

'GIT**A HORSE'**

Fallbrook can remember, without even straining itself, a railroad train that creaked slowly down the main stem of the town in tow of several husky teams of horses—and was glad of it.

The story goes back to 1884, when the tracks of the California Southern railroad in Temecula gorge were torn out by floods, disrupting San Diego's new rail connection with San Bernardino and the east. The line from Oceanside to Fallbrook was rebuilt, and served as a branch line until 1916, when floods tore it out again.

A train—combination passenger and freight—stood in the Fallbrook station (at the foot of what it still called Station grade) when the 1916 floods came through. It had no place to go, and stood there marooned for a year or so. An elderly freight car still stands there, for that matter.

Jimmy Myers, Fallbrook newspaper publisher, remembers climbing around on this shipwrecked train and trying to make it go, in his kid days. Meanwhile the Santa Fe was building its present branch to Fallbrook, winding over the hills in preference to the river gorge.

ALLEY**OOP!**

Came the branch, and engineers laid out a grade up the precipitous canyon bank from Fallbrook Station to Fallbrook. Workmen sliced a narrow shelf, and threw down ties for a temporary track.

Using winches and horses, but no steam, the train slowly scaled the gorge and emerged on the height north of Fallbrook. Then it moved, still on temporary trackage, down the main street until it clanked firmly down on the new branch. In service again.

This temporary grade still is visible along the grade north of Fallbrook on the De Luz road, and in the river gorge the old railroad grade—what's left of it—serves now as a highway.