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Title: Fort Ross Interpretive Association / Fort Ross Conservancy Newsletter

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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 Interpretive Association

Spring Newsletter - 1984

Whales! Mothers and calves are springing north. They feed for
whale watching, picnicking and sunbathing. But - as of the 15th of March - spotted
and scallops are plentiful. This is unusual for March. The weather is
poisoning is no joke. There is no food to fill it off. The whales are
so just go fishing. (I suppose most of you know you never go fishing in a State
Park) and as for our marine population, we watched a helicopter coming over
the cove yesterday. Looking a ways from us, we watched a helicopter. It
was a shark watch! A 20 foot white shark was off shore. The pilot
they're keeping watch - skin divers check out with the shark. It was the latest
bulletin.

It was a very busy sunny Sunday on the coast. We saw one of our visiting sales contacts
to chat with visitors and take in the dollars for F.R.I.A. Please anyone who can
days at the book and Gift Council call the new chairman's office 649-2496.

New Officers are - Chairman - Alexander Hanson

- Vice Chairman - Richard Anderson
- Treasurer - Jackie Rankin
- Corresponding Sec'y - Patricia Crawford
- Secretary - Bob Anderson

Message from our Chairman for 1984

'84 fabulous year for Fort Ross! Lots of excitement! Pralison of years of effort. The
year to participate 1982 when your Fort Ross Interpretive Association is all of the
activities. First thing next. There is a jump change of our membership. It will
be held in high spring - no fellow jackets - June 1. Visitors must will cheer the
occasion again.

We will get insight into the old Russian Guard watch has been conducted. Visitors
will give us some history of the surrounding Fort Ross Island. There is much. There
will be dinner and other sold by volunteers to supplement your own picnic. There
go to the American and Russian projects of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association.

I won't elaborate about following events but hope by notifying you now, you will mark
the dates if you can and make every effort to enjoy and support them. Let's make this
an historic year for F.R.I.A. - our year and visitors office 649-2496.

Russian Day

Wednesday, March 1st

July 4 - Memorial Day - for the Russian Guard. There is a picnic
and the Russian Guard will be present. There is a picnic
and the Russian Guard will be present.

Living History Day - June 23 and Sept. 29 and 30

Indian Day - to be announced.

General Meeting - for the Fort Ross Interpretive Association - April 1. To be announced.

Living History Days have been held for two years at Fort Ross and by now have clearly defined objectives and procedures. It has progressed from our good old dress up day to a serious representation with lots of authentic costumes, activity, food and performances. Participants apply, take training and are accepted for participation. Visitors get a quality experience, players have a ball. Come every time, and soak up the atmosphere. They're special.

People in the news

Starikov, winter visitor from Russia attended the December meeting, and the play back has been marvelous. With Petrov, he is doing research in Leningrad on Voznesensky. There are actual artifacts he is seeking for us to exhibit in the ephemeral Fort Ross Visitors Center. Voznesensky, you remember, made the painting during Russian presence in the 1830's, that we sell prints of today. At the Hermitage Museum there is an authentic Russian American Fur Co. flag Starikov seeks to copy for Fort Ross. Good luck, new friend.

Joan Farris receives a certificate of credit for the years she's chaired the Book and Gift Shop. She may be moving on to other things as husband Joe moves up the road to bigger things. Bon voyage, you two - come back often.

Wally Akstainov hopes to travel too in this year of his retirement as Chairman of F.R.I.A. He's done a yeoman's job and here's hoping he'll still spend those days at the sales counter where he serves the visitors in his own inimitable style.

Progress Report

In 1976 Water Resources was allotted \$10,000 to build a replica of Fort Ross - and at the December meeting it was granted to the Fort Ross Interpretive Association.

Orchard - The cattle, deer and sheep proof (people, too?) fence surrounds the five acres. "Washington Birthday's Tree Plant" was a winner. Many people, many shovels, many trees had done the job by two-thirty, Saturday. The cuttings were done from the old trees, two years ago. Black Gilleflower, Baldwin, Gravenstein, and mystery pears were four to six feet tall. There are still a few left for sale at \$10.00 each. They should be planted NOW! Wouldn't you like to have the only Gilleflower apple on the block? Contact a staff member to get it from the barn for you. Dollars go to F.R.I.A.!

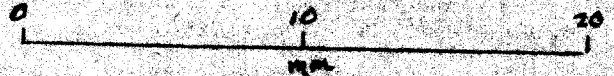
More Roots than on apple and pear trees

John Stafford, active in recording our events for years comes up with amazing connections to the past! James Ohio Pattie, in 1827, came up the coast of California giving small-pox vaccinations to Mission Indians and Californios. He came to Fort Ross where the Commander of the Colony, Shelitov, paid Pattie 100 rubles and a fine house for his services. One hundred and forty seven years later John Stafford found out this first public health officer in California is a direct ancestor of his. We find it fascinating and hope that he and John McKenzie will tell us more on Ranch Day. John M. told us all about the Pattie father son saga some years ago.

"Fathoming Fort Ross" is a fun play on words you can understand if you order a copy of Glenn Farris' article by that name. It is easy reading and a fascinating short length description of the problems of historical discovery of is a fathom a fathom, and how far is this wall really, from that wall? He will send a copy if you ask - Glenn Farris, State Archeologist I, Cultural Resources, Management Unit, D.P.R., 2572 Fort St., West Sacramento 95691 Tel (916) 322-1506

He also tells us they've discovered in new excavation in the Russian Orchard evidence of what may be the only brick structure of the Russian period.

This drawing of a bronze or copper disc was found during the Cabrillo College excavations of the Fur Warehouse in 1977. So far it is an enigma although it may have been a large decorative button. The reverse side has a negative impression of the design on the front and may have once have had a backing. If you know what it is - share your knowledge with us.



Yesterday, March 8, many, many whales were cavorting off the shore. This is their migration north. Make your spring visit now, sit among the iris, buy a tree, and spot a whale.

You could even see Cindy Hughes, wife of John Hughes, ranger, and tell her you'd like to get training and work at the sales counter.

It's a great year to join the action.

Flash! Ranch Day Raffle - send \$5.00 for 6 or \$1.00 for one, today, with the enclosed tickets. Put your name and phone number on the ball you return. There will be a brown tipped fleece, battery kitchen clock with a rooster picture, wall hanging, a Fort Ross apple tree and much more! Proceeds go to the Call House where the living room is getting a new floor. Money goes with dues, to Betty Musser.

Kaye Tomlin will speak at Ranch Day to add some historical and current park development notes. See you there - June 3 -

Memberships are due April 1st

\$3.00 for individual \$5.00 for family

Check payable to Fort Ross Interpretive Association, Inc.

Mail to: Betty Musser, 9532 Clint Court, Cazadero, Ca. 95421

Your dues are due

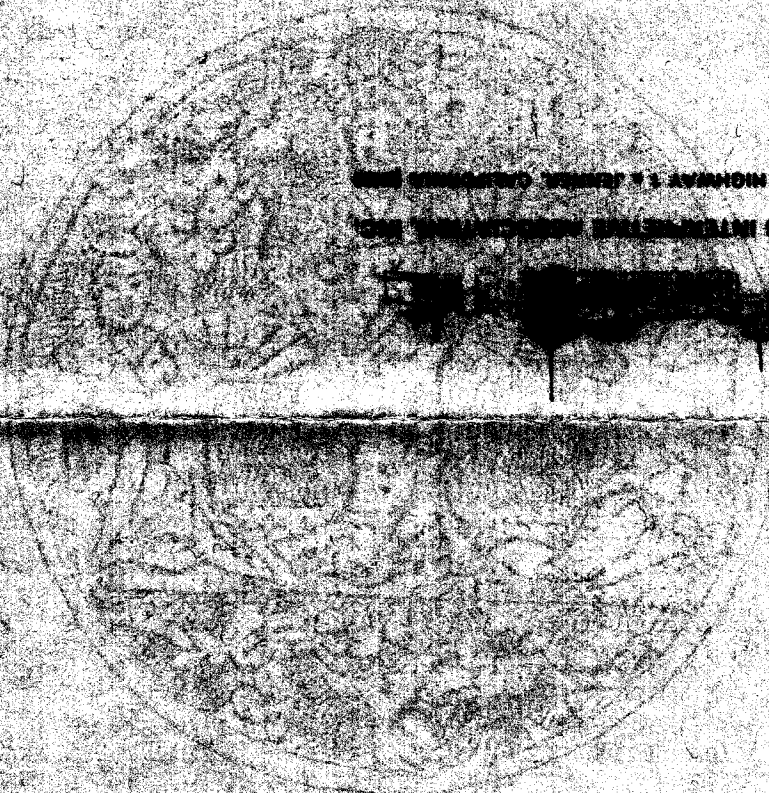
Your dues are paid

Eve and Abe Crittenden

Betty and George Musser

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