

Big Changes Proposed for Ross

June 15, 1951 was a busy news day for Ross, with three front page articles in the Independent Journal. In one, the paper noted a large attendance, versus the usual sprinkle of citizens, at the Ross Town Council meeting. It appeared that a discussion of rezoning, along with the matters below, inspired many to witness the proceedings.

Another article detailed a petition by 200 residents to install a traffic signal to replace a blinking light at the intersection of Sir Francis Drake and Lagunitas Road. This would make it the first traffic signal in Ross. Not much has changed since.

Finally, the Council was reviewing the proposed creation of a new subdivision, Sylvan Acres. Seven lots were proposed along the old railroad grade between Lagunitas Road and Bolinas Avenue. We know it today as the area along Sylvan Lane. The 20,000 square foot parcels were expected to sell for between six and seven thousand dollars. It was further reported that this same stretch had been considered for a highway through Ross, but the Town blocked this by purchasing the old railroad grade across from Ross Common. This would also explain the lack of a bike path here so common on the old rail path in much of Ross and Marin today. This wasn't the first change in the neighborhood. Check out our early Ross parcel map, when the railroad was here, Shady was called Wordsworth and Drake was Red Hill-Ross Landing Road.

