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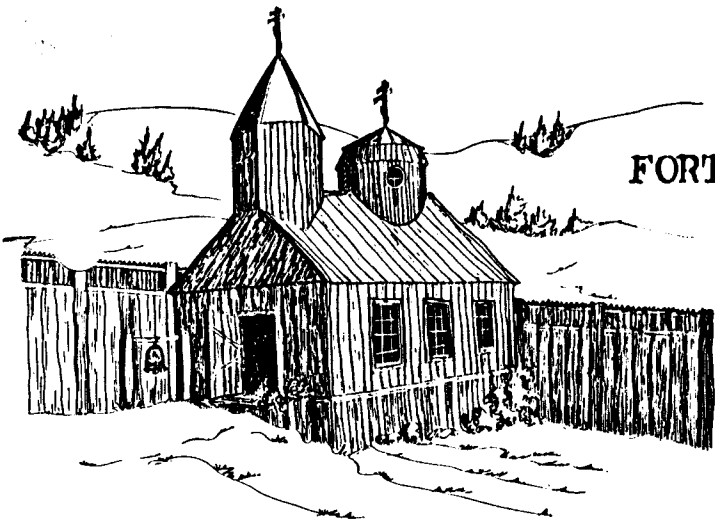
Fort Ross and Salt Point parks have benefited greatly from many dedicated volunteers and staff who have given generously to these parks. Board of directors from FRIA and FRC have fundraised, organized events, overseen volunteers, spearheaded interpretation and restoration projects, and offered substantial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



FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

1988

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM BLACK BART TURN

The FRIA Board meeting of August 13 deserves some attention. We are now starting to get together to work on corrections of the Fort Ross, Indians, Russians, Americans book. This, I want to emphasize, is not a new book, but corrections to the existing book. Since its publication some things have changed around the "Fort", and research on all three eras shows that corrections must be made. There are committees working on each section.

Elizabeth Sidorov, working with Stuart Munson, is getting together a Fort Ross Russian Cook Book. A small funding for the advancement of a plan was voted for this project.

The house plan for the refurbishing of the Call Ranch House is ready to be submitted to DPR. It is important to know that this house is NOT a typical ranch house of this area. The only other comparable one was the old Helmke House that burned at Kruse Ranch a few years back. These two houses were in a class of their own. The Call Ranch House is in desperate need of a new foundation and we can not redo it and open it to the public until this is done. We hope that DPR funding will be made available soon.

A generous letter from the family of the man that gave the sign POMONA to the Call family to put on their house has been received. They offer to give a replica of the sign. This was originally given in appreciation for the help and care and rescue given by the Call family to the passengers of the sinking ship. We are grateful to the family of Purser Brown for this offer.

The nominating committee is readying itself to present the names of candidates at our next meeting. Requests and sign ups for the classes this fall at Fort Ross are also being received.

Barbara Black

LIVING HISTORY DAY

I believe the saying "The only loser is the non-participant" is a reference to kids' participation in Little League baseball. For me, this profound statement could apply to the wonderful event that took place July 30 at Fort Ross. Living History Day was a rousing, roaring, booming success. More visitors came to Fort Ross on that day than had ever visited before.

The large numbers were one side of the story, but the up-close, personal, and individual stories are what make this day a delight to all, every year. One such individual effort was actually a dual achievement. A local carpenter, Rossi Barnestov, fashioned red-wood pickets by using authentic tools such as the adz and drawknife. Meanwhile the bearded blacksmith, Ivan Marvnachev, hammered out a batch of large nails at his smoky forge. Then, using the nails Ivan had made, Boris actually repaired a portion of the stockade wall. This was truly living history and a slice from a day in the life of the Russian pioneers of western Sonoma County.

On a more personal note, a teary-eyed six-year-old boy tugged on the rawhide of my costume and painfully asked, "Mister (sniff! sniff!), did I really miss the musket firing drill?"

"Uh...er...well...hold on a second, me bucko, I'll have to check with the captain of the militia. I'll be right back.

I knew darn well he had missed the drill, but what can one say to a lad who had sat patiently on the winding, stomach-stirring ride up Highway 1? The weary militia, however, responded in the true spirit of the day and quickly went about rolling more cartridges for their muskets.

Soon the sound of rattling drum and stern-voiced drill commands filled the now emptying compound. As they had done many times already today, the tired, yet dedicated, local volunteers filled the Fort with the sight, sound, and smell of history. As the last musket barked and belched its puff of black-powder smoke, I watched with joy the face of the young boy as he clung to his dad's leg, and that Jack-o'-lantern smile lit his face and warmed my heart.

It is not too early to mark your calendars for next year. The last Saturday in July-- July 29, 1989--we'll take you back to 1836.

Daniel Murley



THANKS!

FRIA has many new members this year. Among them are His Grace Tikhon, Bishop of San Francisco and The West, and Reverend Paul Kasaty. Thank you all for your support.

And thank you to all the members who have volunteered their time this summer. John Smith and family continue to keep the orchard in great condition. Gloria Frost, Jack Costello and Frieda Tomlin have kept down the weeds in the Call Garden. Gloria Frost and Pat McAdam have put the Library in good order. At last we can easily find what we are looking for in the Library!

It has been a great summer for the Bookstore. Thank you volunteers for helping to keep it open seven days a week! The Halletts, Judy Bruff and Ella Salgado deserve a special thank you for consistently working one or more days each week all summer. Judy and Ella will resume their teaching jobs this fall. We will miss you!

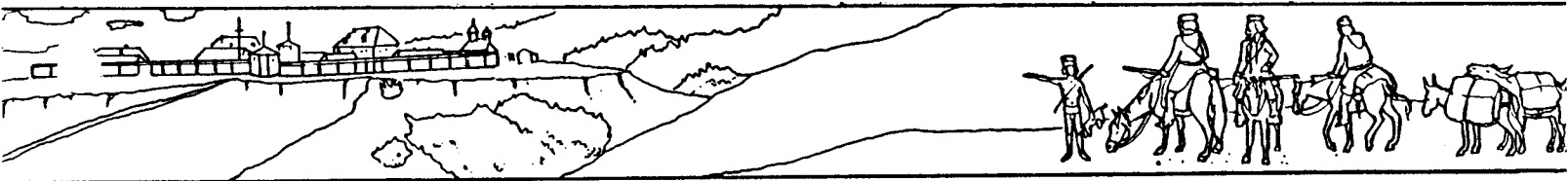
Living History Day was a huge success, thanks to co-ordinators Bill Walton and Dan Murley, and ALL THOSE VOLUNTEERS without whose participation there could not have been a Living History Day. Fort Ross came alive that day. It was great fun for the participants and a real educational experience for the visitors. While the militia drilled and the cannon boomed, Russian food was cooking over the outside fires. Bread was made, butter was churned, and Russian tea was served from the samovar. There was a blacksmith, a tinsmith, a candlemaker and a carpenter. Wool was spun into thread, and children were busy basketmakers. Commandant Rotchev and Princess Helena met with Mexican officials, Voznesensky made sketches, and visiting Russian sailors were seen in the Fort. Vespers services were held in the Chapel and the Slavyanka Chorus entertained all. Outside the Fort walls some traders camped. It was a busy day indeed!

Ranch Day is the next special event. September 25 is the date. Come listen to music by Grady Keystone Bluegrass Band and watch old logging equipment demonstrations. Barbara Black will be the guest speaker on local ranch history. Bring your picnic!



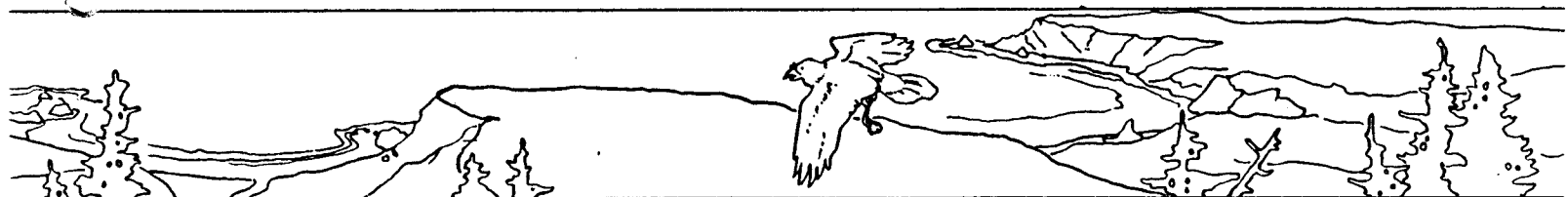
FIELD SEMINARS IN AND ABOUT FORT ROSS
SPONSORED BY THE FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

FALL, 1988 SCHEDULE



- NATURAL HISTORY** **TIDEPPOOL LIFE**
SUNDAY, OCT. 23 (12 noon to 5 p.m.)
This is a field oriented seminar exploring intertidal life along the Fort Ross coastline.
DR. DANIEL E. WICKHAM, Bodega Marine Laboratory \$25.00
- MUSHROOM IDENTIFICATION AND USES**
SUNDAY, NOV. 13 (12 noon to 6 p.m.)
The class will start with a three hour hike up into the hills behind Fort Ross. In addition to teaching mushroom identification and uses, Jesse will share his knowledge about the wild edible and medicinal plants that you see along the way. In the later part of the afternoon you will return to the Visitor Center for classroom activities and a slide show.
JESSE LONGACRE, naturalist \$25.00
- HISTORY** **PORTRAITS OF PROMINANT RUSSIANS IN EARLY CALIFORNIA**
SATURDAYS, OCT 22, 29, NOV. 5 (10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)
A portrait gallery of Fort managers, Company officials, navigators, scientists, and a princess--their lives, their activities, and their memoirs of California. Each session is complete by itself--\$20.00 per session.
STEPHEN WATROUS,
History Professor, Sonoma State University \$60.00
- HISTORY OF THE RANCH ERA AT FORT ROSS**
SATURDAY, NOV. 12 (10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)
Why did the first American settlers come here? What did they do? The class will include detailed coverage of the four Ranch Era periods: Sutter and his managers, Benitz, Fairfax and Dixon, and Call. Time periods, vital statistics, stories, historical records, photographs, and the significance of their presence will all be discussed. There will be time out to walk around and see where the sites were.
KAYE TOMLIN and BARBARA BLACK,
both decendants of Ranch Era families \$25.00
- ARTS AND SKILLS** **FIELD PAINTING AND DRAWING**
SUNDAYS, SEPT. 11, 18, 25 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
Painting and drawing taught in the field. Students should bring D'Arches watercolor paper, block colored pencils or watercolors and brushes. Subjects will be chosen by students; instructor will provide technique.
E. STEWART MUNSON III,
author and illustrator of The Fort Ross Coloring Book \$45.00
- NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY**
SUNDAYS, OCT. ~~2~~ and 9 (10 a.m. to 7 p.m. with a 2 hour lunch break)
Note change of date for this class. First class will be Oct. 9, second class will be worked out by teacher and students--projected date is Sunday, Oct. 16).
Learn how to capture nature on film. This class will include all phases of outdoor photography. It will be taught in an easy to understand set of classes that will make you a better photographer. Classroom and field sessions, plus individual critiques will be included. The class is geared toward 35 mm color photography (slides) and is designed for the person who has a basic understanding of photography.
DON JACKSON, photographer \$45.00

MORE CLASSES ON PAGE 2



ARTS
AND
SKILLS
CONTD.

INTRODUCTION TO FIRE MAKING AND FLINTKNAPPING
SUNDAY, OCT. 23 (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)
Students will first explore pump drill fire making techniques used by the California Indians and around the world. A variety of materials will be utilized including buckeye, maple, cedar, redwood, spicebush, current and elderberry. An introduction to flintknapping will follow which will explore stone fracture principles and techniques using antler, pad, obsidian and hammer stone. Both sections of the class will include demonstrations and individual practice. There is a \$20.00 materials fee for this class, payable to the instructor on the day of the class.

MARGARET S. MATHEWSON,
anthropologist and teacher of Indian arts and life skills \$25.00

RUSSIAN AND ALEUT COOKING AT FORT ROSS
SUNDAY, OCT. 30 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
A full meal will be prepared. While you work there will be discussion on Aleut and Russian styles of cooking, foods available and grown at Fort Ross, preparation techniques, seasonings, and native plants. Students must bring paring knife, cutting knife, cutting board, bowl, plate, cup, eating utensils, hot pads, dish towel, apron and paper and a pencil. There is a \$5.00 fee to purchase food for this class, payable to the instructor on the day of the class.

LONNA M. ALEXANDER,
Living History Day Cook, 1986 and 1987 \$25.00

BONUS! RUSSIA TODAY, A SLIDE SHOW
SUNDAY, NOV. 6 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
Slides on the history, geography and people of the U.S.S.R. will be presented, including slides of the Vosnesensky Collection in the Ethnographic Museum in Leningrad. Class dialogue will follow the slide presentation.
JUDY THOMAS, seven time traveler to the Soviet Union \$5.00



SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

PLEASE ENROLL ME IN THE FOLLOWING CLASSES:

- _____ Tidepool Life, \$25.00
- _____ Mushroom Identification and Uses, \$25.00
- _____ Portraits of Prominant Russians in Early California, \$60.00
- _____ Each session will be complete by itself. You may register for one or more.
- _____ The Five Commandants and a Princess (Oct. 22), \$20.00
- _____ Company Officials (Oct. 29), \$20.00
- _____ Scientists (Nov. 5), \$20.00
- _____ History of the Ranch Era at Fort Ross, \$25.00
- _____ Field Painting and Drawing, \$45.00
- _____ Nature Photography, \$45.00
- _____ Introduction to Fire Making and Flintknapping, \$25.00
- _____ Russian and Aleut Cooking at Fort Ross, \$25.00
- _____ Russia Today, A Slide Show, \$5.00

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ in full payment of class fees.

Make checks payable to:
Fort Ross Interpretive Association
19005 Coast Highway 1
Jenner, California 95450

I am a member of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association _____.
(There is a 10% discount on class fees for FRIA members.)

I would like to join Fort Ross Interpretive Association _____.
(\$5.00 regular, \$7.50 family--Please include a separate check for membership fee.)

Registration information: Advance registration is required. Enrollment is limited and applications will be accepted in the order they are received. Upon acceptance, you will be mailed confirmation. If you have questions please call Lyn at 707-847-3437 Thursday through Sunday.
Please Note: All classes will be held rain or shine!

WHAT ARE WE MADE OF?

We are made up of blood from Winama bakhe yacma, of Russians who left some of us behind, of Aleuts, Alaskans, and Spanish. Put it all together, what do you have, you have a very unique people.

We have talent, knowledge, heritage, we are descendants of Metini. We are rich in culture, religion and in all aspects of this world. We are known throughout the Indian community as good gamblers, expert basket makers and the best cooks. In the community of scholars we are known as a unique group of people.

We are unique because we don't have to prove that we are the true Kashayans. We don't have to seek out people, we are sought after because of what we are made up of, and who we are.

Winama bakhe yacma to Kashaya a long line of history and love for that history--that's what we are made up of.



Vana Dean Parrish Lawson

GETTING TO SCHOOL IN THE GOOD YEARS

Now the idea of walking to school three to five miles would probably bring on a cruelty to children act. But this was the way most children got to school. By the time they got to the school house a lot of energy had worn off and they were glad to sit down and start the school day. There was a family that lived on Highway 1 and walked up to school that was located on the now Meyers Grade Road. This was a family that included a first grader who was really tired when they arrived. The children that were picked up by car and driven eight miles seemed to always have a good time talking and laughing.

Horseback was another way to get to school and most schools had small corrals for the horses. This was the way I went to school unless it was raining too much. There were a lot of adventures going to school. The first horse I rode was a blue roan Welsh pony/horse cross. As she was in the era of horses that were getting used to cars, she wasn't to enthused about cars. The cars made a lot of noise grinding and popping and banging along. When we heard one I could feel "Missy" start to tense up. Where to escape? Most of the road I was on was only fenced on one side so if you could ride out in the field or climb a small bank you were all right. If once in awhile you got caught with a high bank on one side you were in for a small circus act. All this went on with your lunch bucket tied in a sack to the saddle. Missy didn't like to be squeezed between the bank and the car, so you just hung on. Most cars sized up the situation and would stop and let the rider come by them.

My next horse, which I felt was a real horse, was one we had on loan to see if we wanted to buy him. He was a pretty brown bay. On this horse I also went from the pony saddle to a regular saddle. I was finally allowed to ride him to school. One day I came upon a little spotted fawn hurt by the side of the road. So I got off the horse and put the fawn on a bank. I got back on and rode along side, then I pulled the fawn up on to the saddle with me. I rode on to school and received permission to go on to Uncle George Call's house. There I asked him to find out what was the matter with the fawn so I could take it home in the afternoon and take care of it. That afternoon he told me the fawn had been hit by a car and had a broken back and he had to destroy it. That day didn't turn out well. But there were so many pleasant days riding along on my horse, so I like to think of them as the "good years".

Barbara Black



Names, left to right--Fred Moore, Barbara Charles, Adele Moore, Naomi Call, John Johnson, Ramona Call, and in the back Mrs. Moore, teacher.



IN APPRECIATION OF FORT ROSS

Last spring while I was on a holiday in Hawaii on the Island of Kauai, I noticed three Russian forts located on the map. I became excited in my visions of a Hawaiian Russian Fort with lush trees, bushes and flowers surrounding the Fort overlooking the ocean blue. I envisioned sandalwood hut type buildings with master carpentry full of tourists on this small island. It was a definite stop for the day.

What a surprise when I arrived to Fort Elizabeth State Historical Park. I wondered at first if I was even in the right place. Had I taken a wrong turn? I saw a bulletin board with a few people reading it in the hot sun and decided the Fort was probably hidden like Fort Ross is when you come into the parking area.

I read the free pamphlet from the bulletin board and started down the rocky dirt path to the compound to start the "tour". Others decided the brochure was enough and left. I heard "Let's go Mom. It's too hot, it's boring." But I wanted to see the "restoration".

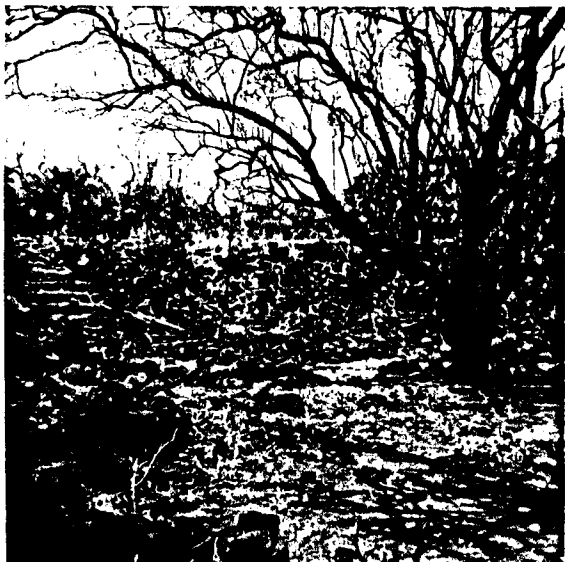
The Fort was founded by the Russian American Company in 1815. Apparently by 1817 the Company was asked to leave and thereafter the Fort was occupied by the Hawaiians until 1864. The Commandant was George Anton Schaeffer. He designed it and directed the Hawaiian work force in building the Fort wall.

Another surprise when I got to the compound entrance. I searched for signs that the brochure spoke of, signs of past life, and found faded posts. I did not see an apparent wall. The wall was constructed of basalt rock boulders to an original height of twelve feet. It now is about five to six feet high. There were no sandalwood buildings, but very hard to see foundations within the earth. No archaeology work has been done on the grounds to bring up more history. There were no artifacts to feel a realism of time. There was no armory with muskets, no cannons for kids to touch and play on, no volunteers or Rangers on duty and no Living History Day to witness.

As I walked around and felt the dry grasses on my legs I could only reflect on our own Russian Fort. Beautiful Fort Ross, with hand crafted redwood buildings filled with artifacts and actual life past events --with lots of people, kids playing and refusing to leave, with flowers blooming, and with volunteers and Rangers present to answer questions and talk of history, walls of redwood twelve feet high restored to give the feeling of a fort, artifacts brought up by many archaeological digs, the breezes of the ocean, and yes, our Living History Day.

This is not to say that Hawaii has "lost" its history; it's all recorded on paper. But when I came to Fort Elizabeth I did not really feel the Russian heritage. Here at our Fort on the North Coast of California a most cared for part of our past is ever present. The kids run in the compound, play on the cannons, pretend to be Aleuts, and the bigger kids listen to the walking tour and laugh, and I am thankful for Fort Ross. (As for the other two forts--I decided to lay on the beach after I heard that they were about the same!)

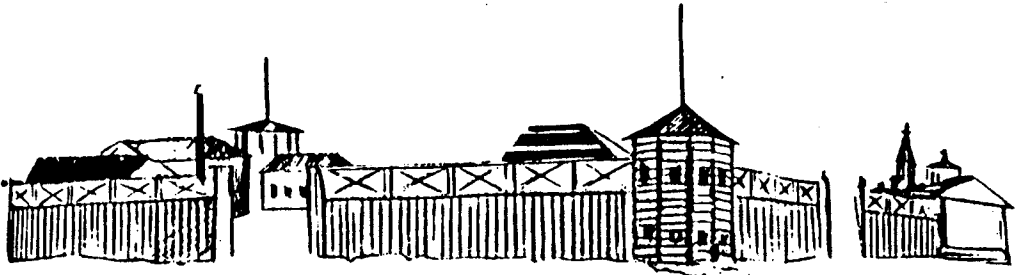
Robin Joy



Svetlana G. Fedorova visited Fort Ross on Saturday, August 20, 1988. A pot luck supper in her honor was prepared by Glenn Farris, FRIA members, and Fort Ross Staff. Svetlana fired the cannon for PEACE!

California History Center

Institute of Ethnography
of K. N. Miklukho-Maklay
Academy of Science of U.S.S.R.
19 Dmitry Ulyanov Street
Moscow, 117036, U.S.S.R.



To: Prof. Nikolay Ivanovich Rokitiatsky, California

Dear Nikolay Ivanovich,

Your letter dated March 20, 1988, in which you wrote that the District Superintendent of California Parks and Recreation, Mr. R. G. Robles, decided to cut gun ports in the walls of Ft. Ross at ground level saddened and disturbed me very much. I can assure you one hundred percent that according to Russian sources there were no gun ports in the walls and especially at ground level.

The best proof is a pencil drawing by T. G. Voznesensky, "Fort Ross from the Ocean" (1841), from the collection of the Leningrad Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, Academy of Science of the U.S.S.R. This drawing was published by Eugenia Edwardovna Blomkvist in an article, "Drawings by I. G. Voznesensky" (Expedition 1839-1849), printed by the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, Vol. XIII, Leningrad, the Academy of Science of U.S.S.R., 1951, page 237. The English translation was published in one of the quarterlies of the Oregon Historical Society.

In this pencil drawing, even better than in the water colors by I. G. Voznesensky "Settlement Ross" (1841) (see same article, page 235), can be seen in detail how the walls of the fort are constructed. The construction of the walls is shown in two views. One view from the ocean, the other from the octagonal bastion toward the chapel. The gun ports were only on the bastions. The bastions were built octagonally or had seven sides to facilitate easier firing at the attacking enemy. I never came across any information about guns located in the center of the fort near the wall.

I am really surprised that at the time our leaders are conducting a very successful dialog about disarmament, in California there is an attempt being made to picture Ft. Ross as an impregnable fortress. Ft. Ross was never such a fortress. Russians had very good (peaceful) relations with California Indians.

In addition, no Russian fortress had any gun port at the ground level. I am mailing you a set of post cards separately, you will see the introduction of gun ports at Ft. Ross would be at least a misrepresentation of Russian construction methods of forts.

I tried to publish all of the drawings of Ft. Ross that I found in archives and literature (new and forgotten), see Russian Population of Alaska and California (Moscow, 1971, pages 254-255, drawing 13); Novo-Archegetsk Russkaya Amerika (Russian-American); Notes by Kiril Khlebnikov (Moscow, 1985, page 130, lithograph 1835). As well as above mentioned drawing and water colors by I. G. Voznesensky, 1841, no gun ports are depicted in the walls of the fort in above pictures or drawing.

I discussed the information about gun ports with my colleagues, N. N. Bolokhovitinov, who is now a member of the Academy of Science of the U.S.S.R., Vladimir Bezyazychnyi and Raisa Makarova. We all agree that there were no gun ports in the walls of the fort. We would like to see that American colleagues would follow the original Russian sources and would not depict Fort Ross more aggressive than it indeed was in the first half of the XIX century.

My visit is planned to be at the end of July 1988 (30 days). I will travel to New York, Seattle, Anchorage and some other cities in Alaska (during 16 days), California, Washington, D.C., New York, and returning to Moscow. The details will be announced in AIREKS.

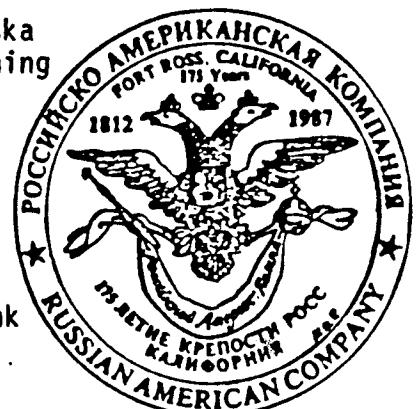
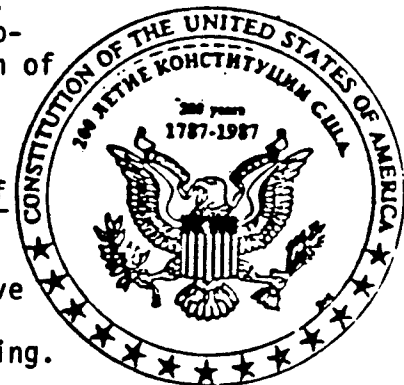
Give my regards to your loved ones. My best wishes.

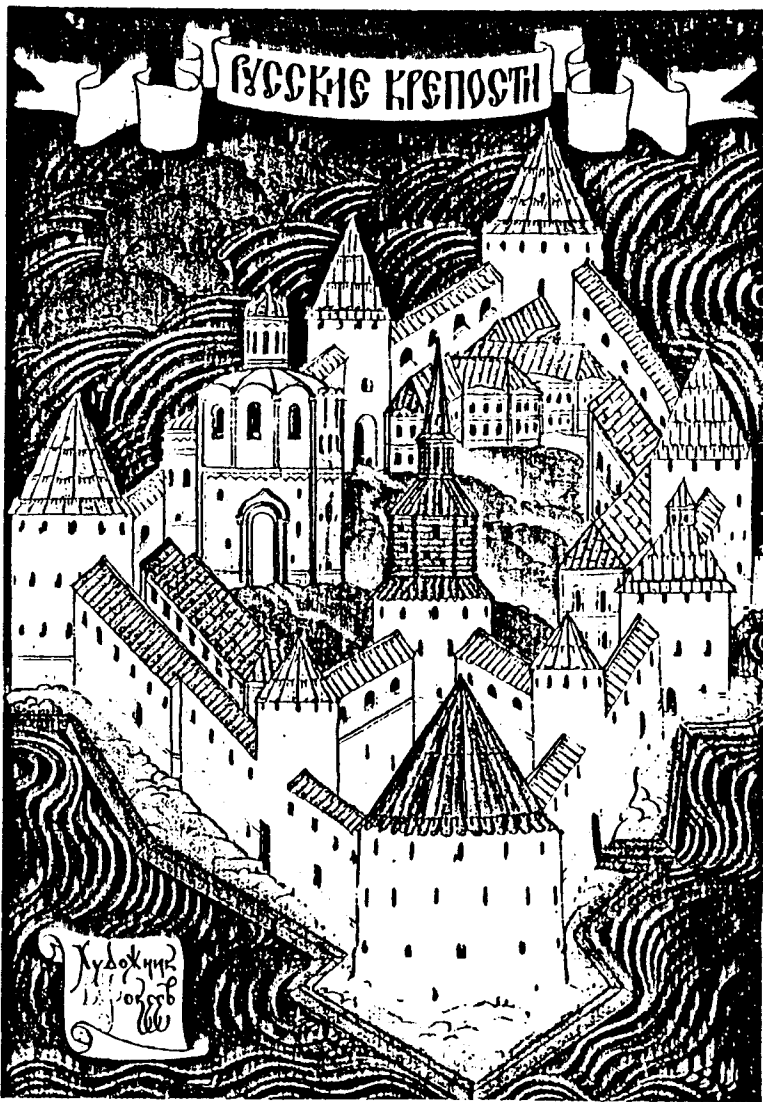
Sincerely,

Svetlana G. Fedorova

Moscow, April 27, 1988

Translated by Prof. Vladimir V. Schenk





Aug. 20-22, 1988
Fort Ross
Picman
4/6

Thank you
very much
for your
hospitality
and for
Ivan Ruskov's
appels,
I will remember
this visit to Fort Ross
all my life.
Sincerely, Svetlana
Fedotova



A GUIDE TO COMMON COASTAL CALIFORNIA FURBEARING MAMMALS



- ear pinnac present
- beige & brown whiskers



- fore flippers mostly hairless
- fur come down onto the flipper
- nails rudimentary



- hind flippers hairless
- nails present on middle 3 digits
- nails located 1/2 of the length of the flipper from the trailing edge
- able to bring hind flippers under the body



California sea lion



- long ear pinnac present
- beige & brown whiskers
- long fur



- fore flippers hairless
- fur line stops at the top of the flipper, cutting straight across
- nails rudimentary



- hind flippers hairless
- nails present on middle 3 digits
- nails located 1/3 of the length of the flipper from the trailing edge
- able to bring hind flippers under the body



northern fur seal



- no pinnac, ear hole not visible
- black whiskers



- fore flippers haired
- nails present
- 1st digit elongated



- hind flippers haired
- nails absent
- hind flippers always behind the body



northern elephant seal



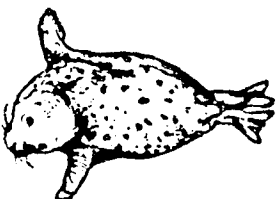
- no pinnac, ear hole visible
- white whiskers



- fore flippers haired
- nails present



- hind flippers haired
- nails present
- hind flippers always behind the body



harbor seal

- lives in sea from birth to death

- spends no time on land

- large flipperlike back feet

- kelp canopy is important for protection, food, and sleeping

- lives in larger rivers, sloughs, along seashore.

- spends considerable time on land rolling in grass and frolicking

- webbed back feet smaller than sea otter's

- enlarges and uses burrows of other animals



sea otter



river otter

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TRAINING FOR INTERPRETERS ON THE NATIVE PEOPLES AND THEIR CULTURE led by Louise Revol
Saturdays, September 10, 17, 24, October 1 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

FIELD SEMINARS START--REGISTER NOW--Field Painting and Drawing is the first class and
starts September 11

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE--September 15

RANCH DAY--September 25

FRIA BOARD MEETING--October 8

NEXT NEWSLETTER--Mid November--Due date for submissions is November 3--Please Contribute!



Submitted to FRIA by
Nicholas Rohittarsen

Fort Ross Interpretive Association
19005 Coast Highway 1
Jenner, California 95450

