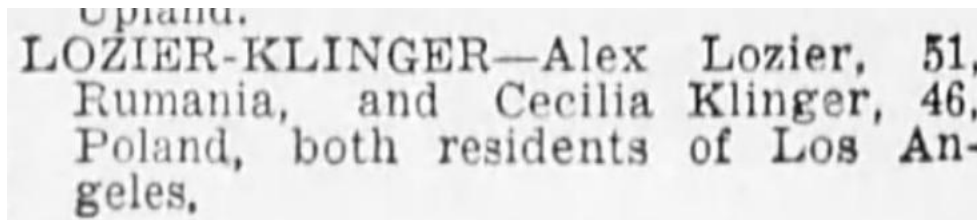
Who Were the Coxes?

Rose Cox (née Omieczynski) was born February 7, 1896, in Missouri to Polish parents from Warsaw. William A. Cox, born around 1871–74 in California, was over twenty years her senior. Rose died in 1964 at 68; William followed three years later, cared for by his niece in Wilmington, Los Angeles. The couple had no children.

Who was Cecelia Lozier (nee Klinger)?

I couldn't find much information about Celia Lozier or her husband, Alex. They tied the knot in their middle age and were Romanian (Alex) and Polish (Celia). Celia shared Polish ancestry with Rose Cox, who was born in the United States to Polish parents.

The San Bernardino County Sun Tue, Aug 27, 1940 ·Page 19



More Questions Than Answers

While I believe we now know some of the people behind Trojan Leather Sportswear, the question of *who owned* Trojan remains unclear. Did Rose Cox and Cecelia Lozier co-own the brand? Or was it Rose's company that contracted with Cecelia (and others) to produce the jackets?

I envision something like the made-to-order or made-to-measure names producing jackets today—small-scale, artisanal operations rather than large industrial ones.

Research ongoing — I'd welcome any leads, advertisements, or additional information that might shed more light on Trojan Leather Sportswear and the people behind it.

I used ChatGPT only lightly for formatting and polishing. These are mostly my words and hours of research.