

## ROADS WASHED OUT

# Rampaging River Isolates De Luz Area Residents

By PETER H. BROWN

DE LUZ — The only person who commuted from Fallbrook to the rugged, isolated De Luz Canyon area yesterday was a stalwart high school senior named Eugene Schumacher.

And he made it by trickily zigzagging across the Santa Margarita River in hip boots with bags of eggs and sacks of mail under his arms.

This was the thread-like emergency connection between De Luz and outside civilization, as the water-logged, mud-tired residents of the boulder-strewn canyon settled in for two weeks of dripping isolation.

The milkman won't deliver for two weeks. The mailman will have to ferry his deliveries across the gutted creekbed. And kids won't go to school for about ten days.

### AREA CUT UP

"The area is cut up by water like a giant pie," said Mrs. Daniel Mannering. "Access roads are split apart and most houses are cut off from one another, with access only through the back woods area."

This was the De Luz legacy from eight days of rain, ending Monday with water torrents ripping out both highway connections between the residential areas housing about 100 and the rest of San Diego County.

"Whole canyon sides have slipped down over roads and

into field areas," said longtime resident Mrs. Felix Garnsey, whose husband and two hired workers barely escaped a giant, roaring landslide on their De Luz property.

Felix Garnsey and the two men were repairing a silt dam when they heard a roar. "I wouldn't have believed the size of the boulders that came crashing out of the canyon if I hadn't seen it."

Garnsey and his work party — warned by the roar — leaped aside as boulders the size of small cars and trees pushed through the silt dam area and into a small lake.

### WARNING ROAR

Camp Pendleton's Dr. Daniel Mannering, marooned with his family at their home here, figures it was the same slide that almost rushed on top of him when he was repairing the spring that supplies the family water.

Dr. Mannering — also warned by a roar he described as unbelievable — rushed out of the area escaping a "wall of water and mud."

Mrs. Lester McDowell was home alone Sunday and was making a quilt when she heard a roar and rushed outside to see what was happening.

"A levee above our house to hold back water from a canyon had broken and was rushing down toward me," she said. "I managed to claw

my way to higher ground so the water would not wash me away."

The water that Mrs. McDowell escaped pushed in the front door of her home, making the house unlivable. She, her husband and son, Scott, 16, are staying with neighbors until workers can get in to see if the house is even repairable.

All over the canyon area De Luz families began settling into a routine that probably will last until the county gets the main road cleared.

The fathers began banding together to rebuild earthen dams and minimize road damage. The mothers began counting groceries and making menus to carry their food supply.

### SUPPLIES MOVE IN

A county truck all day today will make continuous runs from Fallbrook to the edge of the Santa Margarita River with groceries and supplies — catalogued by phone from De Luz families.

The groceries will then, according to the north county substation of the Sheriff's Department, be ferried across the river.

Rancher Dick Matthews — whose property is the farthest north parcel in De Luz — estimated between \$3,000 and \$4,000 damage on his property alone and other ranchers indicated this might be an average figure.

Discipline Held

Discipline Held