

# Peace And Quiet Prevail In Rustic DeLuz

## School Center Of Area

By OWEN CALLIN

Special to The San Diego Union  
 DELUZ—One of these afternoons the peaceful quiet that surrounds DeLuz will be shattered by the buzz of a telephone bell.

Thus an era will be ended when the telephone comes to DeLuz. No longer will the isolation exist which its first settlers had in mind when they left traveled routes to find one of San Diego County's remotest areas.

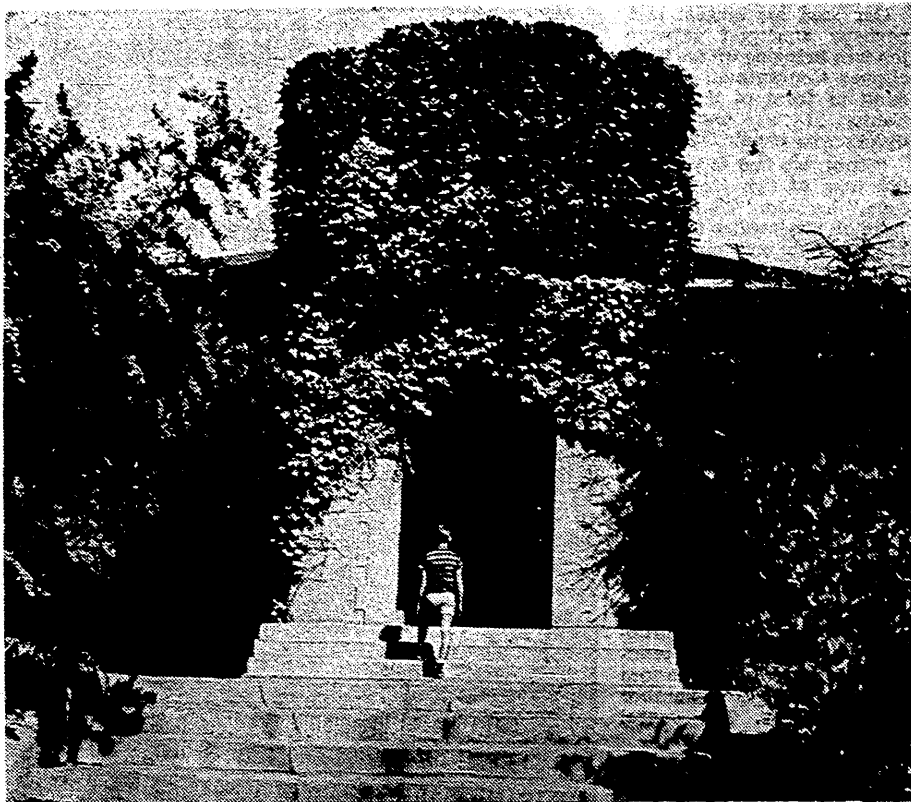
History does not record why such men as R. J. Wilmot of Bangor, Maine; W. W. Wilmot, presumably a relative; V. Bibanam, Boliver Jones, L. Hudson, Joseph Orris and A. A. Steward, all farmers; and the Rev. J. H. Camp chose to settle in the valley of DeLuz Creek in the 1870s.

### ROAD PAVED

The chance visitor who by accident or design finds himself on the DeLuz road, which now is a good, paved highway from Fallbrook to the little community, cannot help but wonder.

Immediately after leaving the last few homes on the outskirts of Fallbrook he will find the road winding down into valleys and over dividing ridges, with only an occasional sign or two indicating the hidden presence of a farm or ranch.

He will pass no houses and wherever he stops his



**COMMUNITY'S CENTER:** The vine-covered DeLuz Elementary School is center of activity for the remote north county area. Seven students are attending this year. It is one of the county's smallest.

car along the route he will hear nothing but silence, broken only by the call of wild birds and the drone of insects. The hum of civilization has been left far behind.

The road leads across the valley of the Santa Margarita River and climbs a series of small ridges, eventually dropping down into the subsidiary valley which contains DeLuz Creek.

Often the road will seem a tunnel, overshadowed by tall mountain oak and eucalyptus trees adding to the sense of aloneness. Some of the curves are sharp and must be negotiated slowly.

### SCHOOL CENTER

And without landmarks, the 10 miles to DeLuz seem like 50. However, after eight miles a farmhouse or two will appear and finally

the road dips down to its eventual depth in the heart of DeLuz Valley to reach the DeLuz School, the center of the community.

There are no other public buildings. There is no store, no gasoline station, no other familiar landmark of civilized travel in DeLuz. The county, when it paved the road some years ago, erected a signpost and that, plus a State Division of Forestry



**ROAD TO DELUZ:** Civilization seems far behind on the quiet peaceful road from Fallbrook to DeLuz, near the northern San Diego County line. The road leads across the valley of the Santa Margarita River into the valley along the tiny DeLuz Creek.

fire station, is the only outward feature of the community other than the few houses hidden among the tall trees.

Until recently there was a postoffice which gained fame as the smallest in the United States. Philatelists eagerly sought a DeLuz cancellation on a letter for that reason. But the government in the interest of economy closed down the office.

The postoffice was a building only eight feet square, established in 1882 by the Rev. Camp. The pigeonholes for mail had big, thick wooden fronts which could be padlocked—and were until their owners began to see that there was no reason why one should steal his neighbor's mail.

### PALM PLANTED

Mail was brought into the valley on horseback from Fallbrook. The old tales have it that the mail carrier once took along a seed or seedling from a palm tree and planted it along the route. At a sharp turn in the road about five miles from Fallbrook the motorist

will find the tree—the only one of its kind in the area.

The original name of the community was "Corral de Luz," entitled thus by the early Spaniards because of an extensive corral built there at one time by an Englishman named Luce to corral a large herd of horses he was pasturing.

The valley has some fine farming land and the slopes,

for the most part, are frost-free so that avocados may be grown.

The paved road ends shortly past the school but a passable graveled road continues on across the hills to Temecula.

The visitor may stop at the school and chat with Mrs. Munier Ferry, a teacher new this year who came down from Corcoran, Calif.,

because of the kindlier climate. She doesn't mind the isolation although she would like to have a telephone in case of an emergency.

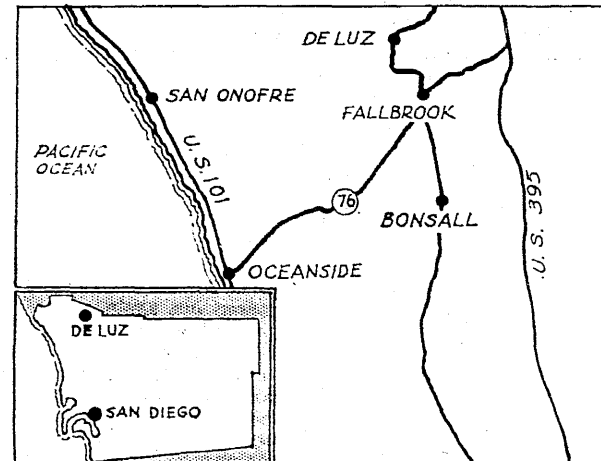
### PHONE REQUESTED

She has a large class this year — five girls and two boys. There have been times when the school has had only three pupils. The seven pupils this year represent five grades, one to six with omission of the third grade. The DeLuz School is still one of the smallest in the nation.

The telephone service, which has been requested in petitions to the Public Utility Commission signed by area residents, will mean an end to the era of isolation enjoyed by DeLuz since its founding.

However, the descendants of the original settlers and newcomers to the community, represented by John S. Lancaster and his family, for example, who moved from Los Angeles last June, have a different slant on their community life.

And after the telephone, who knows, maybe a store!



MAP SHOWS ROUTE TO DELUZ AREA

## CHECKERED FLAGS

# International Rally Off

By JOHNNY McDONALD

There were six dejected sports car rallyists in town this week.

Several weeks of planning, and long efforts to get sponsors were to no avail as the \$12,500 American International Rally set for Nov. 4-7, was canceled last week.

George Blondin, Bill Recor, Ronald Jones, Bob Wood, Paul Miller and George Taylor had sub-

expectations, the U.S. Grand Prix for sports cars definitely will be held in Riverside again next year. With more advanced planning, several of Europe's top pilots will be drawn into the next one. Although none of the Indianapolis veterans failed to finish, it is only fair to say that their equipment wasn't the best. Jim Rathmann, the Monza 500-mile victor, encountered tough luck

the 3.2-mile course. . . . Duane Carter, director of competition for the United States Auto Club, said, "This is the stimulus that was needed to make Southern California into the big time auto racing center that it should be. All of us in racing are familiar with the position it has held in the years past and it is wonderful to see it rising again with road racing." . . .

miles from Lake Tahoe on U.S. Highway 395. . . . A 20-lap exhibition invitational match race will be the highlight of the Palm Springs sports car races, Nov. 1-2. Probable drivers will be Chuck Dalgh, Masten Gregory, Dan Gurney, Reventlow, Carroll Shelby, von Neumann, Phil Hill and Ginther. . . . E. Forbes Robinson, a Glendale sports car veteran, has been suspended by the California