

A Brief Outline of the History of Lot A. 1930

ROETHE'S WILLAMETTE RIVER FRONT LOTS, PLAT 2, LOT A

Oak Lodge History Detectives

January 2015

Timeline for John Gottlieb Roethe

Courtesy of John and Linda Roethe

- January 25, 1842 Born in Prussia, Germany. Parents were farmers. Oldest of three sons and one daughter, received practical training at home and school, and active military training as a volunteer in the cavalry service of the Prussian army for 2 ½ years.
- 1866 John was engaged in the war between Prussia and Austria
- May 8, 1869 Arrived in America at Castle Garden (prior to the opening of Ellis Island) from Bremen, Germany. Also on board the S.S. Union were his future wife, Wilhelmina Kirchhoff and her entire family.
- 1873 or 1874 Became a naturalized citizen
- 1869 – 1889 Owned and operated farms in Iowa, then moved to Oregon where he rented a farm in Bethany for one year.
- 1889 John and third wife, Alwiene bought 120 acres of the original Benoni Rogers Donation Land Claim from Rudolph Staub. The land, which ran between Naef and Roethe roads from the Willamette River to Harold Avenue, had once belonged to William Starkweather. The landing was named Starkweather Landing.
- 1909 “Sold” about 10 acres of their land to each of their two sons, Edward Ernst and Otto Paul for \$10.00 each
- 1910 John G. and wife, Alwiene/Alvina are listed in the census for Oak Grove District
- 1914 John G. and Alwiene moved to Lodi California
- 1921 John G. died of stomach and bowel cancer
- 1930 Parcels of land were divided between Edward and Otto’s children in March. Edward gave land to his children, Ernest, Dora, and Minnie for \$1.00 each and Otto gave land to daughters Margaret and Helene.
- 2015 Carolyn Roethe Krueger (daughter of Ernest) is only remaining relative on this land

ROETHE'S

WILLAMETTE RIVER FRONT LOTS PLAT NO. 2

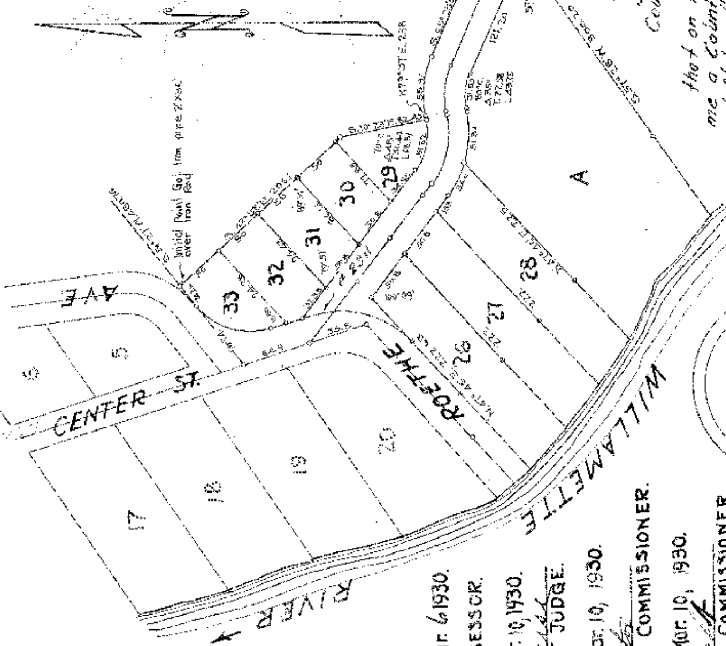
Situate in the B.B. Rogers D.L.C. Sec. 13 T2S.R1E.W.M.

Scale 1 inch = 80 feet
IRON PIPES INDICATED THIS

APPROVED MAR. 4th 1930.

J. O. Madson
COUNTY SURVEYOR.

APPROVED MAR. 5th 1930.
J. P. [Signature]
CITY ENGINEER, OREGON CITY.



APPROVED MAR. 6th 1930.
[Signature]
ASSESSOR.

APPROVED MAR. 10 1930.
[Signature]
COUNTY JUDGE.

APPROVED MAR. 10, 1930.
[Signature]
COMMISSIONER.

APPROVED MAR. 10, 1930.
[Signature]
COMMISSIONER.

ATTEST: *[Signature]*
COUNTY CLERK.

BY _____ DEPUTY.

CERTIFICATE

State of Oregon }
County of Clatsop } 55

I, J. O. Madson, being first duly sworn, depose and say that I have carefully surveyed and marked with lawful monuments the line represented on the attached map or plat of Roethe's Willamette River Front Lots Plat No. 2, Situate in the Block, E. Rogers D.L.C. T2S.R1E.W.M. bounded and described as to flows to wit: Beginning at an iron bolt driven 5 feet below the surface of the ground and in the SE. corner of Lot 1, Roethe's Willamette River Front Lots at this same is duly recorded in Book 8 of page 302 of four plats of Clatsop County, which plat is 3, 5, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 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981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

J. O. Madson
Registered Professional Eng. No. 8385
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of March A.D. 1930.
Donald J. Ryan
County Clerk of Clatsop County Ore

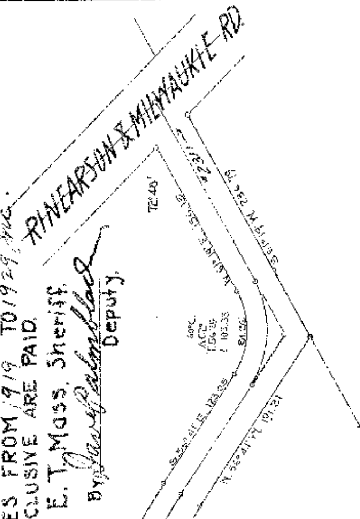
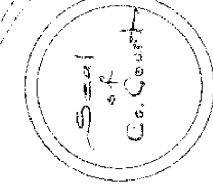
DEDICATION

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that we E.E. Roethe and Mary Roethe, husband and wife, do hereby make, publish and declare the within map to be the true and correct plat, map and plan of the above described land, to be used for public purposes, and we do hereby dedicate to the use of the public, in WITNESS WHEREOF we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 4th day of March 1930.

Witnesses
[Signature]
[Signature]

E. T. Moss Sheriff
By *[Signature]* Deputy

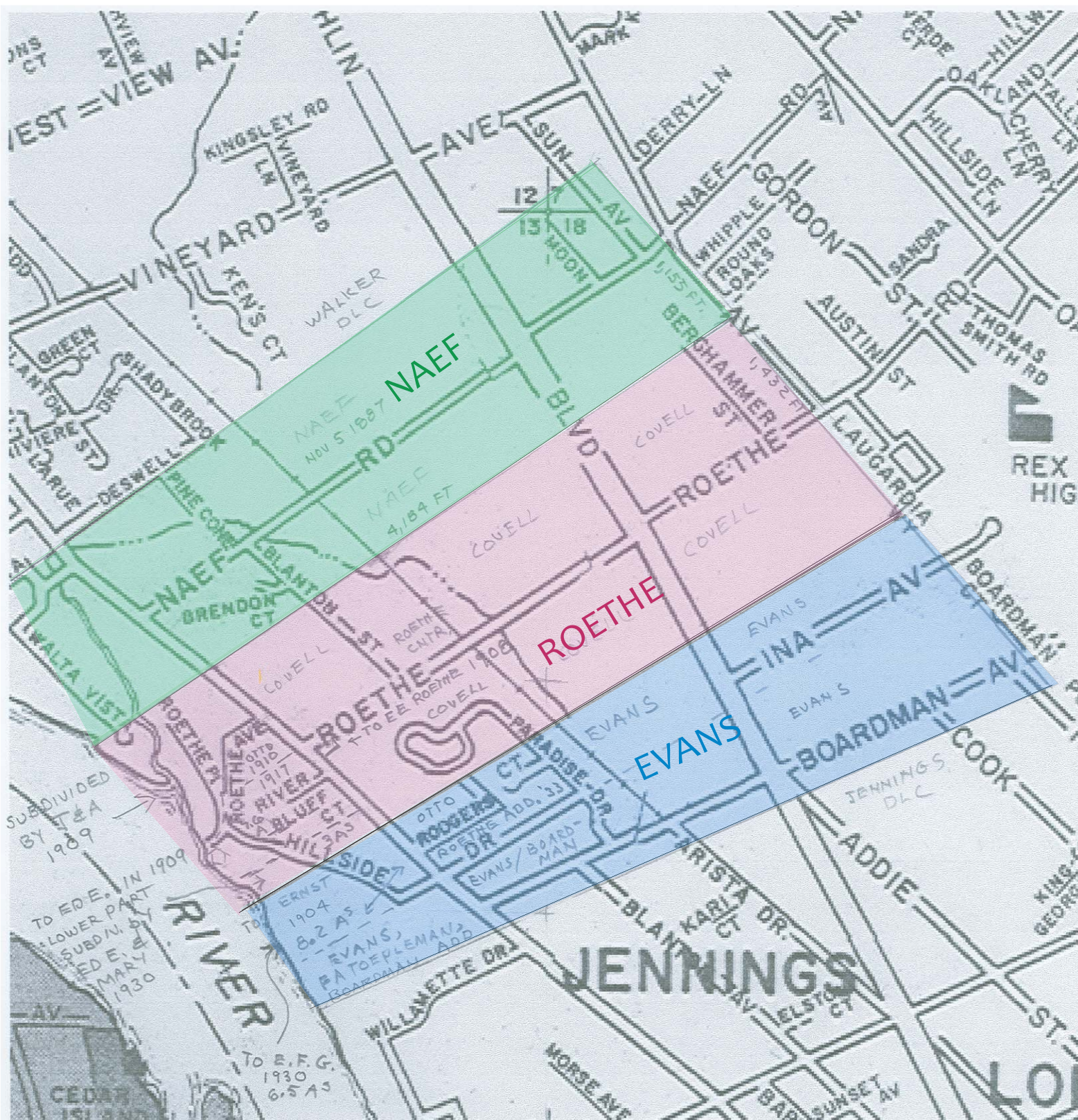
State of Oregon } 53
County of Clatsop }
I, J. O. Madson, being first duly sworn, depose and say that on this 4th day of March 1930, before me a County Clerk, in and for said County and State, personally appeared the within named E.E. Roethe and Mary Roethe, husband and wife, who are well known to me to be the identical person described in and who executed the within instrument and who acknowledged to me that they executed the same freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes herein mentioned.



ALL TAXES FROM 1919 TO 1929, INC. BOTH INCLUSIVE ARE PAID.

Early Subdivisions of the Benoni B. Rogers DLC in Clackamas County, Oregon

MAP ONE



The Ernest F. G. Roethe Property in Jennings Lodge, Oregon

Located at the south end of Roethe's Willamette River Lots Plat No. 2, 1930

*Compiled by Lisa Bentley, Research Provided by
Members of Jennings Lodge Subcommittee, Oak Lodge History Detectives,
and by John and Linda Roethe*

The Roethe Family

John Gottlieb Roethe was born into a family of Prussian farmers in 1842. He immigrated to the United States in 1869, and then he spent some time in Iowa managing and owning farms. Eventually he came to Oregon where John and his third wife Alwiene bought the middle third of the Benoni Rogers Donation Land Claim. [See attached map of the Rogers DLC.] John G's property lay between Naef and Roethe Roads and the Willamette River and Harold Avenue.

In 1900 John G purchased a second piece of land, 8.23 acres, directly adjacent on the south side to his farm. In April 1904, John and Alwiene (a.k.a. Alvina) deeded those 8.23 acre parcel to their son **Ernest Edward Roethe** (a.k.a. Edward Ernest Roethe). John and Alwiene Roethe moved to Lodi, California, in 1914.

On March 14, 1930, Ernest Edward Roethe deeded the southeasterly 6.5 acres of the 8.23 acres to his son **Ernest Ferdinand Gottlieb Roethe**. On September 12, 1931, Ernest Edward Roethe deeded a one half interest in the remainder (1.73 acres) of the 8.5 acres to his wife Mary (Maria Caroline) Roethe.

When Ernest F. G. married Gretchen Ida Amelia (Wagenknect) Roethe in 1933, he built his own family home on Lot 3901. ¹There they raised their children, Edward Albin, Carolyn Mary, and John Paul Roethe. The remainder of the land was used as pasture and for gardening.

For water, Ernest used a spring-fed pump located on Plat A, Lot 2600 (as shown on the 1997 family drawing of proposed lots on page three) for his household and for farming. It was still in use when the final piece of land was sold in 1977. John and Linda Roethe said in February of 2015. "The pump house at the north boundary of Ernest Roethe's property supplied water year-round for the Roethe's for at least 90-100 years."²

Warren Fleming recalled to Lisa Bentley in October 2014, "Mr. Roethe (Ernest F. G.) used to plow his garden with a horse, and this was about 1953. When I was in grade school I skipped school and camped there for two days reading *The Last of the Mohicans*."³

In the year prior to his death, Ernest F. G. sold a small parcel of land (likely the one with Willamette River waterfront, Lot 4100, to someone (the last name may have been Smith), who built a small house on the property near the Willamette river. That house fell into disrepair. When Ernest

¹ Located at 3714 SE Hillside Drive; lot was .22 acres.

² From John and Linda Roethe's email sent to Lisa Bentley on February 3, 2015.

³ From a transcript of "Driving Tour of Jennings Lodge Area around the ERC" with Warren Fleming and Lisa Bentley, September 2014.

Ferdinand G. Roethe died in 1968, leaving the remainder of the property to his widow Gretchen Roethe. Gretchen divided and sold the family home lot separately from the rest of the acreage in 1974. Gretchen then sold all the remaining land to Jack Livingston of Livingston Dodge Auto Sales Company in 1977.” Gretchen Roethe died in 1990.

After studying Roethe family papers loaned to him, Michael Schmeer wrote “It appears that prior to 1960, E. F. G. Roethe and his wife Gretchen [may have] considered dividing the 6.5 acres into five or six parcels, but it was never officially platted.”⁴

Michael Schmeer of Oak Lodge History Detectives explained in November of 2014, “. . . although the subdivision proposed in November 2014 was not a part of the *original* John G. Roethe farm, [the land] was added a few years later to the farm.”⁵

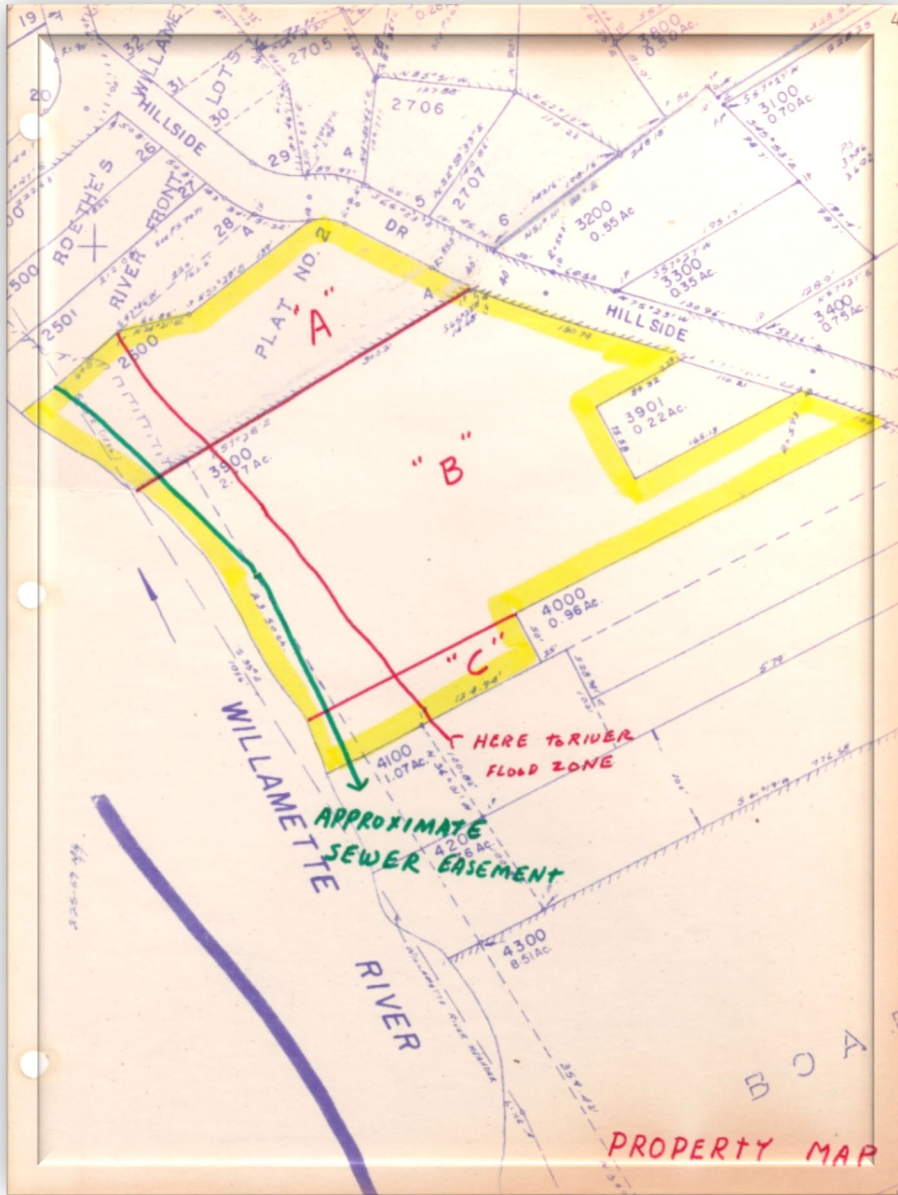
John Gottlieb Roethe farmed his land, and the produce was sent to market from Roethe’s landing which was located between 17707 Roethe Road and 3510 SE Hillside Drive on the Willamette River. There is public access to the Willamette River at this location today. His own home was torn down many years ago but his son Otto built the stately home located on the hill above the Willamette River at 3550 SE Roethe Place in 1908.

Today only one Roethe descendant still lives on a piece of John Gottlieb Roethe’s original farm.

N. B. There was also a third land purchase in Jennings Lodge made by the elder Roethes, John G and Alwiene on the east side of River Road.

⁴ See the attached, detailed account of Roethe property land holdings provided to Lisa Bentley by Michael Schmeer, Chair, Oak Lodge History Detectives, via email on November 12, 2014.

⁵ Ibid.



Map from Roethe family papers showing unrealized plans to plat the 8.23 acre parcel. Land was sold to Jack Livingston in 1977. See photos on next pages.⁶

⁶ Map loaned by John and Linda Roethe to Michael Schmeer for scanning.

Family photographs of Ernest Ferdinand and Gretchen Roethe's property taken in March 1977.⁷

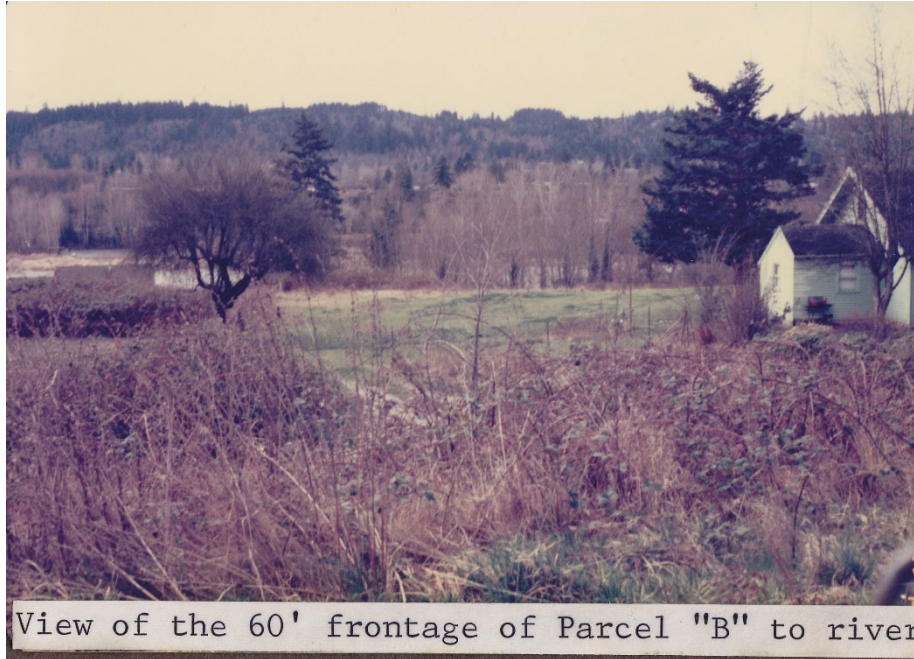


View of lower part of Parcels A-B&C from Parcel A



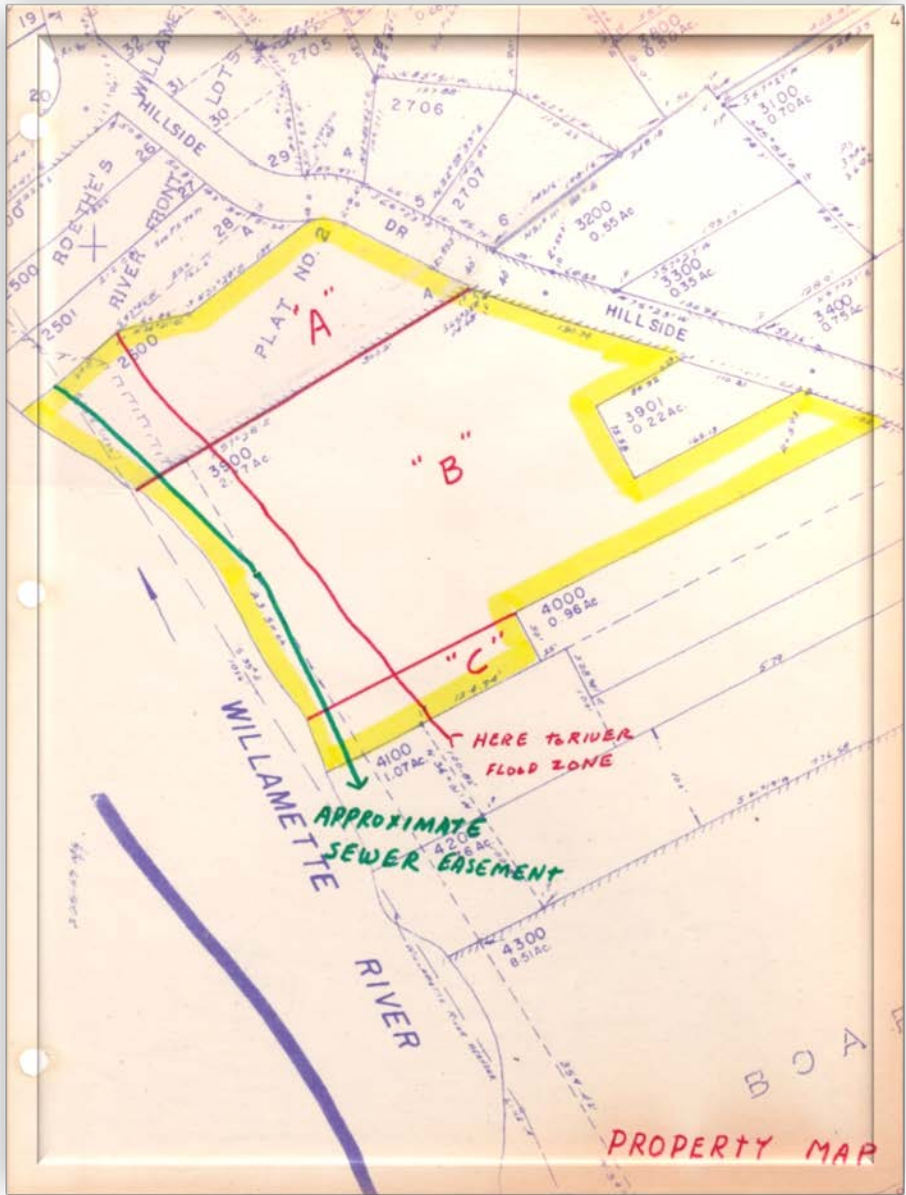
Main part of Parcel "B".

⁷ Photographs loaned to Michael Schmeer for scanning by John and Linda Roethe.



Attachments

- Abbreviated Roethe Family Tree
- Statement from Michael Schmeer on the Evolution of the Roethe Properties
- 2015 Clackamas County Tax Assessor's Map



Map from Roethe family papers showing unrealized plans to plat the 8.23 acre parcel. Land was sold to Jack Livingston in 1977. See photos on next pages.⁵

⁵ Map loaned by John and Linda Roethe to Michael Schmeer for scanning.

Family photographs of Ernest Ferdinand and Gretchen Roethe's property taken in March 1977.⁶

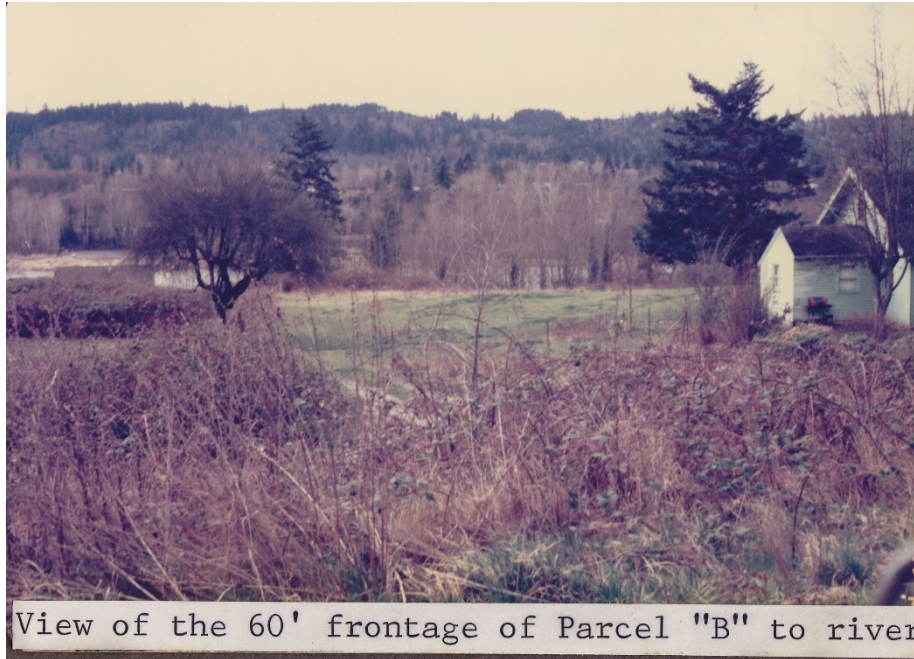


View of lower part of Parcels A-B&C from Parcel A



Main part of Parcel "B".

⁶ Photographs loaned to Michael Schmeer for scanning by John and Linda Roethe.



Attachments

- Abbreviated Roethe Family Tree
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Descendants of John Gottlieb Roethe

- 1 **John Gottlieb Roethe** 1842 - 1921 b: 25 January 1842 in Prussia d: 04 May 1921
.. +Wilhelmina Kirchhof 1843 - 1876 b: 09 January 1843 in Prussia m: 23 April 1870 in
Webster Co., Iowa d: 20 February 1876 in Iowa
..... 2 *Edward Ernest Roethe* 1870 - 1951 b: 31 December 1870 in Dakota Twp., Iowa d: 05
September 1951 in Clackamas Co., OR
..... +Maria Caroline Waltemathe 1878 - 1954 b: 26 March 1878 in Gage City, Nebraska
m: 20 June 1899 in Clackamas Co., OR d: 14 August 1954 in Jennings Lodge,
Clackamas Co., OR
..... 3 Dora Mary Roethe 1900 - 1984 b: 16 December 1900 in Jennings Lodge,
Clackamas Co., OR d: 28 February 1984 in Clackamas Co., OR
..... 3 **Ernest Ferdinand Roethe** 1906 - 1968 b: 03 August 1906 in Jennings Lodge,
Clackamas Co., OR d: 05 May 1968 in Portland, Multnomah Co., OR
..... +**Gretchen Ida Wagenknecht** 1911 - 1990 b: 03 May 1911 in Oregon City,
OR m: 28 May 1933 in Portland, Multnomah Co., OR d: 20 September 1990 in
Oregon City, Clackamas Co., OR

Research by Michael Schmeer, Oak Lodge History Detectives, 2010.

Succession of Ownership of the Gretchen Roethe Property on Hillside Drive
Researched and written by Michael Schmeer, Oak Lodge History Detectives

November 22, 2014

When researching the Benoni B. Rogers DLC, I divided it into three basic parts: the northernmost piece eventually becoming the Naef farm, the middle piece becoming the Roethe farm, and I identified the most southerly 100 acres as the **John Evans** piece.

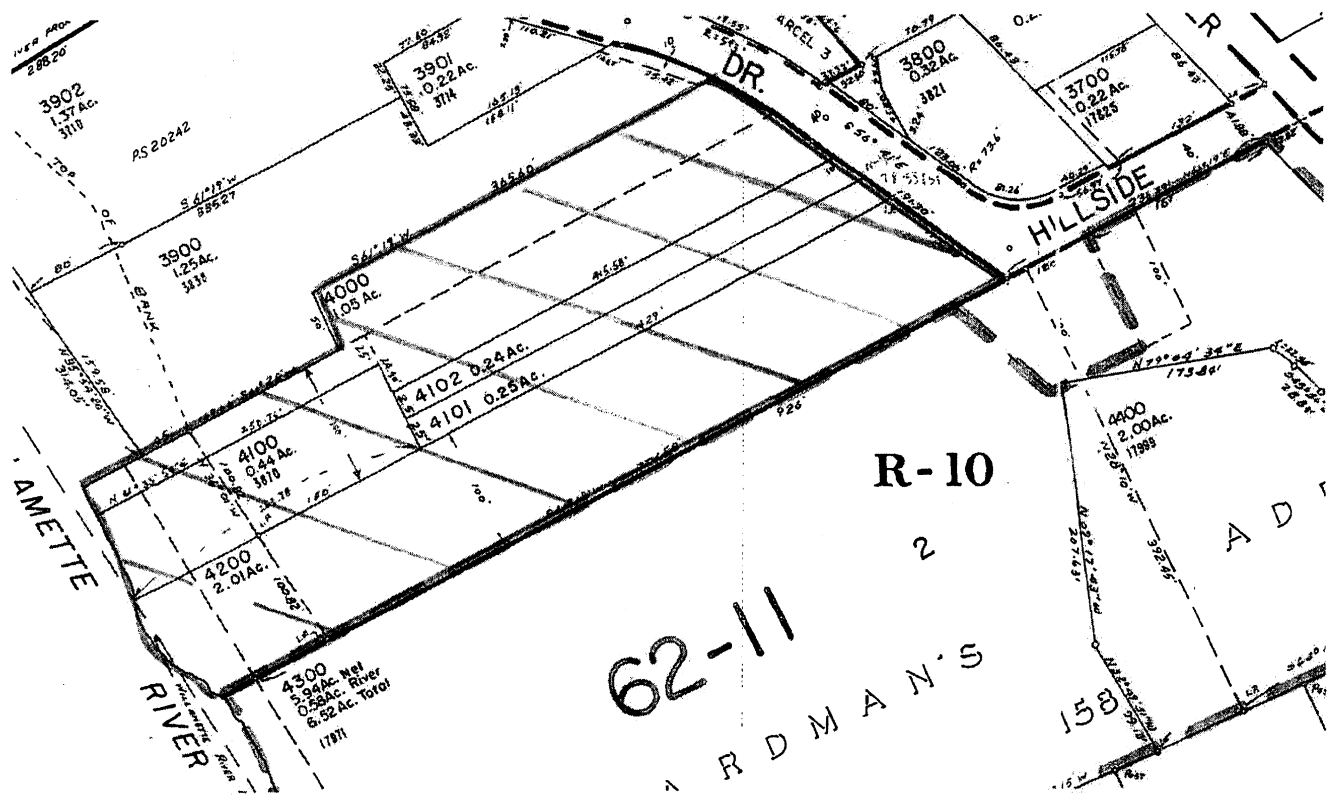
Immediately after Rogers' DLC became certified he sold the most southerly 100 acres to John Evans, the U.S. Geologist sent west with the first government surveyors about 1851. Evans purchased that 100 acres partially with a loan from Abbot Eudy, of Oregon City. Unfortunately for Evans he did not stick around long, as he returned to Washington D.C. soon after and never made the payments on his loan. Eudy took him to court and won, and the Sheriff was ordered to sell the 100 acres. Oddly enough (or not so oddly) Eudy was the only bidder, and he promptly began selling off the land to convert it into cash.

Eventually the more northerly half of the original John Evans 100 acres (from the Willamette River east to the McNary DLC) became owned by a Henry Naas (Naas shows up in many old documents of that area), and became part of Henry Naas' estate after he died in 1889, with Charles Risley being the trustee.

On **June 9, 1900** John G. Roethe bought the 8.23 acres of Naas's between River Rd. and the Willamette River. This makes perfect sense in that the acreage was directly adjacent to that portion of Roethe's farm between River Rd. and the Willamette River - to its south. In 1903 Otto P. Roethe also purchased a piece of the Naas estate on the east side of River Rd. where "Rogers Ave." is today. The Hillside Drive subdivision in question is on the 8.23 acre piece John G. Roethe bought in 1900. On April 30, 1904 John G. and Alwiene Roethe (a.k.a. Alvina) deeded those 8.23 acres to their son **Ernest Edward Roethe** (a.k.a. Edward Ernest Roethe). [*John G. and Alwiene Roethe moved to California sometime between 1910 and 1920*]. On March 14, 1930 Ernest Edward Roethe deeded the southeasterly 6.5 acres of the 8.23 acres (containing the said subdivision in question) to his son **Ernest F.G. Roethe** (Ernest Ferdinand). On Sept. 12, 1931 Ernest Edward Roethe deeded a one half interest of the remainder of the 8.23 acres to his wife Mary Roethe (Maria Caroline). E.F.G. Roethe died in 1968 and his widow, **Gretchen Roethe**, died in 1990.

From family papers loaned to me by John and Linda Roethe, it appears that prior to 1960 the E.F.G. and Gretchen Roethe 6.5 acres was divided into five or six separate lots. In 1969 E.F.G. Roethe's widow, Gretchen Roethe, broke off the more northwesterly portion of their 6.5 acres. I do not have the maps or deeds to determine subsequent owners or the timing of their transactions.

Thus, although the current proposed subdivision was not a part of the original John G. Roethe farm, it did was added a few years later and was subsequently passed on to first his son Ernest Edward/Edward Ernest Roethe, who in turned passed it along to his son Ernest F.G. Roethe, and thence to Ernest F.G. Roethe's widow Gretchen Roethe.



Property proposed for Development in November 2014