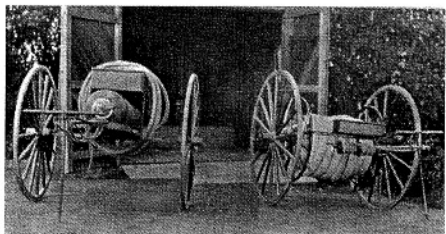


23 Getting Organized

Rustic life becomes more suburban

*Residents moving
over from the
city clamor for
up-to-date public
safety services and
better utilities*

*Hose carts for firefighting,
stored in garage on the hill.*



SUMMER COTTAGES WERE EVENTUALLY JOINED by new homes built for year-around use. Permanent residents were eager to have the same amenities they had enjoyed when they lived in San Francisco.

Before long, some of Corte Madera's rustic, rural qualities gave way to the impetus for street lights, sanitary sewers, graded roads, and water mains for household and fire protection use.

Utility services, opposed by those who were against taxation and/or urbanization, had enough support to win approval at special elections held to set tax rates and elect residents to run the various service districts.

Up to this point, household water came either from wells, springs, or was purchased when the water wagon came around. In fact, the notorious James McCue's first entrepreneurial endeavor in Marin County involved selling water from his wagon in 1863.

By 1910 there were enough year-around residents to make it profitable for someone who owned a source of water to lay pipes and sell it through a local distribution system.

Several major landowners had established private water companies, channeling springs on their properties into large reservoirs. Springs filled these reservoirs with a sufficient supply to serve all those residents not fortunate enough to have their own wells.