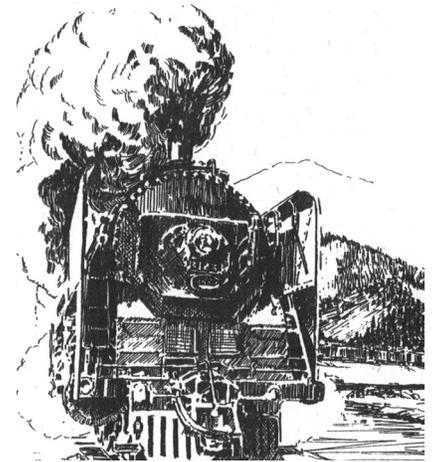


Judson Warm Mineral Springs

In the rolling hills of De Luz, nestled amidst verdant forests and babbling creeks, lie the warm mineral springs that were once highly esteemed by the Luiseño Indians who called this land home. The many morteros in bedrock and grinding stones found locally are a testament to centuries of living in the area. Acorns from the live oaks and Englemann oaks provided a steady supply of food source as well as the abundant game.

In the year 1883, an article in the San Diego Union described in glowing terms the beauty of Corral De Luz, and the allure of the curative waters that flowed through the warm sulphur springs. The temperature of the water is a balmy 80 to 90 degrees, offering a pleasant respite from the world outside.



—•—
Temecula Canyon

—•—
Corral De Luz,

—•—
Return the Same Day,

—•—
**The Pioneer Brass Band has
been engaged for the trip,**

—•—
**To spend a day in those
beautiful live oak groves
will more than pay for
the entire trip.**

—•—
Tickets, - - \$1.75

Children, Half Rates

Such was the power of this article that it inspired many to journey from San Diego and beyond, taking the newly finished railroad to the De Luz station, where they could travel five miles by buggy to reach the springs. At that time, there were no accommodations available, but visitors were welcome to camp and rusticate in the beautiful sylvan retreat.

It was in this year, too, that Lemon Judson began building a hotel at Corral De Luz, which he named Judson's Warm Mineral Springs. Judson was a wealthy land and business owner of Burlington, Vermont. He bought farms in Sonoma and San Diego counties and the large ranch that had the warm mineral springs. The springs were ten feet across and surrounded by a rim of green grass. Judson built a rock and concrete wall around the pool and springs. However, fate had other plans, and in February of 1884, a flood swept through the area, washing away Judson's house and all its furnishings.

Undeterred, Judson made a claim in 1885 to most of the water in Fern Creek, hoping to use it for the irrigation of his crops. In 1888, an ad appeared in the San Diego Union, announcing the sale of the De Luz Warm Mineral Springs and 160 acres of land for the sum of \$12,000. The owner, it was stated, was too old to oversee the development of the property.

Judson passed away in 1889, and the land passed into the hands of Daniel Fairbanks, who immediately set to work building a hotel of his own. In 1890, D. A. Lacey purchased 120 acres of land, including the warm springs, from Fairbanks. Lacey completed the hotel and added a general store to the property. An ad appeared the following year, in 1891, for the Hotel De Luz.

The fortunes of the De Luz Warm Mineral Springs ebbed and flowed over the years. A newspaper article in 1902 reported that the land was once again in the ownership of Daniel Fairbanks, and that the hotel and store had closed. Fairbanks himself placed an ad in 1905, announcing that the warm springs were up for sale, and that they would make a perfect location for a sanitarium. He remarked that the property had once been worth \$10,000, and with a little work, it could be so again. The asking price was \$2,500.

An article in the Evening Tribune 1905, May 27 had an ad for the sale of the hot springs.

"De Luz Hot Sulphur and Soda Springs place: eighty acres of land, fenced and part under cultivation, the remaining pasture, and heavy live and white oak woodland; has three living springs and a trout brook, beside the large flowing medical warm spring. The water of this spring is most delicious for bathing needing no soap for the most perfect cleansing, and it is just the right temperature. A thirteen room house stands near the spring on the county road, built for a hotel, store and post office, all of which are very much needed JUST AT THAT PLACE NOW. This was once counted a \$10,000 property and a little work and enterprise would make it worth that now. Put the house and spring in order for guests, get the post office and the mail route changed to come by De Luz R. R. Station, then run a wagon or an automobile down there every day, and you have it. Thousands would visit the valley and springs every year. You may ask, now has this gem been hidden away? It lies behind a spur of the Santa Margarita Ranch, in what was once called Corral De Luz, from it being hemmed in by high rock mountain ridges. On these wild mountain sides are large tracts of what is yet Government land, well stocked with deer and other game. The valley contains about 3,000 acres, interspersed with prairie and heavy clumps of live and white oak. Valley and surroundings combine to make it a most charming place. The high mountain between it and the ocean keeps off the fog and dampness, leaving a most dry and healthful climate, just right for sleeping out of doors. A Sanitarium would soon be crowded with patients. ... The chief products of the Valley are honey, raisins, fruit and firewood, but it will grow anything.

Now, I propose to start this sale at \$2,500, hoping that if the right parties can see, it may run to double that sum. It has cost me over \$6,000. A carriage will meet the morning train from Oceanside at the De Luz Station, every day from June 6th to June 11th, to take parties to the Springs, visit the Valley, or go on a vacation. MARK THIS DATE."

In 1911, a new owner, Mrs. Sidle Regan, turned the 13-room hotel building into a private residence. However, she advertised two cottages for rent: a six-room cottage for \$30 a month, and a two-room cottage for \$15, which included access to the warm springs.

Margarit King wrote in a letter to Teddy Garnsey that supports this presumption, "A few months after mother (Kate Regan) bought the property, 'a tramp' walked into De Luz

DATE OF SALE FIXED FOR

JUNE 15.

**Reversing the Process of
selling**

REAL ESTATE

1905

LET THE BUYER FIX THE PRICE.

Is the way I propose to sell the following described eight choice pieces of property, situated in San Diego City and County:

DE LUZ HOT SULPHUR AND SODA SPRING place; eighty acres of land, fenced, a part under cultivation, the remainder pasture, and heavy live and white oak woodland; has three living springs and a trout brook, besides the large, flowing, medical warm spring. The water of this spring is most delicious for bathing, needing no soap for the most perfect cleansing, and it is just the right temperature. A thirteen-room house stands near the spring on the county road, built for a hotel, store and postoffice, all of which are very much needed JUST AT THAT PLACE NOW. This was once counted a \$10,000 property and a little work and enterprise would make it worth that now. Put the house and spring in order for guests, get the postoffice, and the mail route changed to come by De Luz R. R. Station, then run a wagon or an automobile down there every day, and you have it. Thousands would visit the valley and springs every year. You may ask, now has this gem been hidden away? It lies behind a spur of the Santa Margarita ranch, in what was once called Corral De Luz, from it being hemmed in by high rock mountain ridges. On these wild mountain sides are large tracts of what is yet Government land, well stocked with deer and other game. The Valley contains about 3,000 acres, interspersed with prairie and heavy clumps of live and white oak. Valley and surroundings combine to make it a most charming place. The high mountain between it and the ocean keeps off the fog and dampness, leaving a most dry and healthful climate, just right for sleeping out of doors. A Sanitarium here would soon be crowded with patients.

A public school, Sunday School, and preaching service, are maintained in the Valley; a county road runs to De Luz Station five and a half miles and a projected one to San Luis Rey bridge, when built, will place De Luz on the shortest and best route from Redlands and Riverside to Oceanside. The chief products of the Valley are honey, raisins, fruit and firewood, but it will grow anything.

Now, I propose to start this sale at \$2,500, hoping that if the right parties can see, it, it may run to double that sum. It has cost me over \$6,000. A carriage will meet the morning train from Oceanside at De Luz Station, every day from June 6th to June 11th, to take parties wishing to see the Springs, visit the Valley, or go on a vacation. MARK THE DATE.

MY DEL. MAP FARM

- very disappointed to find someone living at the springs. We fed him and learned he was an engineer who had been in South America for years with some of the big companies and picked up a tropical fever, that forced him to quit work and do quiet work and come back to the states. A San Diego doctor told him about the sulfur springs at De Luz and Murrieta - said there was an old former hotel building where he could get in out of the rain. Mother let him stay, and one day he told Mother if she would get the cement and hire a Mexican to help he'd build her a big swimming pool. That the ground around the largest square pool was full of little springs, which could be uncovered and give a large flow of water. He dug to bed rock and began construction of the pool. The man's name was Martin and he left us a strong, well, happy man."



Mrs. Regan's family consisted of Bill, Joe and Margarit, her invalid sister, and Miss Clough, a nurse, and her sister's daughter, Catherine. The house had two stories in the front and three in the back. The third floor was all bedrooms, the second was, in addition to a post office, all living rooms, and the first was dining room and kitchen and more rooms. She had the springs converted to a swimming pool, remodeled the house creating more open space, enlarged the kitchen, and moved the post office downstairs and built outside steps down to post office at basement level.

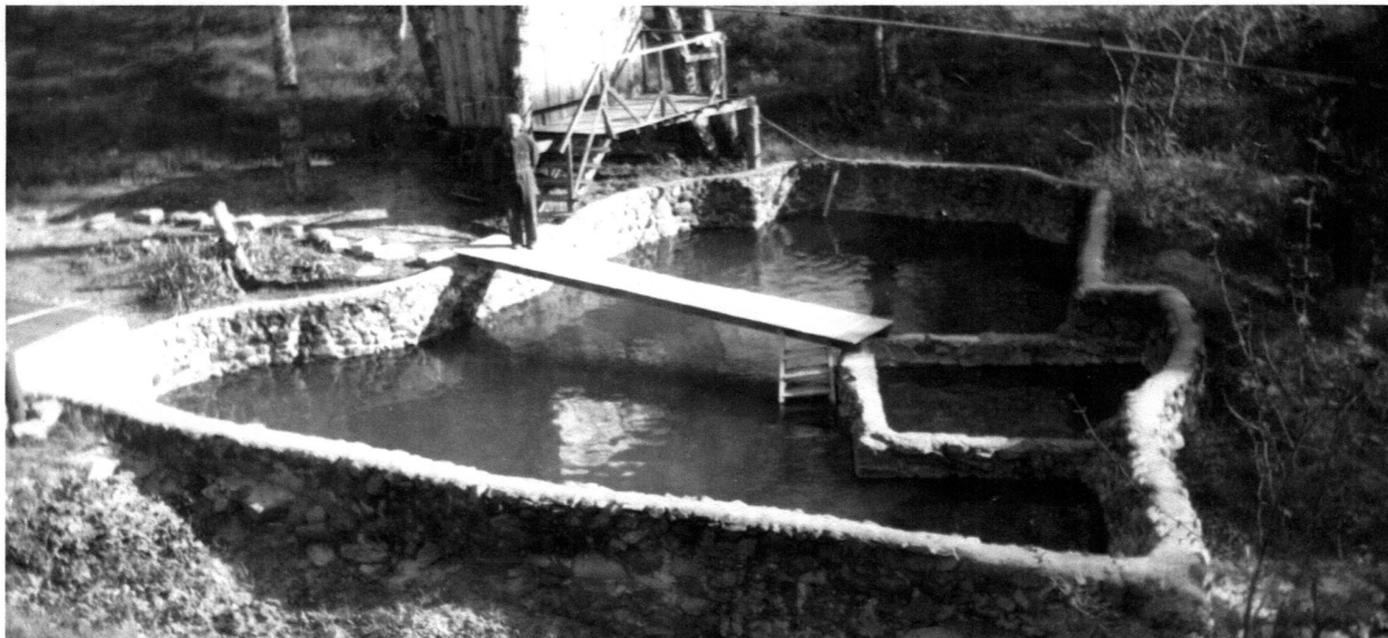
Mrs. Regan had quite a reputation for taking in "strays". One such person was Robert Farnsworth who wrote an article "Army Brat in DeLuz" in the High Country Magazine. In the fall of 1910 I left Los Angeles for DeLuz by train. I met Mrs. Kate Sidle Regan. Mrs. Regan had quite a reputation as a collector of strays – taking them in to her home to get well.

One evening when the moon was full and the road in front of the house was as light as day, I decided to walk to the first crossing of the Santa Margarita River. The three dogs went with me. Reaching the river, I turned to come home and nearly fell over a dog right in front of me. I had not gone far when the other two dogs came so close I had trouble walking. It made me nervous, and could feel something back of me. Turning, I saw a lion in the road stalking me. I knew enough not to run: in fact I could not with three big dogs hindering me. Walking as fast I dare I soon saw Mrs. Regan walking toward me, rifle in readiness. Suddenly Aunt Kate fired missing the lion! The lion bounded off and disappeared in the brush."He was not after you, you fool, but he might have gotten one of my dogs."

To get to Fallbrook from the DeLuz post off you had to cross the river fifteen times as thee was not road over the hills like there is now. This new road comes in the river road exactly in front Mrs. Regans house. In high water, at the time I lived there, you stayed home.

Margarit Regan had two steady callers—the O'Neil boys who live in the old Santa Margarita Ranch House. At the up-river side of the house was a hot spring where there was a swimming pool. The very hot water came up into a small basin which overflowed into a larger pool. When the O'Neil boys came to see us the pools became regular Turkish baths. As they had no bathing suits, their visits were designated "Mens Day."

Pool and Bath House built by Martin



Cat Walk up to the barn and meadow



Mrs. Alexander, of the Alexandria hotel family of Los Angeles, purchased the property in 1916, with the intention of reopening the hotel. Unfortunately, that same year, a flood swept through the area, damaging the railroad and hurting business.

In 1938 Margie Kersey's grandfather, Dr. Samuel Wilson, purchased the property and used it as get-away and working farm for his family and friends. He treated many De Luz residents who appreciated his expertise. The caretaker, Clyde Steven's and his wife, lived in a small house on the property and managed the place in Dr. Wilson's absence. Margie and her sister Deedee spent many happy weekends and summers at the ranch.

Decades later, in 1959, the land was purchased by Jim McManus. He built a religious retreat next to the old hotel after receiving a sign from God to do so. He and his wife were Christian missionaries and in 1980 removed the olive orchard and built the retreat center on that part of the property.

In 1988 Katheryn Klassen, Jennifer Jeffries, and a third partner jointly bought the ranch planning to make it a bed and breakfast. They modernized the kitchen, remodeled the upstairs creating a tiny 5th bedroom. The barn in the meadows above the catwalk was torn down. The women only kept the property for four years and never realized their dream of a bed and breakfast.

The ranch was sold to Dr. Andrew Kim of Murrieta in 1982. The pool had been damaged by two floods, earthquakes, and droughts lowered the water table in the canyon to the point that their well no longer functioned. Two geologists inspected the pool and said it could be brought back by drilling deeper but no one has wanted to, or been able, to spend the money. So it sits filled with silt, weeds growing within and crumbling walls around it. Dr. Kim used the place as a retreat for church congregation.

As of 2023 the property is owned by Disciples of Christ Church that currently uses the property for church functions.

And so the story of the De Luz Warm Mineral Springs continues, passing from one owner to another, its history etched on the land even though the warm springs have been said to have stopped flowing.

Thank you Margie for your fine book.

My Days at the Ranch: written and Illustrated by Margie Kersey