

ITTAI MEET: Solfrid and Ray (and Oakley)

## Solfrid & Ray (and Oakley)

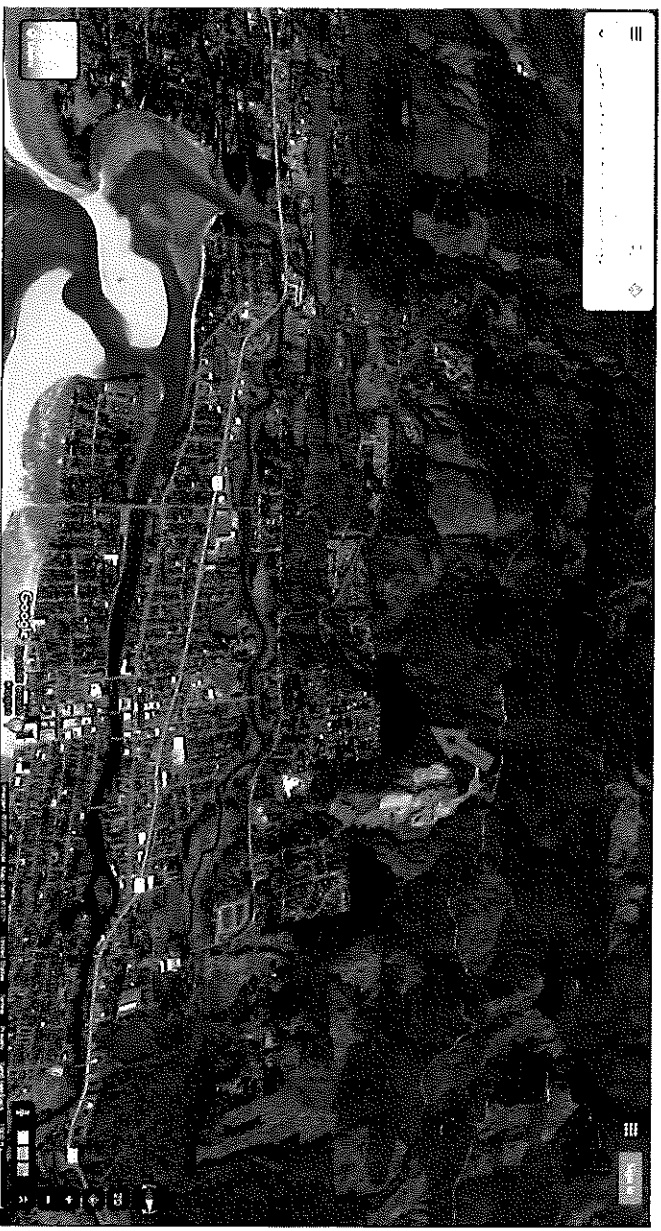
Solfrid & Ray moved to this neighborhood 20 years ago to enjoy the peace and quiet, the single-story house, and the forestlands in their backyard. Solfrid says the forestlands remind her of growing up in Norway. "There was nobody around us." Their house is full of memories from their travels, photographs of their extended family, and their calico cat Oakley with striking blue eyes.



Solfrid is originally from Norway and beams about her rosemaling and her photography. They are both excellent. She's in her 80s but you'd never know it. She is vigorous. Ray is a Navy veteran who worked as a medical technician in locations all over the world. After his service, he went to culinary school; Solfrid says "He is an amazing cook." He is a proud American and enjoys watching Oregon football. They both have a lot to say about the potential development, and they are both worth listening to.

Their biggest concern is about erosion. In addition to their home, the four immediate neighbors have all had major foundation work to address water intrusions. Ray wonders "if the building codes didn't work for the houses in our neighborhood, what will happen in the canyon?" Recently, there has been some earth movement. A tree fell on their land after a big rain in the early spring, and more of their reasonably flat backyard is washing away.

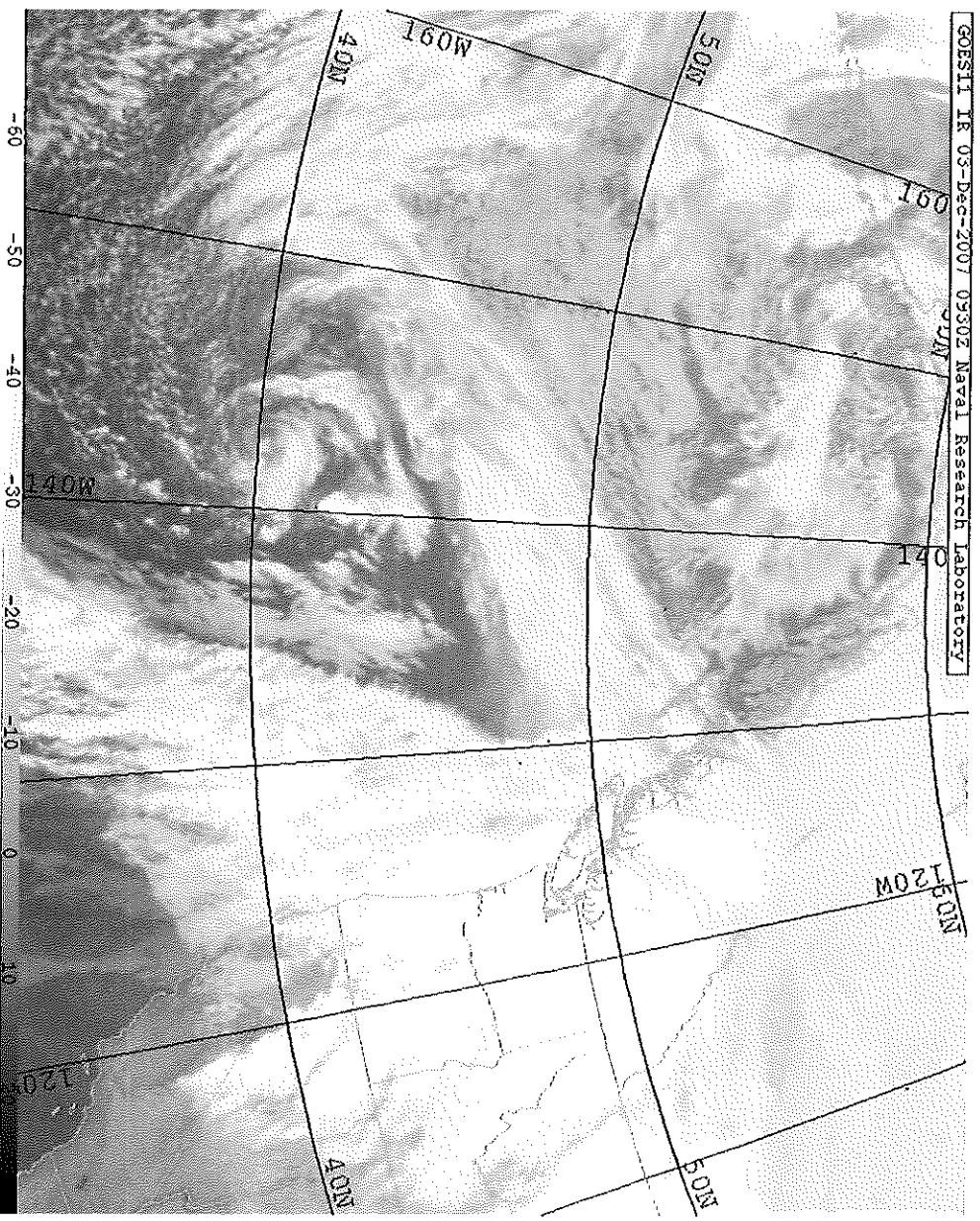
Solfrid adds "These days there are a lot less animals in the area." She's right. The forests above the community have already been logged and the wildlife has moved or died off. Clearcutting this parcel would take away maybe the last animal corridors down to wetlands on the Seaside coast.



They are not happy about the potential for a large development. They worry about the impact of the project on the community, the forest, their home, and their lives. They worry about the folks who might be sold new houses in a new housing community that would be fated for trouble.

Ray speaks of the Great Coastal Gale of 2007 in which 8 people lost their lives. The storm brought 20 inches of rain in just 3 days, followed by hurricane force winds which tore through the community causing losses in the billions. He cautions "you don't know how isolated this community is until all services are cut off. No water, power, or phone service for days." He can't imagine how any house in the canyon would survive intact as they would bear the full brunt of the runoffs and mudflows. "The trees provide windbreak and root structure protections, that would be gone."

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Coastal\\_Gale\\_of\\_2007](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Coastal_Gale_of_2007)



Solfid wonders if the heavy truck traffic will cause another foundation problem. Their paradise and all the memories in it are now directly in the path of proposed development like the great storm. The entrance street just outside the kitchen window would carry thousands of construction vehicles, logging trucks, and heavy equipment in and out of the canyon for years to come. They both think their world might be lost to the constant vibrations and noise of a major construction project. Lost like tears in the Oregon rains.