

HISTORY OF DE LUZ SCHOOL 1970

Oldtimers say that the first school classes were held during the 1880's in a small building on the Day property.

In 1888 a wooden-frame school with bell-tower and front porch was built on the Wilmot acreage, near the west fork of De Luz Creek. The setting was picturesque, with groves of live oaks nearby and sycamores, wild blackberries and grapes all along the creek. Felix Garnsey was the last and only graduate from the old school in 1922. The building was torn down in 1927, and the lumber bought by John Kuhn. A palm tree and a conifer still indicate the site (1977).

The new school was built in 1927 on the present De Luz-Murrieta Road. The board members, including Louis J. Garnsey, debated the architectural style, and the midwest design prevailed over a suggested mission-style building. Again the setting was a beautiful one, with the view from the front steps and bell-tower towards Rocky Peak a magnificent one.

All eight grades were taught by one teacher, and this person usually lived with one of the families, as was the custom in rural areas. Sometimes to help with income and also to keep up the enrollment for average daily attendance, families boarded children who needed foster homes, and the county paid the room and board.

The register goes back to 1890 as Santa Rosa District. In 1906 there is a Tenaja Joint District and later a De Luz Elem. School District. Recluse held school on Saturdays.

In 1968 the board and community reluctantly decided to close the school. The building had no bond beams and so did not meet the Field Act earthquake protection standards. Also the enrollment was small, with 5 or 6 children, grades 1 to 8. So the pupils were transported to the Fallbrook schools.

The Fallbrook Board brought the building up to code after a year or so and then the school was used as a community center and became known as the De Luz Nature Center. A nature trail was laid out by the Forestry and volunteer help for hikes and outdoor studies of wildlife. Programs, exhibits, and films were arranged for the Fallbrook school children, and field trips were scheduled.

The interest in nature study and ecology are receiving good response. Because solar energy is becoming important, plans are underway to heat the school with solar energy on a state-funded pilot program.

INFORMATION FROM EARLY SCHOOL REGISTERS

1890 - SANTA ROSA DISTRICT

Irvine Camp	16
Charlie "	12
Nell Carr	14
Joe "	12 ✓
Frank Day	13 ✓
Jessie Day	10 ✓
Edith Day	7 ✓ <i>Felipe's mother</i>
Fred Heylmann	
Geo. "	10
Dora "	8
Emma "	6
Lacey Sherman	7
Harry Moeller	11
Lillie Stewart	13
Mattie "	10
Arthur Wilmot	7
C. W. "	7
E. S. "	6
Robert Behre	7

1891 -

Register shows Charlie, Edith, Arthur, Oscar, and Guy Wilmot; the same Days and Heylmanns plus Ruth Hedges, Norton, Lottie, and David Swanson and Myrtle Paramon.

1892 and 1893 about the same.

1894 plus Lizzie Brown
1896-7 Wilmots, Pearl and Carl Sample, Edith Day, Mattie Stewart, A. L. McCulloch

1897 Edith Day	9th grade
Prescott Smith	6th
Gertrude McCulloch	5th
Leila Griffin	1
Joe Oleveria	3
Maud Hill	1
Ora Griffin	1
Nellie Leslie	1
Mattie Stewart	10th
Hubert Leslie	1

1898

Edith Day	10th
G. McCulloch	6th
Edith Wilmot	8
Rachel Wilmot	3
Grace "	1
Maud Hill	2
Frances Hill	1
Prescott Smith	7
Arthur Wilmot	8
Charlie "	7
John Wilmot	5
Guy and Maurice Wilmot	3
Francelia Williams	

1899 and 1900 Len Harvey taught. Edith Day left Apr. 1899

1900-01 Edith, Chas., Guy, Rachel, and Helen Wilmot (children of W. W.) Arthur, John, Oscar, Grace, and Maurice Wilmot (children of Ross W.)

1903 - Miss Howard
Grace, Maurice, John, Oscar Wilmot
Frances and Clarence Hill
Arthur Garnsey 15

1904 - Mrs. Jennings
Grace, Maurice Wilmot
Maude, Frances, Clarence, Elmer Hill

1905 C. B. Pittman
4 Hills, 3 Wilsons, 4 Courtneys, Eldon Camp, Casio

1906 - C. B. Pittman
4 Hills plus Blanche (4 yrs.)
Wilsons, 2 Wilmots, Courtneys, Casio, Hubert and Eugene Rubottom, Bessie Carr

1907 - Annie Howard
Grace Wilmot, Rubottoms, Hills, Wilsons, Carr, Camp

1908 - Nona Reid Tenaja Joint District
Camp, 4 Hills, 2 Wolfe, Grace Wilmot, 2 Sanchez, Juanita Stambro, 2 Lienhard (Hortensia and Frieda from De Luz Sta.) Rose, Chester, Clara, and Clarence Colema
Freemans, Lathrop, 5 Willsons

1909 Miss Harrison
12 plus 7 Tenaja (Recluse taught on Sat.)

1911 - Lillian White
Edw. S. Brode (Ned), 5 Phillips, Marjorie and Reese Tittle, Dorothy Day, Ross and Elmer Leslie

1912 much the same
1913-4 2 Sanchez, 1 Brode, 2 Leslie, 2 Nuthall, 2 Fairio Ferrero

1916-17 Lillian A. Greenfield
Ned Brode 13
Anthony Scaccia 12
Mary " 12
Ross Leslie 12 Elmer Leslie 1
Dominic and Josie Scaccia
Lester Orvis 8
Bert Owens 16
Ruth Garnsey 5 1st gr.
Mary and K. Ferrero

1917-18 Faith Ferbitz
Felix Garnsey 9 4th gr.
Ruth Garnsey 7 2nd
3 Prahls, A. Hunt, L. Everett

1918-19 same

1921-22 Eunice Ward
Felix Garnsey graduated
Harry Garnsey promoted to 3d
Ruth " " " 7th
Francis Mantino (Bud Herron)
Lorraine Stoner
Lee Tanner
Levis Tiffany
John and Wm. Dubel
Lois and Winifred Bush
Carl, Leona Prahl

1922-23 Lillie Cosner
Harry and Ruth Garnsey
2 Prahls, 1 Stoner, Tanner, Tiffany,
James Crouse

1923-4 Laura M. Noble
Nina Bonner
Harry Garnsey
Ruth " graduated from 8th
Vincent Griffin
Chas. Jave 5th
Milton Loy 4 A
Corinna Norris
Catherine Parrish
Carl Prahl graduated from 8th
Leona Prahl
Basilgia Scolaro 2nd
Levis Tiffany

1924-5 Vivian H. Miller
Carl Loeffke
Norman Shannon
Marjory Parsons
Basilgia Scolaro
Georgena Martin
Ivan La Marr
Jean and Mary Parsons
Robt. Leamon
Harry Garnsey
Leona Prahl
Vincent Griffin
LeRoy Taylor
Frankie Hill

1919-1920 Mildred Dubb & Hazal Butts

Felix Garnsey 6th
Harry " 1A
Ruth " 5th
Herron, 3 Prahls, Stoner

1921-22 Tenaja Mrs. Grace Vannoy
and her 7 children: Marion, Hubert,
Joseph, Eulalone, Esther, Caddie,
and Josephine
Mahlon Wilson, Harvey Wilson
Mary Lee Parker
Virginia, Myrtle, Clifford Ortega
Kenneth Russell
Ruby, Richard, Johnny Freeman
Bert Johnson



From the note on the back by Louis Garnsey:
 Old De Luz schoolhouse built 1888.
 New built in 927. Picture taken by Manley
 Jennings. His mother taught and he attend-
 ed school here in 1904. Attorney in L. A. Len
 Harvey with P. O. in Santa Ana taught here. Also
 Josie Aleronds from Santa Ana.
 (The building was torn down and the lumber
 used by John Kuhnis).



At old De Luz School:
 Back row: Bud Herron, Carl Prah, Felix
 Garnsey, Miss Duff.
 Front row: Harry Garnsey, Emma Prah,
 Leona Prah, Ruth Garnsey, Ruth Mandy Orvis

At old De Luz School 1922
 Back row: John Dubel, L. Stoner,
 Bud Herron, Miss Ward
 Front row: Carl Prah, Harry
 Garnsey, Wm. Dubel, Leona
 Prah, Lois Bush, Ruth Garnsey,
 Winifred Bush, Levis Tiffany,
 Felix Garnsey, Lee Tanner (Felix
 graduated)



Labels in the photograph:
 Back row: John Dubel, L. Stoner, Bud Herron, Miss Ward
 Front row: Carl Prah, Harry Garnsey, Wm. Dubel, Leona Prah, Lois Bush, Ruth Garnsey, Winifred Bush, Levis Tiffany, Felix Garnsey, Lee Tanner
 Flash the dog



TEACHER, principal and superintendent at De-Luz School, Mrs. Rosalind Martin, and sixth grader Jim McManus look for signs of life in the injured whippoorwill Jim found that morning. The school is studying a science unit of animal first aid.



A FAMILY school, everyone enrolled (all 10 of them) is related to someone else in the room, with the exception of Robbie Hartfield, age 6, front row left.

School To Hold Last Last Day?

FALLBROOK—June is the month school children everywhere herald as the last-day-of-school month, the beginning of a whole summer of nothing but play.

At De-Luz school this year, children are wondering if the last day of school, June 7, will be the last day ever for their school.

Yesterday the residents of De-Luz Valley went to the polls to decide if the De-Luz school district should be annexed by the Fallbrook school district. If the proposal was passed, the 10 students at De-Luz this year will travel down to Fallbrook next year and the ivy-covered one-room schoolhouse will probably become a community center building.

SECOND IN COUNTY

Built in 1928, the school, located 12 miles from Fallbrook off a twisting mountain road, was the second one in the County and is now one of the three remaining one-room schoolhouses in the area. It is unique in that it is not only a one-room school, but also a one-school district with 125 acres of land.

As a district, it must offer kindergarten through eighth. This year, Rosalind Martin, teacher, principal and superintendent, has three first

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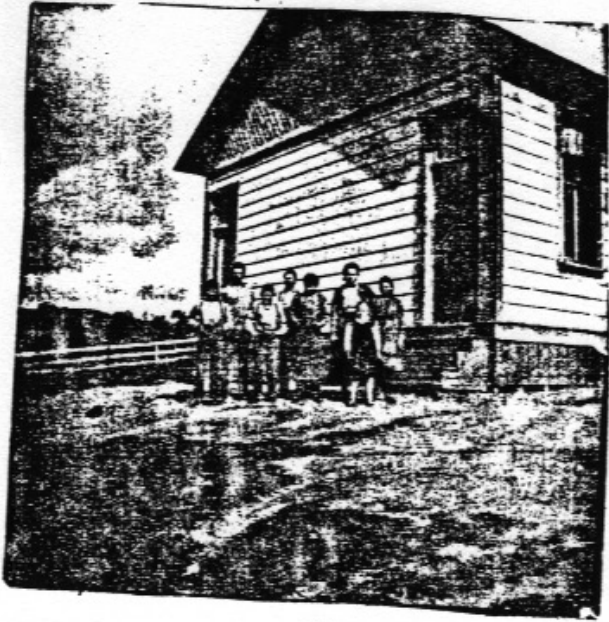
TO SAN DIEGO COUNTY HOMES

909 S. Hill St., Oceanside, Calif.—722-1406

Wednesday, June 5, 1968

42





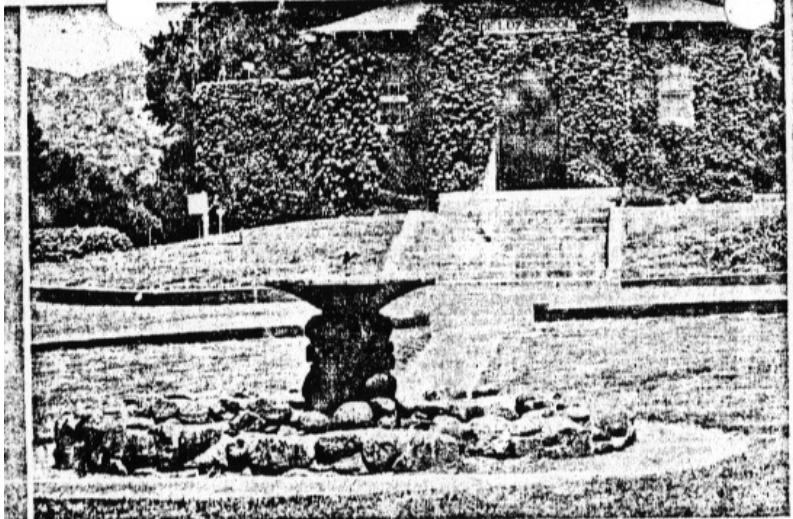
Pictures of school class
before porch was added
to building. 1897
Len Harvey, teacher (mustache)

one fifth grader and three sixth graders.

FAMILY SCHOOL

De-Luz school is a family school. All of the students come from the valley, and of the ten children there, only one is not related to someone else in the room. Most of the children have had older brothers, sisters or cousins who also attended De-Luz; many have mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles that went there.

The largest enrollment was 24 six years ago. Since a school is not permitted by state law (Continued on Page 6)



DE-LUZ SCHOOL . . . A one-room schoolhouse built in 1928, it is the only school in the De-Luz district and the second to be started in the County. Voters went to the polls yesterday to decide if it should still exist as a school next year.

RURAL ROUTE BOXHOLDER
RURAL ROUTE THFFE
FALBROOK CA 92028



THE TWO oldest girls in the school, Karen Manning, 10, left, and Penny Schumacher, 12, still enjoy De-Luz's well equipped playground.



HALF OF the De-Luz volleyball team, Daniel McManus, fourth grade, left, and Riley Brain, sixth grade, decided to see how a volleyball fits through a netless basketball ring.



DE LUZ SCHOOL

Built in 1927.
 Closed in 1968 to
 become Nature Cen-
 ter.

Re-opened March 8,
 1978 because record
 floods made the
 roads impassable to
 buses.

OPENS TEMPORARILY

ation Of De Luz Worsens floods Wash Out Roads

By NEIL BALL

Staff Writer, The San Diego Union

DE LUZ — Even if you make it over a washed-out road, a temporary bridge and a dangerous De Luz Creek ford, the community of De Luz, about 12 miles north of Fallbrook, is difficult to find.

There is no wide road spot. No post office. No library. No drugstore. No newspaper. No coffee shop. Not even a gas station.

All there is here is a campground with a tiny market, some of the finest scenery in America, 331 people and many more avocado trees, and a one-room school.

Because floodwaters from the Santa Margarita River and its tributaries have torn up the countryside, the school is open again for 25 students.

That is five times as many as it had when De Luz School District closed it June 30, 1968, and merged the district — by default, because there were not a legal number of students — into Fallbrook Union School District.



NOW OPEN — Some 25 students from the DeLuz area are attending class in the old DeLuz Schoolhouse this week and most of last week as the school was repaired to accommodate students cut