

# Briton Gives Name To Beauty Spot

**Editor's Note—This is the 132nd article of a series on San Diego county place names.**

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The name De Luz is applied to a station on the Station Margarita Southern California railroad, a town and a creek in the northeasterly part of the county, 20 miles from Oceanside up Santa Margarita valley, north of Rancho Santa Margarita. From Fallbrook it is 15 miles by road and six by beeline northwest.

The derivation of the name is given in the 1883 history of San Diego county:

"The name Corral de Luz, which was given to this section of the country by the Spaniards, was owing to there having been an extensive corral built there by an Englishman named Luce, who used it for corraling his large band of horses which he was pasturing here. The general rule among the Spaniards being to name every section of the country after its particular use or peculiar location. It was, therefore, called Corral de luz (the corral of Luce)."

The following is a description printed in the recent issue of California's blue book or state roster: "... surrounded by oak-covered hills, is noted for size, color and sweetness of apricots, peaches and grapes. Walnuts and apples do well. The climate is excellent for citrus culture. Average rainfall 18 inches."

#### In Rich Section

Material prepared by G. F. Westfall and R. Nesbit shows De Luz situated "in the heart of a rich fruit and grain section. Grapes, peaches, alfalfa from the irrigated lands of the little valley of which the town is the center, grain and hay from the rolling hills surrounding the valley, some dairy produce, beans and stock are shipped. Domestic water supply, and that for the limited amount of land irrigated, is obtained from wells and springs, the former bored in beds of streams tributary to the De Luz creek, which drains and furnishes water for the valley. Some sheep are ranged in the surrounding hills."

We find the following paragraph in the San Diego Union of July 18, 1882: "The San Luis Rey Star says Mr. A. E. Horton and wife, Miss May Horton; Mr. J. B. Levet, wife and daughter; Mrs. A. E. Veagie and daughter, of San Diego, are at the sulphur springs in the Corral de Luz and will probably remain there a month or so enjoying the beneficial effects of the sulphur water."

June 6, 1882, reference is again made to the sulphur springs at this place "good for deafness and catarrh. Pretty camping ground near—shade trees, water, wood and grass."

In 1882 there was talk of a new road "between the Corral de Luz and Fallbrook depot, about five miles. The people of the former place have to go 12 or 15 miles out of the way to get to a shipping point."

#### Smallest Postoffice

One of the most interesting facts relating to De Luz, the town, is the smallness of its postoffice building. Established in 1882, with Jay H. Camp, a minister, its first postmaster, the front of this 8x8 frame building provided 18 padlocked pigeon-holes for use of its subscribers. W. H. Tiffany, present in-

cumbent, takes pardonable pride in his unique position as postmaster of the tiniest office in the United States, if not in the world. The school at De Luz was established in 1892.

De Luz creek, which rises in the Santa Rosa mountains of Riverside county, joins Santa Margarita river at De Luz station, some 10 miles southwest of De Luz, the town. In rainy seasons it contributes a large volume of flood water to the main stream but in summer it is a dry wash. There is a gauging station at this place. During the water rights trial some years ago, between the owners of Rancho Santa Margarita and those of the nearby Rancho Pauba, in Riverside county, much expert testimony was written into the record concerning the flow of water through De Luz creek and the conditions of soils after the floods of 1916 and 1926, with the result that many interesting details regarding the topography of this district were brought out.

A colorful bit of testimony was that of Stephen Peters, 73, an old-timer in the district:

"In 1923 we dug in the channel of the river above De Luz station in three places in order to get water for cattle. They were about three-quarters of a mile apart. It was necessary to dig three or four feet deep so that the water would come up. Below De Luz station the water was rising and flowed for a half a mile, from which the cattle got water. There were pools of sweet water, three or four in number, below the ranch house, from which cattle would drink and in 1923 no water was pumped for stock except for some bulls fenced in a closed pasture where there was no water. I never remember having seen the channel dry that far before 1923."

## CELEBRATE FEAST OF TABERNACLES AT TEMPLE

Jews throughout the world this week are celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles, Jewish Thanksgiving, or Succus, as it is called in Hebrew, one of the three most important holidays on the Jewish calendar. The festival is ordained in the Bible where it is called the Feast of Ingathering, a name that suggests the agricultural character of the celebration which is observed for eight days.

A succah, or booth, has been constructed in Temple Beth Israel, Third and Laurel, as a symbolic reminder to the Israelites of the wanderings of his ancestors in the wilderness. Its significance will be explained by the young people of the temple during services tonight, to which the public is invited.

The festival first was celebrated in ancient days when all males were required to make pilgrimages to Jerusalem, there to offer sacrifices, participate in public feasts and rejoice in their God. It probably is the forerunner of the American Thanksgiving.

An English railway runs a "weed-killer special" along its tracks spraying a solution that kills weeds.

## TEACHER OF BLIND TO PAY S. D. VISIT

Catherine J. Morrison, teacher of Braille and Moon methods of reading for the blind, will make her quarterly visit to San Diego from Oct. 13 to 17. Miss Morrison works under the auspices of the state library and she may be reached through Cornelia D. Plaister, city librarian, at the public library. Her services are free. She will welcome contact with any of her former pupils who need her help or persons wishing to begin to learn either Braille or Moon. The public library telephone number is F-4111.



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