

DeLuz Ecology Center TODAY

Fallbrook Citizens for the DeLuz Ecology Center

Ecology Center gives 'school' a whole new meaning

The children are the same, but their giggles and grins give only an inkling of the fun they're having--at school. Yes, school!

But it's a different kind of school. It's school at the DeLuz Ecology Center for just a few days at a time for all third and fifth graders in the Fallbrook Union Elementary School District. Their teachers' dramatic presentations and the surrounding 120 acres of wooded hillsides and creeklands are their only textbooks.

Based in the old one-room DeLuz Schoolhouse some 12 miles northeast of Fallbrook, the outdoor education program brings textbooks alive, according to Katy Duffin, teacher and coordinator of the program.

"This program allows the students to learn by doing, using all their senses," Duffin says. "A child once told me, 'I hate science' as he waded in the creek intently searching for insects to capture and identify. When I explained to him that what he was doing *was* science, he replied, 'Yeah, but this is *fun* science.' That alone says a lot about our program."

And fun it is. Probably for the first time in their lives, Fallbrook's third graders can identify with their grandparents' stories of school "back then."

Upon entering the one-room schoolhouse, the children are greeted by strict Mrs. Duffin and teaching assistant, Jerry Palculich, both clad in period clothing. The year is 1926. The children are invited to sit--on wood benches, of course. And on occasion, they are reminded that they must sit up straight.

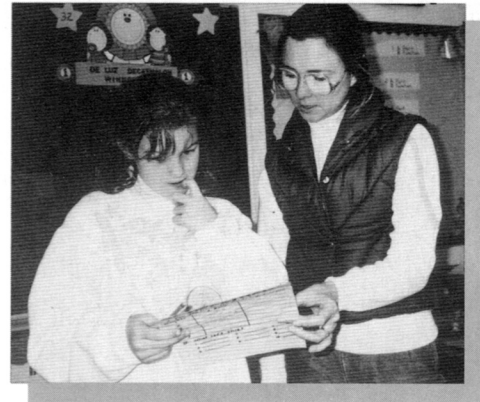
That's probably the only painful part of the third graders' two-day experience at

DeLuz. The rest of the time is spent actually living history--actually feeling what school would be like in 1926 and learning about the land the Indians called home.

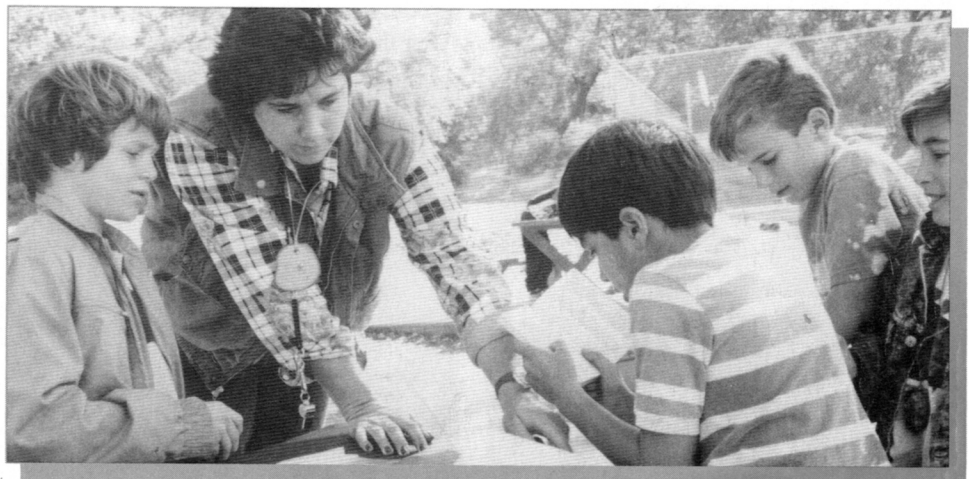
Their day progresses from a flag-raising ceremony to poetry reading to lessons in the McGuffey Reader. Of course, there's the cursive writing and math exercises on slates. And no 1926 third grader's school day would be complete without a spelling bee and a round or two of square dancing.

On the second day, the children experience life as the Indians knew it. They learn about Indian music. They experiment with Indian instruments, prepare Weewish, an Indian bread-like food made from acorns, and make Indian sand paintings as a keepsake of their time at DeLuz. Then they hike the same trails the Indians once roamed, learning about the area's plants and critters.

(Please turn page)



Above, fifth grade teacher Diane Lilja assists Sarah Guyer with the "Who Lives Here?" contest.



DeLuz Ecology Center teacher Katy Duffin helps fifth graders (from left) James Ferguson, Jon Dotson, Kevin Strikwerda and Ryan Williams identify insects.

\$1.2 million to benefit DeLuz Center

Palomar Aggregates agrees with group's suggestions

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Their suggestions included redesigning the project to preserve the view along Interstate 15, compensating those few who would see the mined area, permitting citizens to monitor for emissions, widening Highway 76 between Interstate 15 and the facility entrance, and benefiting the entire community by giving 5 cents per ton of aggregate mined to a worthy Fallbrook cause.

Palomar Aggregates agreed to all those suggestions. Here are those that most directly affect our community.

- **DeLuz Ecology Center.** Palomar Aggregates' agreement with the Fallbrook Union Elementary School District to give the DeLuz Ecology Center \$1.2 million is the most significant benefit to the community. The Center's budget would be doubled over the next 20 years, thus greatly improving its ability to provide Fallbrook's children a valuable outdoor education experience. Presently, the Center is funded primarily by tenuous lottery money.

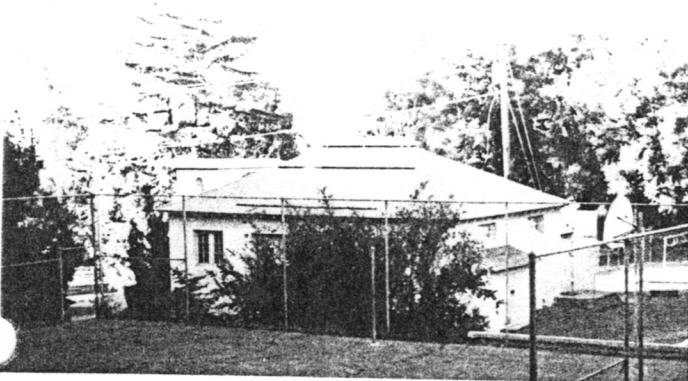
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ing Highway 76 from the freeway to the facility entrance, Palomar Aggregates has agreed to spend the money necessary to widen the road. Furthermore, Bill and Rosemary Pankey are donating land so that two dangerous curves can be removed.

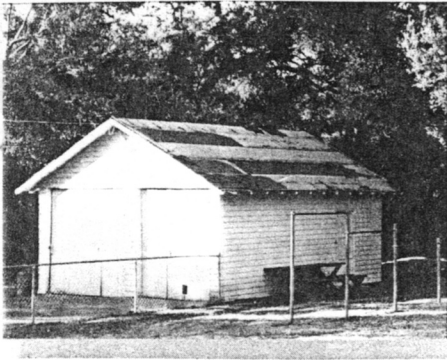
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ty. But, considering the facility design (and especially the redesign) as well as the benefits to the community, we encourage its approval.



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Improvements needed

Mission RCD advises, plays important role

Development of the facilities at the DeLuz Ecology Center for nature studies has been one of the major concerns of the Mission Resource Conservation District.

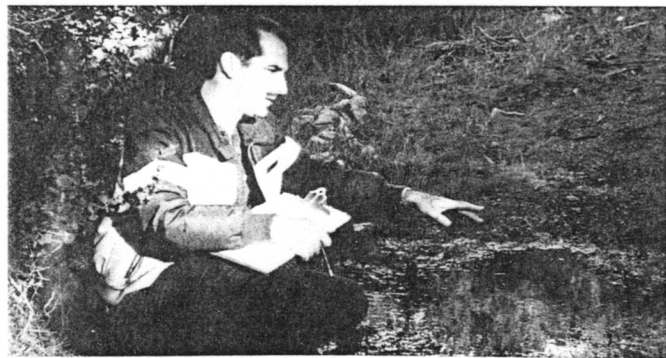
This local and self-governed district, organized for the purpose of actively promoting the wise use of land, water and other natural resources, is assisted by the Soil Conservation Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that furnishes the District with trained conservation technicians. These technicians assist in the implementation of a technically sound program of resource management.

In 1984, Mission RCD began working with the school district to develop a conservation plan for the DeLuz Ecology Center. A major part of the plan included expanding the trails. "Our purpose was

been removed and the ground chemically treated to increase the useable recreational area. Pruning of trees and shrubs near the school site has improved access where heavy undergrowth existed.

As called for in the plan, selected strips of vegetation were removed to increase the "edge effect" for wildlife habitat. Islands of desirable vegetation were retained for shelter, and salt blocks were placed in specific locations to encourage deer to the area.

The various brush clearing techniques and the installation of Barn Owl nesting boxes (to control the gopher population), bird feeders and wildlife watering tanks are conservation practices that have been completed to enhance upland wildlife habitat, according to Smothers. Still, there's much work to be done.



The plan suggests that mosquito fish be planted, as a student project, in the stream along the hiking trail to control mosquito populations in the spring. Also, the well, which provides both drinking and irrigation water, needs to be tested by a pump company and recommended repairs made.

Also recommended is the construction of a subsurface drain in the "wet area" along the hiking trail and a whirler-type sprinkler system for the native plant area. Water application and proper irrigation practices would be explained as part of the conservation education tour.

"Much of what has been done, such as the selective clearing of brush and mulching, must be repeated periodically to maintain the present habitat," Smothers notes. "Constant conservation is absolutely necessary."

In 1985 the State Association of School Boards gave the Fallbrook schools

special recognition for their ecology program. Jacqueline Judd, former supervisor of instruction at DeLuz, and the Fallbrook Union Elementary School District Board were honored for their contributions to this program at the state association's annual meeting in San Francisco.



to get the trails built and get the kids out of the classroom to give them a hands-on experience," says soil conservationist Vic Smothers.

Since then, work has been completed on 9,000 feet of nature trails with assistance from the California Conservation Corps and the Rainbow Conservation Camp. These trails require continued maintenance to prevent erosion and to protect soil, water, plant, animal and visual resources.

Wood chips for mulching critical areas have been provided through Mission RCD's wood chip collection program. Selected shrubs such as poison oak have

Among needed repairs or improvements (from top) are a new garage roof, a gate to prevent motorized vehicles from entering the back country, some bridges along the trails and an alternate water storage tank.



I can think of
no better
business/school
partnership
than this one.

Officials committed to conservation

Fallbrook Union Elementary School District officials are much like the proud parents of a newborn baby. Only their newborn baby is the DeLuz Ecology Center, only six years old in its current programs.

District trustee Walt Krueger points to the existing annual budget of \$92,000 as the Board's commitment to the DeLuz Ecology Center's outdoor education program.

Because of this commitment to conservation and outdoor education, the Board voted in October to accept the mitigation funding offered to the District by Palomar Aggregates, Inc., the developer of the proposed Rosemary's Mountain rock quarry project. The Ecology Center would receive at least \$60,000 annually for the next 20 years should the Rosemary's Mountain project get the green light.

"We didn't endorse the project by agreeing to accept the funds, but I see the funds as a real benefit to the children of this community," Krueger notes, adding that he visited a similar modern rock quarry before he made his decision in favor of accepting the mitigation grant. "I left feeling assured that there was nothing offensive about it."

The estimated \$1.2 million grant would be well utilized over the next 20 years. To meet the current school district growth, a modest expansion and various improvements at the Ecology Center are needed, Krueger notes.

Krueger believes strongly that this program is one worthy of keeping and improving. "The more we teach about ecology, the better off we are going to be in the next generation," Krueger maintains.



Walt Krueger

"Preservation and conservation become more important each day. It's vital that kids understand their environment so they can learn a respect for it."

Dr. Bill Diedrich, superintendent of the Fallbrook Union Elementary School District, echoes Krueger's beliefs about ecology.

"We have a strong sense in this district of conservation of our natural resources," Diedrich says. "And we are fortunate to have one of the last undisturbed areas in the state, so it only makes sense to include our children in a study of ecology."

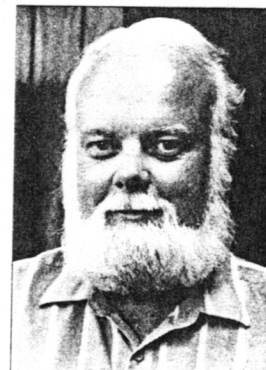


Dr. Bill Diedrich

If additional funds were to become available, many improvements could be made. "The grant would be used to enhance what we have there without adversely affecting the environment," Diedrich says, adding that the District is delighted to have people take an interest in school programs and do things in a meaningful way to boost those programs.

"We've talked for years now about the importance of the business community being involved in schools," Diedrich says. "I can think of no better business/school partnership than this one."

To assist the school district with this proposed business/school partnership is a newly formed committee of DeLuz fans. The Fallbrook Citizens for the DeLuz Ecology Center is a committee comprised of area residents, who over the years have taken a keen interest in the DeLuz Ecology Center. Chaired by DeLuz resident Ray Pack, the group serves as an advisory committee only.



Ray Pack

"Our function is to make expenditure recommendations to the District," Pack says. "Our goals are the same--to provide a well-equipped ecology center for our Fallbrook children."

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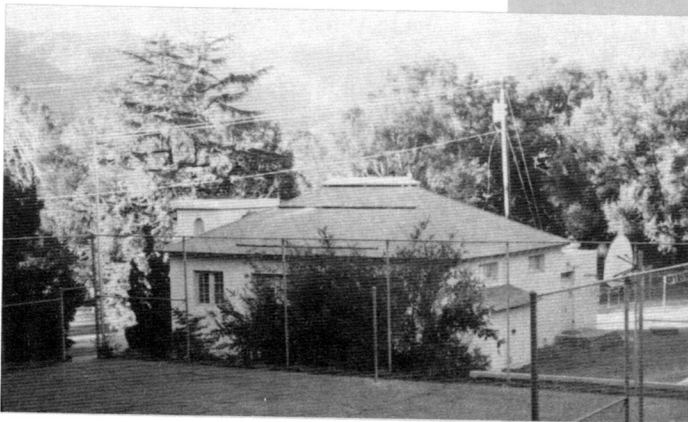
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Mining areas, plant planned for east side of mountain

Some uninformed critics have suggested that the Rosemary's Mountain Facility will turn the Interstate 15 corridor into an unsightly maze of gravel pits like those in Irwindale in Los Angeles County. Nothing is further from the truth.

Even when the original facility plan called for taking the top 200 feet off Rosemary's Mountain, none of the mining and processing areas would have been seen from anywhere in the I-15 corridor. And now that the project has been redesigned at the request of the Fallbrook Community Planning Group, leaving the top of the mountain untouched, those living in the corridor won't even know a rock quarry is there.

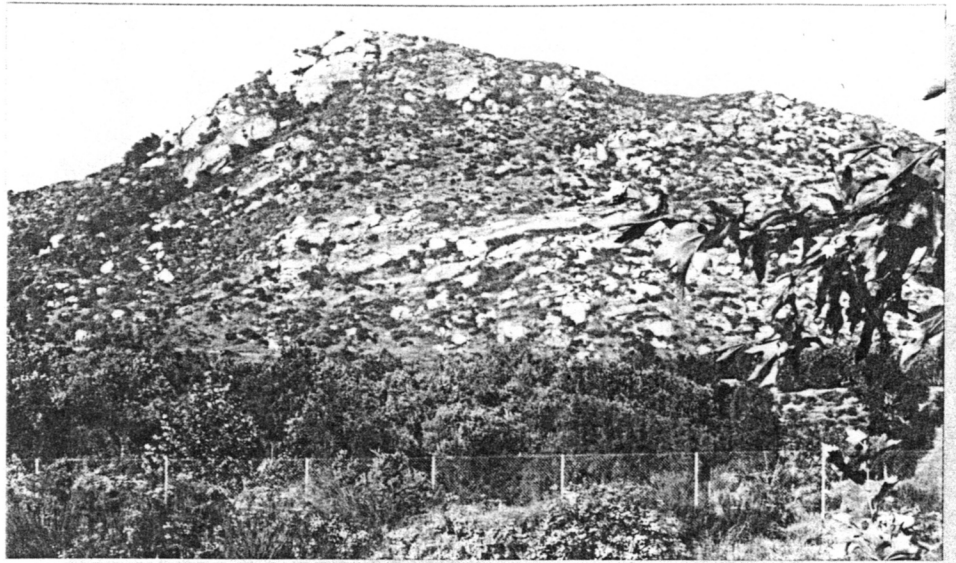
With the mining area and processing plants on the east side of the mountain, it blends in with other compatible uses such as several existing sand mining operations, dairies, packing plants and a shooting range.

Residents in less than a dozen homes up Couser and Rice canyons will be able to see the mining operation (although never the processing plants). And they are being offered compensation for the affect on their view.

*To express your support
of funding the DeLuz
Ecology Center with
\$1.2 million from the
proposed Rosemary's
Mountain Facility,
please write:*

Jim Russell, Chairman
Fallbrook Community
Planning Group
205 Calle Linda
Fallbrook, CA 92028

Supervisor John MacDonald
S.D. County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101



This view of the west side of Rosemary's Mountain along I-15 will never change because the mining area and processing plants will be on the east side of the mountain.

Facility project described

The Rosemary's Mountain Facility, a proposed rock quarry and ready mix and asphalt production plant, would be situated on the east side of Rosemary's Mountain, which is located a mile to the northeast of the intersection of Interstate 15 and Highway 76.

It is named after Rosemary Pankey, who with her husband Bill, owns the property on which the mountain sits.

The mine is needed because existing quarries in North County are about exhausted, and importing aggregate from distant locations doesn't appear to be the

answer. Trucking it in from Riverside County, for example, more than doubles the cost--a cost which is passed on to the consumer, usually the taxpayer.

The majority of the material produced at the Rosemary's Mountain Facility will be used by Palomar Grading & Paving, Inc., Palomar Aggregates' parent company, to build roads in North County. The facility will be relatively small compared to other quarries, and it will employ the latest in technology to make it environmentally compatible with the surrounding area.

The DeLuz Ecology Advisory Committee has identified the following projects as the "wish list" for the \$1.2 million grant earmarked for the Fallbrook Union Elementary School District's DeLuz Ecology Center. Listed in order of priority, they are:

- Improve the septic system
- Establish teaching stations and rest areas along the trails
- Place plaque markers along the trails to indicate flora and fauna for self-guided tours
- Modernize the kitchen and repair the doors
- Purchase a tractor and mulching attachment
- Trim the trees

- Purchase artifacts for the classroom
- Build a new garage/storage shed
- Construct a weather station
- Install air conditioning
- Purchase a trailer for the caretaker
- Paint the classroom
- Build a windmill to reroute water
- Obtain an outhouse
- Purchase a computer and printer.

Long-term projects, listed in order of priority, include:

- Purchase more property for a new facility to accommodate the growing numbers of students enrolled in Fallbrook schools
- Build a dam, and thus a pond, for an on-site riparian habitat
- Construct a storage building.

Tell us about blasting, noise and dust

With today's advanced technology, vibrations from blasting will be barely noticeable. At 1,350 feet, the vibration will be no more than that of closing a sliding glass door. After that, the vibration will simply die out.

Because the mine and processing plants will be located behind the mountain and surrounded by other hills, very little noise will leave the Pankey property. The noise level from blasting at 2,000 feet, for example, will be 42 decibels (dBA), just barely above the 38.5 decibels at which humans begin to hear noise at all. At 3,000 feet, the noise level will be 37 decibels, a level undetectable by anyone. Blasting, by the way, will occur only three seconds per week.

Operating noise will be even less. At 1,000 feet, the noise level will be only 44.5 decibels. At 2,000 feet, still on the Pankey property, it will drop to 38.5, the same level at which we humans no longer hear noise. In effect, that means there will be no distinguishable facility noise more than 2,000 feet from the site.

Citizens group examines project, ensures pluses outweigh minuses

No amount of money, even money earmarked for education, should be accepted unless the source is reputable. The gift should not cost the community more in other aspects than the funds received.

That's why Fallbrook Citizens for the DeLuz Ecology Center has carefully reviewed the proposed Rosemary's Mountain Facility plan and has ensured that the pluses far outweigh the minuses.

For more information on the Rosemary's Mountain Facility and how it will benefit the DeLuz Ecology Center, a printed information packet and 22-minute video have been produced.

To obtain the printed material and check out a copy of the video, call Palomar Aggregates at 743-3007 or Morrison & Associates at 723-4449. Copies also are available for overnight checkout at the Fallbrook Library.

It's interesting to note that the noise level on Interstate 15 is 73 decibels. At Pala Mesa Village, situated along the freeway and more than a mile (over 5,000 feet) from the facility, the noise level is 61. People living there and at other points along the Interstate 15 corridor simply will not hear any operating or blasting noise.

The Rosemary's Mountain Facility and its mining technology also have been designed for dust control and elimination. First, the mine is all rock with no dirt and sand which is the major cause of dust. Second, conveyors will be used to move rock within the mine, thus eliminating dust-causing pit trucks.

Water bars will keep material wet through the entire process. Bag houses, operating like giant vacuum cleaners, will prevent both dust and odors from rock crushers and the asphalt and ready mix mixing plants. We've learned that more dust is created by the trucks on the Pankey Farm than will ever be generated by the quarry and material processing plants.

Local mother, son design DeLuz hats

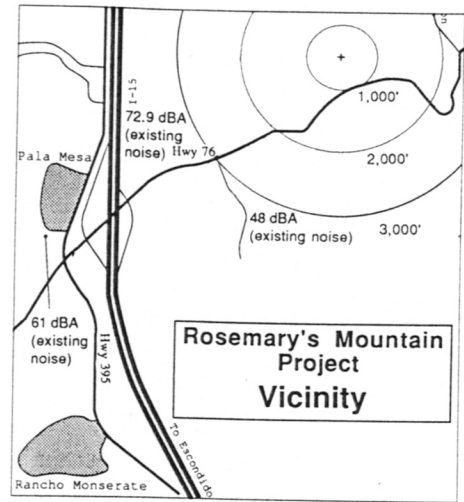
Little League has theirs, and so, too, will the DeLuz Ecology Center.

Hats--hats that read "Rosemary's Mountain loves DeLuz Ecology Center"--will be available to local children and others in recognition of the school-business partnership that has developed between the Rosemary's Mountain project and DeLuz Ecology Center.

Designed by local graphic designer Dawn Shears, the hats are intended to appeal to children. And, in fact, the finishing touches were added by Dawn's son, Christopher, a fourth grader at La Paloma School.

Chris hand-lettered "DeLuz Ecology Center" to resemble a child's writing. "We ended up using the primary crayon box colors because we want the hats especially to appeal to children since they are the ones who will benefit from the grant," Dawn explains.

The artist chose ornate, feminine-looking type for "Rosemary's Mountain," which is arched to resemble a mountain. The red heart and "DeLuz Ecology Center"



This chart shows the location of the proposed Rosemary's Mountain rock quarry. It also has distance rings to help readers relate to the operating and blasting noise discussion in the story to the left. Also, existing noise levels at various locations are shown to illustrate that operating and blasting noise will not be heard by neighbors.



Dawn Shears and son Chris are designers of the new DeLuz Ecology Center hats.

look like a child's artwork.

"We talked it over and decided the hat is something kids will like," Dawn says. "It's something they'll have fun wearing."

One-room schoolhouse transformed into today's Ecology Center

Ding-dong. The school bell is ringing at the old concrete block DeLuz schoolhouse some 12 miles north of Fallbrook.

Once attended by first through eighth graders living in the DeLuz area, the schoolhouse today is named the DeLuz Ecology Center and is home--for a few days each year--to every third and fifth grader in Fallbrook.

Built in 1926, the one-room schoolhouse and its surrounding 128 acres, were donated in 1968 to the Fallbrook Union Elementary School District when only a few students attended and the building was declared unsafe.

After acquiring the property, the District heard various recommendations to utilize the school facilities and the relatively undisturbed grounds around it as an ecology classroom. In 1974, the District moved in that direction.

The building was improved to meet state earthquake standards and teacher Melouise Miller was hired to direct and coordinate the "new" school's activities.

Published in March, 1989, by the Fallbrook Citizens for the DeLuz Ecology Center, this newsletter is intended to explain both the Rosemary's Mountain project and the programs and needs of the DeLuz Ecology Center. The committee is chaired by DeLuz resident Ray Pack; members are Ann Pack, Mike Porter, Anne Porter, Richard Larsen, Vic Smothers, Rick Atteberry and Tammy Atteberry.

More detailed information can be obtained by calling Palomar Aggregates, Inc. at 743-3007 or Morrison & Associates at 723-4449.



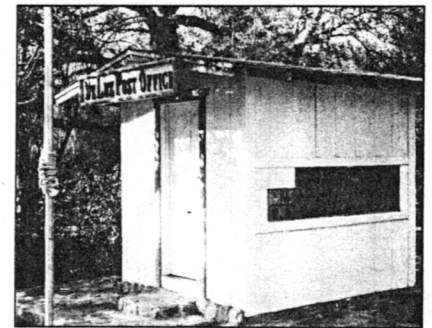
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Miss Miller turned the place into a museum with displays on rocks, plants and wildlife found in the area. She organized a guided tour and slide show for visiting classes. But this was just the beginning.

Since then, the program has evolved from an optional field trip available to Fallbrook children at the discretion of their teachers into a full-fledged program of Indian studies and ecology.

From September through December, every third grade class in the District visits the DeLuz Center for two days to experience a bit of history. They live history. They learn about school as it once was and they come to know the area's Indians and how they lived.

Then teacher Katy Duffin and assistant Jerry Palculich retire their period bonnets for sun visors and hats, just in time to greet the fifth graders who visit the Center the second half of the year. For this part of the year, the one-room schoolhouse is transformed into a well-equipped ecology center.



Located on the DeLuz school grounds is the tiny DeLuz post office, which was closed in an economy move in 1955. The 5-by-7-foot clapboard structure looks something like a child's playhouse.

Reportedly the nation's smallest post office, it was kept small so it could be moved to the property of the postmaster as that job changed hands. Now, as a museum piece, it shares the old school grounds and is visited regularly by Fallbrook's third and fifth graders.

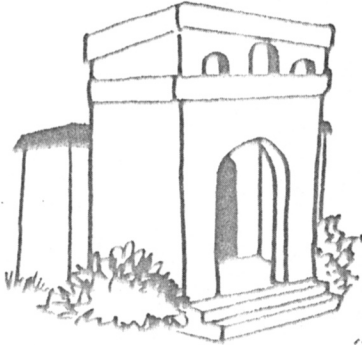
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Preparing children to be stewards of our land

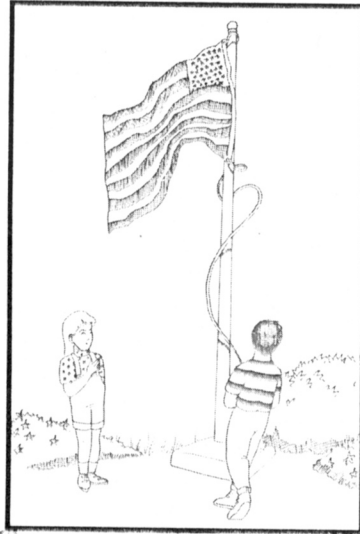
Nestled among beautiful wooded hills, just 12 miles northeast of Fallbrook, is an educational facility which offers Fallbrook Union Elementary School students an uncommon learning experience that is worlds away from the norm.

It is the DeLuz Ecology Center. ♦

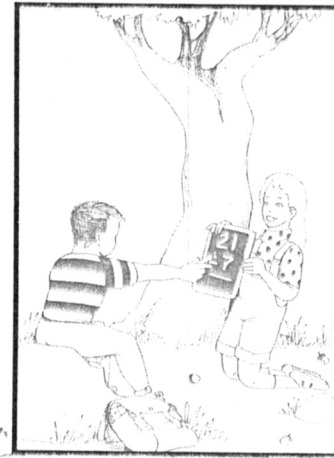


Third-grade classes, which visit the Center from September through November, take part in a one-day program on the theme of their teacher's choice – living history or the environment.

During their day, third graders can participate in their own flag-raising ceremony,



delve into reading poetry from the McGuffey Reader, try their hand at cursive and math lessons on slates, and have a whirl at square dancing. The youngsters also can briefly live as the Native Americans did – making crafts, baking breads, and hiking trails to study local plants and animals. ♦



Fifth-grade classes enjoy a four-day program at the Center from November through August. They take an ecological tour of the surrounding trails to learn how animals and plants adapt to their environment. The students study the rain cycle, photosynthesis, the food chain, erosion, and the list goes on.

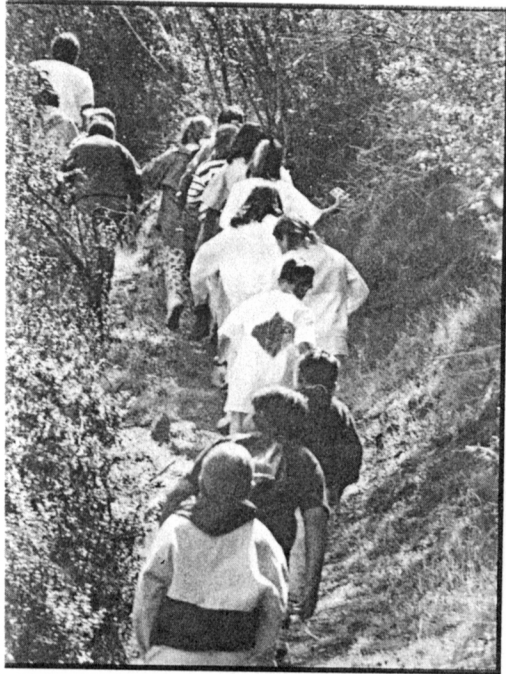


As with all the DeLuz programs, the students become so wrapped up in dissecting owl pellets, panning for gold and collecting and identifying insects, that they nearly forget they're in school and learning! ♦



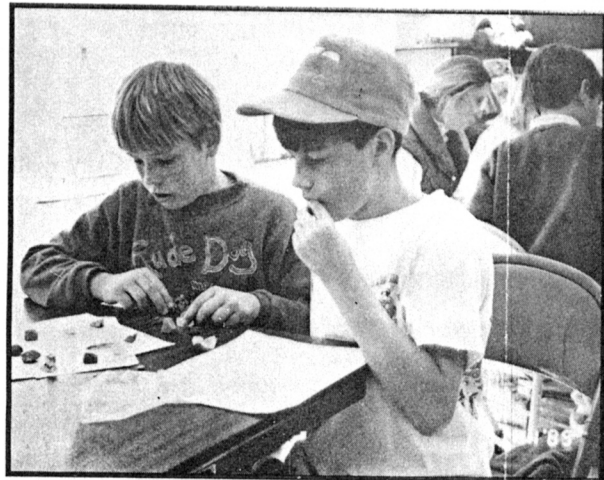
DeLuz
Ecology
Center

DeLuz Ecology Center needs your support



"The Center really shows how things relate to the environment. And that knowledge is important if we're going to respect our eco-system."

– Scott Gordon, ecology center teacher



Each year, more than 1,400 third- and fifth-graders benefit from the museum and science laboratory atmosphere of the old one-room school house and its surrounding 128 acres of undisturbed brush, trees and creeks.

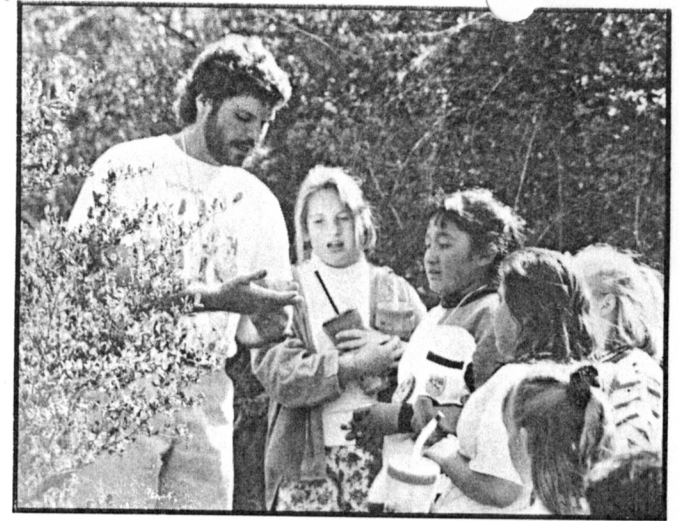
The school house was built in 1926 and regular classes were held there until 1968. It is the perfect setting for the Ecology Center's curriculum designed to develop respect for both local history and the environment.

The Center's philosophy of fun learning really works for these children. They come away with a better understanding of the history of those who lived before us and what we must do to protect our precious resources. The DeLuz Ecology Center helps prepare our youth to become contributing citizens of our world – ready to conserve, recycle, and respect the environment entrusted to them.

The DeLuz Ecology Center is an important program of the Fallbrook Union Elementary School District. The Center is staffed with a teacher, a teacher's aide and one custodian/grounds keeper. Its annual budget is \$98,900.

The Center, however, is endangered. Budget concerns within the District have placed it on the list of possible programs to be curtailed or discontinued.

It appears that only the support of the surrounding community can help the Center continue to offer its exceptional learning experience to Fallbrook students. ♦



"The more we teach about ecology, the better off we are going to be in the next generation."

– Walt Krueger, former Fallbrook Union Elementary School District trustee

You can help by joining Fallbrook Citizens for the DeLuz Ecology Center

A group of local parents and other residents who stand behind the DeLuz Ecology Center and what it offers the children have united to form the Fallbrook Citizens for the DeLuz Ecology Center. The group acts as an advisory committee and support group to the Center. They agree that the Center programs are vital to the future of our community and our earth.

If you would like to know how you can help the Fallbrook Citizens for the DeLuz Ecology Center sustain the Center program, please write us at P.O. Box 1362, Fallbrook, CA 92028. ♦

**Fallbrook Citizens for the DeLuz Ecology Center
P.O. Box 1362, Fallbrook, CA 92028**

by August Fredy



Frogs and bugs are nothing new to the De Luz school house. For years, the children who attended the tiny school brought the creatures to school in pockets, lunch pails, and bookbags. The only difference now is that the creeping, jumping, and crawling things are part of the lesson, not unwelcome guests. The school house, which was built in 1927, is now the site of the Fallbrook Union Elementary School District's De Luz Ecology Center. Thanks to the dedication of teacher Jackie Judd, the Center now provides an ongoing program for the district's third and fifth graders.

The Center nestles amid live oaks and native chaparral on 130 acres in the De Luz area along Murrieta Road. For years, residents of the valley could set their watches by the sound of the school bell. But by 1968, even though the students ranged from kindergarten age to eighth grade, the number of students had dwindled to a handful, and the decision was made to close the school and bus the children to Fallbrook. Except for meetings and social events held by nearby residents, the only other inhabitants were termites.

In 1970, the school board decided to locate an ecology center in the old school. It was used sporadically until 1984 when Judd, an energetic young woman who was a graduate in biology and anthropology from Santa Barbara State College, applied for the position of full-time director of the center.

Judd had an intense interest in

ecology and the environment, had attended numerous conferences, worked as a volunteer for the Chasper Wilderness Park in Orange County, and was an outstanding student and teacher of California history. She was uniquely qualified for the job.

Working under the supervision of Governing Board Member Linda Cowan and school Superintendent William E. Diederich, Judd restructured the program and supervised the renovation and painting of the center to house students from the third to fifth grades.

The U.S. Soil Conservation office in Fallbrook planned two miles of scenic hiking trails which were then constructed by crews from the California Conservation Corps and the Rainbow Forestry Camp.

Judd and her assistant used the nature walks to teach students about wildlife, plants, soils, rocks, and Indians. In the school house, the students studied displays of insects, ants, birds, other wildlife, and Indian culture. They heard stories of early-day De Luz pioneers and their way of life.

Unfortunately, Judd, who had heart problems, died in November, 1987, but the program she began continues, and a plaque at the center commemorates her contributions.

The Ecology Center welcomes visitors, and the grounds are available on weekends for picnics. In order not to interfere with classes, you should call the current director, Scott Gordon, at (619) 723-7070 before visiting.