

De Luz Heights

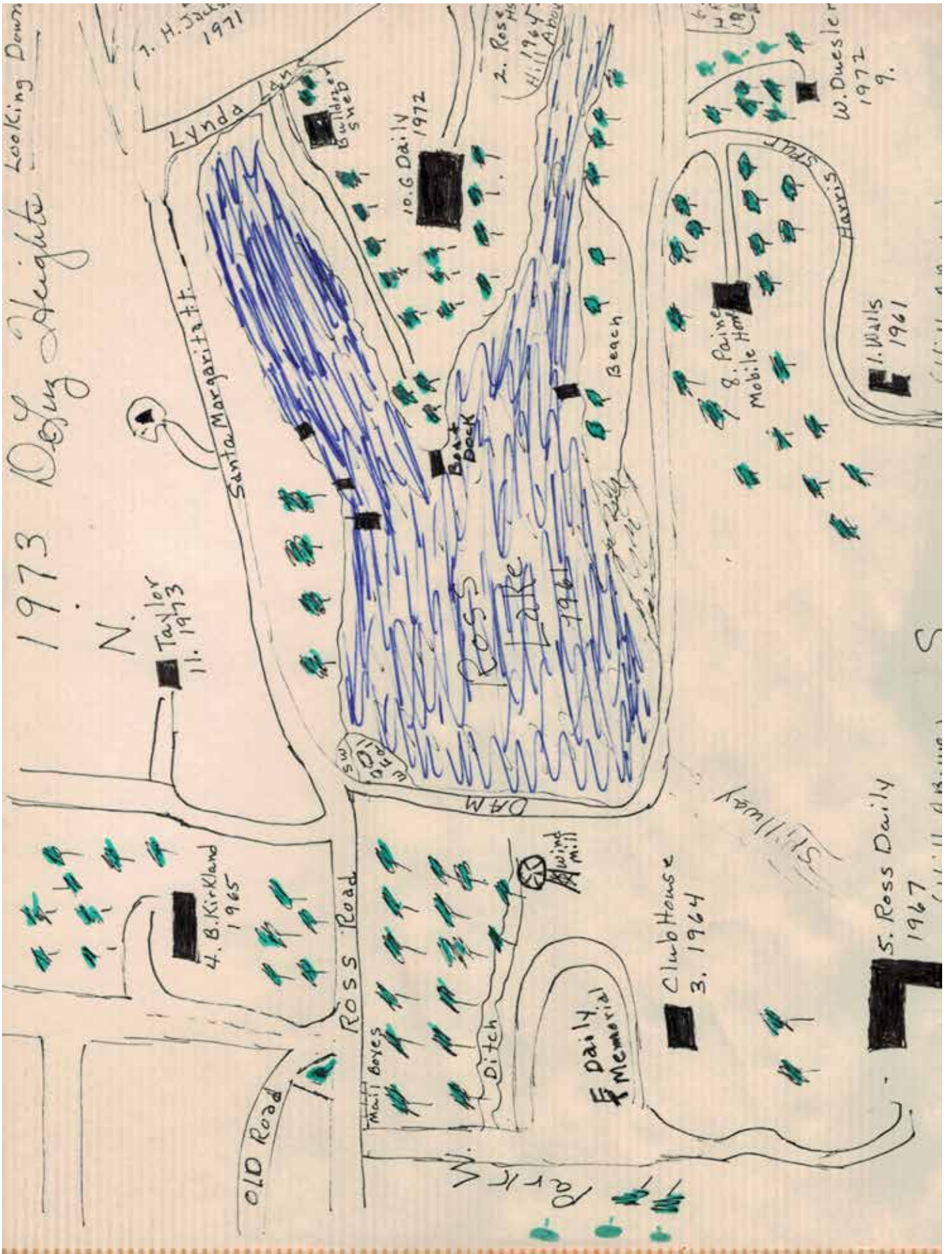


De Luz Heights from 1960 -1974

Written and compiled by Naomi Walls

Dedicated to:

Ross Daily, My Beloved Brother, whose dream came true
Patricia, Susan, Joe, and Lori Walls, Debbie Sloan
and Lynda Daily, the first children to grow up in De Luz Heights



INTRODUCTION

The beginning of this book is information I was able to obtain from Mrs. Felix Garnsey, a long time resident of DeLuz Canyon. Mr. Garnsey's Grandparents, on both sides of his family, homesteaded in the canyon in the 1880's

Although most of the material found on the following pages concerns the DeLuz Heights area, I know everyone interested in DeLuz will enjoy reading the small amount of information I received from Mrs. Garnsey. I thank her for giving me her time and correspondence.

The information regarding DeLuz Heights was given to me by Ross Daily and through my own experience of having been the first resident in the DeLuz Heights area.

We lived in DeLuz Heights for ten years and saw the area grow very rapidly from an isolated, quiet little world, enjoyed mostly by wildlife to a development enjoyed mostly by people.

When we return to DeLuz for visits we now see the hills which were once covered with chapparral now covered with avocado trees. The area is still very beautiful in an entirely different way. From nature's way of landscaping to man's way of landscaping.

Naomi Walls

The Following is written by Mrs. Felix Garnsey: 1969

If the oldtimers of eighty and more years ago were to climb into the horse and buggy of that era and follow the ten miles of winding scenic road to the beautiful canyon settlement of DeLuz, they would find the road to the canyon a little wider and black-topped, but otherwise they would recognize the place, so far it is mostly unchanged.

The first settlers arrived in the 1870's taking up homesteads, but the ranches were developed in the 1880's. The first regular school building was built in 1888, the first postal service began in 1882, and train service was available from that time until 1916, when floods permanently closed the DeLuz station of the Southern California Railroad.

Property was valuable for its trees, and oak wood was the first export. The ranches also raised cattle, grains, olives, muscat grapes, and apricots. Muscat raisins and dried apricots were taken by wagon to the station and shipped to Los Angeles. Indian families from Pala helped with crops at harvest time.

Typical of these old family ranches is Thousand Oaks Ranch, belonging to Felix R. Garnsey, who is the third generation Garnsey on this property. His grandfather, James Garnsey, had been along Cottonwood Creek. The father, Louis J. Garnsey, raised muscat grapes on that portion of the ranch developed by Gramp Day. The ranching has since been diversified, but some of the old fashioned muscat grapes are still raised and are sold mostly on a you pick basis. The thick rock and cement shed used for storage of muscat raisins is a part of the present home.

The famous little postoffice building (not in use since 1955) was built in the yard, and Louis Garnsey was the postmaster there for sixteen years.

A Few other ranches still retain some of the original structures. The old Wilmot Ranch is owned by Robert Bleecker, whose hobby is growing camillias. The home is the original adobe one.

James McManus owns the Judson place. Their home was once a hotel which served as a health spa, with warm mineral springs. A pool was built at this site in 1909 and is still in use.

Other acreages have been subdivided to some extent, and many belong to people who come to the country for weekends and vacations.



The following is a letter written to Mr. Felix Garnsey by Mrs. King daughter of Mrs. Regan who purchased the Judson farm. Written in the late 60's

My Dear Mrs. Garnsey,

Some time ago my friend told me of her trip through DeLuz and that some one wanted information about Deluz in the early days-Some of your questions I can answer-but am sorry to say I do not know who built the house, or from whom my Mother bought the property. If you can contact the present owner, his deed, or abstract might give you the first owners name.

Question 2-Mother rented the property the summer of 1909 and we "camped" there. She bought the property soon after we returned to Fallbrook and we moved there in 1910, living there until 1916, when she sold the ranch to the Alexander's- of Alexanderia Hotel in Los Angeles.

Question 3-Soon after we moved to DeLuz the Post Office was moved to our house, however, not in the house itself, but in a small office under the outside stairway. It was the smallest money order office in the United States, an Inspector Love told us. The mail was handled in that little office until shortly before Mother sold, at which time the office was moved to "Gramp Days" yard and Felix's father was sworn in as Postmaster, Gramp Day carried the mail all the time we lived there. He and his mare, Wanda, made three trips a week-Tues, Thurs, and Sat. I believe Mr. Wilmot was Gramp Day's substitute.

Question 4-Yes DeLuz station was in operation at that time, a Mr. Freigler was station master, and he and his wife and children lived there across from a frieght shed, and there was a row of houses where the Mexican station hands lived.

Part of the time we lived there the train came in before noon, went to Fallbrook and returned to Oceanside in time to meet the 3:00 o'clock train to Los Angeles. Then a chance in schedule brought the train to DeLuz in the late afternoon often after dark in the winter time, then we had the nine creek crossings and grade to drive in the dark. During rainy weather it was often a very mean and dangerous trip. Several times Gramp had to put the mail and any packages on the seat beside him and his feet up on the dashboard as the water came into his buggy.

When Mother bought the property she remodeled the house, put new doors, windows and screens in, built a big porch around the front and side of the house and put the stairs outside. Originally there was a hallway in the center of the house and stairway to the upstairs a room on either side of the hall, She took out those partitions making on big front room, there were three smaller rooms at back of house, she took out more partitions made a nice sized dining room and enlarged the third toom by removing the outside wall, and making the end of the porch part of the kitchen. She put a big water tank on top of the porch roof and had water piped in. pipes installed so we could pump the sulphur water in or open a valve and let gravity water from fresh water springs, and those wonderful sulphur springs so close together on our 80 acres.

There were three separate tumbled down walls around small sulphur springs.

A few months after Mother bought the property a "tramp" walked into DeLuz, very much disappointed to find some one lived at the springs. We fed him and learned he was an engineer who had been in South America for years with some of the big companies and that he had picked up a tropical fever, that forced him to quit work and come back to the states. A San Diego Doctor told him about the sulphur springs at Deluz and Murrieta

KING LETTER CONT'

and about the old former hotel building at DeLuz where he could get in out of the rain. Mother let him stay, and one day he told Mother if she would get the cement and a Mexican to help he'd build her a big swimming pool. That the ground around the largest square pool was full of small springs, which could be uncovered and give a large flow of water. He dug to bed rock and began construction of the pool. The name was Martin, and he left us a strong, well happy man.

Mother was instrumental in getting the county supervisors to rebuild the road out of DeLuz to the Murrieta-Temecula area. We had to get permission from the Vail Ranch people to drive through their property, unlock a gate everytime we made the trip. It was, in parts of it, rough and very steep.

You may or may not be interested in the names of the few families who lived there while we did. There are two families whose names I've forgotten, but these I recall, coming into DeLuz from the railroad station were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Orvis, Mr. and Mrs. George Nuthall and 2 sons. Next off the road a deaf and dumb man whose name I forgot, next a couple and his father and mother, I don't remember their name, then back off the road between this ranch and ours the Frank Days lived then they sold to Brodes, beyond us the road forked one on the right to Murrietta, first house on left Birt Webster, beyond on right side a man named Sanchez and his family, next house the Wilmots last house belonged to an Italian named Riboni, who had acres set out in grapes. He made wine and raising and some olive trees, made olive oil and cured the olives. Nothing beyond that until we dropped down in Temecula Valley.

Going back to the forks of the road, across the creek, a round to the left went to ranches, DeCamp, George Johnson's, and Gramp Day, Beyond Gramp Day only one family lived Mr. and Mrs. Jack Leslie.

King cont.

Felix Garnsey's aunt Mrs. Tittle taught school there. At the foot of the grade there was once a home with what must have a beautiful yard for years after all trace of the home that was once there was gone, a nice rock fountain still stood, also lots of flowers and shrubs had survived. It was the old Farenkruz place. There was also one of the canyons on Santa Margarita Ranch, passable only on horse back when we lived in DeLuz, It was alongside where the house was.

Hope I may have given you some information you do not have. Felix's grandfather was a very dear friend of all the Regans.

Cordially,

Margarit King

HISTORY OF THE DELUZ POST OFFICE
At DE LUZ, SAN DIEGO CO, CALIF. Compiled by Maie Ellis

Deluz is located in the mountainous northern section of San Diego Co. south of the southern edge of Riverside Co. California.

It is not a town but a cluster of ranches lying contentedly in a long high valley with innumerable beautiful oak trees watered by crystal clear cool streams running all the year around from the surrounding towering mountains.

Legend has it that before postal service was established, any resident going down to the village of Fallbrook, brought back all mail for the De Luz ranchers and placed it in a large hollow of an immense oak tree. In 1882 postal service was maintained by some one of the ranchers becoming postmaster or postmistress in his or her own home. One of these early postmasters was Fred Orvis living on what is now called the Stoner Place. Driving up the DeLuz road today, one may see what remains of the house still standing, a rock fireplace with its tall stone chimney sturdily resisting the elements.

In 1909 Mrs. Regan rented the old hotel-site ranch and camped there with her family. In 1910 she bought the 80 acre ranch and began remodeling the old two-story hotel building. She built an outside stairway with a tiny room beneath it on the ground floor. This little room became another "home" P.O. with Mrs. Regan as postmistress. Across the DeLuz road from her little P.O. is the spot where later the, as yet "unborn" little DeLuz P.O. building would wait out its final days in United States government work.

In 1914 the 8' x8' P.O. building was constructed by rancher L.J. Garnsey on his place under the beautiful spreading oaks. Mr. Garnsey was the first P.M. to serve in this small post office; and the carrier, fondly known to all as Gramp Day continued hauling the DeLuz mail up from Fallbrook.

In 1916 Mrs. Regan sold her ranch to Mrs. Alexander, owner of the Hotel Alexandria in Los Angeles, and her brother Mr. Tiffany operated the ranch. In 1930 Mr. Tiffany as new P.M. bought the little P.O. bldg. from J.J. Garnsey and moved it to the wide spot beside the road opposite the old hotel site previously mentioned.

In 1938 Mrs. Alexander sold out to Dr. Samuel Wilson, but Mr. Tiffany obtained permission from Homer C. McDowell to move his P.O. over there, across the road from the lovely DeLuz school house.

In 1939 he sold the little P.O. to the new P.M. Chloe Baxter, who had the much traveled bldg. moved back to the Dr. Wilson place. Here Mrs. Baxter served as post mistress from 1939 to 1954 thus ending 40 yrs. of faithful service by the tiny bldg. in Gov't work.

The DeLuz territory became part of the Fallbrook postal area, and is presently served by one of several rural routes from Fallbrook.

Mrs. Baxter wanted her little bldg. on her ranch upon a hill beyond the Garnsey ranch but decided it could not make the grade, so it became the property of Dr. Wilson who moved it across the road to become a tool shed. The present owners, James and Barbara McManus, still have the ex-post-office tool shed. It may be seen there today with its slot in the door labelled Letters and on its right side still equipped completely with its triple rows of regulation metal mail boxes; 33 small and one double-sized one the kind used inside a P.O., but the doors are flush with the outside wall; some say 1954, but Mrs. Felix Garnsey has a copy of a 7/20/64 San Diego Union Newspaper carrying an article and pictures, with a caption "De Luz P.O. Closed but is No Dead Letter". The article states that the post-office closed in 1955.

The story by Ray St. John of Waterbury, Conn, printed in W.S.C. 1/13/68 concerning the cachet envelopes for DeLuz must be correct because

P.O. CONT'

His dates are right concerning Mr. Tiffany who served as P.M. from 1930 thru 1939. Also the U. S. commemorated the 20th anniversary of Airmail by establishing May 15-22, 1938 as Airmail week, and advised or permitted every P.O. in the U.S. to design and have printed cachet envelopes for use in honoring the above event.



DELUZ HEIGHTS

In 1960, Ross Daily, a semi-retired business man from Downey, California, purchased 490 acres in the upper-portion of the DeLuz area.

The valley is filled with beautiful coast live oaks, sycamores, and an old olive grove. The only residents were week-end ones, Milton Loy and his wife Ginny. Milton had attended first grade at the first one room school located on the Garnsey ranch, and is now a Los Angeles policeman.

The hills surrounding the valley are chapparral covered with sumac, scrub oak, chamise and ceanothus, which bring the hills alive in March and April with white and purple blossoms.

Wild life is plentiful; deer, bob cat, coyotes, fox and an occasional mountain lion roam the hills.

Snakes are numerous; californian Boa, various racers, king snakes and the deadly rattler are found most every time one takes a walk.

Many beautiful birds are seen in the large oaks; owls, hawks and vultures gracefully swoop and glide through the sky. The colorful minute hummingbirds dart here and there, and the large blue jays chatter in the bushes.

This is truly a valley of "DeLuz"(meaning "of Light" in Spanish)

Many mornings surrounding areas are fogged in, but in this small valley the sun is shining brightly on the hills with large granite rock formations boldly hanging through the chaparral.

As Mr. Ross Daily stood on the hills, he envisioned a beautiful development with houses on the hillsides and a lake in the middle. Mr. Daily was not just a dreamer, he had had Baker, Pafford and Associates survey the area and had divided it into approximately 20 acre parcels. Cook Construction was hired to do the bulldozing and to dig a ten acre lake that was to be approximately 25 feet deep at the dam end.

The main road coming into the area was dirt, turning off DeLuz road about nine miles out of Fallbrook. The road was very rough and rocky with deer crossings every few miles. The lake was dug two miles east of the turn off. When driving east toward the lake from DeLuz Road, there were many evidences of another generation's dreams. The first house you passed was built by Milton Loy's father. Milton spent many happy days in this house. He, his wife Jenny, and their children are now spending their week-ends in the same house. About one half mile east of Loy's stood an old barn in the midst of an olive grove. In the barn was a cement cylinder used for an olive press. An old chimney stood to the south of the barn, and going a little further was an old deserted farm house with large pine trees around it and a fallen barn behind the house. Approximately 1000 feet up from the old house was the site chosen for the dam.

In 1960 one of the twenty acre parcels was purchased by Bill and Naomi Walls from Covina, California. The parcel was located on a hill above the lake on the south side. The land was purchased at \$300 per acre. The first tax bill for the 20.86 acres was \$10.71.

Before progress could begin, electricity was a necessity. In 1961 electricity was brought to DeLuz Heights from the Dovile Ranch

two and one half miles north of the lake, located on Santa Margarita truck trail: the cost to Mr. Daily was \$11,000.

In February, 1961 Mr. Bill Walls had Homestead Supplies in Yucca Valley build a 640 sq. foot pre-fab house. Bill did the inside finishing himself. Bill, Naomi, and their children, Patricia, Susan, and Joseph spent every week-end in DeLuz. Their small house was the only one in the Lake area until 1964, when Bill and Joan Rose, daughter of Ross Daily built a house to the north east on a peak above the lake. They also came to the country on week-ends and brought their children Ross and Cathy. In 1964, Ross Daily built a Club House to the west and below the dam. The clubhouse was surrounded by a park. Many "Daily Dinners" and community "get-togethers" were to be held there in the future.

The lake filled with water in the winter of 1962, when around 29 inches of rain was recorded for the area. It was a most exciting winter for the new DeLuz property owners. Mr. Daily, then living in Rainbow, kept us property owners who lived in the city posted by phone, letting us know daily how rapidly the lake was filling. The main road was washed out after the heavy rains in February and the only way to enter was by Harris Spur Truck Trail. Bill and Naomi were very excited to see the new lake below their house. In March after their new baby Lori was three weeks old they drove to DeLuz. They could see from the hill above their property that the lake had filled to the spillway. What a beautiful sight! By April, what was before a huge muddy lake had turned into a beautiful blue lake, which reflected the lazy white clouds floating above. At night, when the moon was full, the surrounding hills were reflected in the water.

In October 1964, the Bill Walls family moved to DeLuz and were the only full time residents in the area. They added 600 sq. ft. to their house. Patricia attended DeLuz School, and was in the 4th grade.

A modicum rainfall was recorded the winter of 1963-64, the lake was very rapidly drying up. By the end of November, 1964, the lake was a small pond at the dam end. Hundreds of fish were trapped in small puddles over the lake bed. Ross Daily and Naomi Walls took buckets and scooped them up and threw them in the deepest part of water near the dam. It was very disheartening to see our beautiful lake become dried chunks of dirt. Until 1968 we were not to see the lake up to the spillway again. In 1964 the property just west of the dam, known as the Wilson property, was purchased by Mr. Daily. The collapsing structures were bulldozed down, the olive grove was torn out and a road was built through the property which was called Ross Road. The cement cylinder used for an olive press remained and was later made into a water fall by Ernie Kuhn. There was a small cave discovered to the south of the olive press. The actual use of the cave was unknown, but it was surmised that it had been used for wine storage. The land along Ross Road was divided into one acre parcels and the north side of the road was sold. Ernest Kuhn, Charles Klein, Kenny Lewis and Harold Armstrong purchased an acre apiece. Mr. Daily kept the south side land for a park area and an avocado grove.

In 1965 the first avocado trees were planted in the area. Mr. Daily planted some Hass and Fuerte trees by his bulldozer shed on Lynda Lane, and on the same day Naomi Walls planted a Fuerte tree below the Walls house on the first terrace by the East front rock formation.

In 1966, Ross Daily planted the first grove below the dam, 649 trees, Bacon and Zutano. Naomi Walls dug the holes for the going rate of 10¢ per hole. Ross, Naomi, and Dayton Polley planted the trees.

Several houses were being built by 1966, and the need for water, and better schooling was great. Progress was taking place, hills were being bulldozed for new homes and groves.

In 1967 Ross and Helen Daily built their house on a hill above the club house. Ross bought a bulldozer and most every day could be spotted clearing some shubbery or smoothing out a road. He also worried his wife and sister Naomi to death, knowing he was an unskilled bulldozer driver and the mountains were steep and slippery, but fortunately, God takes care of those that know not what they are doing!!

Bina Sloan and her daughter, Debbie, lived across the lake to the north-west. Bina planted a grove on her four acres and built a duplex. She lived in one side and rented out the other apartment.

Bina and Naomi, sisters of Ross Daily cleared areas of brush on both sides of the lake for picnic tables. They planted pines and acacia trees in these areas. They spent many happy times together with their children swimming, fishing and picnicking.

Bill Walls was working at Camp Pendleton and worked there all the time the Walls lived in DeLuz. The drive to work was very pleasant in the beginning, when about the only encounter was an occasional covey of quail crossing the road, However before moving from the area, he was dodging cement trucks, lumber trucks, and motor cycles on the curves of DeLuz Road.

SCHOOL

The only school in the area was a one room school on DeLuz Road going toward Murrieta. We had felt in the beginning the school would be a great experience for the children, however, by 1965, we decided the days of a one room school were over. Bina Sloan and Ross Daily were in complete agreement.

The children were having a great time, but were learning very little. We talked with the other land owners in the Heights area and they joined us in believing we should join the Fallbrook School District. At this time eleven children attended the DeLuz School. Janice and Kenny Borden, Gary Southern, Patti and Susie Walls, Debra Sloan, Reilly Brain, Jimmy and Danny McManus, and Silvia and Norman Townsend (the teachers Children). Other children came in and left during the year, but I have forgotten their names.

The expense of keeping the little school open was tremendous for so few students, but the old timers in the area did not want it closed.

The only way for the DeLuz Heights children to go to Fallbrook Schools was to annex. I called the San Diego Superintendent of Schools and inquired about procedures for annexing sections 33 and 34 to the Fallbrook District. The Superintendent felt as we did that a one room school was not adequate. In order to annex, we had to have the DeLuz and Fallbrook School Boards approve the action, we must have an election for the property owners in Section 33 and 34 and present maps to the Board of Supervisors in San Diego and receive their approval. After many meeting and phone calls the above was accomplished and in July, 1966, we were in the Fallbrook School District officially.

The first two years we drove the children Patti, Susie, Joe Walls and Debra Sloan to the Santa Margarita River to meet the Fallbrook bus and in 1967 Lynda Daily joined the other children going to Fallbrook.

School Cont'

In 1968 DeLuz School was closed and all DeLuz children were picked up by bus and transported to Fallbrook Schools. The DeLuz Heights children met the bus at DeLuz and Daily Road. Mrs. Ollie Crabtree was the bus driver.

In 1969, Naomi Walls called the Fallbrook School and asked if a bus could come to DeLuz Heights area and pick up our children, as we now had a blacktop road to that point which was a requirement for bus service. Robert Murphy from Fallbrook School District said he would look into it. Two weeks later a bus was picking up the children below the dam, by the big pine tree where the road forks.



THE LONG HARD STRUGGLE FOR WATER IN DELUZ HEIGHTS

In 1964, the DeLuz Water District was formed, the board members were Hugh Anderson, Jim McManus, Don Day, Dorothy Gillette and Homer McDowell. The engineer was Geo. Yackey and the attorney was Bill Dennis. The DeLuz residents in the lower area had good wells which they had relied upon for years and were very much against bringing in water from Metropolitan so the struggle began.

In 1966, Deluz Heights Water district was formed. Board Members were Ed Berg, Dorothy Gillett, Otis Crabtree, Mrs. Homer McDowell. This formed around property owners that were interested in water. The fight for water was a tremendous one. The board members spent many hours figuring ways to pipe water in. The Heights area was growing rapidly, many wells were dug and hundreds of avocados planted. The need for water was becoming a desperate situation in order for the valley to grow.

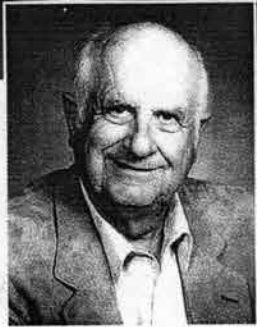
In 1971, the decision was made to buy water from the Fallbrook Water District, the board members at that time were Ed Berg, Ross Daily, Bill Walls, Don Day and Roxanne Atteberry. Neste-Brodin and Stone were the Engineers and Smith and Peltzer the attorneys. In July 1972, Phil Berg, son of Board Member Ed Berg, was hired as manager of the district and the first temporary pipe line over the rugged terrain was difficult.

On May 16, 1973, water started flowing through the 8" pipe. A very rewarding and long awaited project had been accomplished.



De Luz Heights Water District 1985

The De Luz Heights



Ross Daily.

Courtesy photo

MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

by Joe Naiman

The legal identity of De Luz has diminished over the years. The post office was closed long before zip codes were assigned. Not only is there no longer a school district in De Luz, but the school itself now functions as the De Luz Ecology Center and not as a regular classroom. It does not have a separate planning group. It has a volunteer fire department, although the San Diego County Regional Fire Authority now provides the firefighters and the North County Fire Protection District handles most of the responses. De Luz has a legal water entity – as the De Luz Service Area of the Fallbrook Public Utility District. The conversion of all road maintenance county service areas into zones of a single permanent road division changed county Service Area No. 20 which served much of De Luz Heights into a zone of the countywide Permanent Road Division.

It would seem ironic that the De Luz Heights Municipal Water District was created at a time when De Luz's legal entities were being melded with Fallbrook. Then again, the goal of the De Luz Heights Municipal Water District was not to create a community identity but to obtain water. And if the Fallbrook Public Utility District didn't want to extend service to De Luz, Ross Daily was going to do it himself.

"When I came here, there was nothing," Daily, who bought 500 acres in De Luz Heights in the early 1960s, said in a 1999 interview.

"Nothing" meant no water and no electricity. "They said you couldn't get no water in here," Daily said.

If Daily couldn't get any water into De Luz Heights, he was going to get water from De Luz Heights. He bought a rock drill and went 300 feet deep, hitting an aquifer and bringing 75 gallons per minute.

"That was just for me. And then I started drilling some wells for the lots."

Ross Daily, who was born in 1915 and passed away in 2008 at the age of 92, grew up on a farm in northern Missouri. He moved to Southern California and started his own business, but he desired a more rural setting. "I always wanted to get out of town. I hated the city. So I came to Fallbrook. Had my ranch out in Rainbow," Daily said.

Before moving to Rainbow, Daily had purchased a 27-acre ranch in the early 1940s. "That's all the money I had," he said.

Daily's two daughters were born 18 years apart. In the early 1950s, when it was time for the second child to start school, Daily moved to Rainbow. Ironically, after Daily's first wife passed away in 1997 he married a member of the family who had brought the Dailys to Rainbow.

Daily and others aware of the necessity of water service tried to get the

Fallbrook Public Utility District to annex the new area, but FPUD was not willing to extend its service. Daily and nine others put up \$2,500 apiece to create a municipal water district which included not only Rainbow but also Bonsall. "We had one thing in mind. We said, 'Let's choke Fallbrook,'" Daily said.

The relationship with FPUD wasn't that hostile, but the territory of the Rainbow district ensured service for both Rainbow and Bonsall. Daily was one of the first directors of the Rainbow Municipal Water District. "I had that experience," he said of creating a district and serving on a water board.

As had been the case in Rainbow, Daily's first preference for De Luz was to be annexed to FPUD. "We tried to get Fallbrook to take us and the directors just didn't want to take De Luz on," he said.

Daily then spoke with Fallbrook engineer George Yackey and with Bill Dennis, the attorney for the Rainbow Municipal Water District. "I said, 'Will you help me?'" Daily recalled.

Daily said that Yackey and Dennis responded, "We'll start your district for \$2,500 apiece."

The voters of the proposed De Luz Heights Municipal Water District approved the district's formation Sept. 25, 1962. Ten days later California Secretary of State declared the district legally incorporated under the Municipal Water District Act of 1911. At the time the district consisted of approximately 11,880 acres, most of which were undeveloped.

"It was up to Ross to get it done because somebody had to do it," Daily said.

Daily went to the Bank of America in Fallbrook, which told him that the bank would give the district a loan if Daily would sign the promissory note. Daily gave the bank a passbook to hold until the note was paid. The money was used to run the first water line to a 100,000 gallon tank. "I knew it wouldn't last long," Daily said of the water supply.

The district needed infrastructure connections to be served by the San Diego County Water Authority and by the Metropolitan Water District, which wholesales water to the County Water Authority. In May 1967 the district's voters approved the initiation of proceedings to join the County Water Authority and become eligible to receive water from the Metropolitan Water District. The County Water Authority agreed to serve De Luz. "Metropolitan was the one we had to fight," Daily said.

MWD eventually approved, and the De Luz Heights Municipal Water District became a member of the County Water Authority June 28, 1967. "Finally I guess they got to feeling sorry for us, and they took us into their district," Daily said of MWD.

Voters approved another ballot measure, May 20, 1969, this time a \$1.5 million general obligation bond issue. "We got a better interest rate than Fallbrook got two weeks later. They couldn't believe it and neither could I," Daily remarked.

FPUD agreed to provide some water to De Luz if De Luz would provide the pipeline. On Dec. 8, 1969, the De Luz Heights district and FPUD entered into an agreement for De Luz Heights to purchase up to



Ross Lake.

Brett Stokes photo

1,000 gallons per minute for 12 hours a day.

Although MWD had approved the district, there was no line from the nearest MWD connection six miles away. "They put me in charge of doing it," Daily noted.

Daily sought a low-interest loan from the Bureau of Reclamation. Daily would get up at 4:30 a.m. Pacific Time to catch the federal employee with whom he was negotiating. "I'd get him just as he'd come in," he said.

It took about six months to get approval, but the water district finally obtained an interest-free "Small Projects Loan" of \$5.5 million. The loan was signed in Boulder, Colorado. "We weren't there an hour and they said everything would be fine," Daily recalled.

Things went even better after the loan approval. After surveying, the actual bid came in at \$1 million under the engineer's estimate. "We gave them back a million bucks," Daily said.

That didn't necessarily solve the district's water problems. "We got it all in and we just started growing," Daily noted. "When you don't have water and it's dry, everyone wants water."

Daily, knowing the district would grow, sought an additional \$2 million general obligation bond for infrastructure. Voters approved the bond issue May 9, 1972.

"Some of that is still on the books with Fallbrook," Daily noted.

Although Daily was never challenged for re-election on the water district board, much of the work was done by Phil Berg, the son of director Ed Berg. "We put in miles of line ourselves with two guys and him," Daily noted.

Phil Berg was the district's first and only general manager. His father had been one of the founders of the water district. "They were good people, really good people," Daily recalled.

Berg handled not only the administrative duties of the general manager, but was also a jack-of-all-trades for the field work. His wife handled the bookkeeping for the water district.

Berg eventually retired and joined his daughters in Texas. "His health wasn't so good at the end," Daily noted.

Daily knew Berg he would be hard to replace. "After Phil left - I knew he was going to leave - I told the board the thing to do was see if Fallbrook would take us in," Daily said.

FPUD's response was that a merger would be acceptable if the Fallbrook district incurred no expense. The De Luz board voted 3-2 to support the consolidation with Don Day and Dick Wright opposed, leaving one final step.

"We had to get a majority of the people. We had no problem," Daily said.

The De Luz public gave over two-thirds support to the merger. "Fallbrook's a good district, though," Daily said. "It's worked out real good for us, really."

Three of the district's four employees, including the Bergs, had been with the district for its entire functional existence. FPUD took in the two employees who remained in Fallbrook.

FPUD took over the pipeline and the seven tanks in De Luz ranging from the 100,000 gallon tank to the 8 million gallon reservoir. FPUD also gained ownership of the two wells in De Luz, but those haven't been used since the consolidation. "It was good for irrigation but not for drinking," Daily explained.

FPUD also ended up with the district office on Jones Road. The mobilehome which the De Luz district bought used to serve as the office has since been torn down, and at one time FPUD had a shed on that site along with pipe but that is no longer the case.

The district's original office had been on Daily's property but was later moved to the Jones Road site. The district held its board meetings at the De Luz school.

De Luz Heights also had some chloramination treatment of its water. "When we gave it to Fallbrook we never owed a dime," Daily said. "We was a solid little district. We was little, but we paid our bills."

The unissued bonds from the 1972 authorization must be used for pipelines or storage. "That's right in the bond issue wording. They can't change that," Daily noted. "And it has to be in De Luz."

Ross Lake, which Daily built in 1961, is a private lake and was not affiliated with the water district. Daily turned down a government offer to pay for three-fourths of the lake and maintained operation of that body of water.

District meetings went relatively smoothly, Daily recalled. "We had a good board," he said. "We didn't have any problems."

Daily considered himself too old to start attending the FPUD board meetings, so he sent De Luz director George Shippey. When a vacancy on the FPUD board occurred, Shippey was appointed to that seat.

"It worked out real good. We had good relations with them," Daily said. "Gordon Tinker was an extremely good man."

Tinker, who retired in June 1999, was FPUD's general manager at the time of the consolidation. "We're lucky to be in Fallbrook. Fallbrook's got a good district," Daily remarked.

Daily was also the president of the CSA No. 20 advisory committee. CSA No. 20 formed in 1970 and provided road repair for 19.4 miles of road in De Luz along with maintenance of nine street lights. Each Permanent Road Division zone also has a local advisory committee, Daily's role didn't change much, although most of the roads have been paved since the CSA was created.

While De Luz may legally be part of Fallbrook or of unincorporated San Diego County, the former water district served Daily's purpose.

"It's been a lot of hard work, but it's paid off. Without it the area never would have amounted to nothing," he said. "It's done what I wanted it to do, and that's all I could ask."

IN MEMORY OF...

Fred B. Daily Frona (Slaughter) Daily

10-20-1884 10-9-1969

11-8-1889 1-26-1935

Grand Children

ROSE ANN DAILY LANGFITT
FRED DAILY

ANNA MARIE DAILY BROWN
BOB DAILY
RON DAILY

JOAN DAILY ROSE
LYNDA DAILY DUBREUIL

LINDA CULP KIDWELL
LOUISE CULP
JANET CULP MOORE

DEBBIE SLOAN

MARILYNE DAILY EDMONDSON
STEVE DAILY
GREG DAILY
LISA DAILY RIEF

MIKE DAILY
DAVID DAILY

CINDY DAILY MORIN
TERRY DAILY GRIFFITHS
DONNA DAILY
DANIEL DAILY
JOHN DAILY

PATTI WALLS CAUDILL
SUSIE WALLS MIKSCHL
JOE WALLS
LORI WALLS

KIMBERLY DAILY MOORE
LANCE DAILY

Great Grand Children

ERIC LANGFITT
ARRON LANGFITT
GINA LANGFITT

RHETT DAILY
RHYLAN DAILY

TED PETIT
JOHN PETIT
MEGAN DAILY
MICHELLE DAILY
JOSHUA DAILY

ROSS ROSE
CATHY DAVIES
RICK ROSE
RANDY ROSE
TRAVIS DUBREUIL
TASHA DUBREUIL

BRIAN KIDWELL
DAVID KIDWELL
WENDY KIDWELL GIBB
LISA MOORE
GINA MOORE

JOY SWIFT
SHAWN NELSON
MICHAEL DAILY
RONDA DAILY
STEPHANIE DAILY
SAMATHA DAILY
GRANT DAILY
RYAN DAILY
GARRETT DAILY
CHASE RIEF
JORDAN RIEF
ASHTON RIEF
JEFFREY DAILY
MATTHEW DAILY
CHRISTOPHER DAILY

SCOTT CRABTREE
SHANNON CRABTREE
TREVOR MORIN
BRIAN GRIFFITHS
BRAD GRIFFITHS

BILL CAUDILL
AMY CAUDILL
HEATHER MIKSCHL
BILL MIKSCHL
JULIA WALLS
EMILY WALLS
FRONA WALLS

SCARLET MOORE

Great Great Grand Children

TESS DAVIES
DAILY DAVIES
ERIC GIBBS

CHANDLER DAILY
CAMDEN DAILY

SPENCER SWIFT
NATHANIEL SWIFT
KATHRYN NELSON
ROBERT NELSON
AMANDA NELSON
GRACE FAY
JOHN FAY JR.
EMILY FAY
KAMRYN PETIT
CHLOE PETIT
GRANT ROSE
EMMA ROSE
JULIAN DONATO ROSE
ANDRE DONATO ROSE

THE WALLS LEAVE DELUZ

Many parcels of land had been sold by 1970, and from the Walls home, looking out of the big windows in the den, the chaparral was bulldozed down and land was being planted to avocado groves. The thousands of quail were diminishing as progress moved rapidly. Every year two or three houses were built on different hill tops.

Mr. Dailys dream was becoming a reality very rapidly.

The areas by the lake that Naomi Walls and Bina Sloan had cleared for a beach just five short years before were now enjoyed by many families. Motor bikes were racing up and down the hills. Electric lines were now strung from one end of the valley to another. Street lights had been installed at four different locations coming from DeLuz road to the lake. Property values skyrocketed by about ten times as much as they had been ten years before.

In June 1974, the Walls family moved to Fallbrook taking with them the beautiful memories of DeLuz Heights and a sizable profit from their property.

I'm sure many stories of the fun and experiences will be told by Patti, Susie, Joe, and Lori Walls, Debbie Sloan, and Lynda Daily of the early "Pioneer Days" of DeLuz Heights.

When we visit Deluz today, 1985, the nostalgic memories of Bill Walls sitting on top of the big rock formation in front of his house and shooting quail for our Sunday dinner are very vivid, but the times are long gone.

Pioneer Families



Bill, Naomi, Patti, Joe and Lori Walls



Ross, Helen, and Lynda Daily

Bina and Debbie Sloan





Judson Place
owned by James McManus
1970



Cement cylinder used for olive press 1985



Bulldozer shed on Lynda Lane



De Luz School



Old Loy Home 1985



Ross Lake



Ross Lake



October 17, 1985

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BIG BROTHER,

We will always be grateful that you found and developed DeLuz Heights.

We couldn't have had a better or more beautiful place to raise our family. We are very proud to have a brother and uncle like you. We hope you have many happy and healthy years ahead.

Love
Naomi, Bill, Pat, Susie, Joe, and Lari