

Families Offer Each Other Aid

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Colleen and Neal Bryant live on high ground, so they are more fortunate than most of the other families who live in De Luz, the community near Fallbrook which has been cut off from the rest of the county by floodwaters for a week.

They had a good supply of food on hand, so when Larry Butler halloped across the swollen De Luz Creek to say he had no food for himself and his farm hands, Neal Bryant got out his bow and arrow.

Bryant, a master archer in his youth, plunked a little line across the creek. "I tied it to a heavier line, and then a heavy rope, and then sent across a basket of food and some beer," said Bryant.

Yesterday morning a Marine Corps helicopter dropped down on John Wilhelm's property across the

creek from the Bryants, and deposited a block and tackle and big rope, Bryant said. It will help solve the problem of food supplies not only for families but for their livestock and pets.

"We're all cooperating," said Colleen Bryant, a realtor who has been stranded from her Fallbrook office for a week. "At one point we were feeding six dogs and four cats.

"Tonight, Gene Key is coming over. His wife is in Fallbrook. We'll make supper with our hamburger and his macaroni."

The Bryants don't believe that any of the 200 or more families in the area are really suffering in spite of being cut off from civilization. "We've heard of only one home being flooded," Colleen Bryant said.

"People here expect to be flooded out every year for a day or two, and usually keep kerosene lanterns and Coleman stoves on hand.

"The worst part is being cut off from our businesses; Neal is a realtor, too. They're carrying on in Fallbrook, but I'll bet they're not selling any De Luz properties."