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Sees Higher Taxes If Ranch Roads in County Improved

Back country ranches may be assessed more heavily and made to pay higher taxes if better roads are provided to make the ranches more accessible. Assessor James Hervey Johnson wrote the board of supervisors yesterday.

With this as an argument, Johnson suggested that Supervisor Tom Hurley put in a few culverts and build a better crossing of the Santa Margarita river between Fallbrook and De Luz. Twice, while getting out to De Luz for the purpose of assessing newly-established ranches, Johnson got stuck in the mud, he wrote. He intimated that if the road is improved, he will be able to exact a higher tax by increasing assessed values of the De Luz territory.

"The supervisor of the fifth road district is perfectly willing and able to put in the culverts when funds are available," Hurley told the other supervisors in meeting. "If Johnson would take as good care of his own office as he does of my road district, we wouldn't have so many difficulties."