



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

Fort Ross Conservancy (FRC) asks that you acknowledge FRC as the source of the content; if you use material from FRC online, we request that you link directly to the URL provided. If you use the content offline, we ask that you credit the source as follows: "Courtesy of Fort Ross Conservancy, www.fortross.org."

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

Summer Newsletter - 1985

VISITORS CENTER DEDICATION

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 1985, 1:00 P.M.

PORT ROSS

June 22	---	Indian Day
July 4	---	Russian Services
August 10	---	Living History Day
September 14	---	Ranch Day

Above are five good reasons to include a visit to Fort Ross in your summer plans. After many long years of hard planning and construction, the Visitors Center is soon to be a reality. The building is nearly complete; moving in will begin around July 1. Interpretive displays are awaiting transport from Sacramento to Fort Ross. Book store personnel has discussed how to display its books, postcards, posters, etc., in the new space. The recently purchased copying machine is waiting for its final placement in the Center. It is a challenge for Park staff and volunteers to get it all together under one roof for the opening. The opening ceremonies will be signaled by the firing of a cannon followed by speeches from William Penn Mott who hopes to come from Washington, D.C., and speeches by representatives of government officials and faithful supporters. The Dedication Committee is planning to include music and dance performances in the celebration.

RUSSIAN SERVICES - July 4

Father Saraphin Gisetti of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Green Street, San Francisco, has confirmed that services are to be held at the Fort Chapel by the diocesan clergy on July 4, an annual tradition. A potluck picnic will follow.

INDIAN DAY - June 22

Native American dancing, foods, basket weaving and other crafts will be presented at this annual event, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Genny Marruff is the coordinator again this year and welcomes all to attend. The best of the Native American basket weavers will be there and it is always fascinating to see their work and hear about basket making from the collection of raw materials to the beautiful final product. A special basket will be raffled that day. Tickets available at Fort Ross, 6 for \$5.00 or \$1.00 each.

LIVING HISTORY DAY - August 10

You can return in time to 1836 and experience the re-enacted life of the era when the Russians were in residence. Russian militia will drill with muskets; old time crafts of carpentry and gunsmithing will be demonstrated; food preparation will be under way; Hudson Bay trappers will be there for trading; and perhaps the Mexican Presidial Company will arrive on a mission.

This year Living History Day is being organized from the regional office so the need for volunteers is greater than ever.

The last training day for volunteers is Saturday, June 29, at the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church,

95 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call for details: Bob Anderson, 707-847-3214, or Shirley Wray, 707-847-3286.

RANCH DAY - Sept. 14

This is a gathering open to all for a picnic, music, games and crafts reflecting an earlier American period. Plans are still in the making so call Fort Ross, 707-847-3286, for more details closer to the date.

NEW FACES

Alan DeRossi arrived May 1 as the new ranger and he is delighted to be back in his native northern California. He majored in Environmental Studies at Santa Barbara, followed by Park service at three Southern California locations. He has an interest in California History; one of his earlier posts had historical elements and he has completed Department training dealing with artifacts. With his good humor he will be a great asset to the Fort.

Joe Scott is new to Parks and to Ft. Ross. He brings with him a knowledge of history as that is one of the subjects he formerly taught in Marin County. When the Visitors Center opens, that is where he will be. Meanwhile, he is very busy at the Fort with a myriad of chores.

Trina Langley will be taking over as Coordinator for the Gift and Book Store on July 1. She moved to the Coast almost a year ago and has been active with the Ft. Ross School parents group, a natural for a mother of two. In the past, Trina has been the assistant manager of a retail store, so she has a good grounding in retail operations, a big asset for FRIA.

WELCOME TO ALL OF YOU!

Fort Ross to be on Evening Magazine

A Channel 5 TV crew with Rita Channon was recently at the Fort videotaping interior and exterior scenes for an Evening Magazine segment on the North Coast. John McKenzie was on hand to give historical background and Rita was delighted, as we all always are, with his stories and a song as well. Airing date is sometime in late July. Keep tuned.

Trees and Gardens

Four of the most popular varieties of trees from the old orchard are now available. They are Gravenstein (#22), an unidentified reddish apple (#3), a Fall pippin (#12) and a pear (#25). They are in five gallon containers ready for shipment from the Fort at \$7.00 each. Fifty-five new trees were propagated to replant the orchard. Those for sale are extras or from earlier propagations.

John Smith reported on the Russian Orchard at the June joint meeting with the Advisory Committee. Once again this spring, deer got into the orchard for some good meals, our trees. Apparently the high wet grass shorts out the solar electric fence. Mowing is the solution.

The Call Ranch Garden is getting needed help. The receipt of a \$250 anonymous gift for the Garden Fund in memory of Viva L. Towlin has led to hiring a professional landscape architect, Renee Feliciano of Santa Rosa. With the help of Mercedes Stafford, Cindy Winkler, Ed Redig and former garden worker Rowell Prosser, she is researching the garden design and plantings in order to create a master plan. The years 1915-1920 have been selected as representative dates.

The Garden of Scarecrows created by the ELP children lies near the northern trail to the Fort and may puzzle those people unfamiliar with the ELP program. There are a few squash plants and weeds among the

scarecrows behind the fence. As a different group of children arrives each week at the Fort for an overnight learning experience, this little garden gets only intermittent attention. Scarecrows are quick to make and fun to do. The results have a special charm.

From Bob Robles to our Volunteers:

At the May 14 District Superintendents Meeting held in Sacramento, many keynote speakers shared their knowledge and expertise with the field superintendents. The presentation made by Resource Secretary Gordon K. Van Vlack was inspiring and still echoes in my ears. I would like to share part of the Secretary's speech with our readers.

Cooperating, volunteer, decent, and natural history associations provide invaluable service to the state parks system and the people of California.

In 1983, 5,800 volunteers donated 100,000 hours to state parks. Today, just a little over one year later, the number of volunteers has doubled. Some may give only a few hours each month, while others volunteer several hours nearly every day. Last year, volunteers gave more than 300,000 hours to help visitors gain a better understanding of their state park system.

In addition to giving their time, these volunteers also raise money that directly benefits your parks. By selling interpretive and educational materials, they have raised dollars needed for their projects, and the list of their accomplishments is quite impressive.

Volunteers are definitely an asset to the state park system. Many of them are retired professionals, government employees and business people. They are more than willing to offer their services.

Take care of them and they will take care of you.

Although the Fort Ross Interpretive Association was not specifically mentioned in the examples, they are included in context of the message showing gratitude to all volunteers.

Thank you for your dedication.

Ed von der Porten, first FRIA Chairman

Congratulations on your new appointment to director of the museum on Treasure Island.

Betty Missett, who does a marvelous job as our membership chairman, reports our current membership at 190. She also would like to remind some long-term members that they have forgotten to send in their 1985 dues -- \$3 for an individual, \$5 for a family.

Princess Helena on the Move -

There are reports that the portrait of Princess Helena, presently stored with other paintings, keeps moving about. She has been found in different places by staff and volunteers in the attic storeroom. Is she ready to move? Or, as a ranger suggested, "she just doesn't like to be in the middle of the pack."

F. Willigan - Editor

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Tomlin
2259 Gobblehill Place
San Mateo, Ca. 94402

FORT HOOD RECREATION CENTER
1000 COAST HIGHWAY 1, JEROME, CALIFORNIA 94302

