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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.

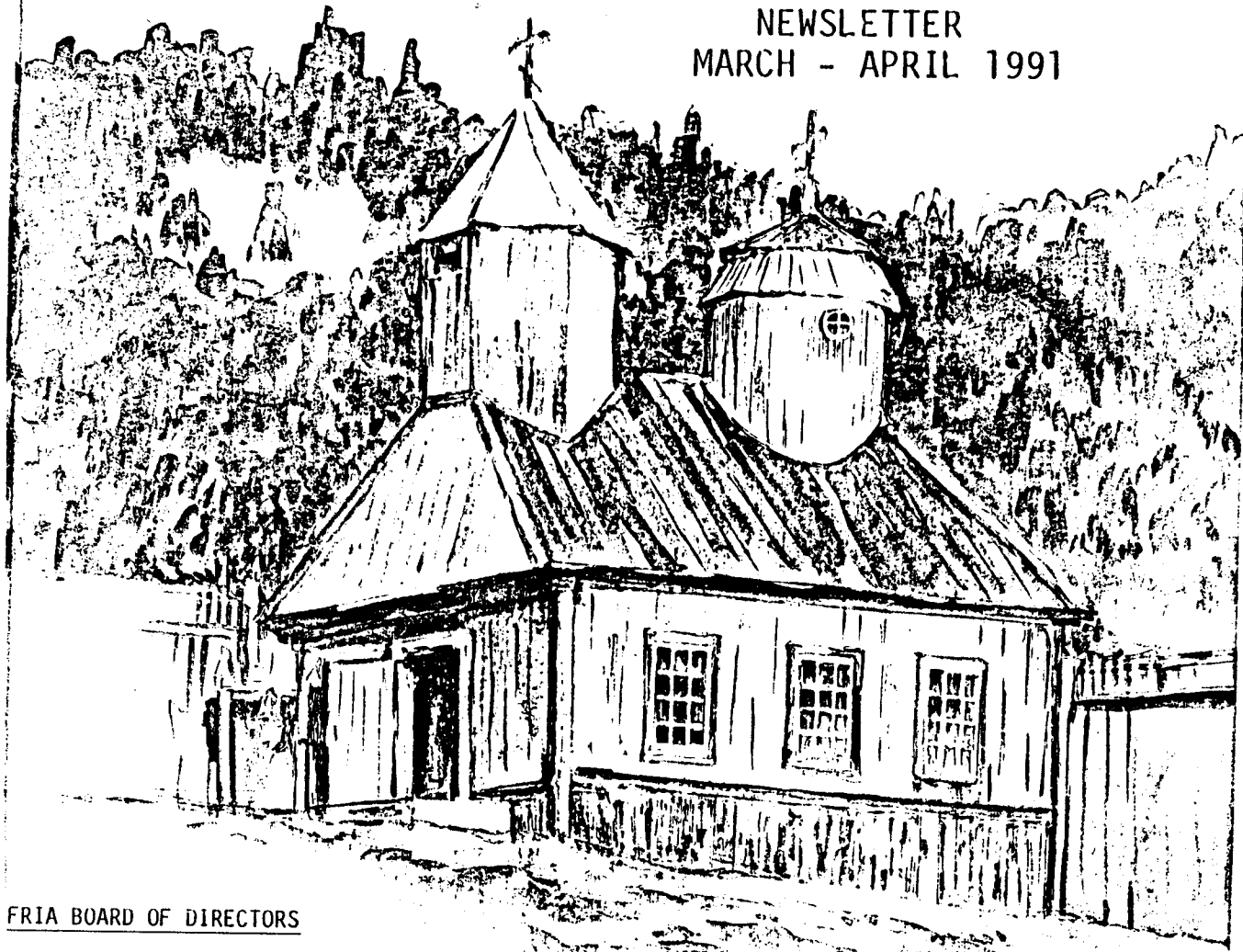
These digitized newsletters capture the activities over the following historic periods:

- 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 INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER  
MARCH - APRIL 1991



*Illustration by 1891*

(Anastasia Malashev 1991)

FRIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 31, SUNDAY --EASTER

APRIL 7, SUNDAY--RUSSIAN EASTER

APRIL 13, SATURDAY--FRIA BOARD MEETING, 10:00 A.M.

APRIL 21, SUNDAY--EARTH DAY

APRIL 30, TUESDAY--CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE FOR MAY-JUNE NEWSLETTER



SETTLEMENT ROSS IN NORTH CALIFORNIA unknown artist 1835  
*Селение Росс в Северной Калифорнии*

*Работа неизвестного художника. Литография. 1835 г.*

From Russian America, Notice of Khlebnikov, New Archangel

PLEASE RETURN YOUR FORT ROSS LIBRARY BOOKS--TWO WEEK CHECK OUT LIMIT

**FORT ROSS STATE HISTORIC PARK  
RUSSIAN ORCHARD WORK CALENDAR**

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ASSIST WITH WORK IN THE ORCHARD. CALL 707 847-3286

<b>JANUARY:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* <b>January</b> spraying program currently suspended--under review by the Department of Parks &amp; Recreation.</li></ul>
<b>FEBRUARY:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Prune in <b>January/February</b>. Use long-handled shears (folding saw and small clippers in your rear pockets) removing new shoots growing vertically inside tree interiors. Cut back vigorous new side shoots <math>\frac{1}{3}</math>. Low branches broken down by tractor or deer: saw off flush to trunk from underside upward. Paint white latex.</li></ul>
<b>MARCH:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Burn any piles of prunings/branches in <b>March</b>. May need to use newspaper under 2 spots on perimeter of pile--light, then spray with diesel around newspaper lightly several times until wood heats and burns.</li></ul>
<b>APRIL:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Mow grass/thistles/weeds during <b>April</b>, depending on rains/growth.</li><li>* Selectively spot spray Roundup for thistles in <b>April</b>--spraying currently under review by DPR.</li><li>* <b>April</b> spraying program currently suspended--under review by the Department of Parks &amp; Recreation.</li></ul>
<b>MAY:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Gophers active near "daughter trees". In <b>May</b>, while soil moist, dig a hole under their dirt pile about 1 ft wide, 10 in deep with shovel. With pocket knife blade, prod and clean out main runway. Flip 3 or 4 "pink pills" (Cooke's Gopher tabs) into hole. Close and fill big hole and tamp smooth.</li></ul>
<b>JUNE:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Mow grass/thistles/weeds during <b>June</b>, depending on rains/growth.</li><li>* <b>June</b> spraying program currently suspended--under review by the Department of Parks &amp; Recreation.</li></ul>
<b>JULY:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* No planned work in <b>July</b>.</li></ul>
<b>AUGUST:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Clean up trees; put debris in piles for burning--<b>August/September</b>. Harvest early apples and pears based on "taste tests"--are they sweet and juicy, or puckery or starchy?</li><li>* Fence: In <b>August/September</b>, make a circuit of perimeter of fence to close any gaps made by sheep, deer, pigs.</li></ul>
<b>SEPTEMBER:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* No other planned work in <b>September</b>.</li></ul>
<b>OCTOBER:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* No planned work in <b>October</b>.</li></ul>
<b>NOVEMBER:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Burn debris in orchard after rains and with the permission and coordination with the Department of Parks &amp; Recreation--in <b>November/December</b>.</li></ul>
<b>DECEMBER:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* No orchard dormant sprays needed <b>this time of year</b>, because there are no over-wintering scale or mite eggs in orchard.</li></ul>

John J. Smith, February 1991  
U.C.C. Extension, Horticulture, Retiree

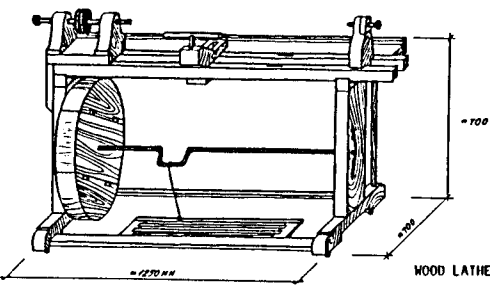
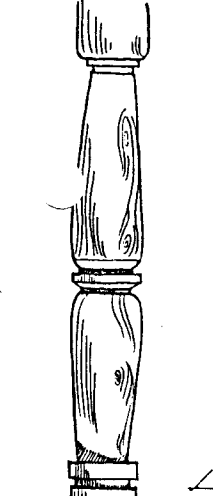
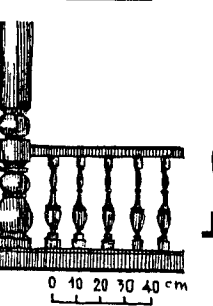
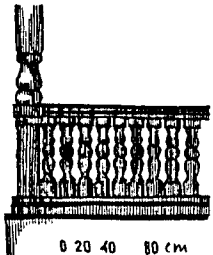
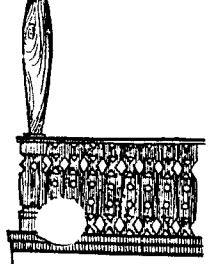
\* Current Park policy indicates herbicidal applications are appropriate for treatment of severe problems when other methods of control have proved unsuccessful or inappropriate. Michael Stephenson, Ranger II, Fort Ross, and Dave Boyd, Regional Ecologist

# KIZHI

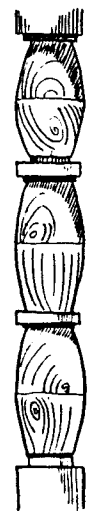
When a visitor to Fort Ross pauses to consider the massive furniture in the Official's Barracks or the long running benches in the Kuskov House they may not realize that these, and many other interior and exterior details that went into the making of the Fort, were copied from the famous open air museum of northern wooden architecture at Kizhi. There are many striking similarities that both that outdoor park and Fort Ross share. The main attractions are, of course, the structures. Inside, the exhibits lend scope and detail to the parks. A small staff at each maintain the buildings and interiors with all their attendant problems, and uniformed personnel insure that things don't walk away without permission, that people who need help get it, and that the natural beauty of each place remains intact.

Each July at both locations costumed staff and volunteers gather to celebrate a living history day and folklore festival. A week before the Kizhi festival in early July, I arrived with two architects from Leningrad to make detailed drawings and gather information on architectural details. Olga Zaitseva and Anna Semyonova, from the Restoration Department of the Architectural Design Institute of Leningrad, were greeted very warmly by the museum staff and, not only invited into their homes, but into their lives and work. The staff were full of questions about Fort Ross and admired our efforts at preserving some evidence of the Russian presence in California. Through long conversations into the late light summer evenings, they looked at the photos of our living history days, shaking their heads in admiration at our efforts, smiling and laughing at some of our sillier attempts, but always encouraging us to continue, and even sometimes envying our ability to fund our programs.

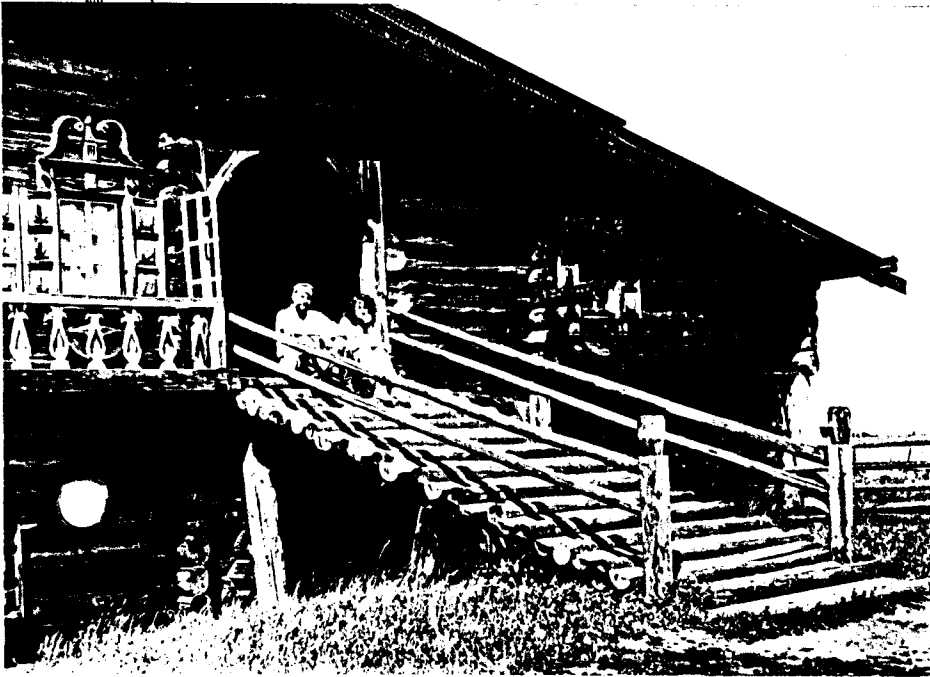
Each day the architects and I would take the boat from the island where the staff lives during the summer to the Island of Kizhi. There we would work all morning at our notes and drawing, each day under the guidance of a different staff member. One day the Curator of Furnishings would show us the collections, another day the Curator of Non Ferrous Metals, then Iron Metals, then Costumes and so on until we were familiar with what was available to research. After lunch we would draw, measure, note and photograph what we had been shown in the morning. At five p.m. we would return to the staff island, plan the next day's work, have dinner with our hosts, and then gather for the folk dance practice in anticipation of the weekend festival. A typical day also included tours of the more famous buildings with lecture by the head architect on questions that particularly pertained to Fort Ross. Questions were asked about joining techniques, metal roofing, window fastenings, typical floor plans, stone constructions, furnishings and workshops and tools. The costumes, although containing many traditional elements, could not specifically be dated to the first half of the 19th century, so were only marginally of interest. This did not prevent us from trying them on and having the poor curator of the collection and her staff dragging them out on a sunny day to be photographed. Of particular interest to us were the tools and interiors of the blacksmith shop and workrooms. Large tools such as lathes and threshers were recorded.



WOOD LATHE, OVSHEVNEV HOUSE MUSEUM, KIZHI



0 10 20 30 cm



RAMP TO THE WORK ROOMS OF THE OVSHEVNEV HOUSE, KIZHI

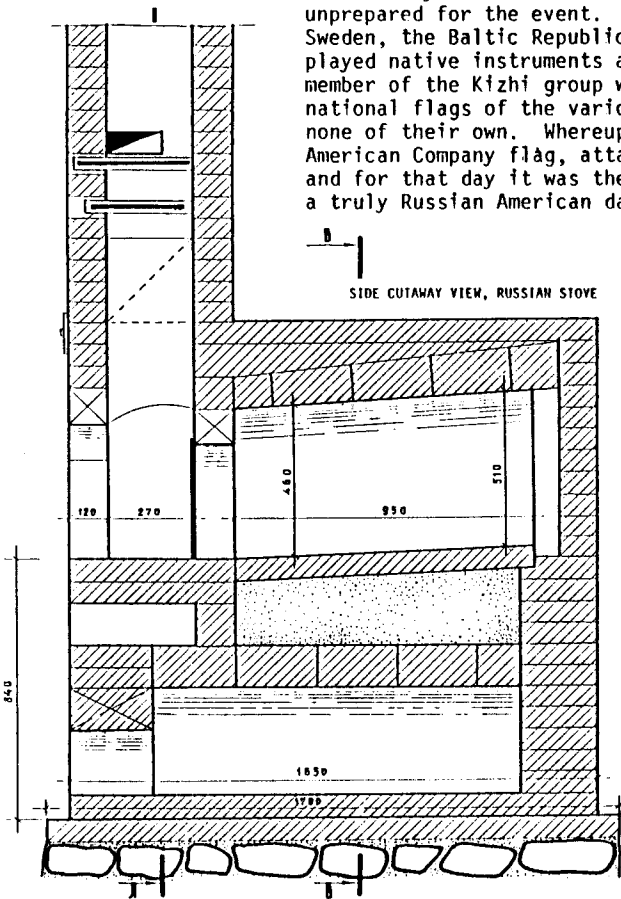


FRONT BALCONY, OVSHEVNEV HOUSE

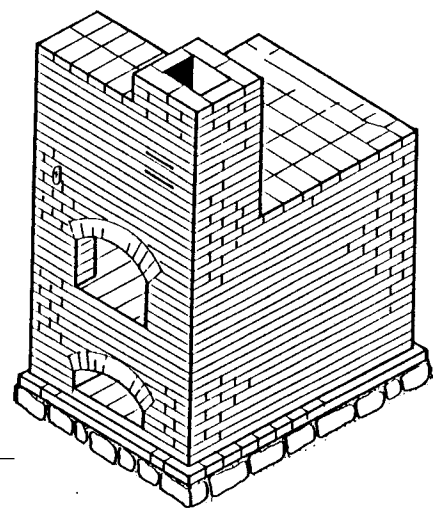
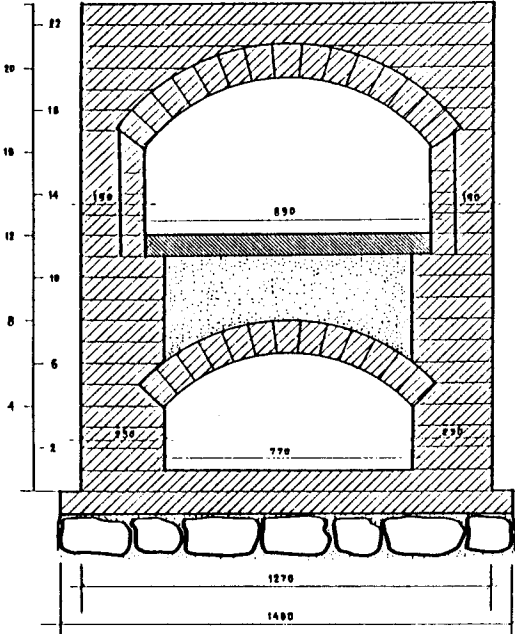
# KIZHI, continued

On Saturday the annual folk festival was held, and we found ourselves completely unprepared for the event. Thousands of people attended and folk groups from Finland, Sweden, the Baltic Republics and the Russian Republic (Kizhi is in Karelia) came, played native instruments and danced their national dance. I was made an honorary member of the Kizhi group with whom I had practiced all week. Upon seeing the other national flags of the various participants, the Kizhi group lamented that they had none of their own. Whereupon I, the good F.R.I.A. member, produced the Russian American Company flag, attached it to a pole surreptitiously removed from a fence, and for that day it was the Kizhi folkgroup flag, mostly Russian, with one American, a truly Russian American dance company.

John Middleton

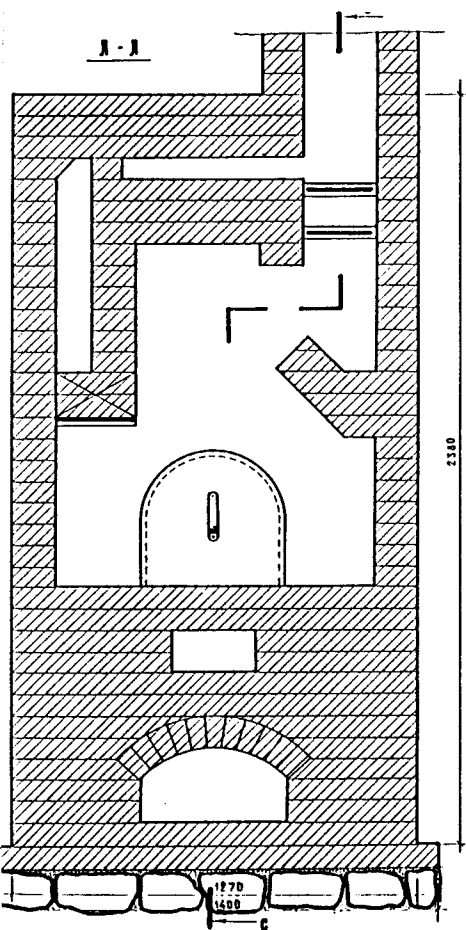


SIDE CUTAWAY VIEW, RUSSIAN STOVE



EXTERIOR CONSTRUCTION OF RUSSIAN STOVE

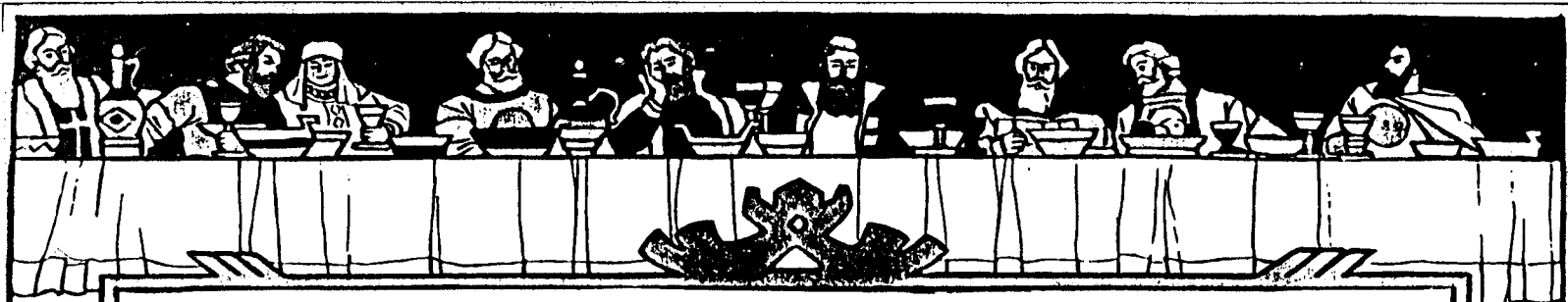
MANY ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS AND BLUEPRINTS AVAILABLE IN THE REFERENCE SECTION OF THE FORT ROSS LIBRARY



KIZHI STAFF WITH J.M.



CHURCH SCHEDULED TO BE RESTORED FOR KIZHI THIS YEAR



## MASLENITSA

MASLENITSA, a time of celebration in the Russian tradition, pronounced Mas lya nit sa, is much like our Mardi Gras. Victor Malashev, Fort Ross' intern here from Leningrad, says that Maslenitsa is one of the most popular celebrations even today in the Soviet Union. Unlike the Christmas celebration which is mostly for family, Maslenitsa is to celebrate with friends in a hearty way. The celebration starts 56 days before Easter day. Like Fat Tuesday which is a day of feasting, the first two weeks are celebrated with heavy foods and drink in friend's homes, or on the street, or in the snow fields, with much merrymaking, songs, and reunions. Buckwheat blinis with fruit sauces and syrups, hearty soups, piroshki, fatty meats, and lots of potatoes along with zakuski would possibly be served. After the feasting period is over comes the fasting for 40 days. Only light soups like shchi, fruits, and possibly only one meal per day are eaten.

Maslenitsa is in honor of the new spring about to arrive, of new life, of new food to be planted, and of new love. During the two week festive time, young men try to draw the attention of the young women. A fortress wall of snow would be built and battles would ensue with their stockpiles of snowballs, all to impress the young women who would be watching with much laughter. Then all would climb aboard the sleighs and go through the snow fields as fast as they possibly could singing and merrymaking.

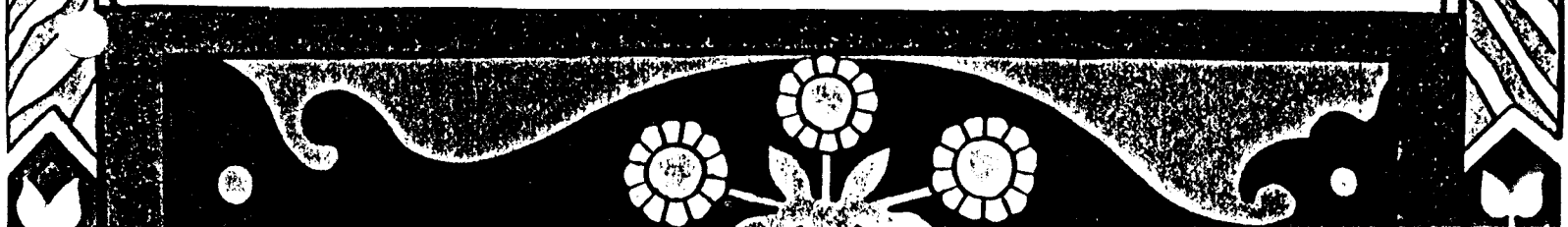
The young men and women would also jump over the fire that was built to keep them all warm. Jumping over the fire signified jumping over winter, and then new life would come. In Russia today there is an opera about the Maslenitsa celebration and jumping over the fire called Snequrochka.

This year Maslenitsa would have been celebrated February 3rd through the 17th, if my calendar is right. Since this article is coming to you after this time, I would like to lead us through the fasting time (fasting doesn't sound like too much fun), and share the menu of an Easter meal, which includes a recipe from Victor's daughter Anastasia on cabbage pie. A zakuski of finger piroshki, cold cuts, cheeses, sweet breads, and homemade butter would begin the meal. Blinis with sauces and fillings of fruit or grains, along with a hearty soup might be the next course, and then roast turkey or roast venison with dried fruits and nuts could be the main course, served with marinated beets and a potato dish. And don't forget the buffalo grass or lemon grass vodka and the black teas. Kulich and baba would also be served, painted eggs would decorate the table, and pashka is a very traditional dessert of cottage cheese, sour cream, orange, vanilla and nutmeg.

All these recipes are in *The Art of Russian Cuisine* by Anne Volokh which is sold in the Fort Ross Bookstore, except of course the recipe by Nastia. Cabbage Pie: Take one medium head of white cabbage, sliced, with butter or margarine heat on the stove until cabbage is yellow and soft, but not brown. Salt by your own tastes after it has cooled. For dough use one quart of milk, heat under a small flame (do not burn) and add 250 grams butter (I do not know the conversion for this), 4 tsp. sugar and mix with the milk over the stove. Take off the fire and add yeast flakes, let bubble, maybe 20 minutes. Add enough flour to still be able to stir the mixture. When you put the mixture on a spoon it will fall off very slowly. Let dough rise about 2 hours. Punch down, roll out to about 1/2 inch. Put half the dough in a pie pan, then put the filling on top covered with the remaining dough. Bake at 350 oven temperature until the dough is brown. Serve hot with your Easter meal.

Since the Russian American Company was here at Fort Ross for 30 years it seems possible that the Maslenitsa celebration could have occurred here, but Fort Ross style (not many women and no snow). And because the celebration seems to be of great importance in Russia, would have been a part of home and tradition while here at Fort Ross. Anyone with information on Maslenitsa here at Fort Ross, please contact me. HAPPY SPRING!

Robin Joy  
Fort Ross Interpretive Specialist



## Essie Parish honored by women's poster

**SANTA ROSA**—Essie Parrish, the renowned Pomo Indian spiritual leader, is the focus of this year's 1991 National Women's History Month commemorative poster.

Parrish, who lived from 1903 to 1979, was dedicated to teaching Pomo children their native language and customs, along with working with playing a vital role in developing a written historical record and wider understanding and appreciation of the Kashaya Pomo civilization.

"Members of the Women's History Network who helped develop this year's theme agreed to honor Essie Parish at this time," said Mary Ruthsdotter, project director of the Windsor-based group. March is National Women's History Month.

Women honored in this year's poster reflect "the continuity of the past, the conditions of the present, and the challenges of the future." Seven other women appearing on the poster are Juliette Gordon Low, Jovita Idar, Jade Snow Wong, Catharine Beecher, Septima Clark, Gloria Steinem, and Margaret Sanger.

For more information on Women's History Project or to purchase a poster, call 838-6000.

### Elsie Marie Allen

One of the world's finest basketweavers passed over on New Year's eve. Elsie was 91. It was hard to say good-bye. Elsie will be remembered as a strong, peaceful and unpretentious woman. A true grandmother of her people.

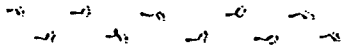
She was dedicated to creating beauty, to honoring the elderly and to preserving basketry, the ancient art of her ancestors.

Elsie acquired an international reputation as a master basketweaver. She was recognized by the Smithsonian Institute, which had invited her to demonstrate her skill at several festivals including the nation's bicentennial celebration in 1976.

Elsie's achievements included a 90 minute documentary film made by the Lowie Museum, UC Berkeley. She authored her own book, "Pomo Basketmaking, A Supreme Art for the Weaver" which was published in 1972 and has sold over 17,000 copies. However, Elsie's most cherished achievement was her honorary doctorate of divinity as a Pomo sage.

The Allen family broke the Indian tradition of destroying the baskets at the death of a weaver, to preserve their fine collection for the generations to come. Annie Burke, Elsie's grandmother, made her promise to preserve the baskets, a promise she later asked of her daughter.

The Allen collection is now on display at the Mendocino County Museum in Willits entitled "A Promise Kept".



### Gary Sheard

A traditional singer, dancer, spiritual person and my friend entered the spirit world on December 30, 1990. Gary was 41. He was a member of the Kashaya Pomo of Stewarts Point, though he resided in Santa Rosa.

Gary remained active in Indian affairs all of his life. He served on the board of directors and as chairman of the Sonoma County Indian Health Project until ill health forced him to resign.

He was devoted to the preservation of his culture and took pride in passing on Pomo traditions to the younger generation. He spent hours teaching those who wanted to learn the old ways through traditional dances.

Gary was a kind and thoughtful man. He had a gift of touching each individual he met in a special way. Year before last at the museum's Spring Gathering celebration (A Day Under the Oaks), Gary asked me to sit in the center of the circle beside his aunt while he honored us with his dance. As I sat there watching Gary weave his special magic, I was deeply touched feeling his blessing upon me.

As far as I know, Gary never danced again. His long battle with diabetes soon forced him to a hospital bed where he spent the next several months. But Gary never gave up. He kept his faith and a positive attitude. I saw Gary shortly before he passed over. He was grateful for the strength he had regained and looked forward to the day when he could dance again. Gary will dance forever in our hearts.

(From Jesse Peter Profile)

## Soviet family visits Fort Ross to rekindle historic friendships

By Nadya Williams  
Of the North Coast News

A Soviet father and daughter have been guest interns at historic Fort Ross for the past month, as the first participants in a new program designed to expand present knowledge of the fort's first inhabitants and to "build friendship between the two countries."

Viktor Malashev, a 45-year-old craftsman and ethnographer, and his 17-year-old daughter Anastasia, a student at the Leningrad Art Academy, arrived in the United States in December at the invitation of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association, a non-profit cooperative citizen's advisory group. Interns receive a one month stipend and reside with association members while they share their knowledge of Russian culture and history.

"We plan to have three sets of interns to come to the fort each year," said John Middleton, association president. "Since the Russians founded the fort in the late 1700s, we felt that the input of Soviet experts would be invaluable — and it has proven to be so. I first met Viktor at the Leningrad State Museum of Ethnography last year where I had a grant to study Soviet artifacts and conservation techniques. He is a former artillery captain in the Soviet Army, and an expert in 19th century military artifacts. Although the fort apparently never fired a shot in anger, we have a lot of artillery — cannons and weapons."

"Viktor is knowledgeable about so many aspects of Russian life — costumes, furniture, customs. To give you an

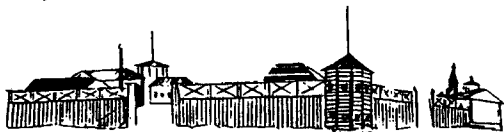
example, he demonstrated the ancient Russian custom of roasting sand to be used to scrub and polish the wooden floors, just as they did at the fort more than a hundred years ago."

"Viktor is also a very fine glass artist," said Fred Cresswell, a member of the association and himself a glass artist. Cresswell has hosted the father and daughter pair at his studio/home near Fort Ross during their month-long stay in January and February. "It's just so exciting to have Soviet artists here. Viktor and Anastasia have been very inspiring. We've been exchanging techniques, as Viktor specializes in the art of cloisonne. Since he's been here he has produced watercolors and fired ceramics, and Anastasia has done

landscapes on china and some beautiful watercolors. We will be exhibiting their work toward the middle or end of March at the visitor's center gallery at the fort."

"Our next interns will be arriving in June or July, and are two young women architects, both experts in Russian wooden architecture," said association president Middleton. "In the future we will include experts in northwest native cultures, since indigenous hunters were brought here by the first Russians. We are presently in contact with the Koniag Native Association of the Aleutian Islands of Alaska."

Fort Ross will hold its annual Living History Day July 29, when visitors can enjoy watching demonstrations by volunteers in period costumes.



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