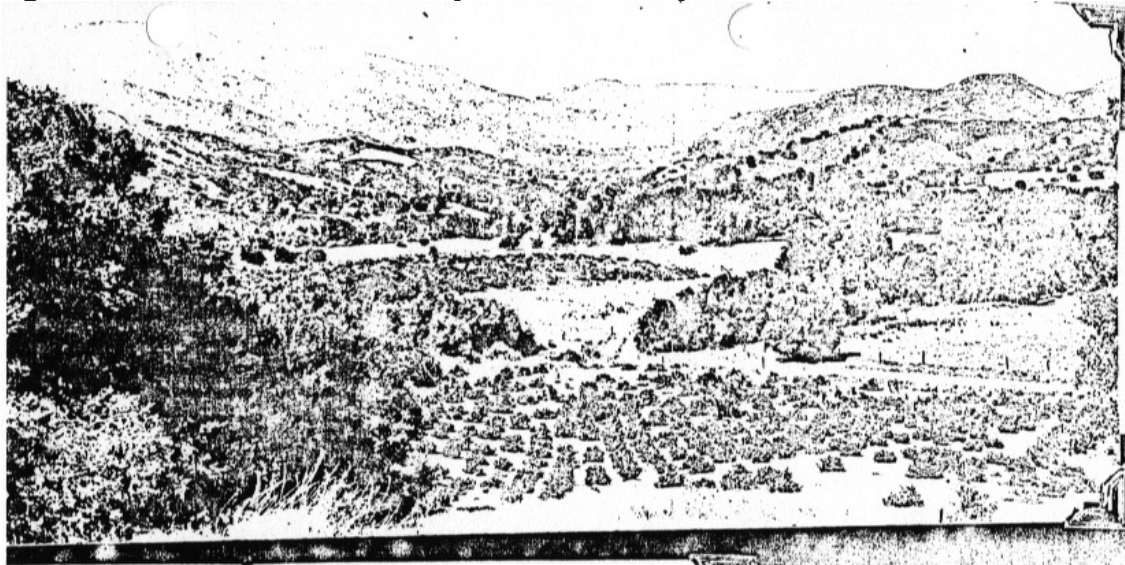


Agriculture in De Luz on Day and Garnsey ranches



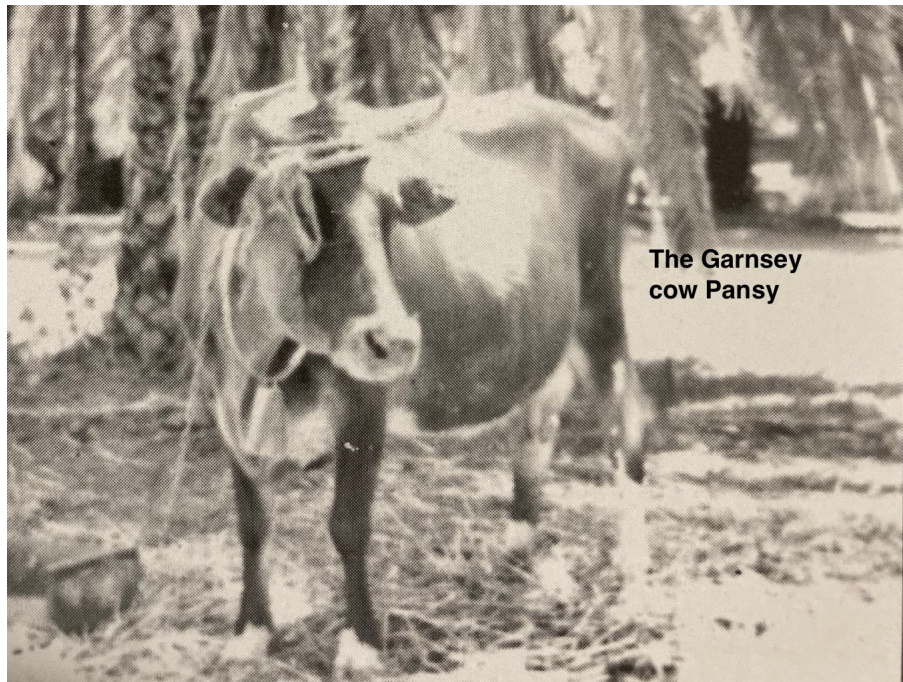
Picture of place. Hou. P. O. in clum. trees in middle picture. You ca. see top of barn. W. spot. Mtns in back 2 mi. Property I want lease 1 mi. from here. In foreground 90% of trees have been cut. De Luz is tree country. (Notes on back) A.J.G.



Peaches and muscat grapes. Early 1900's



Old Barn SE corner of the flat.



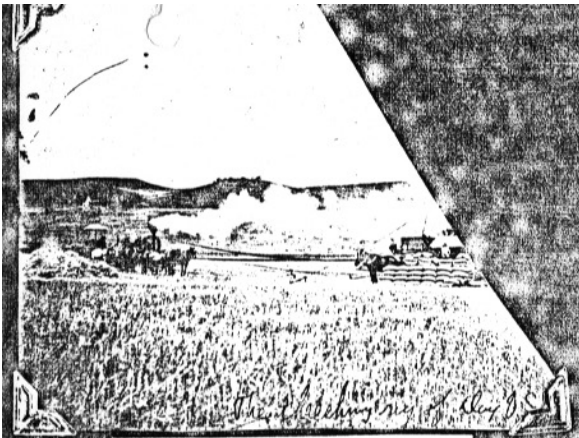
The Garnsey cow Pansy

Pansy was a prodigious producer. She had 16 calves. During the depression Felix and Teddy sold her butter for \$.25 a pound.

"Old Faithful" 1947



Grandpa Garnsey's place  
up the canyon along  
Cottonwood Creek. The  
arrows indicate the adobe  
house and the bee house  
and the road.



Threshing rig of Day & Son.



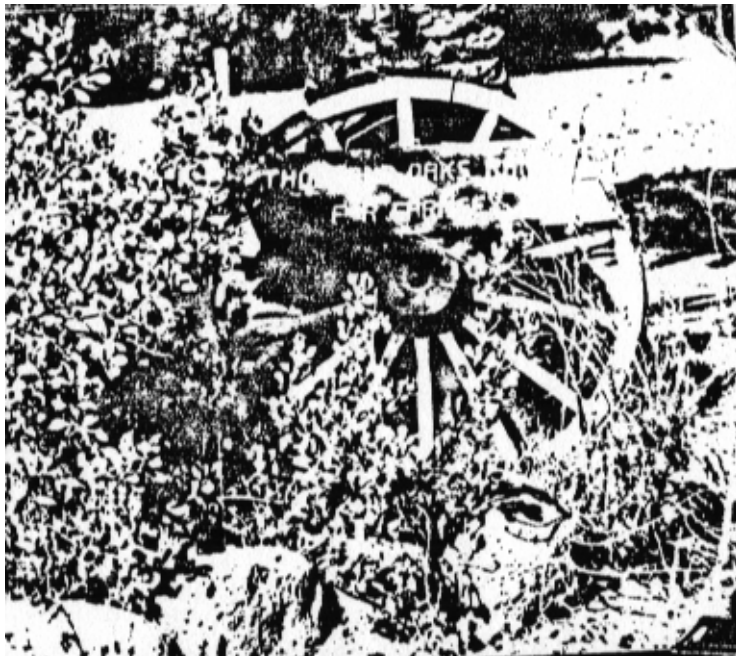
The flat planted to grapes.  
(looking south) House in  
clump of trees.



27 Road south of house;  
pastures on both sides.



Picnic at Brodes  
Aunt Ida & Harry above arrow.



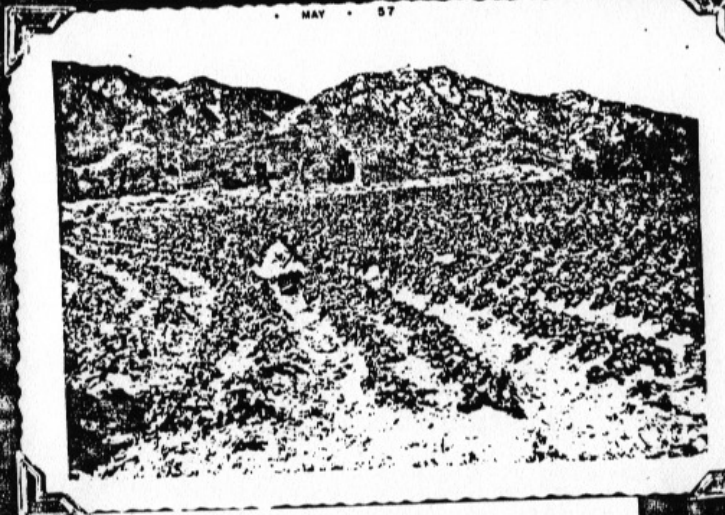
Grandpa Garnsey owned 160 acres up Cottonwood canyon, and Grandpa Day 160 acres, including "the flat." After Raney Garnsey died, Felix bought 80 acres from Ida Garnsey, and that made the property a 400-acre parcel, all of it known as Thousand Oaks Ranch. In 1978 95 acres still remained in the hands of Felix and son Stephen, the rest being owned by Woolsleys, Durlings, Lyppses, and Hammertons.



F Frog Pond was built in 1949 to hold 42 ac. ft. of water and to irrigate all the crops. It was restored after the flood of 1969. The 135 ac. up the canyon, including Frog and Tadpole ponds, were sold in 1976.



Babcock Peaches were raised on the Flat for 15 years. Packing in 1952.



Citrus Hill and the Flat were planted to strawberries in '57-8



FELIX GARNSEY has done something about the preservation of water in DeLuz and he has this beautiful, cat tail-lined pond to show for it. This dirt type reservoir is used quite extensively in the whole area. While the principal purpose, of course, is

to capture and save precious water, these ponds are a delightful contribution to the general natural beauty of the landscape. Didn't get to see Felix to ask him personally, but couldn't help but wonder, "Are the fish biting?" (Free Press staff photo)



Using the combine. Virgil Brown, Felix Garnsey; Steve on tractor. circ 1950



Sweet corn raised many years for July & Oct. markets. Felix, Steve, and Rosalee - summer 1961



Babcock peaches on flat in 1962. The trees bore fruit for over 20 yrs.



Mexican workers bringing green blackeyes to be crated for the L. A. market 1962

1969

# Fallbrook Enterprise

SINCE 1916

COVERING NORTHERN SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S AVOCADO AND CITRUS EMPIRE

SECTION B FALLBROOK, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA Thursday, March 27, 1969



POND VIEW -- Pond on the Garnsey Ranch, three-quarters full of silt, still shows damage from sand on Cottonwood Creek, a month after the record storm.

## DeLuz area continues to dig out

One month has passed since the flood of Feb. 25 which resulted from a two-day storm which brought the DeLuz area approximately 14 inches of rain.

But DeLuz is still digging out, and residents are seeking tax relief from as many sources as they can reach.

Felix Garnsey, a major DeLuz landowner, said it has been the toughest winter he has seen in 50 years.

Charles Compton of the California Division of Forestry estimated that truck trail repairs in the area have increased ten-fold during the past month.

Crews on Monday completed a new quarter-mile portion of Tenaja Truck Trail, which was taken out by raging Cottonwood Creek on Feb. 25. Two families upstream from the huge wash-out, Rudy Foss and Dan Manning, were cut off from civilization.

Foss and his family were evacuated for a week. Others walked in and out.

There were seven major slides on the Tenaja Truck Trail, north to the guard station, and five minor ones. The trail was washed out in seven places.

Work started Tuesday on the repair of Harris Spur, blocked in places by boulders 20 feet across, Compton said. The road from Murrieta south to the guard station is passable only by four-wheel drive vehicles.

Compton estimated that the amount of time spent by crews in repair total some 400 man hours to date.

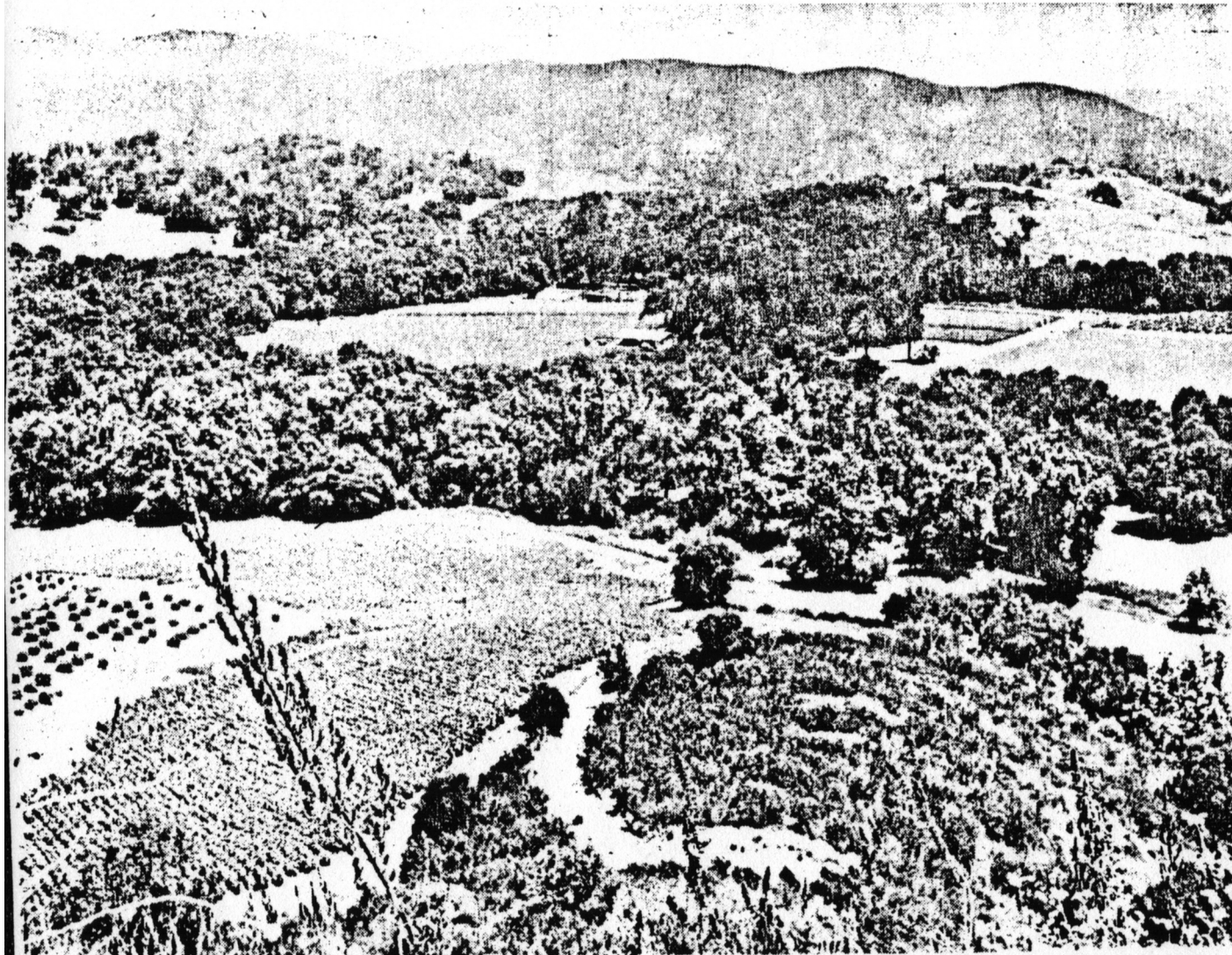
The fear of DeLuz residents is that apparently the assessor may not view the damaged areas before they are fully repaired, so some are gathering photographs.

The Garnsey ranch suffered a mud slide which took down a silt dam, left sand around oaks and filled Frog Pond three-quarters full with sand.

Glen Wilcox lost about three acres from flooding of the west fork of DeLuz Creek. George Towne suffered mud damage in his house. Richard Matthews estimated \$10,000 damage at his ranch. This story was repeated again and again for all residents, in DeLuz, and the "Murrieta fork" area, and Sandia Canyon. Most roads are now repaired, many by Alan Brain, it was reported.

The season storm total for the DeLuz area varies from 40 to 56 inches to date.

U Fallbrook Enterprise Aug. 24, 1967



**VALE OF DELUZ** — This farm in the dell is 300 acres of beauty, well-planned, and a real show-place at DeLuz. Felix and Theodora Garnsey own and operate it. Garnsey's father homesteaded part of the farm. Amid palms and oaks and flowers the

house forms the picturesque hub of the farm. Garnsey's ridge, lower left, shows a lush green field of milo and the edge of a new grape vineyard. Behind house in center is more milo. Soil at left center is in prime condition for planting.



# Growing Gourds



In the 1960's, along with growing black-eye peas and sweet corn, Felix tried ornamental gourds and Indian corn as specialty crops.



Beginning in 1967 Felix started raising Lagenaria or hardshell gourds to ship to Hawaii and to help satisfy the big demand for gourds to make into planters, carved bowls and many decorative items. The last large crop was planted in 1975. It was a successful and interesting venture.

# De Luz Gourd Bush

By SAUL SHAPIRO  
Staff Writer

DE LUZ — Five years ago Felix Garnsey decided it was time to raise a crop that would be inexpensive to grow and wouldn't require excessive attention.

Garnsey found that gourds suited his purpose and since then Garnsey's gourds have been going great guns.

What is a gourd? Well, pumpkins, cucumbers, watermelons, and squash are gourds, but they're distant cousins to the pure, unadulterated ornamental gourds that Garnsey grows.

Anyone with any regard for his or her stomach, however, will definitely refrain from consuming a gourd, although rumor has it that at one time the Japanese and Filipinos found gourds a gourmet's delight.

The gourd, has all the exterior appeal of the outer shell of a coconut (except for a swan-like neck) and is just about as hard. What makes the gourd great is its versatility.

Garnsey's gourds are amazingly practical and quite ornamental. His wife (Theadora) Teddi have converted gourds into handbags, flower pots, planters, a piggy bank, and decorative pieces of strange and fascinating designs.

Hawaiians, once great gourd growers themselves, journey to the mainland to purchase Garnsey's gourds and convert them into ipu's — Hawaiian drums. Still other Hawaiian instruments, such as whistles and the enchanting "nose-blowers" are also made from gourds.

Gourds have been used for any number of things by the Greeks, who carried wine inside them and used them to scoop water. Back in 3100 B.C., Egyptians were using gourds as pottery or pottery molds.

Gourds were used by shepherds as horns and soldiers found them quite useful to hold powder and shot. Housewives even found that gourds were good for darning.

Of course, all that was

down the road a bit and Garnsey's decision to grow gourds on the surface might seem as sound as a tire company bringing back the stone wheel.

Much to his amazement, though, Garnsey is reaping the benefits of a genuine gourd boom on his 25-acre farm in the De Luz hinterlands.

At times Garnsey can't keep up with the gourd traffic. He underestimated the gourd fever last year and had sold his entire crop by mid-year. This year he is taking no chances. He has a two-year supply of gourds on hand.

Ninety-eight per cent of his gourd sales go to professionals — artists or other people who make a career of gourd conversion. He does particularly good business with Hawaiians, who relish gourd instruments. Certain insects prevent gourd growing in Hawaii now, but in days gone-by the gourd was a popular crop for a myriad of items.

Central and South



and Felix Garnsey.

# ness Booms

Americans are also among the gourd procurers. The gourds are fashioned into vases, planters, and pottery with local designs.

Garnsey says if he were to depend on the everyday amateur, "I'm going to decorate a gourd" customer, he would "starve to death."

His customers buy gourds by the truckloads at prices from 10 cents to \$2. While artistic types love misshapen gourds resembling anything from a swan to a unicorn, gourd wholesalers are reluctant to take a deformed gourd.

The reason for the reluctance, Garnsey says, is that if the wholesaler gets two "oddballs" there is always the chance that his customer will fall in love with them and want nothing but the misbegotten gourds, which can seldom be reproduced alike.

Garnsey admits he hasn't got the gourd growing down to an exact science. "It's funny, no matter what shape the plant seed is from, we don't know what the gourd is going to look like. But no matter what we get somebody likes it."

So, even with a successful reproduction rate of 20 per cent, Garnsey isn't complaining.

Garnsey plants his gourds in late winter and early spring. They are slow growers and only become ripe around November. After that it is a process of drying them out — turning them over constantly so they don't get moist or stay green too long on one side.

The gourd is, he feels, a very undemanding crop.

"I really got into gourds, raising the ornamental types. I was going to do some farming with field crops, but I didn't want anything that was going to cost a million dollars to produce and I was looking for a specialty."

"I enjoy doing this," Garnsey says. "There's no pressure. It's not like some food crops that you have to pick on one day. The gourds will be ready and you can store them."

If Garnsey discovered the easy world of gourd growing, he also discovered a growing breed of gourd connoisseurs.

"You meet some very interesting people and you also meet some nuts. Some people will buy a two-bit gourd and then come back the next week and want to exchange it. Curiously enough, some people will come in here and look like they don't have four cents to their name and buy \$100 worth of gourds."

"And another thing about gourd buyers is that we've only had one default on an account," he added.

Garnsey tells the story of an art teacher from Los Angeles who came down to buy a couple of gourds one weekend. The next week he was back buying 25 or 30 and pretty soon he and his wife were buying gourds \$100 worth at a time. He quit his job and opened a shop selling decorative gourds.

But gourds do have that effect on people. Historically it has been so. Mrs. Garnsey notes that in certain cultures a wife would bring her husband who was working in the fields his food in a highly decorative gourd containers. That is, if she really loved him. If the homesteads were lukewarm, the husband could tell right away when his wife arrived with an everyday, plain gourd.

From a purely aesthetic standpoint, a plain gourd has little going for it (although it might reek of fabulous potential).

The Garnseys tell the story of a passerby who was distressed by their plight when he saw the Garnsey's crop last year. It appeared so dismal — he imagined it to be — that he went to the Garnsey's house to give them condolences on the loss of their crop, which at the time was at the peak of its vibrancy.

Nevertheless, the gourd does have some possibilities.

It's

except wax will peel if the paraffin or melted candle or candle wax (two coats) is exposed constantly to the sun or extreme temperatures.

Paints for wood or leather. Enamels can also be used. To finish, any kind of wax, lacquer, varnish, liquid plastic (such as Varathane), or enamel is good (satin or high gloss shellac should not be used and all finishes should be sealed with tar-roofing sealer, melted

Small gourds can be dipped in paraffin with extreme care, but the outside should be wiped off to leave only a thin coat.

## Gourds...

(Continued From Page 12)

water briefly and then scrubbing with a pot cleaner. If it is cut, the tissues and seeds inside should be scooped out with a wire, knife, or brush.

The gourd is cut with a keyhole saw if it is a small gourd or little cuts are desired. A saber saw is best for large and fancy cuts; a band saw for straight cuts. The gourd can be stained with a cloth, sponge, or brush to apply shoe dye (unwaxed), leather dye, wood stain, thinned tube artist's oil in raw or burnt umber or other colors, or any stain or color suitable



3/16/73

# AGRICULTURE



—Ed Chappell Photo

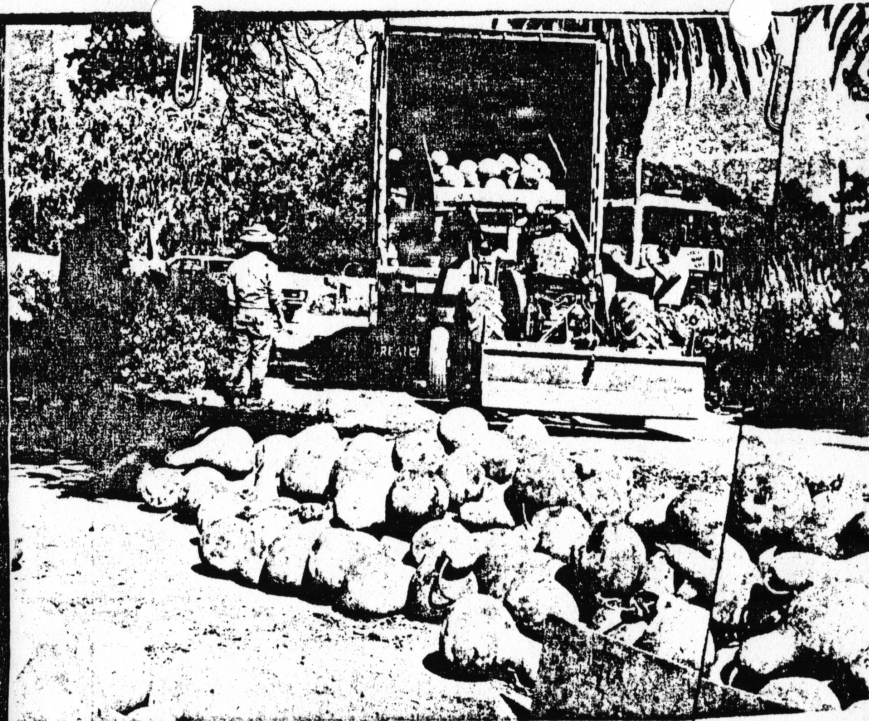
Felix R. Garnsey checks large gourd grown on his ranch in De Lux Valley, north of Fallbrook.

## DATE BACK TO PHARAOHS

# Gourds Become Decorative Crop

By LARRY FREEMAN

DE LUZ — It seems appropriate that the main commercial

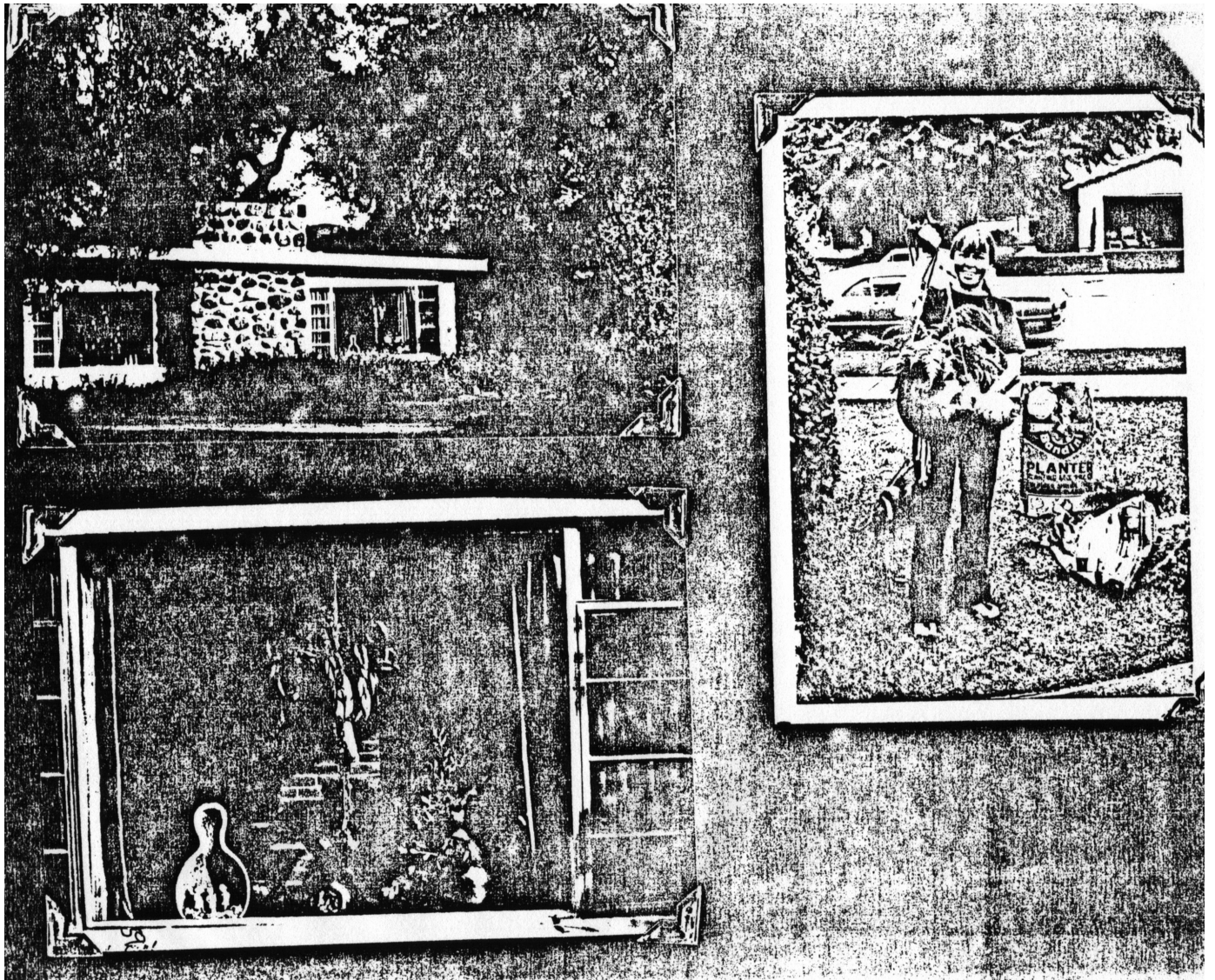


A LOT OF GOURDS — Felix Garnsey, driving tractor, helps load 8,000 gourds aboard 40-foot van at his DeLuz ranch. The cured and dried gourds are headed for Hawaii. One thing interesting about

raising gourds is that you never really can tell as to how many interesting shapes will be produced. —Mike B

## *Hoard*s of gourds at Garnsey Ranch

Gourds are big business at De Luz. Three-quarters of the ship-cucumber family are raised here.



## PROCESSING GOURDS

- WASH:** Wet or soak in water briefly. Scrub with pot-cleaner (chore girl). Dry in shade.
- If gourd is cut, scoop out tissues and seeds with wire, knife, brush, etc.
- CUT:** Keyhole saw is fine for small gourds or little cuts. Saber saw is best for large and fancy cuts; is fine for straight cuts.
- STAIN:** With cloth, sponge, or brush apply shoe dye, leather dye, wood stain, thinned tube artist raw or burnt umber and other colors, or any stain or color suitable for wood or leather. many choices. You can also use paints and e
- FINISH:** Every kind of wax, lacquer, varnish, liquid (such as Varathane), or enamel is good. Use high gloss. Do not use shellac, as it white finishes except wax tend to peel if gourds are to constant sun or extremes in temperature.
- LANTERS:** Be sure gourds are thoroughly dry. Seal inside with tar roofing sealer, melted paraffin or melted or candle wax (2 coats), casting resin, several coats of varnish or paint. With extreme care you may dip small gourds completely in very hot paraffin, but wipe off the outside to leave only a thin coat.
- Punch small drainage holes in bottom.
- Hang with macramé or leather sling.
- Keep maximum growth in mind when choosing plants.
- Do just enough watering; too much water will gourds. <sup>mold</sup>
- Keep the planter off wet surfaces.



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