

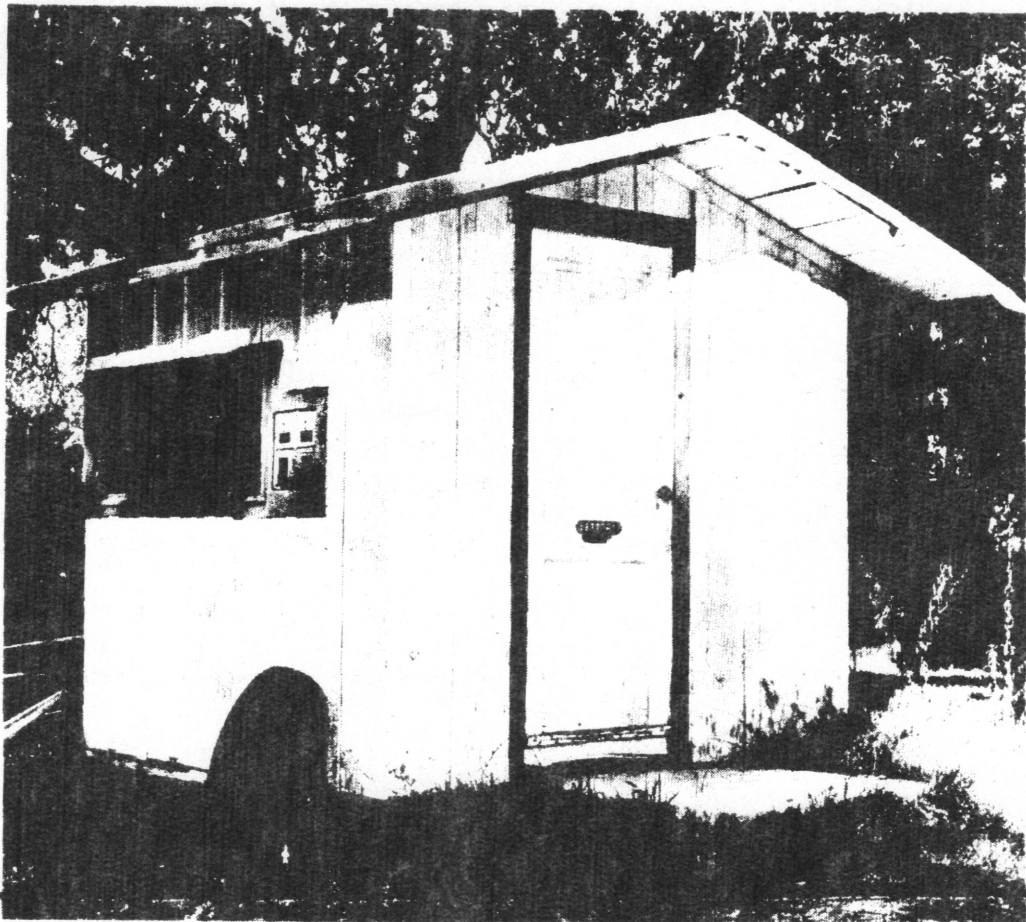
By MAIE ELLIS

DeLuz is located in the mountainous northern section of San Diego County, south of the southern edge of Riverside County. It is not a town but a cluster of ranches lying contentedly in a long high valley with innumerable beautiful oaks trees watered by crystal clear cool streams running all the year around from the surrounding towering mountains.

Legend has it that before postal service was established in DeLuz, any resident going to the village of Fallbrook, brought back all mail for the DeLuz ranchers and placed it in a large hollow of an immense oak tree. It was then picked up from there.

In 1882 postal service was maintained by any one of several ranchers who became postmaster in his own home. One of these early Postmasters was Fred Orvis, living on what is now called the Stoner place. Driving up the DeLuz Road today, one may see the remains of the house still standing, a rock fireplace with its tall stone chimney sturdily resisting the elements.

In 1909 a Mrs. Regan rented the old hotel-site ranch and camped there with her family. In 1910 she bought the 80 acre ranch and remodelled the old two-story hotel building. She built an outside stairway with a tiny room underneath it on



ONE MAN POST OFFICE — In 1914 this eight-foot by eight-foot post office was constructed by L. J. Garnsey who became the first DeLuz postmaster. The office remained open and in service until 1954. On the door of the office is a slot marked "Letters" and on the side of the building are 33 small and one double-sized mail boxes.

the ground floor. This little room became another "home" post office with Mrs. Regan postmaster. Across the DeLuz

Road from her little post office is the spot where later the, as yet, unborn"; little DeLuz post office building would sit out its final days in U. S. Government work.

In 1914 the eight foot by eight foot post office building was constructed by rancher L. J. Garnsey on his place under the beautiful spreading oaks. Garnsey was the first postmaster to serve in this small building; and the carrier, fondly known to all as "gramp" Day, continued hauling the DeLuz mail from Fallbrook.

BUILDING MOVED

In 1916 Mrs. Regan sold her ranch to Mrs. Alexander, owner of the Hotel Alexandria in Los Angeles, and her brother Mr. Tiffany operated the ranch. In 1930 Tiffany as new postmaster bought the little building from L. J. Garnsey and moved it to the wide spot beside the road opposite the old hotel site previously mentioned.

In 1938 Mrs. Alexander sold to Dr. Samuel Wilson, but Mr. Tiffany obtained permission from Homer C. McDowell to move his postoffice there across the road from the lovely school house.

In 1939 he sold the building to the new postmaster, Chloe Baxter, who had the much-travelled building re-settled in

ter from 1939 to 1954 or 1955. Thus ended 40 or 41 years of faithful service by the little post office building. The DeLuz territory became ~~part of the~~ Fallbrook postal area, and is presently served by one of several rural routes from Fallbrook.

BECOMES A TOOL SHED

Mrs. Baxter wanted her little building on her ranch upon a hill beyond the Garnsey ranch but decided it could not make the grade, so it became the property of Dr. Wilson who moved it across the road to become a tool shed. The present owners, James and Barbara McManus, still have the ex-post office tool shed. It may be seen there today with a slot in the door labelled LETTERS and on its right side still equipped completely with its triple rows of regulation metal mail boxes; 33 small and one double-sized. The boxes are filled from the inside, but the doors are outside and handy for "dawn to dark" working ranchers.

Now as to its closing date; some say 1954, but Mrs. Felix Garnsey has a copy of a San Diego newspaper printed July, 20, 1964 carrying an article and pictures, with a caption "DeLuz Post Office Closed But Is No Dead Letter". The article states that the post office closed in