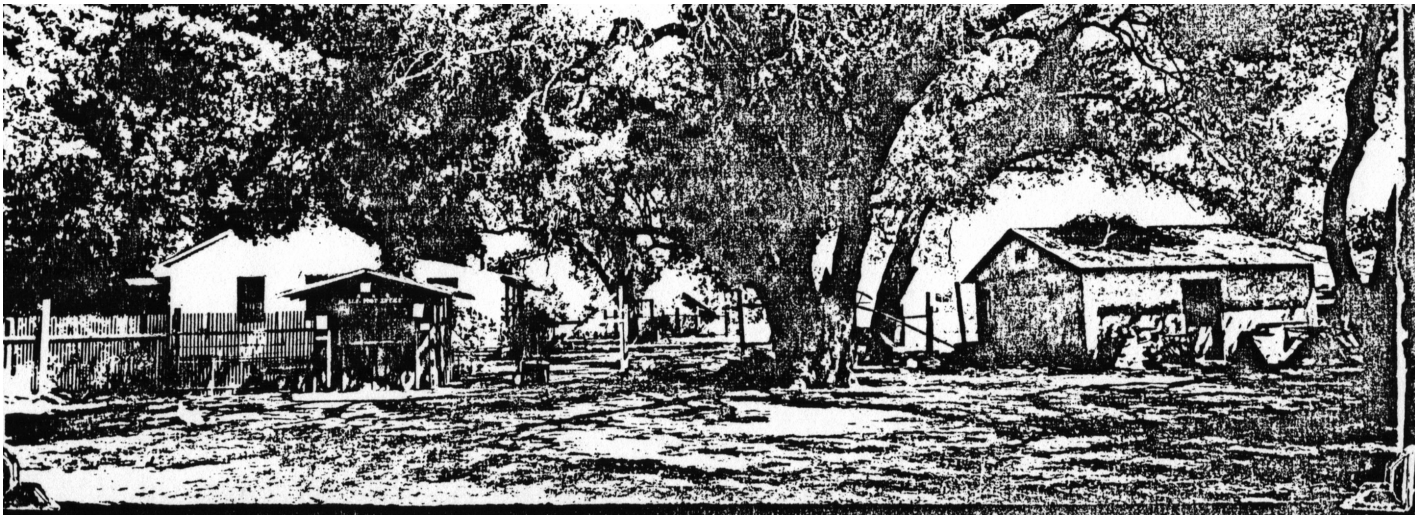


# Day and Garnsey Ranch Houses



This picture shows the original house on the ranch. The Postoffice was built in the yard and for 16 years Louis Garnsey was its postmaster. The old barn is in the background in mid-picture. The shed on the right was used to store muscat raisins, made on the place. When the old house was torn down, this shed became the nucleus of the new house. It was a living-room for years, but in 1954 was converted to a bedroom.



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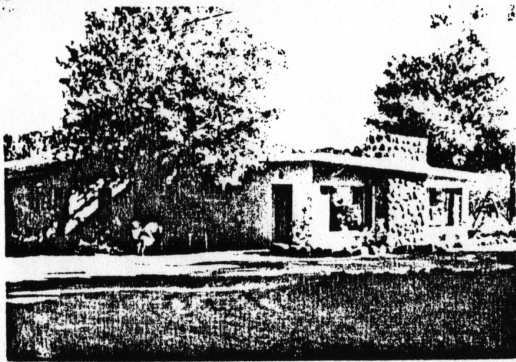
The old raisin-storage shed with sleeping porch attached. Porch & kitchen on other end behind tree. 1934



1946

Above:  
Sleeping porch removed and replaced by concrete-block bedroom. Water tank visible right rear. 1944

Left:  
Center of house retained. 1953 porch and tree removed and new addition built to west and south. Finished 1954.



1954

MAY • 57



Ida Garnsey sold her ranch and built this little house next to Felix's. She was 89 and moved in 1957.



Looking down from Citrus Hill eastward onto the flat. Main house and sheds in clump of trees; small house to right.

1975

# Placid De Luz Ranch May Soon Be Memory



## Owner Forecasts Eventual Demise Of Large Estate

### 'Thousand Oaks' Kept in Family Since 1880s, Bucks Progress

By HUNTER GOOCH  
EVENING TRIBUNE Staff Writer

DE LUZ — Felix Garnsey looked out of the picture window in his comfortable home at "Thousand Oaks Ranch" while an oak log crackled in the fire place he had built.

The scene was the same one his father and two grandfathers had gazed on countless times before him. They looked on the same green valley, studded with groves of sturdy live oak trees, the 2,500-foot-high Elsinore Mountains forming a backdrop.

Like them, Garnsey faces many obstacles in operating the 300-acre ranch in the black. His grandfathers faced hardships in the remote canyon when they were among the earliest settlers in the area. It was difficult to get the raisins, once the ranch's main cash crop, to market.

#### Deer Herds Damaged the Crops

There were other headaches — deer herds ravaged the vineyards and other crops, an occasional mountain lion stirred up the stock and the ranch would be isolated during heavy rains when tiny De Luz Creek became a roaring torrent.

Thousand Oaks is comprised of two separate 160-acre parcels acquired in the early 1880s by Garnsey's two grandfathers, H.



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# Of Large Estate

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Thousand Oaks is comprised of two separate 160-acre parcels acquired in the early 1880s by Garnsey's two grandfathers, H. K. Day and James Garnsey. Garnsey and his wife bought acreage in between to make up the present ranch in the late 1930s. The ranch is about one mile off the county road near the Tenaja truck trail.

The master bedroom in the ranch house is the old cement house where Garnsey's grandfather dried the muscat grapes to raisins before the turn of the century. Garnsey's father, L. O. Garnsey, operated De Luz's first post office from the front yard of the ranch home for about 16 years more than a half-century ago.

Major crops on the ranch now are grapes, black-eyed peas, sweet corn, grain and nursery stock. Garnsey also runs 15 head of cattle.

Garnsey said he faces the same problems that all small farmers and ranchers do today. He thinks the end of Thousand Oaks as a working ranch is near.

"Family ranches are just about a thing of the past," the tanned, sinewy rancher said, looking into the white-hot ashes in the fireplace.

### Higher Assessments Worry Rancher

"We're going to have to part with it pretty quick."

He said a principal reason for his prediction is the possibility of higher assessments for the acreage. Garnsey said some of the land in the canyon has sold for up to \$2,500 an acre. He noted that some good property in the canyon sold for only \$50 an acre less than 20 years ago. If the farm land is assessed on the basis of recent sales it may make the property too valuable to ranch, he said.

Garnsey said the end of the bracero program last year caused additional problems for him and other small ranchers.

So he's planning in the back of his mind for the inevitable — selling off parcels of the ranch for homesites. He and some other large property owners in the canyon have informally agreed to sell large estate-sized parcels so that the canyon development will be high-class.

He noted that scarcity of water in dry years is no longer a concern in the canyon. Special drilling rigs punching through the granite crust on the canyon floor have tapped into seemingly endless water pockets, Garnsey said.

He said he and his wife will never leave the beautiful canyon where he has spent his life. They've picked out a high knoll near the ranch house for a future home site when the end comes to the last family operated ranch in the canyon.

Another spot will be reserved for their son, Stephen, a plant pathologist living in Orlando, Fla.