

# De Luz Rancher Protests Campground Permit Rule

By DICK WEBER

A De Luz rancher's complaint that he is being unfairly prohibited from using his land for camping and picnicking prompted the Board of Supervisors yesterday to order a study of the law regulating those activities.

The County Department of Public Health has notified Felix R. Garnsey he can't let youth groups such as the Girl Scouts and large numbers of friends and relatives camp overnight on his Del Luz ranch without a health permit from the department.

Garnsey contends that since he does not charge a fee for the camping privileges he should not have to get a permit.

The matter was brought before the board by Supervisor DeGraff Austin, who suggested more moderate controls. Austin was not present at the meeting, but submitted his views in writing.

"We are going to have to take

the hair shirt of the present ordinance off the backs of the landowners if the county is desirous of encouraging establishment of privately owned camping grounds," the communication stated.

At the end of a two-hour discussion that Supervisor William A. Craven said "complicated this thing beyond all recognition," the board instructed Fred J. Morey, county chief administrative officer, and County Health Director J. B. Askew to review the ordinance and recommend any desirable changes after conferring with camping interests.

Craven and Supervisors Henry A. Boney and Harry F. Scheidle supported Supervisor Jack Walsh's motion for the investigation, although Craven said the investigation was not needed.

Craven said was not dealing with an organization as a problem but an "individual who out of the goodness of his heart is

allowing others to use his land."

Craven said complaints that led to the health department's investigation of Garnsey's ranch were "petulant." He said the department had erred in judging Garnsey needed a permit.

Walsh said that rather than attacking the department on an administrative problem the board should address itself to the question of whether the law, adopted in 1924, needs revision.

A permit could require Garnsey to install adequate water and sanitary facilities. Askew said there are 57 operations in the county similar to Garnsey's that have permits from his department.

According to the ordinance, Garnsey would not need a permit if the land were used for "family outings on an irregular basis." However, the point when the camping activities become more than a family affair is a matter of interpretation, supervisors say.