

# Old De Luz School Rescued

By **PETER H. BROWN**

**DE LUZ** — The Massachusetts-style De Luz School — from its 1880 bell to its heavy coat of Oregon grapes — has been saved from the wrecking hammer.

Community leaders and directors of the Fallbrook Union School District have agreed to preserve the American Victorian landmark as a community center and a sort-of silent tribute to the vanishing one-room school.

The decision announced late last week will keep the 1928 building intact — complete with some of its historical artifacts, with a possible "shoring up" in the future.

### CLOSED IN JUNE

The school said goodby to its last one-roomful of students in June, and community rumors had it that the building might be torn down or it might be remodeled into some type of De Luz facility for the Fallbrook Union School District, which De Luz has now joined.

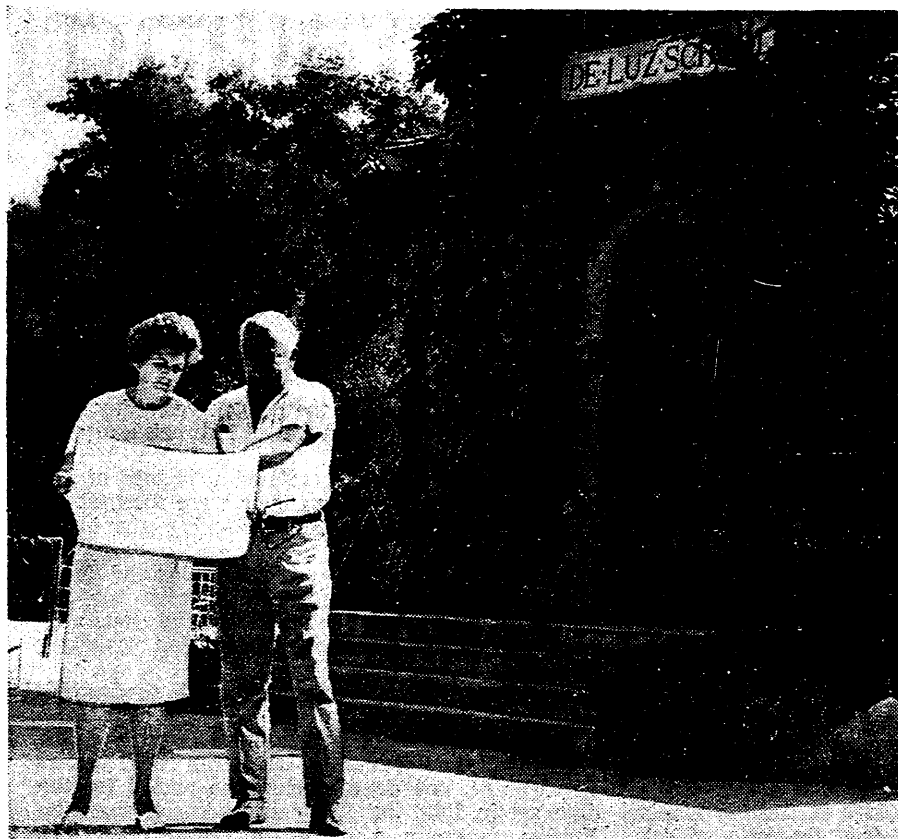
The stone block building was built in 1928 but it was "old looking when it was dedicated."

Directors of the De Luz one-school district, when they had to abandon the old one-roomer, decided they wanted the new school to have an old appearance, so they directed architects to design the school on the prototype of the Eastern school house complete with a cupola-bell tower.

### PUT IN BELL

"I remember my father was on the school board and wanted a mission-type school and most of the others wanted an Eastern type which was what they got," said Felix Garnsey, a district oldtimer.

"I was one of the three that



Mrs. Julian Davis and Archie Martin of De Luz look over original plans of one-room De Luz School that will become a community center.

—Photo by Chappells

put up the old cast iron school bell in the new building," Garnsey said. "It had been brought out here in 1888 and it took us about three days with a hoist and ladder to install the bell in the new wood tower."

Shortly after the school opened its doors in September of 1928 a student brought some cuttings of Oregon grapes and imbedded them around the school. They have covered the front and sides ever since.

When the school closed in June it left only two one-room schools in the county — Spencer Valley near Julian and a school near Campo in the Mountain Empire School District.

The school was famous for a rural atmosphere—rabbit and deer came up to the windows in the spring and fall and wildflowers bloomed at the edges of the schoolyard.

This September, the students from Le Luz will take the bus to the Fallbrook district which

will educate the students this year on an interdistrict transfer basis.

At the end of the school year in June the De Luz district will go into the Fallbrook district permanently by state law.

De Luz gave Fallbrook 120 acres of land in De Luz and Fallbrook let De Luz join the district.

The building also may be used by Fallbrook grade school classes for nature field trips.

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