

*DELUZ, from page 1*

"Don Juan Forster used to put a few cattle in there in the early days along about 1880, 1881 and 1882 and maybe before. Afterwards, Copeland and Neff had a band of sheep there and they camped at the old adobe. Soon after, A.D. Spring located there. Then came Stewart, then Wilmots, V. Riboni and a fellow by the name of Root.

"In the early days the place was known as Corral de Jose de Luz. Forester's vaqueros told me there was a Spaniard or Californian by the name of Jose de Luz who kept stock in there at one time, and had built a corral there. I remember there was a few stubs of post of a corral near the adobe.

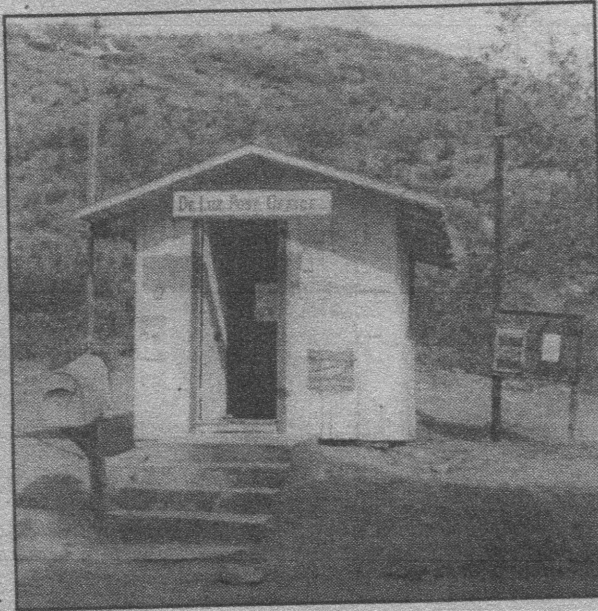
Markham stated: "The earliest documentation of the name of De Luz locally that I have found is on a map of Rancho Santa Margarita dated 1878, which designates the stream, Arroyo Corral de la Luz. This map hung on the west wall of the reading room of the Oceanside Public Library for many years. However I am not sure if it still hangs there for I haven't been in the library in a long time.

The California Southern Railroad was opened for operation from National City to Fallbrook on January 2, 1882. At the time of construction of the railroad, De Luz Station was built at the mouth of Arroyo Corral de la Luz on San Margarita River. This location was well within the boundaries of Rancho Santa Margarita (today's Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton) a mile or so north of the Naval Hospital. It was common practice to name railroad stations after site locations and/or railroad officials. Therefore one is led to believe that the name of De Luz had been established prior to 1882.

It would not be unreasonable to assume that the railroad survey crew obtained a copy of the 1877

homestead records and maps make reference to the area as Corral De Luz. The early Post Office records show that it was 'De Luz Post Office' and opened November 1, 1882, in the De Luz Railroad Station, and that Henry J. Camp was the first Postmaster.

The Postmaster General in Washington D.C., not being familiar with local Spanish names, most likely accepted the name of the railroad station in-as-much as the said Post Office was in the railroad station. You can be sure that the Americans of the Southern California Railroad Company were desirous of Americanizing and shortening names.



The De Luz Post Office in 1950.

From the Rivers Collection

Rancho Santa Margarita map or had a drawing made of it and utilized the names on the map. However, it is understandable that the American settlers would corrupt the Spanish terminology and simply call it De Luz, creek, canyon, etc., or plain De Luz."

Early San Diego County records, U. S. Land Commission,

When the railroad washed out in 1916 and the mail was no longer delivered by the railroad, the Post Office was moved up the canyon within closer proximity to the community that it served. The mail was delivered three times a week by horse and buggy from the West Fallbrook Post Office.

Because of the nature of obtaining material from various sources, Fallbrook Historical Society cannot guarantee the accuracy of all the information this document contains.

For more information about this subject or other Fallbrook history, contact the Fallbrook Historical Society. Visiting hours: Thursdays 1 to 5 p.m. and the second Sunday of each month from 1 to 4 p.m. Special tours can be arranged by calling the museum office, (760) 723-4125 or Don Rivers, (760) 728-7964.

The three museums consisting of the main Fallbrook History Museum, the Historical House and the Gem and Mineral Museum are located at 260 Rocky Crest Road, mailing address: P.O. Box 1375, Fallbrook, CA., 92088.