



19005 Coast Highway One, Jenner, CA 95450 ■ 707.847.3437 ■ info@fortross.org ■ www.fortross.org

Title: Fort Ross Interpretive Association / Fort Ross Conservancy Newsletter

Author(s): Fort Ross Interpretive Association / Fort Ross Conservancy

Published by: Fort Ross Conservancy Library

URL: www.fortross.org

Fort Ross and Salt Point parks have benefited greatly from many dedicated volunteers and staff who have given generously to these parks. Board of directors from FRIA and FRC have fundraised, organized events, overseen volunteers, spearheaded interpretation and restoration projects, and offered substantial support to California State Parks across many decades.

These digitized newsletters capture the activities over the following historic periods:

- Fort Ross Interpretive Association (FRIA): 1976 - 2012
- Fort Ross Conservancy (FRC is the same legal entity as FRIA but the organization changed its name): 2012 - present

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Fort Ross Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) and California State Park cooperating association, connects people to the history and beauty of Fort Ross and Salt Point State Parks. © Fort Ross Conservancy, 19005 Coast Highway One, Jenner, CA 95450, [707-847-3437](tel:707-847-3437) www.fortross.org

Fort Ross NEWSLETTER and BALLOT - November 12, 1979
of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association

Momentum is building - buildings are building - and every week at Fort Ross sees either the Officials Barracks or the Kuskov House taking more form. The long pause, while Sacramento worked, is over. Now those of us on the front lines are excited about the potential. At the last board meeting \$1,000 dollars was approved for "opportunity" buying to start supplying the extensive Want Lists Mike Tucker has provided. At the August meeting he showed us what rooms there would be and what items were needed to make them represent the years of Russian residence. Lloyd Geissinger offered to be chairman of the furnishings for the jail, Bud Lucky of the office, and Eva Crittenden of the kitchen-pantry. Her committee is Helen Platt, Sue Wright, Lida Schneider and Nora Barr. At staff suggestion Helen journeyed to San Francisco to see a fine copper Russian Samovar and purchased it. The purchase was approved by Glenn Burch, Lloyd Geissinger and Bud Lucky. A shocking \$404 dollars leads us to hope the others we need (the Want Lists ask for several) may come as gifts or at least for less. But we jumped in feet first and now we know we're committed to that kitchen and pantry project. This is where we hope school children and visitors can live the experience of the time as it was in 1835! Do you wonder we're excited? The other rooms are still orphans and need volunteers to form committees who will go to work. The time for action is here at last!

George Musser is substituting for Treasurer, Mose Hallett while Mose and Jackie visit Alaska; Sitka in particular. George was surprised to find himself, in less than a month, banking over \$900.00 from the Book and Gift Shop. Each day sees a small take but it mounts up. Volunteers are covering every day but Tuesday. Any one for Tuesday?

Special Invitation to F.R.I.A. members from Susan Silverak of Sonoma Historical Society, Banquet, January 27, Rohnert Park Community Center, Russian Theme, Steve Watrous, Speaker. We may sell our publications.

American Ranch Day was a masterly production. From horse show to cider making, music to raffle drawing, sheep shearing to tall tales of the past, there was never a dull moment.

Next Meeting: Dec. 14 - 7 p.m., Community Recreation Center, 413 Steele Lane, Santa Rosa. Bring a friend who knows how to fire up a Samovar! We could call it Samovar Session. For program, hopefully, we will have slides from Sitka.

Ida Hanson Davis who has written her memoirs for the the Fort Ross Interpretive Association has joined "the Long Sleep" to use her own phrase. Her time at Fort Ross was a happy time of the late 19th century - picnics, fishing and little school house days.

Speaking of her makes me realize how much I miss Jim McNamee and Bick O'Brien, too. We've had many very active friends in this organization, haven't we? Still do!

Rosalie Prosser is working hard on the Call House gardens. Look in when you go by. She has made good plans.

The Russian orchard has had some effective attention also! Every tree has been numbered, catalogued and researched. There is a report that makes good reading at the Fort.

The public interest in the Indian culture is effectively demonstrated in the sale of the fine small baskets we have had at the sales counter. There is only one left and we hope those working at transplanting sedges at Warm Spring Dam good luck. If the sources of supply for materials dry up, so too will the basket craft disappear. Has anyone researched what materials exist on state property at Fort Ross!?

See you 7³⁰ p.m. - Dec. 14 - Community Recreation Center - 415 Steele Lane, Santa Rosa

Happy Thanksgiving,

Eve and Abe Crittenden - Betty and George Musser