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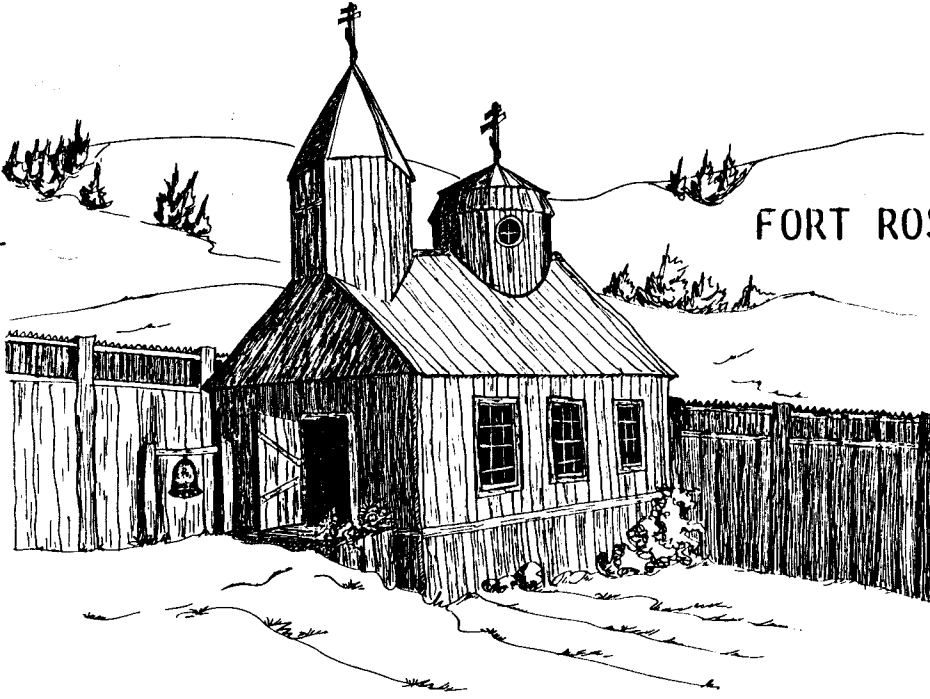
Fort Ross and Salt Point parks have benefited greatly from many dedicated volunteers and staff who have given generously to these parks. Board of directors from FRIA and FRC have fundraised, organized events, overseen volunteers, spearheaded interpretation and restoration projects, and offered substantial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

MARCH - APRIL
1989

NOTES FROM GLORIA FROST, MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

Gloria would like to thank those members who have been so prompt in renewing their FRIA memberships, and also those members who have become donors this year. She has a special thank you for the Southern California members from Saint Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church. The Fort Ross Interpretive Association has received memorial gifts from Elizabeth Clark for George Pierce and Laurie Horn for Bertha Bertillion. Both donations are to go towards the Call House.

At the last FRIA meeting Louise Revol announced the loss of Bertha Bertillion, member in long standing of the Fort Ross Citizen Advisory Committee. Mrs. Bertillion died February 1, 1989 in Oakland. She was a member of the Call Family and a ten year member of FRCAC. She was very interested in the development of the Fort Ross State Historic Park and was involved in fund raising for the Visitor Center and also a major contributor. She was the mother of Betty Smart, Chief Curator, California State Parks.

MOUNTAIN LION KILLED

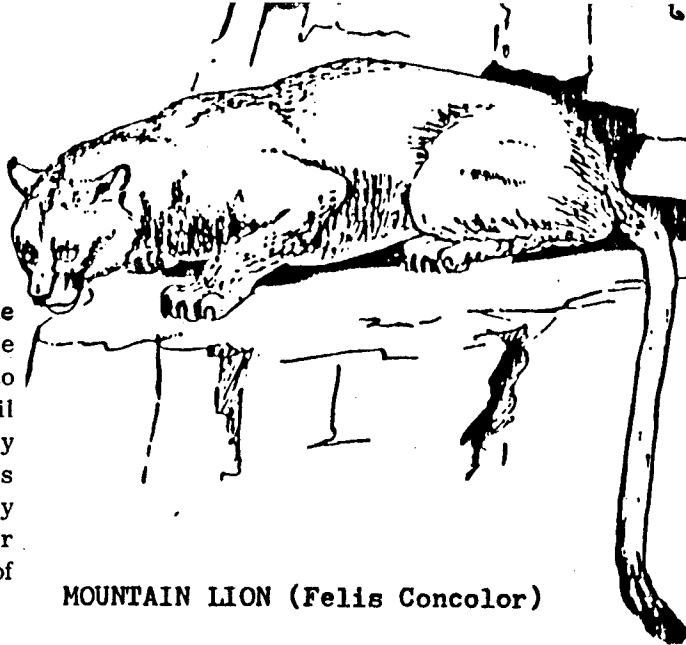
On Wednesday, March 1, 1989 a mountain lion (*felis concolor*) was shot and killed by a Federal Government Hunter in the vicinity of Fort Ross. This animal allegedly killed an unknown number of sheep on local ranches. There was evidence that she killed two sheep. The mountain lion was killed legally by Depredation Permit issued by the Department of Fish and Game. Everybody here who dealt with the situation was saddened and troubled with the need to kill this animal. Our question is why she could not have been shot with a tranquilizing dart and transported to another location to live. This female mountain lion weighed 166 pounds, was 7 feet long from nose to tail, and was apparently in good health. She is now stabilized in a freezer. The question now is what to do with her. The cost of taxidermy is \$1,200. The Department of Parks and Recreation has decided that it would not be appropriate to display her in the Fort Ross Visitor Center. Perhaps she could live in the Salt Point Visitor Center, or at Armstrong Redwoods. Or perhaps she could be a pelt and live at Fort Ross???



This mountain shot by George Call circa 1900

CAT FAM. (Felidae)

MOUNTAIN LION
(*Felis concolor*). Length 3 1/2 to 4 1/2'. Otherwise known as the cougar or puma, this is the largest member of the cat family in our region, and the only one with a long tail. The color ranges from tawny to grayish, with the tip of the tail dark brown. Although widely distributed in the region, it is extremely shy and is rarely seen. It feeds mainly on deer and is a healthful preventer of overpopulation.



MOUNTAIN LION (*Felis Concolor*)

Mountain lions, or cougars, do not stalk about "screaming." If they did, they would scare prey animals away and go hungry. Nor does the cougar roar. It makes many sounds similar to those of house cats, but louder. A set of whistle-like sounds—studied in captive cats—may be used by wild pairs or in families to call and warn each other.

Also called puma, panther, or catamount (cat of the mountains), the mountain lion is the largest of the North American purring cats. Adult males weigh 148 to 227 pounds (67 to 103 kg) and measure 5.6 to 9 feet (171 to 274 cm) from nose to tail tip.

Mountain lions are strict loners. Adult males and females show social tolerance only during the two-week breeding period, and females and

Nineteen different names have been given this great cat of the Western Hemisphere. A beautiful and majestic animal that roams our area is gradually getting eliminated by the invasion of man. As man moves in and builds, the mountain lion or cougar tries to move on to a more isolated area. These isolated areas are fast disappearing.

Through urban man not truly understanding wildlife and by overprotecting the coyote, he (man) has become an enemy of the cougar. When the time for fawns arrives in the spring, April and May in our area, the coyote leaves the lambing ewe bands that he has been living on since January and moves into the fawning places. I have watched this through a season and saw a coyote stalk and run a baby fawn. As the deer herds diminish the mountain lion's feed becomes scarce and he will then turn to the next best, which will no doubt be livestock.

Deer, or venison, is the main food of the cougar. The much touted phrase of "killing the sick and weak" isn't so. Why should they eat a sick feverish animal when they can just as easily kill a healthy animal. I have seen a few times in wooded areas the kills of the cougar, a deer partially eaten and covered with redwood branches and needles.

Once in awhile an old animal turns into a killer as they lose teeth and ability. Then they become deadly to livestock. Years ago on Kruse Ranch one of these rogues killed ten or twelve sheep in one night and left them strewn around the grass. He then went on to Stewarts Point and started killing calves, and was finally brought down by one of the ranchers.

In the late 1920's some of the neighbors, who were driving from Plantation to the coast down Snake Road, had a cougar with two half grown cubs jump across the narrow road right in front of the car. Another time years before my Uncle Carlos Call had one trail along behind him down Fort Ross Road. My Father Oscar Charles had a similar experience when he was growing up on the South Fork of the Gualala. So you see, these animals have always been here.

I finally saw my first one on the ranch about fifteen years ago. It was sitting on a hill watching something, and even though it's back was to me, when my hunting partner moved the lion bounded away. Near this same spot I found where a feral hog had been killed by a lion.

One summer night I was awakened by the screaming of one. After I woke up it screamed twice more, and that is a real attention getter, believe me. The next morning early my husband went down and, sure enough, in the dust of the logging road were the tracks. In the early sixties my husband and I were looking out of our living room window towards the coast and a large number of deer were running like crazy across the field. We watched and my husband said, "There is a panther going through."

My last sighting was very close. We had traps set out by the government trapper for coyotes because they were killing almost every lamb in a certain pasture. I checked traps about every day and the trapper came by three times a week. So one morning I came upon this set in the woods and here was a mountain lion, caught by the hind foot. He sat there and very quietly hissed at me. He was a beautiful animal, buff colored with the white under the throat and the dark markings around the mouth and eyes. I called the trappers to come and turn him loose, as he was a victim of circumstances and had crossed the trail at the wrong place. Usually they tranquilize the animal, but this time there was no one that knew the correct amount of dosage for the gun. So they took a rifle and shot the jaws of the trap and he was gone like a flash. They said he was a young male about one hundred forty five pounds and, not having any territory of his own, was just wandering through.

I hope one of these days to see a cougar with her two or three cubs, this would be a lifelong wish fulfilled!

Barbara Black

young during the long juvenile dependency period. Breeding is not confined to any one season, but in the northern parts of their range cougars breed mostly in winter and early spring. A pair will remain together for the two weeks, perhaps longer. Then they part, and the male plays no further role in the family.

One to six spotted kittens are born after a 90-day gestation period. The spots will give way to the uniform coat of russet or tan responsible for the species name, *concolor*, "uniform color." Kittens are born in a cave or other sheltered place, as under a rock ledge or windfall. Helpless at first, they grow

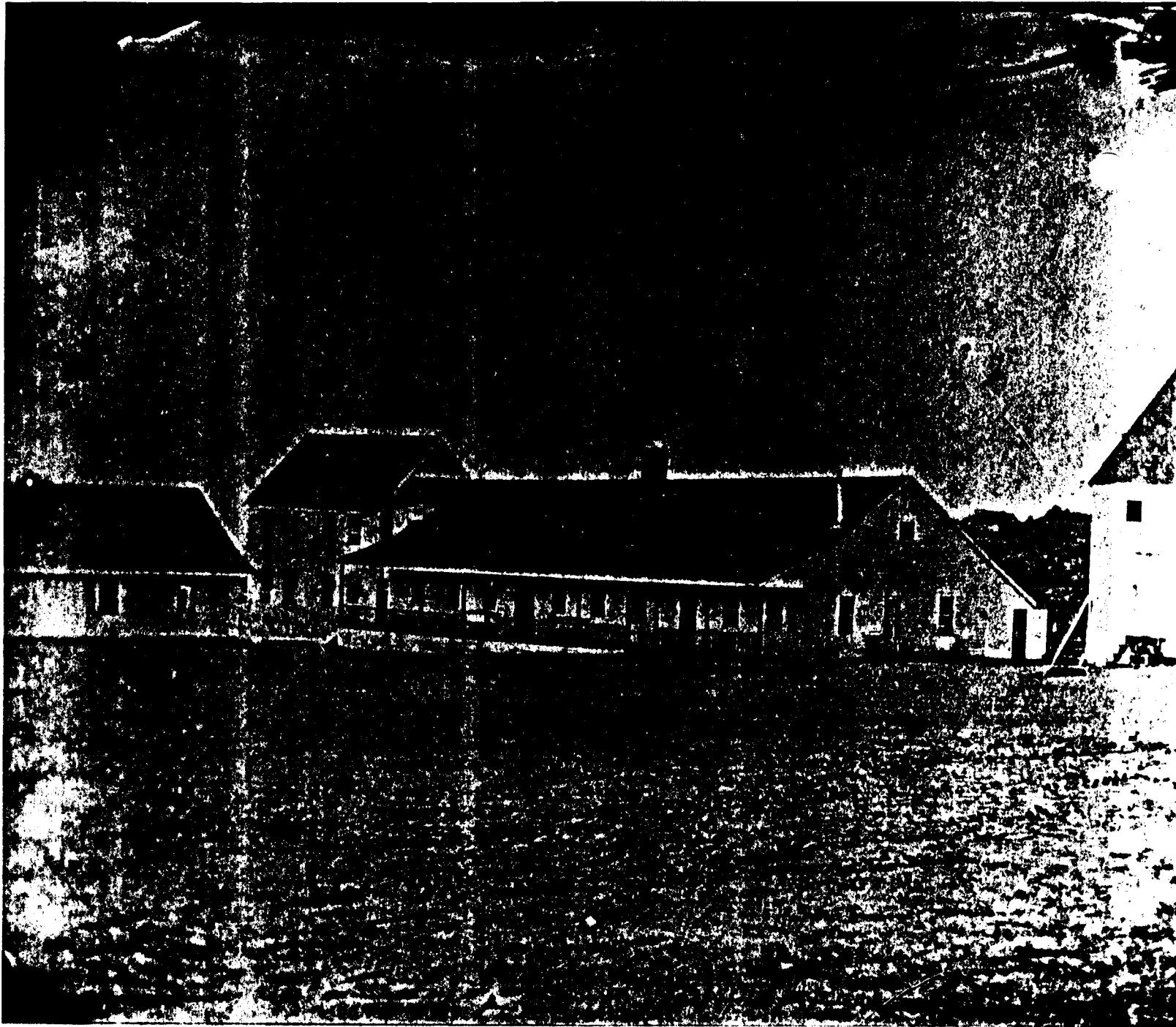
rapidly. The mother brings meat to them in addition to providing milk. After about two months they leave the home den and live in temporary dens and caves while the mother hunts for food.

The young lions possess certain inherent abilities as predators.

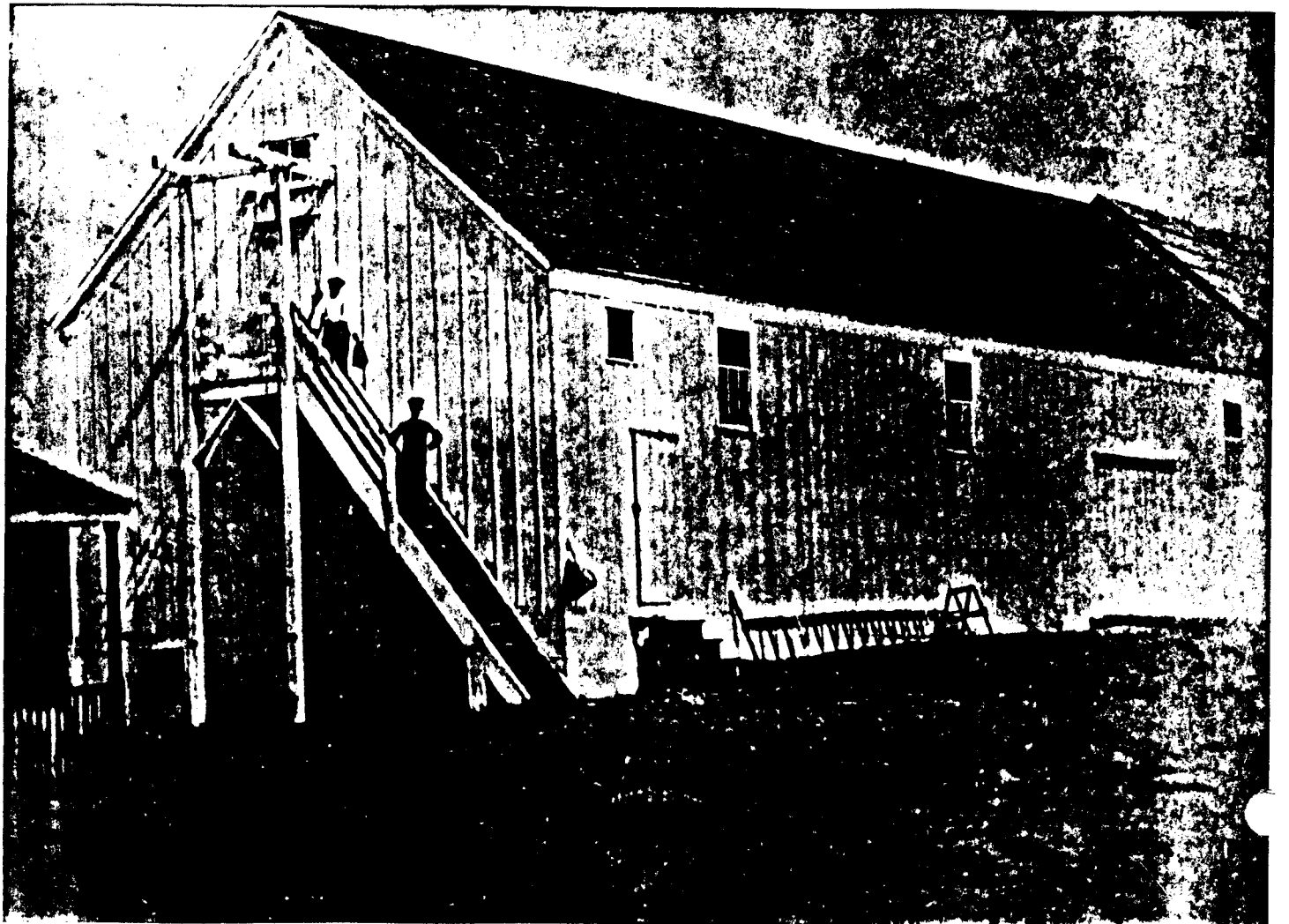
FORT ROSS, 1866



This is one of the earliest known pictures of Fort Ross. It was taken in 1866 when William O. Benitz was owner of Fort Ross. Benitz first came here in 1843 to manage Fort Ross for John Sutter who purchased the Fort from the Russian American Company in 1841. Benitz later bought the land between the mouth of the Russian River and Timber Cove. He lived at Fort Ross with his wife, Josephine Kohlmer Benitz, and all ten of their children were born here. They lived in and enlarged the "Commandant's House" which was built by Manager Alexander Rotchev in 1836. (This building still stands and is the only structure at Fort Ross surviving from the Russian Era.) Benitz sold the land to Fairfax and Dixon in 1867.



Commandant's House, Official's Barracks and the Fur Barn or Granery, 1866



Fur Barn, 1866

FORT ROSS FIELD SEMINARS
SPRING 1989



EDIBLE SEAWEEDS

You will explore the tidal pools at Fort Ross and learn how to recognize many edible seaweeds. The ecology of seaweeds, nutrition and methods of preparation and storing will be discussed.

Jesse Longacre

Saturday, April 29
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$25.00

INTRODUCTION TO THE NATURAL HISTORY OF FORT ROSS

This class is a field trip. You will explore the various life zones (habitats) which occur around Fort Ross. The principle that everything is perpetually changing will be emphasized.

Alice McKenzie

Saturday, May 6
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$25.00

BIRDS OF FORT ROSS

This is an introduction to birds and birdwatching, anatomy, physiology, nomenclature and how to view birds. Bring your bird book and binoculars.

Daniel Murley

Saturday, May 13
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$25.00

19TH CENTURY RUSSIAN CLOTHING

A survey of Russian peasant and military dress, male and female, 1820-1870, with emphasis on distinguishing differences of typical Russian dress as opposed to European. Discussion of fabrics used, methods of manufacture and appropriate usage.

John Middleton

Saturday, May 20
10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$25.00 (No fee
for LHD participants)

SURVEY OF CALIFORNIA INDIAN BASKETRY

This is a survey of Northern and Central California basketry including collection and preparation of materials and demonstration of techniques. Students will learn and practice techniques on the instructor's model baskets, as well as make their own plain twined willow basket. There is a \$15.00 materials fee payable to the instructor on the day of the class.

Pegg Mathewson

Saturday, May 27 through
Sunday, May 28
10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Fee: \$45.00

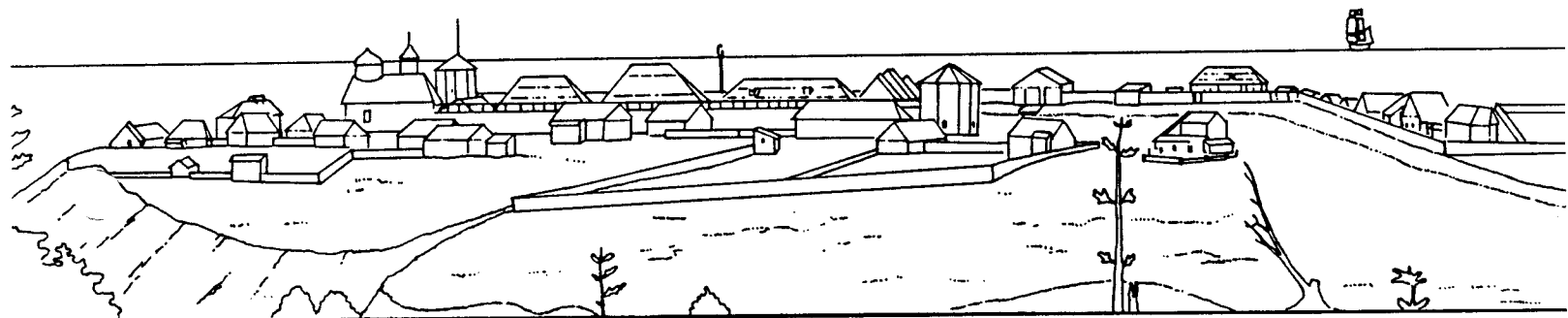
POMO PLANTS

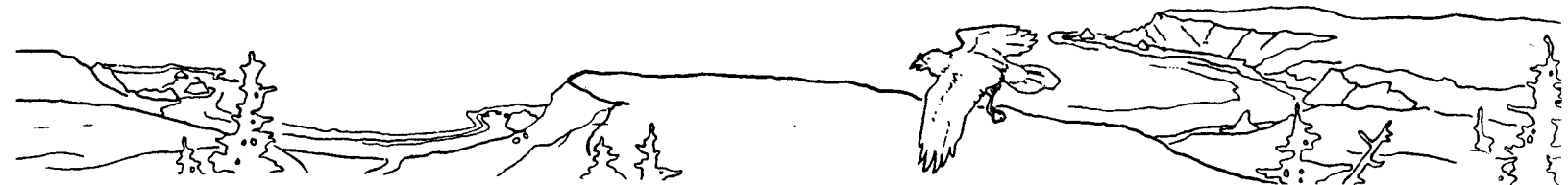
Identification and uses of plants used by California Indians, with special emphasis on Kashaya Pomo plants.

Team taught by Wayne Roderick and Vana Lawson

Sunday, June 11
10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Fee: \$25.00





ABOUT THE INSTRUCTORS

JESSE LONGACRE is a naturalist who specializes in the edible and medicinal uses of wild plants, seaweeds and mushrooms. He has a B.A. in Environmental Studies and has been teaching for 12 years at Santa Rosa Junior College, California School of Herbal Studies, California State Parks, and privately.

ALICE MCKENZIE is a long time student and observer of Fort Ross natural history. She has her M.A. in Zoology and Botany.

DANIEL MURLEY is a Ranger at Fort Ross. He has been an avid birder for years and has instructed Rangers in interpreting birds. He has been an instructor of outdoor recreation at William Penn Mott Training Center and American River College. He received his B.B.A. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

JOHN MIDDLETON has been studying Russian military uniform and traditional and peasant culture for 15 years. He has taught for two years with the Monterey Museum of Arts Creative Response program. He did undergraduate work at the Academy of Art in San Francisco and studied art history at U.C. Santa Cruz. He had a two year course of study in art conservation at Cherkas Studios in Santa Monica.

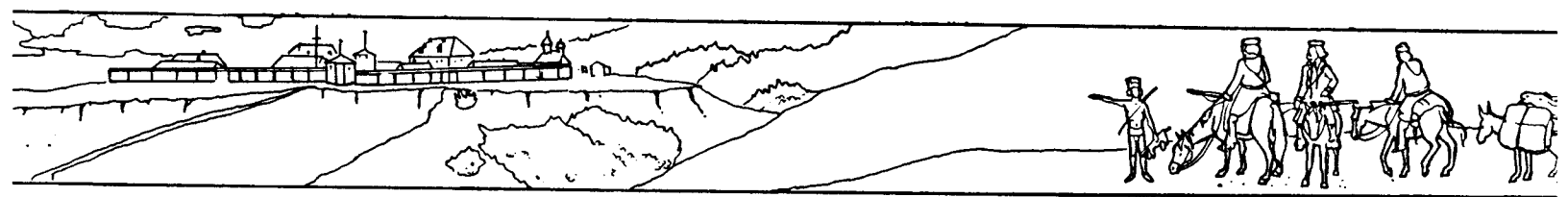
PEGG MATHEWSON received her M.A. in anthropology at U.C. Berkeley and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. Pegg has wide and varied teaching experience. She teaches Fiber Arts of Western North America at Malheur Field Station, Princeton, Oregon. She is currently a student of Craig Bates (Miwok/Paiute basketry), Mabel McKay (Pomo basket weaving) and Vivian Hailstone (Yurok/Karok/Hupa basketry).

WAYNE RUDERICK is Director of Tilden Park Botanical Garden in Berkeley. He has been lecturing for 17 years at U.C. Berkeley Botanic Garden and for 8 years at Tilden Botanic Garden.

VANA LAWSON is Kashaya Pomo and the author of Kashaya Pomo Plants.

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.
Please Note: All classes will be held rain or shine!



SPRING SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

PLEASE ENROLL ME IN THE FOLLOWING CLASSES:

- _____ EDIBLE SEAWEEDS, \$25.00
- _____ INTRODUCTION TO THE NATURAL HISTORY OF FORT ROSS, \$25.00
- _____ BIRDS OF FORT ROSS, \$25.00
- _____ 19TH CENTURY RUSSIAN CLOTHING, \$25.00 (No fee for LHD participants)
- _____ SURVEY OF CALIFORNIA INDIAN BASKETRY, \$45.00
- _____ POMO PLANTS, \$25.00

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

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.)

CHECKS PAYABLE TO FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION
19005 Coast Highway 1, Jenner, California 95450

VOLUNTEERS, WE NEED YOU!

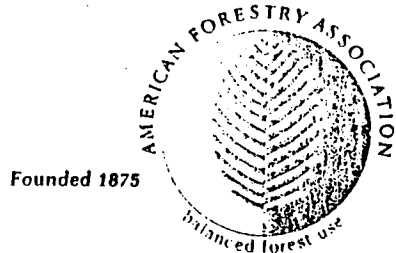
We need people like you to help us with work being done here at Fort Ross. We have asked ourselves what it is that we could offer to get you interested in volunteering to help. It then dawned on us that we have so much here for you to gain knowledge about, and we also have some of the comforts of home. You can build a fire in the fireplace and do some research, or make yourself lunch in the kitchen if you wish. We have a friendly, knowledgeable staff, willing and able to get you started working as a volunteer. We have many unfinished projects that need to be completed and many ongoing projects that would benefit from fresh energy. We also need new ideas to enhance the old. So please call or send us some information about yourself. The following is a partial list of possible volunteer jobs.

BOOKSTORE sales and interpretation of Fort Ross and its natural history
LIVING HISTORY DAY help coordinate and participate
NEWSLETTER articles, editing, graphics, assembly and preparation for bulk mailing
CALL HOUSE push for reconstruction, reconstruction, maintain artifacts
CALL HOUSE INTERPRETIVE GROUP to interpret Ranch Era life while dressed in costume and engaged in skills of the era
CALL GARDEN maintenance
HISTORIC ORCHARD maintenance, assist the horticulturist
HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS organize, assemble in books and catalogue
LIBRARY cataloguing, assist the librarians
FIELD SEMINAR ideas, organization, publicity
DOCENT TOURS organization and training of docents

Call 707 847-3286 to reach Rangers Bill Walton and Dan Murley or 707 847-3437 to reach Lyn Kalani of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association, or write to us at 19005 Coast Highway 1, Jenner, CA 95450.

FORT ROSS EUCALYPTUS A NATIONAL CHAMPION

The genus and species of this large tree is EUCALYPTUS GLOBULUS (BLUE GUM). It is 425 feet in circumference and 11.3 feet in diameter. The average crown spread is 126 feet, and it is 165 feet high. Kaye Tomlin's best guess is that it was planted in the 1880's by the Call family.



Mailing Address
P.O. Box 2000
Washington, D.C. 20013

1516 P Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

telephone (202) 667-3300

January 10, 1989

Mr. F. K. Tomlin
2259 Cobblehill Place
San Mateo, CA 94402

Dear Mr. Tomlin:

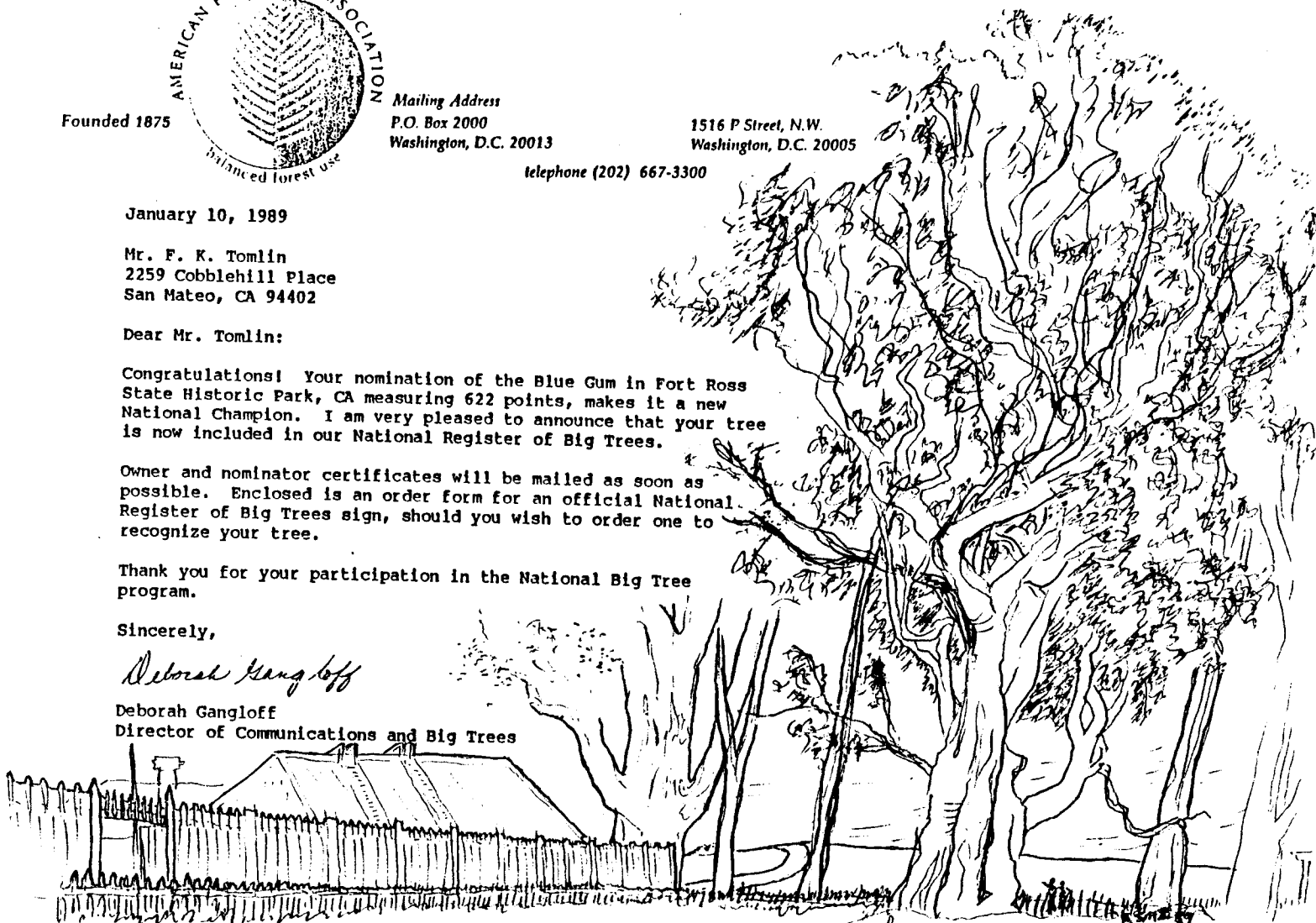
Congratulations! Your nomination of the Blue Gum in Fort Ross State Historic Park, CA measuring 622 points, makes it a new National Champion. I am very pleased to announce that your tree is now included in our National Register of Big Trees.

Owner and nominator certificates will be mailed as soon as possible. Enclosed is an order form for an official National Register of Big Trees sign, should you wish to order one to recognize your tree.

Thank you for your participation in the National Big Tree program.

Sincerely,

Deborah Gangloff
Director of Communications and Big Trees



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIA BOARD MEETING: Saturday, April 8

NEXT NEWSLETTER: Mid May--Due date for submissions May 5

LIVING HISTORY DAY: Saturday, July 29

JOHN MCKENZIE DAY: Sunday, August 13 (August FRIA Board meeting will also be on Sunday, August 13)



This giant is the second to the largest eucalyptus at Fort Ross

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