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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](http://www.fortross.org)

FORT ROSS NEWSLETTER - April 1, 1980  
of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association

Annual Meeting - 7:30 p.m. - April 25th - El Rancho Tropicana, Green Hungarian Room  
2200 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa

Remember all meetings are open and members are urged to attend.

December 14, 1979 - Your new Chairman is Vladimir Schenk, Vice-Chairman, Bud Luckey; Recording Secretary, Mercedes Stafford and Corresponding Secretary, Florrie Milligan.

Fifty ballots were mailed in - electing Genny Marrufo and Walt Schenk to the board. All three cultures are represented on your board as the "Flow of History" concept at Fort Ross mandates.

Moved, seconded and carried, Resolved: that the treasurer be directed to set aside \$10,000 and be authorized to disburse these funds as directed by the Executive Secretary, or his designated alternate, for artifacts, contracts with artisans for reproductions, or raw materials to be made into display items to be used in furnishing the Officials' Barracks and Kuskov House now being reconstructed at Fort Ross State Historic Park. These funds are now in addition to the \$1,000 already designated for opportunity purchase.

NOTE: This money was earned by Fort Ross Interpretive Association sales counter and special events.

Volunteers are now needed for the Book and Gift Shop. Speak up if you could work one day a week. or even a month!

Did you ever go shopping by committee? We did - ten men and women met in San Francisco at the huge Gift Show and then Cost Plus. We surveyed every sample of brass, copper, basket and wood! Then we voted! Honest - it was great fun and the booty included copper basins, tinned copper plates, pots, baskets, wooden boxes, glass bottles - many, many things to be checked off the Officials' Barracks Want List. We'll show these all at the April 25th meeting. There we'll also show you the items bought by catalogue and made to order by local craftsmen. A handsome copper tea kettle and two cooking kettles have been donated by Nora Barr.

Barbara Black's Ranch Committee is Carol Fowler, Alice McKenzie, Jeannette Rosson, Robert DeVee, William Penn Mott, Jr. and Renee Felciano. They met March 15th and sorted out areas of interest - garden, furnishings and writing. They will be drawing up a Want List soon!

Take a Fort Ross Tour! One lovely spring day drive up the coast and see for yourself what's new.

1. The north wall of the Officials' Barracks is a good exhibit of fitting together a jig saw puzzle. They're framing windows now.
2. As you enter the Commandant's House (Rochev) you will see the handsome big copper samovar that will go in the Officials' Barracks when it is completed.
3. The three very special Indian baskets we bought for exhibit are there. One is the canoe shape with 28 quail feathers, made by Laura Somersall, as is one of her finest thimble baskets made forty years ago. The third basket has the ant hill pattern, made by Myrtle McKey Hurtado, basket maker niece of two of the best, Laura and Myrtle McKay. Other baskets are at the counter for sale.
4. Your tour takes you out of the stockade, north of the eucalyptus trees where there is an incredible revival of Princess Helena's Rose Garden, we honestly believe! Rosalie Prosser discovered the relics and is nursing them back to health. Inside the sheltering picket fence to keep them company are two fine roses from "Roses of Yesterday and Today." The Musk Rose and Damascus were donated by Alice McKenzie specifically for Princess Helen's rose garden. She and John also brought back seed from the Sitka rose in Alaska. Rosalie has had them refrigerated and now is planting them. With her green thumb they just might grow! We'll keep you informed.

5. Your spring tour is not through with roses. In the east garden of the Ranch House ten more new old roses, bought with your Fort Ross Interpretive Association dollars, are in the renovated plot.

Rosalie would like to make Mondays volunteer day. If you'd like to help please call her at (707) 847-3286 or write to Fort Ross.

To husband these precious dollars we're earning and spending we need a new treasurer. Any suggestions? Moses Hallett deserves relief, release, or whatever. He resigned but keeps right on working. Thank<sup>s</sup>, Mose.

January 27th - A lucky group attended ~~and~~ <sup>the</sup> Annual Meeting of the Sonoma County Historical Society held in Rohnert Park, because Fort Ross was the theme, as it was in the Historical Society Journal's quarterly issue. Stephen Watrous, of Sonoma State University, a professor of history, with special emphasis on Russian history, was the principal speaker. Subject was the adventures of the Russians who were based at Fort Ross. They, ~~inland~~, the first white men to view Clear Lake, they followed the Russian River beyond Healdsburg, some even ventured into the Sacramento Valley and to the Sierra foothills.

Glen Burch of the Parks District Office told of the new program to bring education and the parks together, bringing the school children into the parks to experience history first hand. The week-ends at Fort Ross are very successful.

There was also a photographic display of old pictures from the Fort Ross area prepared by Don Silverck. Good meeting!

Wow - a tribute from our area manager, Lloyd B. Geissinger! "Appreciation, excitement and optimism best describe my feelings about the Fort Ross Interpretive Association. Special appreciation is for the fine leadership of past Chairperson Florrie Milligan. These past two years Florrie charted a course for expenditures of monies and energies which will serve the Association objectives well into the future . . . . ."

This sense of purpose is exemplified by the aggressive activities of the various subcommittees pursuing the furnishing plans of the Officials' Barracks and Kuskov House. The enthusiasm and unselfish giving of time by those involved members, stimulates contagious excitement.

The resulting momentum is increasing membership involvement and enthusiastic spin-offs into projects such as Ranch House furnishing plans and garden restorations. I am optimistic that such momentum will serve to make the Association increasingly cohesive and energetic in the years to come. These years promise to be monetarily lean for park operations; thereby, the Association's effort will become even more significant."

It's due time. Do, do something if your dues are due. Every penny counts but even more, we need the support your membership represents.

family - \$5.00    individual - \$3.00    Dues are paid \_\_\_\_\_    not paid X  
checks payable to Fort Ross Interpretive Association, Inc.  
MAIL TO: Betty Musser, 9532 Clint Court, Cazadero, Ca. 95421

Thanks to those who sent us items for the NEWSLETTER! It helps a lot.

Remember - Take the spring tour!

from NEWSLETTER Editors - The Crittendens and the Mussers