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# South Bay Historical Society Bulletin

October 2019

Issue No. 24

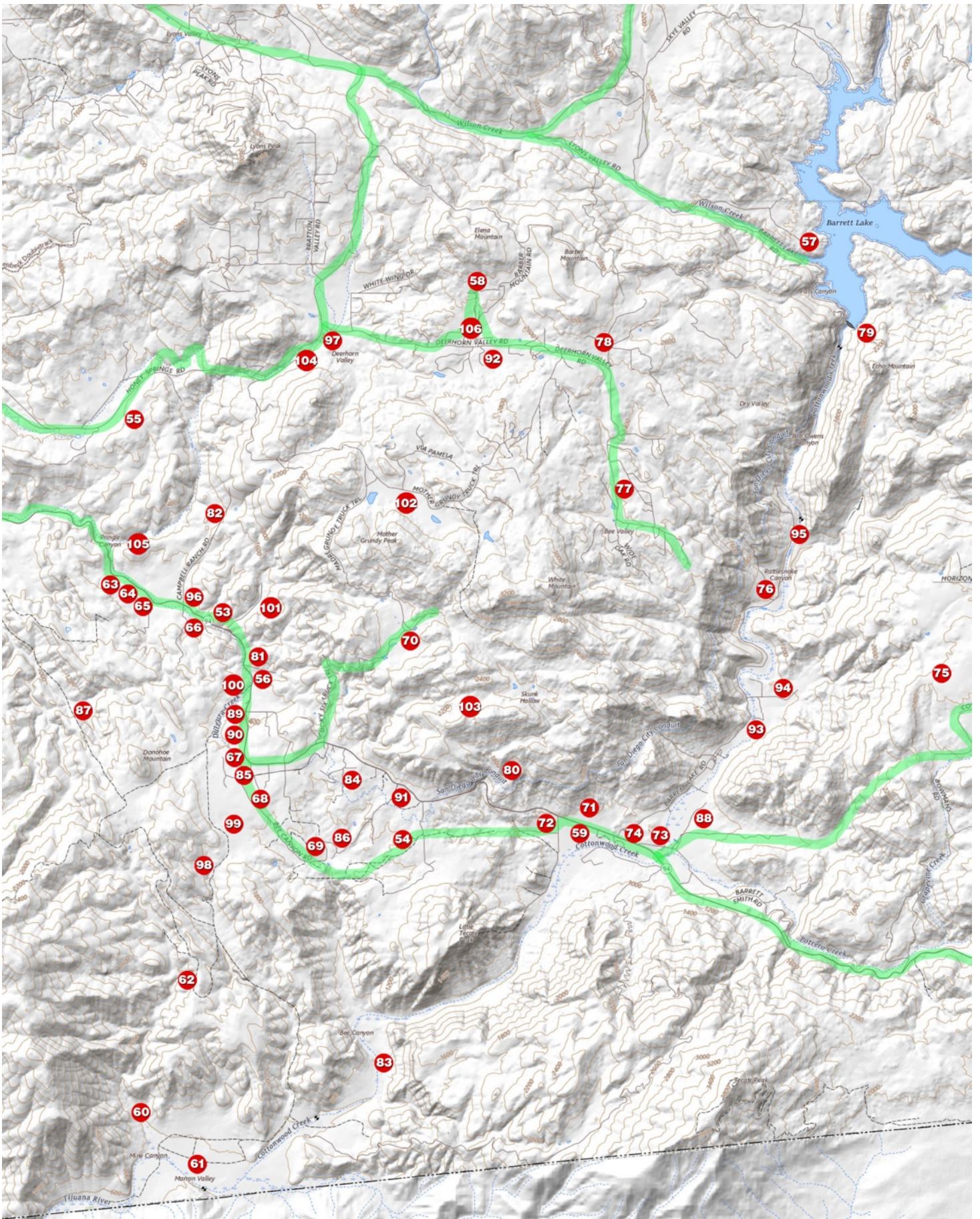
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Don Sheckler painted this image of the store that was the center of Dulzura at the turn of the century. It was finally possible for automobiles to travel through the mountain grades on either side of the Dulzura Valley. Farms and ranches that were previously isolated were now connected to the outside world by the dirt road that later would become Highway 94. The map in this issue of the Bulletin shows historical landmarks in the Dulzura

area, and continues the map drawn in the previous issue of the Bulletin showing landmarks in Jamul. Today Dulzura and Jamul remain unincorporated regions of San Diego County. They are mountain communities that still represent the rural life over one hundred years ago. Yet the passing of older generations and the influx of new population, with the destructive effects of wildfires, it is imperative that historical landmarks be remembered.







## Dulzura's Historic Landmrks

by Steve Schoenherr

revised Oct. 30, 2019

53 - "Surveyor's Hill" just north of the Dulzura Winery was a landmark on the route through the mountains between the Jamul and Dulzura valleys. The San Diego and Gila Railroad plotted this route in 1855 to link San Diego with Yuma. Henry Burton was a director of this railroad and hoped it would connect his Rancho Jamul with San Diego and the east, but it was never built. In 1872 the surveyors for the Texas and Pacific Railroad used this same route for Tom Scott's proposed transcontinental railroad, but it also failed. The name "Engineer Springs" came from Scott's survey camps around Surveyors Hill, and it was this name that

appeared on maps before the name Dulzura was used.<sup>1</sup>

54 - Old Stagecoach Road follows part of the route of the early stage coaches starting with John Capron's Star Route Stage Company of 1868-1876. The old road ran south from the Campo Road to Bee Canyon, and then turned north to join Campo Road at Engineer Springs.<sup>2</sup>

55 - John S. Harbison established apiaries at Engineer Springs in 1873. His partner was Daniel Dowling who bought 160 acres and built a ranch to produce honey from Harbison's bees. This area became known as Harbison's Border Apiary. Lee Watkins called Harbison the "Pioneer Beekeeper" of San Diego County. "The impact of Harbison's apicultural activities on the industrial economy of San Diego County was a



Everett Clark Schmid stands near the large Kumeyaay bedrock milling rocks on the Dulzura Winery across the road from Surveyor's Hill. This site between the creek and the hill was used for centuries by Native Americans to prepare food and to trade with other bands. As late as the 1870s, Claude Sheckler encountered Apache Indians from the east using this route to reach the ocean for summer fishing.

major one, for the beekeepers, more than any other group, were the first to open up the back country to agriculture." The Dowling ranch continued to produce honey until it was sold to Garret and Fannie Eaton in 1894 and they turned it into a "dude ranch" called the Honey Springs Ranch.<sup>3</sup>



JOHN S. HARBISON.

56 - Harbison built a large two-story house 1876 for honey storage south of the Dowling ranch where the Marron Valley Road met Campo Road in Dulzura. When Harbison closed down his Border Apiary, Ben Sheckler bought the property with the storage barn and the bees and began producing his own honey. Later the Sheckler family moved from their Cottonwood home to this Dulzura property and converted the Harbison barn into their home.<sup>4</sup>

57 - Before Barrett Lake became a reservoir, it was a valley where George Barrett homesteaded in the 1870s before moving to Jamul. Wilson Creek was named after homesteader Isaac Wilson. Albert Walker was 15 years old when he came to the valley from Indiana and stayed with Barrett in 1873. Walker returned to Indiana and married his first wife, Ella "Elena" Burch in 1880 and began to raise a large family. In 1895 he decided to load up a covered wagon and return to California. Dorothy Schmid wrote, "When he finally drew rein at the Eaton's Honey Springs ranch he had exactly five cents in cash, four horses and nine



Sheckler apiary at Cottonwood 1888



people to feed. Mrs. Eaton gave him a job at a dollar a day and they moved on to rent the Bratton place for a year, thence to Deerhorn in 1896." <sup>5</sup>

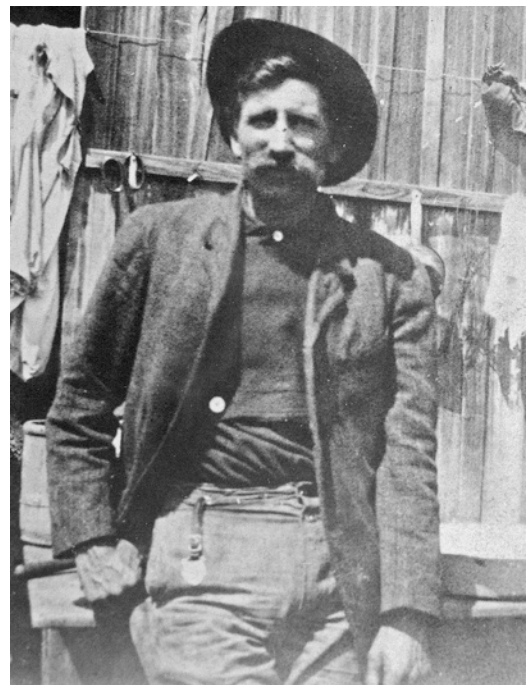


Albert Walker and Elena

58 - Deerhorn Spring was the name given to the valley pioneered by Albert Walker in 1896. Walker and John Bratton had seen two deer who had died with their horns locked together, and the men threw the horns into a sycamore tree, and from then on it was called Deerhorn Spring or Deerhorn Flat. Walker built his home in the shadow of a mountain he called Elena Mountain, after the nickname of his first wife who died in 1903. His original adobe home was lost in the 1933 earthquake that devastated Long Beach. Today it is the Bradford Ranch owned by Carole Bradford.<sup>6</sup>

59 - Benjamin and Rosalie Sheckler, with their young son Claude and Rosalie's daughter Mattie Stinson Sheckler from a previous marriage, all came by railroad from Chicago to San Francisco in 1873, and from San Francisco to San Diego on the steamer Orizaba. While living in San Diego for a year, Ben met Charles McAlmond who told him about his ranch in Potrero. In April, 1874, the Shecklers with Orlando "Doc" Wright moved to Potrero and lived in tents for awhile and then moved on to Cottonwood valley, later called Barrett Junction. The Sheckler Ranch was the first on the road

between Potrero and Rancho Jamul. Doc Wright stayed in Potrero but he helped Ben open the road from the Cottonwood to Dulzura in 1875. Ben's son Claude managed their cattle that grazed the Cottonwood Valley and he became well-known as the best rider and roper in San Diego County. The Sheckler house was carried away by the flood of 1916, and the family moved to Dulzura. Claude married Hazel Finch in 1909 and their son Donald was born in 1915. Donald married Caroline Palley and Caroline still lives in the house in Dulzura that was built in 1929 from the timbers of the old Harbinson honey barn.<sup>7</sup>



Claude Sheckler

60 - Mine Canyon is where the Great Dulzura Gold Rush began. It was where Xavier Hernandez, one of Ben Sheckler's cowboys, found gold nuggets in 1877. Sheckler recalled, "The largest nugget that they found sold for two hundred and ten dollars, and at a time when gold was selling for less than twenty dollars per ounce. The fast life, the liquor, and the dancing girls were too much for Xavier. Within a few years he was dead." Gold miners at Engineer Springs in 1878 organized the Jamul Placer Mining district in Mine Canyon. The Donohoes





Above, the ruins in the 1930s of an old stone house built by gold miners in 1908. Below is Mine Canyon today. Dorothy Schmid wrote about the hidden significance of this canyon: “Greatest public interest in this area would undoubtedly lie in Mine Canyon and will continue to do so with the passing years for here in lengthy tunnels are the works of men whose histories are little known. Human memory is an uncertain tiling and soon passes into legends and conflicting tales. This is fast becoming the case with Mine Canyon as written records have been lost.” (Schmid, 1963, p. 12)





began mining in the canyon in the 1880s and John Campbell joined the Oneida prospectors south of the Donohoes in 1893. This was the year that a party of Spiritualists "received a command to drive a tunnel in the Dulzura district, being informed that rich ore would be found." Known as the Spiritualist mine, it was guided "by the mysterious hand of the spirit world. A tunnel was driven toward a stake set on the hillside by the medium who was in the spirit confidence, and was then switched to the right or left, as the instructions were received from the other world. The result is seen in a tunnel which is as crooked as the career of a San Francisco grafter."



Mayor John Forward



The news slowly began to get out that something was happening in Dulzura. Rosalie Sheckler wrote articles for eastern newspapers about the prospecting done by her son Claude in the mountains around Dulzura, known for holding valuable minerals. She received a letter from Thomas Edison asking if Claude had ever found any tungsten, something he was testing for his incandescent light bulb. The big rush began in 1908, as described by George Merz: "On Sunday, March 8, 1908 Dulzura made the headlines in the San Diego papers as never before or since. A rich pocket of ore had been found. Before the papers reached Dulzura, the gold rush was on. A tent-city sprang up at the

head of Mine Canyon, called 'Manzanita' with twenty blocks and streets named: Pasadena, Los Angeles, San Diego, Dulzura, and Mexico Avenues. By March 23, there was a tent hotel in operation and signs advertising it were displayed in San Diego." Even the mayor of San Diego, John Forward, joined a syndicate of prominent gold-seeking men.

Claude Sheckler was in San Diego when the rush began. "Upon returning to the ranch he found a huge tent that was pitched on the Sheckler property. There was a large sign out front that proclaimed it to be a store. It advertised clothes, groceries, and miners supplies, and it also had the name of the proprietor which labeled him as being of Jewish extraction. Claude informed the fellow that he was on private property and the gentleman said that he didn't know that and that he would move immediately. Claude told him that it wouldn't be necessary." One guest made a deep impression on the Shecklers: "W. C. Fields stayed at the Sheckler ranch for over a month, and he was over to the ranch house almost every night to visit. The Shecklers would sit up until one or two o'clock in the morning, listening to his interesting stories about his experiences on the vaudeville circuit and the cities he had visited during his travels. They also enjoyed his juggling acts, with apples, oranges, or anything else that was handy." <sup>8</sup>





W. C. Fields

61 - Juan Marron arrived 1880, granted homestead patent 1886; the homestead of Jose Ames was next to Juan on the north bank of the Cottonwood Creek. Jose was the brother of Juan Marron's wife, Matilda. Both Jose and Matilda were the children of Jesse Wilbur Ames. Joe Ames, had a homestead which the government survey of the International Line divided, leaving the house on one side, the barn on the other.<sup>9</sup>

62 - Stephen Henry Donohoe was 57 when he came to Mine Canyon in 1880. He had been a forty-niner in the gold fields of central California and came south after gold was discovered in Julian in 1869. He filed a homestead claim in Lawson Valley in 1877, but gave that up for a homestead near Donohoe Mountain. His sons Alonzo Donohoe and Stephen Stuart Donohoe patented homesteads in the Mine Canyon area. The family would spend their lives searching for gold. Dorothy Schmid recalled, "As a child I saw their mill in operation and saw Stuart Donohoe hold in his two hands a ball of mercury and gold larger than he could encompass with his fingers. In memory the mill still lives, the little track curving into the dark interior of the mountain, the patient mule pulling loaded cars of rock to dump down a chute to the crusher. The noise of the mill crushing the hard sharp rocks, the whirl of gears and belts and running water filled our ears with sound; the sharp smell of rock dust filled our noses but most impressive of all was the sight of the sluice box with little balls of mercury running through the water to pick up

the particles of gold. There was gold. I saw it in Stuart's hands and I saw him pick up a horn of dust along the trail to demonstrate that he could wash it in a pan and find a 'color' as he called it. There was the bustle of energy and high hope about the place. The Donohoes never gave up their dream." <sup>10</sup>

63 - The small community that came to be known as Dulzura began as a "place of entertainment" in 1882 by Charles Phillips. He was a prospector who came from Maine in 1871, searching for gold in the mountains to the west. Instead he opened a store along the road that became a way station called "Colonia Station" for stages and travelers. His cabin and station were built by Louis Harvey who had opened a road from his Winnetka valley ranch.



The Hagenbuck house was the first Dulzura Store and Post Office. Henry and Isadore Hagenbuck are standing on the left. Ruben Barber is holding the donkey's reins in front of Claire Hagenbuck, Adele Barber on the right.

In July 1886 Henry and Isadore Hagenbuck bought the Phillips property. Louis Harvey built their house with a large sign, "General Merchandise" hung across the end of the house facing the road. The name Dulzura came from Isadore Hagenbuck when a post office was combined with the store and Henry was appointed postmaster Dec. 22, 1886. The area was known for the honey from Harbinson's apiaries, and "Dulzura" came from the Spanish "dulce" meaning sweet. The Hagenbucks





Dulzura Cafe 1948

operated their general store until it was destroyed by floods in 1927. Three new buildings replaced the old store in the 1930s, a garage and house and a new store operated by Ella Willets. The post office became a separate building, no longer part of the store. With a lobby 6 feet long and 3 feet wide, it has been called the smallest post office in San Diego County. In the 1940s Jack Talbot turned the store into a restaurant and it became known as the Dulzura Cafe, popular with the many military personnel in the area. Talbot enlarged the back dining room and hired local girls to dance with the soldiers. In the late 1940s, Hugh and Norma Baxter bought the Cafe and built a separate post office next door, with a well in front providing water to travelers and horses. In 1977 Earl and Kitti Pfeifer took over as owners for the next 35 years. Today, it is known as the Dulzura Mini-Market owned by Jose and Liz Hernandez,



Dulzura Cafe 1948



Dulzura Mini Mart 2019

changed on the outside but the same inside, included the walls of license plates contributed by Earl Pfeifer.<sup>11</sup>

64 - Captain Edwin Small of Maine built the Dulzura Inn east of the Cafe in 1886 and operated it for 23 years with his wife Ella, sons Harry and Harvey, and twin daughters Rose and Lily. Harry became superintendent of road maintenance and in 1895 improved the road over the Dulzura Grade that automobiles could travel. He was always outdoors working on the road and never washed his heavy brown pants; it was even said "Harry just stood his pants up at night." Harvey went to the Colorado School of Mines and was graduated as a mining engineer. He was for several years engaged in mining enterprises in Mexico and South America. Although he discovered his own gold mine



Dulzura Mini-Mart 2019



which made him wealthy, he contracted a malignant tropical disease in Columba and returned to the United States where he died in 1922 in Arizona. Rose and Lily went to New York City in 1902 where they met with great success as "Beauty Doctors." After his wife died in 1909, the Captain sold the Inn to Charles and Lillian Camp who ran the Inn until it burned down in 1922.<sup>12</sup>

65 - Charles Camp born in Chicago in 1874. He became a teamster, and once drove a pair of Clydesdales for the Cudahy Packing Company. He worked for mining companies in Nevada, and one of these companies sent him to San Diego to transport materials for the building of the flume in 1907. When that job was finished, he settled in Dulzura. He met his wife Lillian while he was teaming on the flume job. Lillian Nelson was the daughter of Charles L. Nelson, a banker in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. She became one of the few women at the turn of the century to graduate from college with a degree in botany. Her younger brother Sydney developed TB and followed his friend Byron

Minor to Dulzura and Jamul to recover. Byron Minor was the son of Wisconsin Congressman Edward S. Minor, and was a Lieutenant in the U. S. Navy. When Byron became ill with TB, he was granted a year's leave from the Navy and came to Jamul in 1905 to recover at the Honey Springs ranch of G. F. Eaton. Mrs. Minor taught school in the area and she and Byron became good friends with Charles Camp. It was through Byron that Lillian and Charles met. They were married January 1910 and moved to Dulzura to take over the Dulzura Inn. Sydney was assistant wharf superintendent for Spreckels Bros. Commercial Co. in 1914 before Spreckels sold North island to the Navy. Sydney lived in Rancho Santa Fe where his wife Ruth became the unofficial historian of the community. He had two sons who served in the Air Force, died in 1963.

Charlotte Holcomb wrote, "It was quite a challenge to run the inn. There was no refrigeration or electricity. In the early years people from Potrero, Campo and Imperial Valley fed their teams in Dulzura on the way going to San Diego and returning. Dad learned to farm



The Dulzura Inn was along the road with a broad porch; a house attached to the side and a large windmill was in back.



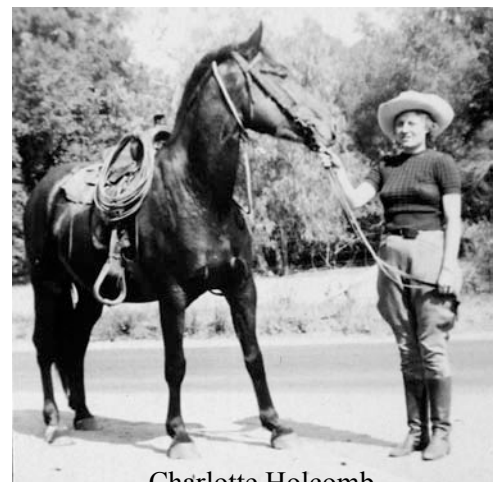


Andrea Camp Smith and Jack Smith stand in front of the original Camp barn from 1910. At the top left a truck is driving over the bridge at the Dulzura Creek. This is the same bridge that soldiers are crossing in 1912 on the next page.

and had the reputation for growing some of the finest oat hay in San Diego County. The Dulzura Inn was a busy place as stages stopped there and it became a headquarters for city and county officials, custom and immigration officers, and many others. San Diego residents quite often drove out for Sunday dinner. Quite often the sheriff would call dad and tell him to apprehend someone who had stolen a horse. During the Mexican Revolution and WWI detachments of Army were stationed in the nearby grove. When Highway 80 was finished and became the main road the inn closed. The Dulzura Inn burned on Easter Sunday 1922. Dad rebuilt the house on the same spot the inn occupied and part of the old house is still there. . . "

Lillian was very pro-education and removed all the furniture in her the dining room to install a

library with books from the San Diego Public Library. Many of her grandchildren and their relatives became teachers. Her sons Walter and Ed Camp worked on the family ranch of Camp's Grove. In 1955 they provided materials to help



Charlotte Holcomb





The Army was stationed at Camp's Grove in 1911-1912 during the Mexican revolution. Above, soldiers are marching across the Dulzura Creek bridge. Troops also patrolled the Marron Valley and the border. Another units were stationed at Tecate and Campo. Below are two officers on horseback in front of the Dulzura Inn. The soldiers gathered in the living room at the Inn and played the Victrola. Troops were also stationed here in 1918 during World War I.







Clark House of 1895 at the Dulzura Winery

build the Dulzura Community Center. Lillian's Corps during WWII. This is where she met "Red" Holcomb and were married in 1945. They settled next to the Dulzura Café and took up ranching. Charlotte was a good businesswoman and became a successful real estate broker in the Jamul area. She was a very active civic leader with many clubs such as 4-H Club, the CowBelles (and was CowBelle of the Year in 1969). She was a Farm Bureau member for 50 years, Jamul Kiwanis Club, Tecate USA Chamber of Commerce, Cattlemen's Assoc., Grossmont Hospital Women's Auxiliary, Federation of Republican Women and a founder of the Dulzura Community Development Committee. She met every month at the Barrett Cafe with the Board of Directors of the Highway 94 Club to promote improvements in the road. In 1978 she was named "Distinguished Citizen of the Year". She also wrote a column called the "Back Country Historical Ramblings" in the Back Country Trader. There was even a "Charlotte Holcomb Day" on December 10. In her oral history recorded by the San Diego Historical Society in 1990, she said that she always had the ability of a dowser, or water witch, who could find running water underground with a tree branch. She had pleasant memories growing up in Dulzura, dancing all night at the Clark Ranch packing

shed after a big supper, and riding through the canyons of the back country smelling the wildflowers and her favorite wild lilacs.<sup>13</sup>

66 - Frank and Lila Clark arrived from Nebraska in 1886 and built their first house along the creek at Campo Road Where the Dulzura Winery is located today. The second house was built in 1895 and is still standing today. The wine-tasting room was the pickling barn built in 1908 for the "pickelized" figs developed by Lila and distributed to a national market. Frank Clark and his sons Fred and Elam raised hay and cattle on two thousand of acres from Campo road to the border. The oldest daughter Josephine became a school teacher and married county supervisor James A. Robbins. The youngest daughter Dorothy married Robert Schmid, a civil engineer, and moved to Los Angeles in 1917. She returned to the Clark Ranch in 1950 and wrote the book "Pioneering in Dulzura." <sup>14</sup>

67 - The Dulzura school was located on a curve in Highway 94 known as Schoolhouse Curve. When the curve was realigned and widened in 1994, the original part of the curve with the school house was kept as a separate roadway, and the school has remained at its original location since 1887. The first school house was a one-room building barely large enough for the first 15 students in 1887. Harvey North donated



The first Dulzura School 1887-1935



the land and Louis Harvey constructed the building 14 by 20 feet from redwood planks. Dorothy Schmid wrote, "Small as it was, the school was the center of neighborhood activities. It was the polling place; most neighborhood meetings were held there. In early times some dances drew the young folks out but it was too small. A Sunday School was started soon after the building was completed and was well attended by the early settlers. It was sponsored by a mission group who sent a minister on annual trips through the back country. He would drop in unexpectedly and have word sent around inviting all to his Magic Lantern Lectures." Life for students back in those days was much simpler than today. Schmidt wrote, "The children went barefooted winter and summer and simply wrapped up stubbed toes in any little rag. The water was brought fresh each morning in a pail dipped into an open spring nearby. The children drank from a common dipper and dried their hands on a roller towel after taking turns at the tin wash basin. During the early part of this century children were requested to bring their own cups and towels but other conditions remained much the same until the early Thirties." A larger school house was built at the same location in 1935 with help from the WPA. The building was renovated in 1954, with a new coat of paint, new blackboards, and playground equipment. In 1969 it was one of the county's last two



The second Dulzura school house today.

remaining one-room "little red schoolhouses" when the decision was made to close its doors and transfer students to the much larger Jamul-Las Flores School. The school building of 1935 remains standing today as a private residence<sup>15</sup>

68 - Charles H. Marsh came to Dulzura in 1889 to recover from tuberculosis. He was a taxidermist from Massachusetts who went first to New Mexico to start a business and became widely known for his collections of western birds. In 1889 Marsh filed for a homestead on the south side of Henry Fauquier at the head of Bee Canyon. In 1892 he was selected by San Diego County to create the county's bird exhibit for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. While preparing this exhibit, he was offered by the Smithsonian the position of naturalist on the Mexican-United States International Boundary Commission that was starting a resurvey of the boundary from El Paso to San Diego. He did not take this position, although some of his bird and mammal specimens were contributed to the Smithsonian. The naturalist job went to Capt. Edgar A. Mearns, assistant surgeon of the United States. Of the 100 collecting stations set up by Mearns along the border, Station No. 95 was located on Jamul Creek at Otay Lakes Road in July 1894. Many specimens were collected around Jamul and Dulzura and sent to the Smithsonian Museum. Charles Marsh was actively collecting animals at this time and as Dorothy Schmid wrote, "Dulzura neighbors prized his work and a stuffed white owl sat on a perch in Isadore Hagenbuck's living room. A handsome redheaded woodpecker adorned the Clark parlor until attacked by the family cat. Such is history." <sup>16</sup>

69 - The Isaac Dunham homestead of 1892 was located at the head of Bee Canyon. When Dunham died in 1894, his sons Charles and James returned to their father's ranch to settle the estate, and to look for thousands of dollars that the eccentric father had supposedly buried, but found nothing. James returned to his home in Santa Clara County, and in 1896 shocked everyone when he murdered his wife, child,



PLEASE POST THIS IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE.

# ARREST FOR MURDER!

## \$1000 REWARD.

Will be paid by the Governor of the State of California for the arrest and conviction, and the citizens of Santa Clara County are now soliciting subscriptions for an Additional

## REWARD OF \$10,000

a considerable portion of which is already subscribed, for the capture (DEAD OR ALIVE) of

### JAMES C. DUNHAM



TAKEN IN 1895.



TAKEN IN 1889.

On the night of May 26, 1896, near Campbell, Santa Clara County, California, James C. Dunham brutally murdered Mrs. R. P. McGlincy, Mrs. Hattie B. Dunham, Miss Minnie Schessler, Col. R. P. McGlincy, James K. Wells, and Rober A. Brisco.

He is a bicyclist and may be on a wheel. About 32 years of age, 5 feet 11½ inches high, weight 165 or 170 pounds, has sharp features, dark hair and mustache, blue eyes, medium complexion; when last seen he wore black suit, cutaway coat, black soft hat, number 9 shoes, sharp pointed toes. Walks very erect, chin recedes when he laughs. May have shaved and changed clothing and shoes. One eyelid droops slightly, parts hair on right side.

The undersigned will assist any person knowing the whereabouts of said James C. Dunham, in taking him into custody, and will waive all right to claim the rewards offered for said arrest to and in favor of the person giving to me the information which will lead to the capture of the said James C. Dunham.

Wire all information to me at my expense.

J. H. LYNDON, Sheriff.

San Jose, Santa Clara Co., California.

This is a copy of the poster seen by Charlie Bratton in Hagenbuck's store.  
(courtesy of the Campbell Historical Museum)



father-in-law, mother-in-law and 2 hired hands with two pistols and an axe. He fled without a trace. After a few years, the people of Dulzura saw strange things, tracks of bare feet, abandoned campfires, food and clothing stolen from cabins. They claimed it was James Dunham hiding out around his father's old ranch. One day Charlie Bratton met a tall man walking down the road with a rifle held above his head. Charlie went to the Dulzura store and looked at the reward poster that had been posted there for years and was sure that he had seen the James Dunham pictured on the poster. Juan Marron went with a search party in the San Ysidro Mountains looking for Dunham and claimed to have shot and killed the man, but the San Diego Sheriff could not identify the body. No reward was ever paid and Dunham remained the mysterious "Wild Man" of Dulzura. Dr. Robert J. Gregg took over the Dunham homestead after becoming friends with Claude Sheckler at Sandell's Turkish bath in San Diego. In 1909 Gregg was married to Gertrude Moorehouse by William Healey, an elder of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. They lived on their ranch in Bee Canyon and planted olive trees. Gregg believed in the healthy benefits of olive oil, drinking it every day and rubbing it over his body to maintain his health and smooth skin. He was known for his rugged athletic abilities and was 66 when he married Gertrude who was 30 years old. He also bred Nubian goats, the first to be imported into the U. S. from England. He believed goat's milk could prevent disease, and Don Sheckler claimed that Gregg's milk saved his life when he was ill as a boy.<sup>17</sup>

70 - The Mottola Ranch at the top of the Lucky Six Truck Trail was once part of the Edwin Miner homestead patented in 1891. The trail through the homestead was opened by Louis Harvey in the 1870s from his Winnetka Valley. The Harveys kept a hunting lodge on the trail called "Harvey Hunt." The Miner ranch grew to 1000 acres by 1920 when it was sold to Edward Leonard who owned Leonard's Service Station in El Cajon. Leonard was a community leader in the Dulzura area and held square dances and cock fights on his ranch. The CCC improved



The Mottola Ranch House

the road in 1942. Leonard was elected the first president of the Highway 94 Club when it was founded in 1953. He divided the ranch and sold 500 acres to Richard Ambrose and a partnership of six men and it became the Lucky Six Ranch until sold to the Mottolas in 1976. Another part of the ranch was sold to the Paracelsian Order of the Johannine Catholic Church and became the Madre Grande Monastery. The late 1970s was known as the "Naked Hippie Years" of the monastery when clothing was optional and the atmosphere was open and uninhibited. After a fire burned most of the buildings in 1981, the monastery was reborn as a monastic community.<sup>18</sup>

71 - The Sandell homestead of 1895 was next to Sheckler on the north side of the Campo highway. Charles Sandell was born in Sweden and came to San Diego in 1887. Don Sheckler wrote that his father Claude and his grandmother Rosalie in the late 1880s became interested in one of Sandell's business. "Mr. Sandell was the proprietor of a Turkish bathhouse in San Diego, and it was for sale. Mr. Sandell was sick and tired of the bathhouse and everything that went with it, and it showed. Claude and his mother decided to buy it." Claude moved to San Diego for several years, renting a house on east Broadway, while Rosalie ran the bathhouse on Fifth Avenue. In San Diego, Claude became friends with Dr.



Robert Gregg, a pioneer physician in the city since 1868. Gregg was an amateur boxer and taught Claude to box. It was sometime in 1889 that Claude met Wyatt Earp who stayed at the Brooklyn Hotel in San Diego while promoting boxing matches in Tijuana. When they met up, Wyatt said, "As you know Claude, I'm a fight promotor. What I would like to see you do is go professional." Claude said no to Earp's offer. "I have a big nose and I intend to take care of it!"<sup>19</sup>



Wyatt Earp

72 - The Matchin homestead of 1893 was claimed by one of three sisters who came to San Diego in 1887 from Pennsylvania. Rose Matchin was a teacher like her sisters Hattie and Minnie, and she made the courageous decision for a lone woman in the 1880s to start her own farm. Her homestead was next to the Sheckler ranch in the Cottonwood Valley, on what is today Cochera Via Drive. Her sister Minnie was granted a homestead along the river to the south of Rose. Minnie had married Rufus Alderson in 1888 but were divorced in 1890 and although she kept his name, she farmed the homestead by herself. The third sister was Harriett Matchin who remained a teacher, settling in Imperial Beach. When the husband of Harriett's twin sister Hannah died in Pennsylvania in 1920, Hannah came to live with Harriet. Rose married William Bloch of Austria in 1898 and Bloch became one of the leading beekeepers of the Dulzura region. In 1904 many of his 135 bee colonies began to dwindle due to drought, and he developed the new method of substituting rye flour for pollen to feed the bees and keep them producing honey. Rose Bloch fought the city of San Diego in 1915 over water rights to Matchin Creek, and "armed with law books and documents, displayed an unusual knowledge of the topic of riparian rights." The battle did not matter, however, when the flood of



Cottonwood Dairy truck of Leon and Birdena Smith 1928

1916 swept over their farm. The Blochs sold their homestead and moved to National City.<sup>20</sup>

73 - William Healey homesteaded along the Cottonwood River in 1888. He was a minister in the Seventh Day Adventist Church in San Diego, and came to the back country to improve his health at the suggestion of fellow church member Ben Sheckler. Due to easing of homestead qualifications he was able to secure patents on 320 acres by 1890. With the help of his daughter Birdena and her husband Leon Smith, the family planted olive trees and built a mill for olive oil. They planted hay and irrigated the fields with a mechanical pump. Don Sheckler wrote that it was "a big single cylinder engine, the first stationary engine in the Cottonwood. It drove a big centrifugal pump used to water crops. Everybody in the valley knew when the Smiths were pumping." The hay fed a herd of dairy cows. Charlotte Holcomb wrote, "Over the years the Smiths built up a good dairy herd. They also supplied Hamilton's, the leading grocery store in San Diego, with the first cottage cheese made from sweet milk in the San Diego area. The ranch became a beautiful productive ranch as they pumped water from wells near the river to irrigate alfalfa." Leon Smith came from Colorado where his father and grandfather were well-known entrepreneurs, building railroads, mining for gold, and helping organize the first legislature of Idaho in 1890. According to Holcomb, "The Smiths were a very active part of the east country area. Birdie Smith as she was called, was a very peppy articulate woman involved in everything. Leon Smith, a tall dignified man of gentle nature, was a director of the San Diego Cooperative Poultry Association." Leon started the store that today is known as the Barrett Cafe. He helped build the first telephone lines to ranchers in the area, and he built the road known today as the Barrett Smith Road. Leon's daughter Ardis married Fredron Uren, a Navy veteran of World War I who homesteaded another 320 acres at the end of the Barrett Smith Road. When they were kids, Ardis and her brothers Walter and Chauncey, had no school available nearby, so Leon donated land for the first Barrett school that

used a cookhouse from the city water conduit construction crew.<sup>21</sup>



Cottonwood Store of Leon and Birdena Smith 1915

74 - The Barrett Cafe had its beginning in the 1890s as a way station on the Healey homestead for the stage and freight wagons on the road from San Diego to Campo. The construction of Barrett Dam and the city water conduit brought a steady flow of traffic and workers to the crossroads. A small store known as the "Cottonwood Store" was one of several enterprises started by Leon and Birdena Smith to take advantage of their location on Campo Road that included an olive press, a gasoline engine to irrigate hay fields and a dairy. In 1915, Birdena Smith opened a post office in the store and was appointed the first postmaster of Barrett, the new name for what had previously been called Cottonwood or Eisenecke. In 1917 the store was sold to Charles Ketchum who became the new postmaster. In August Ketchum was arrested for bootlegging in violation of section 12 of the conscription act, selling liquor to soldiers in uniform on the Cottonwood grade near Barrett. In December, Ketchum's 17-year-old son Leonard murdered his father and was sent to prison. The store was sold to Robert T. Vaughan, the former town marshal of Otay, and Birdena resumed her job as postmaster until she retired in 1933. That year the store was sold to Urban J. Wolfe, a caretaker at the city water works in Barrett. His wife Christina became postmaster until 1936





Myrtle Smedley Finney was photographed on horseback in Tercio, Colorado, around 1914. Note the swastika symbol on her right-hand glove. Before the Nazis began using this symbol in Germany in the 1930s, it was popular with many cultures for thousands of years. In the American Southwest, it was a Navajo symbol for good luck. It was even used on state road signs in Arizona. It was found in stores selling blankets and leather goods. Cowboys used it like they used the 4-leaf clover and horseshoe, to bring good fortune. Myrtle wanted to be a cowgirl, and she dressed for the part.



Myrtle Smedley Finney was born in St. Joseph, Missouri, in 1896. She moved with her mother and sisters many times before settling in Colorado. She lived for a while with her aunt in Tercio, Colorado, and learned to ride a horse on the local cattle ranches. Her older sister Agnes moved to San Diego and attended the State Normal School (later San Diego State University). Myrtle decided in 1914 to take the train and join her sister in San Diego. For several years she worked in a furniture factory and attended the Normal School, but missed the outdoor life she had enjoyed in Colorado. She asked her sister if there were any cattle ranches out in the back country. Agnes replied, "Just go down to the Pick Wick Hotel and take the first stage east. There is nothing out there but cattle ranches, cowboys, and Indians!" After riding the stage for 35 miles, she got off at the Cottonwood valley and walked up to the house of Claude Sheckler where she was welcomed with open arms. She stayed with the Shecklers and enjoyed a cowgirl lifestyle on the ranch. In

1918 she met Shirley Duck. He was stationed at the border station at Tecate with the Cavalry. It wasn't long before Myrtle and Shirley were married. She lived in San Diego and finished her teaching degree. In June, 1919, Shirley Duck, Jr., was born, but his father did not remain in San Diego, leaving behind his family to join the forest service in Northern California. Myrtle had to raise her child on her own, and needed to find a job. She turned to Claude Sheckler for help, and he took her up the valley to the Salazar ranch where she found a job teaching eight children at the Corte Madera School. She next taught at the Barrett Dam School when it opened in 1921. After the dam was built, the school closed and she took a job at the Otay Grammar School. She soon became principal and retired after 20 years. While principal, Myrtle got the supervisors to approve the naming of the Otay Grammar School in honor of John J. Montgomery, the flyer who flew the first glider in Otay. When a new school was built on the mesa south of Otay, it was named in her honor and the Myrtle S. Finney Elementary School was dedicated on November 7, 1961. Myrtle's son, who changed his name from Shirley Duck, Jr. to Samuel S. Finney (using his stepfather's name) during his teen years, lived in Otay with his mother until he joined the Army Air Corps in 1941. He saw action in Africa, Italy, and France. He returned home due to an injury and saw his mother before she passed away. In September 1945 he and Ida Valpreda were married. Sam and Ida had two sons. Steven S. Finney lived in Escondido with his two children, and Stanley, a professor of geology at Long Beach State University, lived at Seal Beach with his wife and two sons. (from *Family, Friends, and Homes*, 1991, p. 94, and Sheckler, June 1990.)



The difficulty of getting from Dulzura to the Cottonwood is shown in this photo of a buggy on the old Campo Road.

when Barrett was merged into the Dulzura post office. The Wolfes expanded the small store, adding a cafe and a concrete slab for an open air dance hall, with the added benefit of electric lights when power lines were installed in 1938 at Barrett. In 1946 Wolfe moved to National City and opened a new restaurant, Wolfe's Inn, with Frank J. Jendrossek at 38 West 8th Street. The Barrett Cafe was purchased by Bill and Viola Avril who had worked at Rohr in Chula Vista during the war. The Avrils bought a war surplus quonset hut in 1950 to cover the dance hall. Avril had the food and fishing tackle concession at Barrett Reservoir, and brought in a steady supply of fresh fish to his cafe. By 1952, the Friday night fish fry became famous, followed by a big dance Saturday night, and a free rodeo in the Barrett Arena across the highway on

Sundays. When Bill Avril died in 1984, his daughter Cathy and her husband Steve Stephens took over. In 2000, Cathy and Steve retired and sold the Barrett Cafe to the current owners, Leon and Christine Herzog. Leon was a math teacher at Santana High School who found two other partners to join him, his brother-in-law, Ted Sherman, and Clark Staples of San Diego, a professional wrestler known as "Don Savage."<sup>22</sup>

75 - The Peter Higgins homestead of 1891 was located on the old mountain road from Potrero to Cottonwood. Higgins kept bees and about twenty cattle on his ranch and in 1892 was elected constable of Campo Township. Dr. Orlando Wright made the road after he settled in Round Potrero in the 1870s. In some places the





The Stocking ranch in Bee Valley

road was so steep the wagon brakes would not hold, so drivers cut an immense oak limb and fastened it to the back of the wagon to help keep it under control. In Christmas 1874 the widow Fuquay's two sons Thomas and Joe drove two four-horse teams over this mountain road, no longer used today.<sup>23</sup>

76 - Henry J. Lauterbach was born in Germany, immigrated in 1870 and lived in New Jersey until moving to the Cottonwood Valley after the death of his young wife Matilda in 1894. The story was later told that he stopped at the shack of an earlier settler on Cottonwood creek between Barrett Dam and Barrett Junction, and asked for something to eat. "Well" said the old-timer, "you're mighty welcome, but I can't give you anything but some milk and some honey." "If I've reached the land of milk and honey," said Lauterbach, "here is where I stay." And he did, until a week or so before he died in 1931. He bought land in Rattlesnake Canyon from Henry

Stocking in 1901, and filed a homestead claim for 160 acres where the Canyon met the Cottonwood River. Albert Walker's marriage to Henry's sister Adelaide Lauterbach in 1904 connected him with a large family many of whom were teachers. Henry's brother Berthold Joseph Lauterbach was Spanish teacher at San Diego High School in 1918 during the student strike and the controversy over the loyalty of some faculty members during World War I.<sup>24</sup>

77 - The John Roberts homestead of 1902 was on both sides of Deerhorn Valley Road south of the McCoy homestead. The Henry Stocking homestead of 1898 was south of Roberts to the White Mountain. Both Stocking and Roberts lived in Coronado before moving to the Deerhorn. Henry Stocking was a real estate broker and city treasurer of Coronado who came to Coronado from Ohio in the fall of 1886 and built the third house erected on the beach. John Roberts was from South Carolina and

served in the Confederate army during the Civil War. John's granddaughter Ruth Kimball Roberts married Edward Denny Walker, son of Albert Walker.<sup>25</sup>

78 - Reuben Barber, who gave his name to Barber Mountain, came to the Deerhorn Valley from Nebraska in 1896, following the journey of his wife's family who came from Nebraska ten years earlier to settle in Dulzura. His wife was Adelle Clark, sister of Frank Clark, and sister of Isadore Clark who married Henry Hagenbuck. Barber's homestead below the mountain was patented in 1900, and the next year Hagenbuck's homestead was patented next to Barber south of Deerborn Valley Road. Another homestead on the east side of Barber was patented by Malinda McCoy in 1903. After the death of her husband, Malinda transferred her homestead to Peter and Annie Watts, the parents of Lorenzo "Ren" Watts who married Mary Walker, daughter of Albert Walker. Reuben Barber died in 1915 without children, and his homestead passed to Annie Walker, older sister of Mary Walker, and her husband William Dennison. In the 1950s, Monte Robles Acres and Barrett Lakes Estates were developed from the Ren Watts and Hagenbuck and Dennison properties.<sup>26</sup>



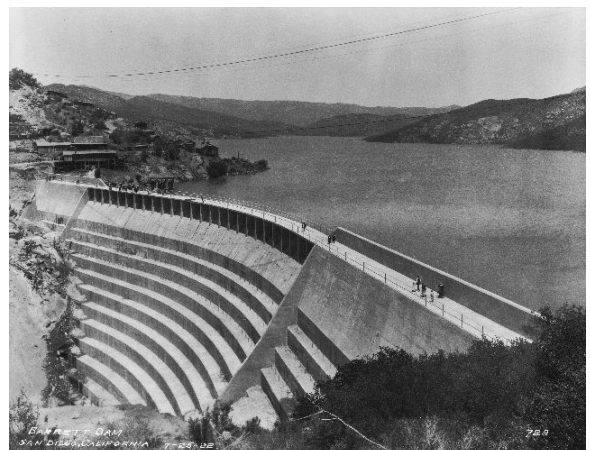
Barrett Dam dedication July 25, 1922

79 - Barrett Dam was started in 1893 by the Mt. Tecarte Co., owned by Elisha Babcock. The company was merged with the Otay Water Co. in 1895 by John D. Spreckels and became the



Supplies for the construction of Barrett Dam came by way of Lyons Valley Road, 1920

Southern California Mountain Water Company. Spreckels wanted to create a water supply for the city of San Diego that would include the Barrett, Morena and Otay dams collecting water from 256 square miles of back country. The Barrett Dam was partially completed by 1907, allowing the construction of a conduit to carry water to Dulzura Creek and into the Otay reservoirs. Spreckels sold the dam and conduit to the city in 1913. After the flood of 1916 destroyed the Otay dam, the city passed bonds to rebuild Otay and raise the height of Barrett from 20 feet to 171 feet. The work on Barrett Dam began in 1919 with the construction of an electrical line from Jamacha Junction and of a road up the Cottonwood Valley that brought supplies from a siding of the San Diego & Arizona railroad one mile west of Campo. A





small town of 300 people was built on the terraced mountainside above the dam. Winifred Barkley noted in the newspaper that "Barrett is a real city, with post office, school, library, store and storehouse, office buildings, pool hall, restaurants, lodging houses and homes, ten buildings in all. It has a complete sewage system, street lights, fire and domestic water supply and well laid out roads." In June 1921



the William Fox Film company of Los Angeles sent a team of 25 photographers, players and chauffeurs to Barrett dam to film the Zane Gray story "The Last Trail." In addition, Fox took footage for an educational film "to show the actual parts of dam construction, the day school, the Sunday school, housing methods and the Women's Thursday club, which is the distinct social feature of life at the dam." The finished dam was dedicated July 25, 1922.<sup>27</sup>

80 - The San Diego City Conduit was built by the The Southern California Water Company founded by Elisha Babcock and John D. Spreckels. It was sold to the city in 1912 as part of a water system that included the Barrett and Morena and Otay dams. "Work began on the

conduit from the dam site at Barrett Gorge to the head of Dulzura Creek in August, 1907, and completed in January, 1909. A preliminary necessity had been the construction of twelve miles of road from Barrett Dam to Dulzura Pass to order to haul material to construction points. This included a new grade built from Dulzura Pass to Cottonwood River replacing the old county road on the south side of the canyon. The road was later transferred to the county. From Barrett Junction a steep grade was hewn out of sheer walls of very hard rock before it reached the site of the dam and continued to the intake. There are over thirteen miles of conduit in all which drops 52 feet in elevation from the Pine Creek intake to the Dulzura Divide. There are several tunnels, the last being near the summit with a tunnel 976 feet long making a total of 9,000 feet of tunnels. The total cost was approximately \$450,000. Originally there were some spans of wood flume which have been replaced. Most noteworthy of Dulzura residents added from the conduit construction was Charles Camp. He was employed by Mr. Crowley, of the Los Angeles firm supplying construction materials for the Dulzura Conduit, to make purchases of material, hire other teamsters, and take the responsibility of delivery by mule and horse teams to the job locations. It is said Charles gave George Daley his first job hauling freight on this line. Mr. Daley stayed in the construction business to amass a fortune, becoming head of the Daley enterprises and owner of the Jamul Ranch and other large



The conduit follows along Flume Road before meeting Dulzura Creek



# MAMMOTH DULZURA CONDUIT WILL BE READY FOR WATER JANUARY 1



Above, the newspaper announces the conduit will be ready to carry water on Jan. 1, 1909. Below, the conduit skirts the side of the mountain above Horseshoe Curve.





ownerships. Camp, Daley and Henry Fenton were fellow workers, personal friends, and examples of the special breed of men who knew how to handle those spectacular horse and mule teams which strained up the long dusty trail of Campo Road in 1907 to the tune of chimes on the lead mules, chimes timed to the beat of hooves and crack of black-snakes." <sup>28</sup>

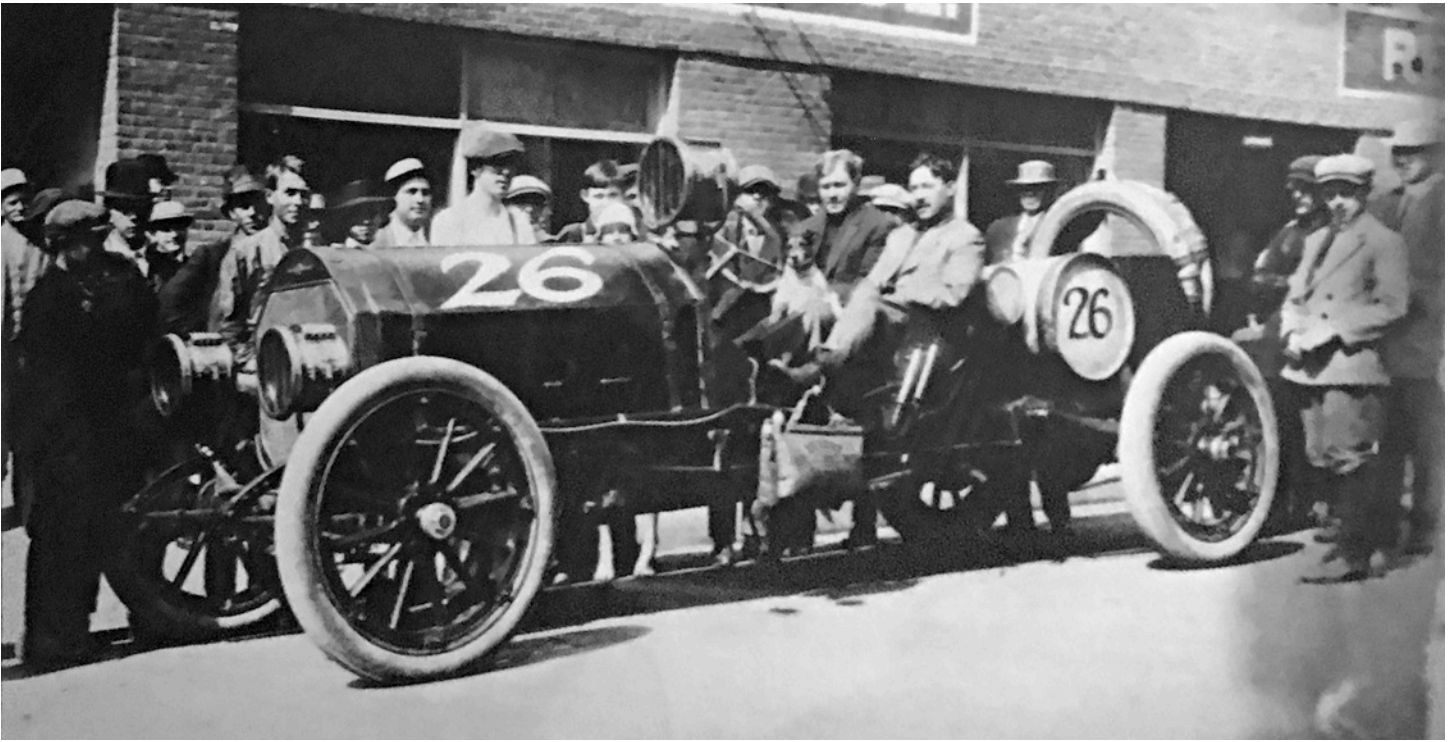


The elevator on the El Cortez Hotel was built by Richard McIntyre and Arnold Hunsberger.

81 - Isaac W. Allen came from Ohio in 1905 and took up bee-keeping in "Harbison's Field" where John Harbison had introduced the first bees in the 1870s. Allen taught many others the skills of the apiarist, was appointed district bee inspector in 1921, and when he died at the age of 97, was called the "Dean of the San Diego County Beekeepers." His two sons Roy and Robert were born in 1902 and 1906, and Allen named his ranch in 1907 the Rob Roy Lodge. The road leading to the Lodge was later named Freezer Road when Bill and Ruth Gregory purchased the Dulzura Frozen Food Lockers plant located there in 1963. Roy Allen had an 80-acre ranch at the end of Bee Canyon Road that he called the Middle Earth ranch. He married Josephine Stinson, a local widow, who lived on Summit Road. They sold and moved to a ranch in Descanso where Roy raised cattle.

After his first wife died in 1915, Isaac Allen married Nellie, and in 1931 he married Francis Amos who had a daughter Faustina "Fossie" McIntyre from her previous marriage. Fossie's son was Richard McIntyre who grew up on the Rob Roy Lodge and became friends with his neighbor Arnold Hunsberger who a quarter mile to the south on Arnoldo Road, named for Arnold. The two friends went to college and became engineers and founders of the Electric Elevator Company that built the glass elevator on the outside of the El Cortez Hotel in 1956.<sup>29</sup>

82 - Campbell Ranch Road was the location of the homestead of John Campbell patented in 1892 and owned today by his granddaughter Jean Immenschuh. John's sons, David and George Campbell founded the Campbell Machine Co. and were also pioneer auto dealers in San Diego, distributors of the Stearns Knight and Stevens Duryea automobiles in 1906. Later, John's youngest son, Roy Campbell, founded the Campbell Chevrolet Company in San Diego. By 1912 David Campbell had seen the improvements made on Campo Road. The construction of the Barrett and Morena dams and the railroad at Campo had brought increased motor traffic on the road. In 1909 the country designated the road from San Diego to Campo as Route 16, one of the county's major thoroughfares. Claude Sheckler was given a contract by the county to maintain the road between Spring Valley and Potrero. The Army used the road to supply outposts at Tecate and Dulzura when revolution broke out in Mexico in 1911. The first auto stage line from San Diego to Yuma on Route 16 began in April 1912 with a Franklin 6-cylinder seating 7 passengers. When San Diego good road promoters decided to challenge Los Angeles in a race to Phoenix, David Campbell decided to enter the race with his Stevens Duryea roadster. Some drivers in the race used northern routes to get to Phoenix, but Campbell followed Route 16 and won the 400 mile race in 16 hours 59 minutes. This was almost three hours faster than any of the cars from Los Angeles. Route 16 would be the fastest road to the east until



The 1912 San Diego to Phoenix auto race was won by driver David Campbell, sitting with dog behind wheel, and mechanic E. B. Harvey.

Highway 80 was opened through El Cajon in 1920.<sup>30</sup>

83 - The farmers and ranchers in Dulzura enjoyed their isolation from national political turmoils and generally kept their opinions to themselves, but there were a few exceptions. In 1919 John Witt homesteaded a farm in the Cottonwood valley below Little Tecate Peak. Don Sheckler wrote, "Mr. Witt was a communist. The Bolsheviks were causing all kinds of trouble in Russia at the time, and Witt was an apt pupil of the Lenin Doctrine." When investigators came looking for Mr. Witt, he fled to Mexico. Another suspect was Benjamin McLaren who raised bees and planted olives on his farm at the mouth of Bee Canyon just north of John Witt. "It is recalled that he was a man of good education and high principles and was once a county surveyor. He loved to make Fourth of July speeches at picnics and gave his views in a very low-pitched, deliberate voice. He was something of a philosopher and after the outbreak of the First World War, felt he could calmly judge decisions from the peaceful quiet of Bee Canyon much better than the President

could from the turmoil of Washington and wrote at great length to explain how the war should be conducted. In an inquiry regarding his loyalty, the security commission contacted a local resident who was able to satisfy them that McLaren was a patriot; however, he was advised not to try to run the war." <sup>31</sup>

84 - Romo Road was named for Olaf Romo, a shipwright carpenter who immigrated from Norway to Canada in 1900. He bought a ranch in Dulzura on the south side of Campo highway in 1921. With his wife Inga, and sons Eilif and Jess, he was a founding member of the Dulzura Improvement Club.<sup>32</sup>

85 - The Dulzura Community Center was built in 1955 by community volunteers. The idea of a community center was first proposed by the Dulzura Improvement Club that was formed in 1922. The first meeting of this club was held in December at the Midvale Ranch of Emil and Kate Kimmich where the Flume Road met Bee Canyon. This area was known as the Dulzura Divide where Campo Road turned from south to east. It was on the bend of the road that the





The Dulzura Community Center was built in 1955 and serves today as a meeting place for the community. It is visited once a month by the County Bookmobile, a mobile service started in 1975 by San Diego County.

Dulzura School had been built in 1886, and one of the goals of the club in 1922 was to build a bigger school but this would not happen until 1935. Henry Fauquier owned a 700-acre ranch around the Dulzura Divide and offered to donate land to build a clubhouse that would served a social center for the community. However, this would not take place until 1955 when the Dulzura Community Development Committee was chartered Sept. 1 and local residents joined to construct the building that still stands today. It has been used for craft classes, teen parties, amateur theatrical productions, and as a meeting place for the 4-H Club, Farm Bureau and nondenominational church services. It hosts holiday events such as an annual children's Christmas party, and community fund-raising projects as suppers, rummage sales and barbecues, and for many years a weekly game night.<sup>33</sup>

86 - The East County Men's Training Center on Summit Road began as the small home of a Mormon carpenter, Peter Rasmussen, who moved to San Diego in 1925. The Sunrise Motel was built in the 1950s, added onto the original house, when Peter's son, Joseph

Rasmusson, was a Dulzura contractor. In the 1960s it was popular with the Hell's Angels MC but was later abandoned. In 2001 it became the Set Free Ranch, part of the evangelical Christian ministry founded in 1982 by Phil Aguilar, "a tattooed, Harley-riding ex-con." Since then, it has been a successful rehabilitation center under the supervision of Pastor Moses Vanderford.<sup>34</sup>

87 - Rancho Mocogo was located in Sycamore Canyon about one-half mile west of Donohoe Mountain. It began as the homestead of John and Inez Z. McCann in 1903. The farm was passed to their daughter, Inez M. McCann who married Dan Marron, one of the 12 children of Juan and Matilda Marron. Dan and Inez had only one child, a boy who died at the age of 13. Part of the homestead was sold to real estate broker Peter Wesson Morse, a partner in the Union Investment Co. of San Diego with Fred Downs of Olay. Morse was a pioneer lemon rancher in Chula Vista in 1889 and a store owner on Sixth St. in San Diego. In 1928 he built a stone cabin in Sycamore Canyon that became his country home called Rancho Mocogo. After his death in 1936, the ranch



The East County Men's Training Center on Summit Road has kept the arches of the Sunrise Motel that was built in the 1950s.

passed to his two daughters. Bessie married Hubert Golay, and Evelyn married John Covert. The cabin burned in a fire and the property is now part of the open space maintained by the Bureau of Land management.<sup>35</sup>

88 - The Magoffin ranch is located on the old Healey homestead on the north side of Barrett Smith Road. Garold Magoffin, Sr., was a plumbing contractor in San Diego after he left the Navy and married Areletta Wylie in 1926. Areletta's father was Charles Wylie who came from Goldfield, Nevada, in 1912 and for many years operated a grocery store in downtown San Diego. Garold bought his Barrett ranch of 200 acres in 1953 and with the help of his sons raised poultry. In 1973 the three brothers went into the hog business, becoming the largest hog ranch in the county by 1987.<sup>36</sup>

89 - The Bamboo Inn was built 1937 by Walter and Clara Glover. It began as a store but as Walter's son explained to Shirley Reider, it "eventually doubled the size for a restaurant and bar. There were two front doors, one for the store and the other for the restaurant/bar. The store was well stocked with canned goods and essentials. At that time it was still a long trip to and from town. The neighbors convinced them to get a beer license and start serving drinks and food so that is when they enlarged the building. It was a very active place as they served food and drinks. Square dances were held every Saturday night. They also rented cabins and sold gasoline. The first cabin was built for Mr. Dick Harris who was a civil engineer and he worked on the flume from Barrett to Otay. Mr. Harris wanted a cabin built to his specifications. He said he would pay for it. He





The Bamboo Inn in 1942 included gasoline pumps along Highway 94 and cabins in the back.

did not want windows to the south or east. It was a one room cabin and built in 1948. Other people wanted to rent cabins so they eventually built more cabins to rent. The store was leased by the Murphy's, who lived at Murphy's curve, and they ran it for awhile, but it was eventually closed in 1967."<sup>37</sup>



The 7th Day Adventist Church is across the road from the Bamboo Inn. It was built in 1938 on land donated by Shecklers.

90 - Fred and Violet Luxton came to Dulzura in 1939 from Illinois. They bought 40 acres along the highway and went into the poultry business, building 12 large chicken barns (later burned down in the fires). Fred purchased an old Pierce-Arrow van to haul feed for the chickens and to sell fryers to Sprague Poultry on El Cajon Avenue. Fred became manager of the store until it was sold in 1956. He was a founder of the Dulzura Community Development Committee, chartered in 1955, and helped build the Community Center building. Fred was also a member of the Highway 94 Club founded in 1953 that worked with Caltrans to straighten many of the sharp curves in the highway around Dulzura. His son Royce returned to the farm after serving in the Korean War and trained horses that he raced at Los Alamitos.<sup>38</sup>

91 - Summit Road was named by the Keenan family who built their house in 1947 at the summit of Barrett Grade on the south side of the highway. Archie and Helen Keenan moved to

San Diego in 1941, staying briefly with Archie's brother, William Monte Keenan, who owned the Big Springs Ranch in Lyons Creek Road valley (see the Jamul map #37 in Bulletin 23). With the help of Fred Mellor, Archie got a job as "conduit patrolman" in 1943 and the family lived in what was called the City House situated just below the road on a steep grade called Barrett Grade on the inside of a very sharp turn called "Horseshoe Curve," later called Murphy's Curve when John T. Murphy and wife Mabel lived there after they leased the Bamboo Inn in the 1960s. The Keenans moved to a new house in 1947 two miles east at the summit of the Barrett Grade. Archie was able to purchase dynamite through his job as conduit patrolman, and, as Ed wrote, "Dad definitely got pretty handy with it. Unlike today, the purchase of dynamite was not as controlled. This gave him opportunity to use it in pursuit of his love of prospecting or maybe even digging a well! His prospecting knowledge even helped him to locate some hot uranium ore that caused quite a stir by the U. S. Government. Over the years, he filed a few mining claims and dug some pretty deep holes and tunnels." <sup>39</sup>

92 - Dan Bennett is a contractor and realtor in the heart of Deerhorn Valley. His family came to the valley in 1945 when Joe and Bessie Eaton moved from Jamul. Joe Eaton owned a car dealership in La Mesa and Bessie ran the ranch that produced fruit from orchards watered by a well they dug next to their house. Joe later sold his dealership that became Carl Burger Dodge. His daughter Emily married Floyd Bennett in 1950 just before Floyd was drafted into the Army. Floyd was serving in the motor pool at Nevada's Cape Desert Rock in 1953 when he was put in the trenches two miles from an atomic bomb test. "Everybody ducked their heads and the ground shook," Floyd said when the bomb went off. "The air felt like it was burning up." Floyd and Emily moved to the Deerhorn in 1969 with their son Dan and his wife Nadine. Dan helped form the Deerhorn Volunteer Fire Department in 1975 and stored the pumper truck in his garage. Nadine was a teacher in the Jamul-Dulzura Union School

District, becoming a principal and district superintendent.<sup>40</sup>



The water tower behind the Bennett house was built in 1945, but the tank is no longer on top.



This hunters cabin along Deerhorn Valley Road is being restored by the Bennetts. It was built in 1921 and had an original electrical fuse box for 250 volts from that year. Although commercial electrical service did not come to the valley until the 1940s, SDG&E built a special line from Jamacha Junction through Lyons Valley to Barrett Dam in 1921 to provide power for the construction of the dam. This may have been to source for this cabin.



93 - The Barrett Mobile Home Park was previously known as Waddell's Barrett Lake Trailer Park. It was started by Robert and Elva Waddell in 1948 on the old homestead of Matthias Matthiasen who immigrated from Norway and settled in the Cottonwood Valley in 1889. Robert was a Navy veteran who also ran the Waddell Plumbing Co. in Pacific Beach. Elva was active in the affairs of the Dulzura community, with the Tecate mission and the Dulzura Volunteer Fire Department. The park was washed out by the flood of Jan. 30, 1980, but Waddell's rebuilt and continued operating until selling the property in 1988. Another business in the Barrett area that was hurt by the 1980 flood was the Barrett Feed and Livestock store owned by Eugene and Jean Chism on Barrett Smith Road property that Jean Chism bought in 1966. The flood destroyed all of their buildings and without insurance that were unable to survive.<sup>41</sup>



William and Edna Scott (from ancestry.com)

94 - The Starlight Ranch on Barrett Lake Road was founded by William M. Scott after he retired from the Army in 1941. After he died in 1965, his daughter Louise Rowland sold the ranch in 1977 to the Helen Craw Theosophical

Foundation and it became known as the Barrett Valley Ranch. Fundraisers were held at the ranch in order to raise money to start a school for handicapped children. In 1982 Helen's daughter, Cynthia Carlson, started the Quinta Helena Demonstration Garden of California natives and drought-resistant plants. In the late 1990s the ranch was sold and subdivided into residential lots.<sup>42</sup>

95 - The Troy ranch on Barrett Lake Road was the only residence in this part of the valley when it was settled by Jud and Leovi Troy in 1968. It was located on the old Willard Hyde homestead but no buildings remained from Hyde's residence in 1926. Jud Troy was born in Idaho and came to San Diego with the Marines after the Korean War. He built a windmill for water and ran cattle in the valley where no fences were necessary. However, all was lost in the 2007 fire and he has moved to Arizona.<sup>43</sup>

96 - The fire station on Highway 94 at Campbell Ranch Road was originally a county road maintenance station until 1970 when it became Cal Fire Station #30, but it was not the first location for the station. For many years the only fire protection for the Jamul-Dulzura area came from the California Department of Forestry (CDF) in La Mesa. Luther Gordon, county fire warden since 1924, would dispatch men and trucks if a fire was reported anywhere in the east county. Beginning with the CCC in the 1930s, Gordon established a fire suppression camp at Minnewawa, using unemployed men at first, then convicts from Chino State Prison. He also established a station on Lyons Valley Road. In 1942 a CDF station was built on J Street near the Hilltop Circle defense housing project in Chula Vista, staffed with men from a station in Palm City that was closed. In 1956 the Forestry personnel from J Street were relocated to Dulzura, housed in a tent cabin and equipped with one old truck, a 1949 REO. In 1970, this station moved to Campbell Ranch Road. By this time, the Dulzura Volunteer Fire Department was organized across the highway from the CDF tent cabin. It became the largest volunteer department in the area, with 35 men and a truck



The tent cabin of the CDF station relocated from Chula Vista in 1956 was the first location of Cal Fire Station 30 in Dulzura along Highway 94 near the post office. This photo from 1962 was contributed by Duane Chamlee.



In the back left of this photo from Deerhorn Valley Road is Cal Fire Station 37. In the center is the small garage with two white doors built by Paul and Dianne Jacob in 1991 for the Deerhorn volunteer fire company. In the foreground is the large barn used by the Jacobs for their farm.



that was housed in the barn of Chief Dale Fuller. In 1992 the volunteers moved to a new building on the hill behind the Dulzura Community Center.<sup>44</sup>

97 - Paul and Dianne Jacob moved to the Deerhorn Valley in 1972. He was a TWA Pilot and she was a schoolteacher who was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1992. The ranch they bought was in Bratton Valley that had passed to Dianne's aunt, Louise Ratcliffe, when Charlie Bratton died in 1967. They raised cattle and grew hay on the ranch, as the Brattons had done for almost a hundred years. Their big red barn became a landmark in the valley. Paul was a founding member of the Jamul Dulzura Community Planning Group. He provided a building for the Deerhorn Volunteer Fire Department, and donated land in 1991 for a fire station built by community volunteers that became Cal Fire Station 37. During wildfires they offered their ranch as a community shelter and fire operations hub. Their annual fundraiser called The Branding raised money for the East County YMCA.<sup>45</sup>

98 - The South Bay Rod and Gun Club on Marron Valley Road was first organized in Chula Vista in 1953 and used a shooting range near San Ysidro off Dairy Mart road jointly operated with the Border Patrol. In 1976 it merged with the Valley Gun Club of El Cajon. Both clubs were suffering from encroaching suburbia. Club president Howard Fousie said "We couldn't keep the kids out, and we worried that one would pop up on the range when we were firing." The club purchased 283 acres in Dulzura from the Clark Ranch and filed for permits from the county, but it was opposed by the owner of a nearby airstrip. Jack Davis Jr. of La Jolla wanted to develop an air field at his 67-acre Flying D Ranch located east of the gun club property. The gun club gained the support of Dolly Dutro, a long-time Dulzura resident and owner of 500 acres that she purchased from the Clarks adjacent to the airstrip. In 1980 the county denied a permit for the airstrip and granted a permit to the gun club to open for business.<sup>46</sup>



The South Bay Rod and Gun Club is located in the Marron Valley.





Rancho L'Abri

99 - Rancho L'Abri was built in 1970 and by 1980 was a Rural Health Retreat Center for the University of Loma Linda. In 1984 it became a private drug and alcohol treatment center founded by Dr. John Milner. It put Dulzura in the national news in 1994 when former San Diego Padre pitcher Eric Show was found dead from an overdose at the center. By 2010 it was closed as a treatment center. Recently it was purchased by the South Bay Rod and Gun Club.<sup>47</sup>

100 - Brookside Farm was called the "Dulzura Convention Center" after it was transformed into

a successful bed and breakfast business by Edward and Judy Guishard. The 1928 farmhouse was rundown and the grounds turned to weeds when the Guishards bought the property in 1983. They had been in the restaurant business many years, running Mrs. Brady's Boardinghouse in Jamul and the Blue Man French Restaurant in Lemon Grove, and had the experience needed to create a "cozy farmhouse B&B" with seven country decorated rooms, an old barn and a "fairy tale babbling brook amid large, shady oak trees, grass and an aviary of doves." After 1998 it was sold to the Family Care Foundation. Today it is the Pacific West headquarters of the nonprofit corporation American Conservation Experience that trains volunteers to restore parks and trails.<sup>48</sup>

101 - James M. Haptonstall homesteaded Dutchmans Canyon after coming to Dulzura from Colorado in 1917. His uncles Edward and Guy Haptonstall homesteaded in Barrett Valley and James followed in their footsteps. He became a superintendent in the county road department in the 1930s and perhaps was responsible for the construction of the county road maintenance building at Campbell Ranch Road and Highway 94. He was active in the



Brookside Farm



Highway 94 Association and was president of the Border Highway Chamber of Commerce. His wife Mabel served as a clerk in the Dulzura School District. As a member of the advertising committee of the Highway 94 Association, she arranged the publication of a booklet in 1940 describing the Highway 94 route between San Diego and Campo.<sup>49</sup>

102 - Winnetka Valley was settled by Louis Harvey in 1877, starting with a small hunting cabin and then a two-story home in 1890 for his wife Clara Hagenbuck and their eleven children. Harvey built the first roads from his valley in the 1880s northwest to the Bratton Valley and south to Dulzura. In 1919 the Harveys sold the ranch to a group of sportsmen known as the Minnewawa Ranch Club. Led by Francis "Buick" Naylor, a leading San Diego auto dealer and jeweler, the ranch bred Guernsey cattle and prize-winning race horses. In the 1950s and 1960s the ranch was owned by Dr. Howard Ball, president of the San Diego County Medical Society.<sup>50</sup>

103 - The Ellis Ranch was located between the Miner Ranch and Campo Road. It was homesteaded by George Ellis who came from Kansas City in 1933. He had graduated from the University of Missouri and was a world-traveling correspondent for the Kansas City Journal-Post in the 1920s until forced to move due to the great Depression. With his wife Katherine and son Charles and mother Cora he grew his cattle and chicken ranch to 3800 acres. During WWII he hosted community picnics to bring together local residents and soldiers from nearby camps. In 1947 he gave up ranching and was a teacher at the Dulzura School. In 1955 he moved his family to Valley Center.<sup>51</sup>

104 - Glowinca Lodge was located at the "Upper Dip" in Honey Springs Road, just before Mother Grundy Road turnoff. This was a Catholic Church retreat in the 1930s, and later became a private residence.<sup>52</sup>

105 - Pringle Canyon was named for Ben Pringle who moved to Dulzura about 1890 and

lived on a pre-emption bounded by Jamul Grant land on the west and lying between Small's homestead and the deep canyon running toward Bratton Valley. He built a fair-sized house and planted twenty acres or more to lemons and a few other fruits. He lined his road with cypress trees and pumped water from the canyon to the hilltop near the house where he had a nice reservoir. He also built a good lemon packing house and raised very fine lemons. In 1908 the Clarks owned part of the Ben Pringle property on which stood an old lemon packing house in which dances were held, and about 1912, Elam and Fred Clark with Leon, Francis and Herbert Harvey went to considerable expense and much labor to enlarge the building and put in a new floor. How they worked polishing that floor! It was the best dance floor in the back country and was used until after World War I. The grand opening was held in the summer of 1912, July Fourth. Clark Brothers donated a fine young beef and invited the neighboring communities to a barbecue at the Clark Ranch. No charge was made for the barbecue which had been so well advertised that the response was overwhelming.<sup>53</sup>

106 - Elena Lane was the road that led to the Walker Ranch from Deerborn Valley and was named after Albert Walker's first wife, Ella "Elena" Burch. The western and eastern parts of Deerhorn Valley Road were not connected below Elena Lane until 1967. When Rod McKinely's family moved to Elena Lane in 1972, his mother Hazel bought the restaurant next door known as the Deerhorn Lodge, built in 1959 by Roy Wallin. She was unable to get a liquor license so the restaurant was dropped and it became the Deerhorn Valley Lodge, available for special events and community events, especially fundraisers for the volunteer fire department. Tragically, the Lodge burned down in the 2007 fire that destroyed 125 homes in the Deerhorn Valley.<sup>54</sup>





“Entering Beautiful Downtown Dulzura, Population 780” sign was on the side of the Dulzura Cafe in the 1970s.



The entrance to Barrett Lakes Road in the Cottonwood Valley is marked by an old water tower.



The sign “Welcome to Deerhorn Valley Community” has included a chalkboard since the 1950s.



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Historical photos in this article were contributed by Caroline Sheckler, Kathie Walker Collins, Earl Pheifer, and Doug Shellstrom.

## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> De Barros, 1998; Schmid, 1963 p. 137, 139; Sheckler, 2004, p. 156.

<sup>2</sup> Reider, 2010, p. 10; San Diego Union, May 20, 1908.

<sup>3</sup> Schmid, 1963 pp. 75, 108-111; Watkins, 1969; San Diego Union, Oct 30, 1873, and Dec 15, 1876; John Harbison picture from Van Dyke, 1888, p. 156.

<sup>4</sup> Sheckler, 2004, p. 150; Schmid, 1963 p. 89.

<sup>5</sup> Schmid, 1963 pp. 29-30.

<sup>6</sup> Schmid, 1963 pp. 29-30; Carole Bradford interview.

<sup>7</sup> Sheckler, 2004, pp. 23-46, 239; Schmid, 1963 p. 85; Caroline Sheckler interview.

<sup>8</sup> Schmid, 1963 p. 12; Sheckler, 2004, pp. 68, 308, 353, 360; San Diego Union, Nov. 30, 1878, and Aug. 31, 1893, and Mar. 8 and 15, 1908; The Los Angeles Times, Apr. 26, 1908; George Merz in Jamul Shopper and News, November 2018.

<sup>9</sup> Schmid, 1963 p. 18.

<sup>10</sup> General Land Office Records; Schmid, 1963, p. 12.

<sup>11</sup> Reider, p. 117; Schmid, 1963 p. 45; Back Country Trader July 13, 1988; San Diego Evening Tribune, June 2, 1976; San Diego Union-Tribune, Dec. 21, 1993; San Diego Union, May 14, 1882; Earl Pfeifer and Caroline Sheckler interviews.

<sup>12</sup> Schmid, 1963 pp. 69-71; San Diego Union, Aug. 2, 1922, and May 17, 1936.

<sup>13</sup> Charlotte Holcomb in the Back Country Trader Mar. 25, 1987; Reider, 2001, p. 94; San Diego Union, Aug. 2, 1922; Andrea Camp Smith and Jack Smith interviews.

<sup>14</sup> Schmid, 1963 pp. 43-56, 131; San Diego Union, June 10, 1948, and June 25, 1949.

<sup>15</sup> Schmid, 1963 p. 96; San Diego Union, Oct. 21, 1954; Daily Californian, June 10, 1970. The other one-room schoolhouse in the county in 1969 was Spencer Valley.

<sup>16</sup> Hubbard and Dove, 2013; National City Record, Nov. 3 and 17, 1892; San Diego Union, Nov. 3, 1892, and Nov 16, 1893; Mearns, 1907, p. 136.

<sup>17</sup> General Land Office Records; Schmid, 1963 pp. 78, 92; San Diego Union, Nov. 1, 1894, and Dec. 19, 1896, and Nov. 19, 1899., and Oct. 3, 1909, and May 2, 1916; San Diego Evening Tribune, Nov. 6, 1924.

<sup>18</sup> General Land Office Records; Reider, p. 88; Dana Mottola and Sally Lee interviews; [www.madregrande.org/](http://www.madregrande.org/)

<sup>19</sup> Sheckler, 2004, pp. 384-389; San Diego Union, Mar. 5, 1898; Cilch, 1998.

<sup>20</sup> San Diego Union, Aug. 8, 1890 and Aug. 19, 1915 and Aug. 26, 1934; Chula Vista Star, May 15, 1936; Schmid, 1963 p. 154.

<sup>21</sup> General Land Office Records; Schmid, 1963 pp. 115-116; Sheckler, 2004, p. 399; Reider, 2004, p. 50; Holcomb, Back Country Trader, June 3, 1987; San Diego Union, Mar. 6, 1963.

<sup>22</sup> Schmid, 1963 pp. 115-116, 143; Reider, 2004, p. 50, 88; San Diego Union, Oct 20, 1917 and Sept. 16, 1938 and June 8, 1947 and July 27, 2000; San Diego Evening Tribune, July 26, 1924; Barrett city directory 1931-1936.

<sup>23</sup> General Land Office Records; McCain, 1955, p. 29; Meyer, 1958, p. 4.

<sup>24</sup> General Land Office Records; Schmid, 1963 p. 31; San Diego Union, Feb. 3, 1935; Schoenherr, 2014. pp. 19-20.

<sup>25</sup> General Land Office Records; San Diego Union, July 2, 1907; Kathleen Walker Collins interview.

<sup>26</sup> General Land Office Records; Schmid, 1963 p. 31; San Diego Union, March 21, 1958.

<sup>27</sup> San Diego Union, June 13, 1895 and Mar. 28, 1921 and June 8, 1921 and July 26, 1922; San Diego Evening Tribune, July 16, 1919 and June 11, 1921.

<sup>28</sup> Schmid, 1963, pp. 141, 144.

<sup>29</sup> San Diego Union, Mar. 3, 1972; San Diego Union-Tribune, June 18, 2006; Schmid, 1963, p. 75; Caroline Sheckler interview.

<sup>30</sup> San Diego Union, May 16, 1907 and June 10 and Oct. 9, 1909 and Oct. 29, 1912; Schmid, 1963 pp. 104, 141; Sheckler, 2004, p. 310.

<sup>31</sup> General Land Office Records; Sheckler, 2004, p. 407; Schmid, 1963 p. 121.

<sup>32</sup> San Diego Union, Dec. 10, 1922, and Apr 12, 1923.

<sup>33</sup> San Diego Union, Dec. 10, 1922, and Apr 12, 1923, and Sept. 6, 1975.



<sup>34</sup> San Diego Union, Apr 14, 1948; San Diego Union-Tribune, Mar. 10, 2005; Caroline Sheckler and Moses Vanderford interviews.

<sup>35</sup> Schmid, 1963 p. 121; National City Record Dec. 19, 1889 and June 22, 1928; San Diego Union, Jan. 1, 1909.

<sup>36</sup> San Diego Union, July 1, 1966; The Los Angeles Times, Mar. 29, 1987.

<sup>37</sup> Reider, 2010, p. 113.

<sup>38</sup> San Diego Union, Sept. 6, 1975; Reider, 2010, p. 88; Royce Luxton interview.

<sup>39</sup> Keenan, 2012.

<sup>40</sup> San Diego Union, October 31, 1987, and Feb. 25, 1995; San Diego Union-Tribune, August 1, 2009; Floyd and Dan and Nadine Bennett interviews.

<sup>41</sup> San Diego Union, Mar. 27, 1979 and Feb 21, 1980 ; San Diego Union-Tribune, January 24, 2007; Los Angeles Times, Mar. 29, 1987.

<sup>42</sup> San Diego Union, April 1, 1965 and Feb. 22, 1971; San Diego Union-Tribune, Oct. 25, 1992; Judy Thomson interview.

<sup>43</sup> Judy Thomson interview.

<sup>44</sup> Luther Gordon interview by Edgar Hastings; David Carney and Dale Fuller interviews.

<sup>45</sup> Times of San Diego, Oct. 1, 2018. Dianne Jacob interview.

<sup>46</sup> San Diego Union, Jan. 9, 1977 and June 14 and 16, 1977 and Apr. 10, 1980; Jon Sivers interview.

<sup>47</sup> San Diego Union, Aug. 28, 1980; San Diego Union-Tribune, Mar. 17, 1994; Jon Sivers interview.

<sup>48</sup> San Diego Union, Apr. 27, 1986; San Diego Evening Tribune, May 27, 1988; Orange County Register, June 26, 1994; San Francisco Chronicle, Feb. 6, 2005.

<sup>49</sup> General Land Office Records; San Diego Union, Sept. 29, 1940, and July 2, 1975; San Diego Evening Tribune, Sept. 19, 1933.

<sup>50</sup> Schmid, 1963, p. 35; San Diego Evening Tribune, Apr. 30, 1921, and June 23, 1926; San Diego Union Jan. 1, 1930, and July 18, 1963; Mike Sandvig interview; The five men in the Ranch Club were H. A. Malcolm, Dr. E. P. Chartres-Martin, Dr. Thomas O. Burger, Dr. O. K. Bullard and F. B. Naylor.

<sup>51</sup> General Land Office Records; San Diego Union, Sept. 22, 1942, and Apr. 26, 1950, and

Dec 17, 1981; Escondido Daily Times-Advocate, Mar. 6, 1965.

<sup>52</sup> AAA road map of 1938; Nadine Bennett interview.

<sup>53</sup> Schmid, 1963 pp. 91, 101.

<sup>54</sup> Rod McKinely interview.