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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.

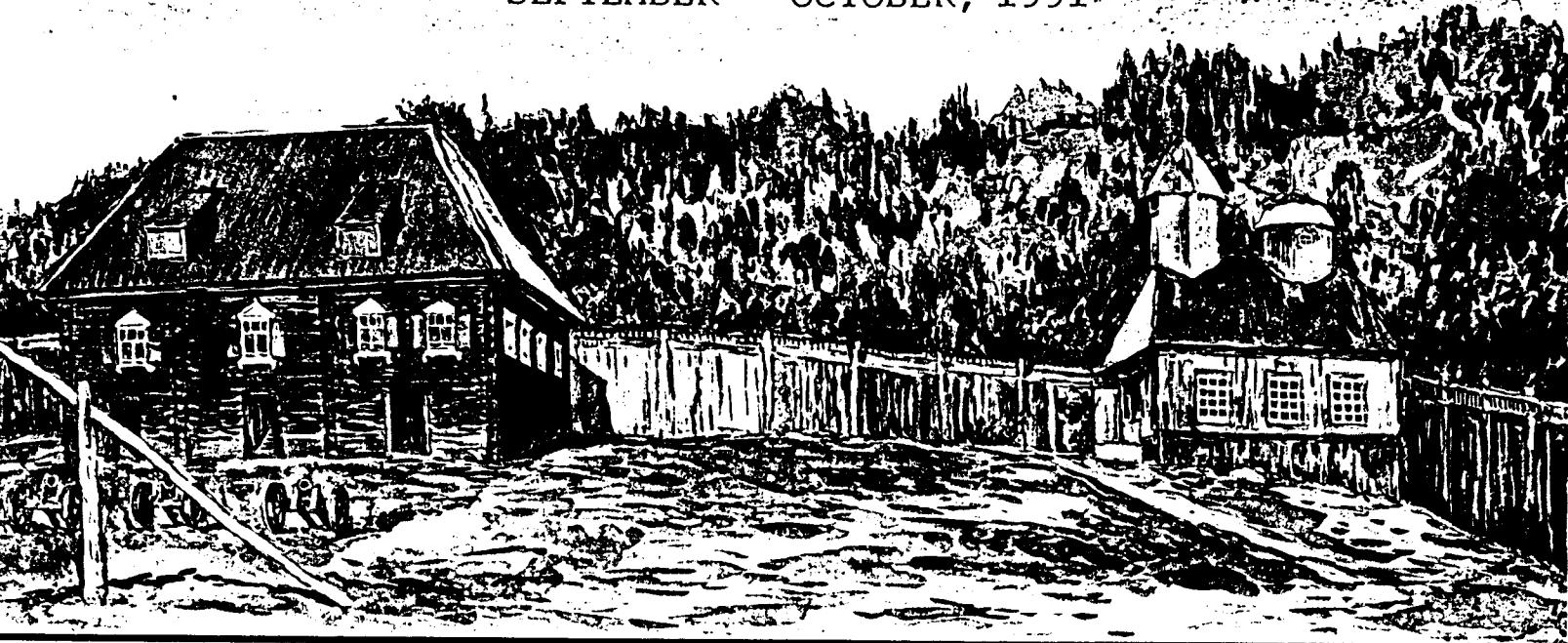
These digitized newsletters capture the activities over the following historic periods:

- 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  
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, 1991



Print from a painting by Malaschevs, 1991

## WELCOME

WELCOME to our new District Superintendent, ROBERT R. LA BELLE. He comes here from Inland Region where he was Superintendent, Technical Services. He will strive to be "The Wizard of Oz".

### "The Wizard of Oz"

(A Subordinate's "Model" Supervisor/Superintendent)

- Someone who is fair, honest & trustful; one who cares
- Strong leader/agent and mentor for function and employees
- Understands job/workload; will make difficult decisions; hold employees accountable for their actions
- A motivator; cheerleader; charismatic and inspirational; team builder; good sense of humor
- Good communicator/interpersonal skills; keeps staff informed
- Evaluates performances; shows appreciation, positive recognition and constructive criticism
- Open minded; approachable; uses "Team Approach" to problem solving
- Provides adequate resources and authority to complete assigned tasks
- Establishes goals and priorities; focus; and "Big Picture"

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 22, 1991

CONTACT: Joyce Huyett or  
Vicki McCoy  
(213) 667-9380

**FORT ROSS, DRAKE'S BAY AND TALL SHIP FEATURED  
AS "CALIFORNIA'S GOLD" ON KRCB IN SEPTEMBER**

In his search for "California's Gold," producer/host Huell Howser sails on our state's official tall ship, the *Californian*, into Drake's Bay for a look into the controversy surrounding the authenticity of a brass plate that might have been left by Sir Francis Drake. Then, we journey up the coast and back in time to a colorful 1830s-era Russian festival at Fort Ross State Historic Park, on the Sonoma County coast.

This premiere episode of "California's Gold" (a 12-part weekly series) will air on Thursday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m. on KRCB-TV/Rohnert Park. (It can also be seen at 5 p.m. on Sunday, September 8 on KQED-TV/San Francisco.)

Recently endorsed by the California Teachers Association, the California Library Association and the California School Boards Association, "California's Gold" is the only program broadcast throughout the state that covers California on a regular basis.

Each program provides a fascinating look at the treasures to be found in our state as producer/host Huell Howser explores California's rich history, natural wonders and cultural diversity.

"As a history buff, this is something I've always dreamed of doing," says Howser. "'California's Gold' is a ten-year venture. When it's completed, we'll have a series of programs that will document what life was like in California during the last decade of the 20th century."

**"CALIFORNIA'S GOLD" FALL WEEKLY AIR TIMES**

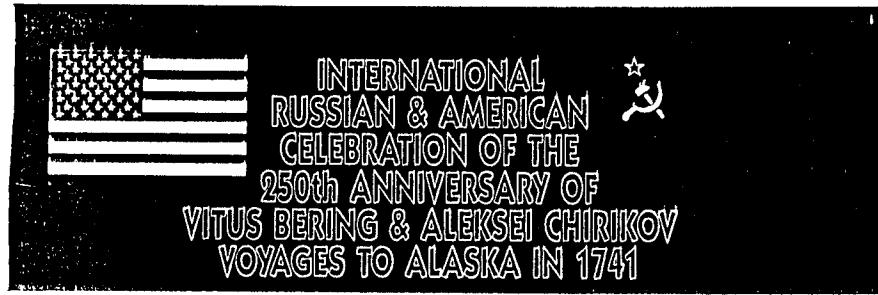
San Francisco/KQED:	Sundays at 5 p.m., starting Sept. 8 Repeat: Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., starting Sept. 12
Los Angeles/KCET:	Sundays at 7:30 p.m., starting Sept. 8 Repeat: Fridays at 7:30 p.m.
San Diego/KPBS:	Sundays at 7:30 p.m., starting Sept. 8
Sacramento/KVIE: KVIE/Cable Channel 7:	Mondays at 7:30 p.m., starting Sept. 9 Saturdays at 5 p.m., starting Sept. 7
San Jose/KTEH:	Fridays at 6:30 p.m., starting Oct. 11
Huntington Beach/KOCE:	Saturdays at 5:30 p.m., starting Sept. 14
Fresno/KVPT:	TBD
San Mateo/KCSM:	Fridays at 6 p.m., starting Sept. 13
Rohnert Park/KRCB:	Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., starting Sept. 12
Eureka/KEET:	Fridays at 7 p.m., starting Sept. 13
Redding/KIXE:	Sundays at 6:30 p.m., starting Sept. 8 Repeat: Wednesdays at 11:30 p.m.
San Bernardino/KVCR:	Mondays at 7:30 p.m., starting Sept. 9
Los Angeles/KLCS:	Thursdays at 8:30 p.m., starting Sept. 5



## **LIVING HISTORY DAY FORT ROSS STATE HISTORIC PARK**

Russian history day has become an increasingly popular event. This year you may view it on television!!! THANK YOU to all the staff and volunteers; without your participation the event could not happen.





This year is the 250th anniversary of the Bering - Chirikov voyages which first brought the Russians to Alaska in 1741. Among the Russian vessels sailing the North Pacific this year to commemorate the event is the research vessel Academic Shirshov. On August 22 it arrived in San Francisco, and on August 24 two large busses carrying the crew and passengers arrived at Fort Ross. The visitors were welcomed in the Visitor Center Auditorium by Michael Stephenson, Fort Ross Supervising Ranger, and John Middleton, Chairman of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association. The Captain of the Academic Shirshov, Vilen Alper, the historian A. I. Alekseev, and the Soviet Vice Consul were introduced, and gifts were exchanged. Costumed staff and volunteers and members of the FRIA Board of Directors mingled with the over 100 visiting Russians. Everyone walked to the Fort where Bishop Anthony and Father Michael conducted a prayer service in the chapel. After the service two cannon salutes were fired to welcome the visitors. Ranger Bill Walton and the Fort Ross Militia were assisted by Soviet dignitaries in firing the salute. A potluck lunch and champagne toast followed. Among the passengers on the Academic Shirshov are 30 members of the Leningrad State Opera Touring Company. The grand finale of the afternoon was their outdoor performance of the rock opera "Juno and Avos".

"The basis of the opera's plot is the fate of a Russian count and a courtier - Nikolai Petrovitch Rezanov - who sailed on two schooners, 'Juno' and 'Avos', to the shores of California in 1806. Stifling spiritual atmosphere, the impossibility of living in the Tsar's Russia force Rezanov to look for new lands to implement the eternal dream about freedom for Russian people...After the hardest passage through the Pacific Ocean Rezanov meets Spanish monks, Franciscans, and the Governor of San Francisco, Jose Dario Arguello. Invited to the Governor's reception Rezanov meets his daughter - the fifteen year old Concepcion de Arguello (Conchita)...Having made a secret engagement with Conchita Rezanov sets out for a sad way back. In Siberia he comes down with a fever and dies. And Conchita remains true to her love for the rest of her life..."

## The Russians Came! The Russians Came!

by Wendy Platt

"The Russians are coming! The Russians are coming!" The frantic phone call left me with a deep feeling of fear and dread. Unlike the characters of the 1960s movie of the above title, the fear and dread did not come from an ignorant Cold War mentality. My fear and dread was far more basic. How were we going to feed 120 Russians and 80 other assorted guests a spur of the moment lunch befitting the momentous occasion with only 24 hours notice?

When faced with a problem of this magnitude, I did the only intelligent thing. I called Mom. Without a hesitation in her voice, she agreed to make a dish I could use as my contribution to the day. I could pick it up on my way home that evening. One problem solved.

My next call was to an even bigger saviour, Robin Joy. Robin coordinates all the food for Living History Day and can put on a feast fit for a king (or a comrade) with barely an hour's notice. By the time I talked to her, she had already enlisted her troop of cooks and was ready for action. Both local supermarkets came through with donations and great food deals to help allay the costs of this last minute celebration. The Fort Ross Interpretive Association telephone trees were single-handedly keeping Contel and Pacific Bell solvent for the day.

By the time I arrived at Fort Ross on Saturday morning, the State Park staff and volunteers had the place whipped into shape. Potluck dishes were crowding the tables, the champagne donated by Korbel and delivered by Ernie Carpenter was being iced, and the "Slavic kitchen wenches" were chopping vegetables for Robin's famous borscht. Costumed volunteers under the guidance of the always wonderful park staff, were gathering muskets, moving tables, pulling out props. Fort Ross was mobilized and ready for the invasion.

Suddenly, the Russians had come. Speeches, presentations, promises of friendship, and thank yous were exchanged. A service at the chapel and a cannon salute touched off by a visiting Russian historian finished the morning activities. Then the moment of truth came. Lunch. The hungry Russians guests seemed impressed by the feast which included everything from a plethora of salads and a whole barbecued salmon, to peanut butter and Snickers bars. Robin's borscht was an instant hit, particularly amidst such strange foods as tortilla chips and hot salsa.

In a moment of brilliance, I positioned myself at the champagne bar and popped and poured. There was no doubt that the Russians had a healthy appetite for champagne. Each Russian's glass remained in front of me until it was completely full. There were no Russian shrinking violets.

For our enjoyment, the Russians performed a Russian rock opera which included scenes from Fort Ross. This cross-generational, cross-cultural, cross-historical performance had me totally boggled. There was some beautiful music and singing in it. My three day class in Russian, a few months ago merely left me frustrated. As I watched, I couldn't help but wonder how Kuskov, the first manager of Fort Ross, over 150 years ago, would have reacted to the show. I bet he was a pretty cool guy.

The end of the performance brought out the final food item. Apple pie. As the apple pies were served to our guests, it was obvious we had struck a strong chord for Russian-American relations. The apple pie was a definite hit. As the last of the Russians boarded the buses, I saw a few of them take whole pies and I was reminded of the old adage, *The way to a man's heart is through his stomach*. In this case, perhaps the way to perestroika is through food. I wonder if Yeltsin and Gorbie like apple pie?

# **'Russian America, Forgotten Frontier'**

## **An Exhibit coming to Oakland, Oct 20 to Jan 12.**

*by Father O'Brien*

The Anchorage Museum of History and Art's exhibit, "Russian America: The Forgotten Frontier" will be at the Oakland Museum, October 26, 1991, through January 12, 1992. Those who have seen it highly recommend it, and it will be of special interest to all those connected with Fort Ross.

The curator, Barbara Smith, began to put this exhibit together in June, 1988. It was jointly organized by Washington State Historical Society and the Anchorage Museum of History and Art, and first shown at Tacoma in the summer of 1990, part of the Russian-American Goodwill Games. Besides Tacoma and Anchorage, it is currently slated to travel to Juneau, Oakland, and the Library of Congress in Washington D.C.

The exhibit is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, plus various Alaskan companies, civic and religious organizations.

The exhibit, which occupies 4,000 sq. ft. of space in the Anchorage museum consists of over 7,000 items: documents, manuscripts, paintings icons and artifacts. 80 American museums and institutions have loaned Russian-American items, as well as Canada, Finland and the USSR.

Among its very special items are:

Log Book of Vitus Bering, recording for example his discovery of Mt. St. Elias

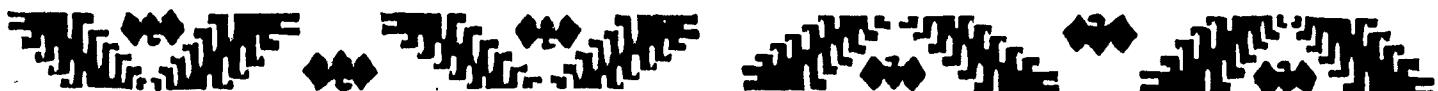
Brass Tablet "Russian Land", which marked possession of new territory for the Russian Empire. No 12, it is the only such tablet unearthed so far.

Icons from private collections, such as the Security Pacific Bank. Precious icons normally are not seen outside of Russian Orthodox churches where they are revered items for devotional purposes, not just for display, but those on display are of equal age and beauty.

But these are just a few of 7,000 items!

Plan to attend early so you won't forget, and make a day of it. Be ecological and organize carfulls.

For more information call the Oakland Museum at 415 834-2413 or 415 273-3401. Members of the Fort Ross Staff and FRIA have been invited to attend the opening as costumed interpreters.



### **THE INDIANS AT THE ROSS SETTLEMENT**

#### **ACCORDING TO THE CENSUSES BY KUSKOV, 1820 and 1821**

AN EXCERPT:

Alexey Istomin. Table 5. The Indians, Inhabitants of the Ross Settlement, 1820-1821 (from Kuskov Censuses)

Number	Name (transliteration and original)	Sex	Origin	Position	Children	Census: date, further biography
1	Katerina Ukkelya (Uk'keli)	Female	Bodega	Women of Yevstii Antipin, Russian promyshlennyy (carpenter, died in Ross end of 1821 or 1822, according to Khlebnikov)	son Alexandr, daughter Matrena	June 1820, October 1821
2	Yeimpo Ваймпо	Male	from the Great Bodega [Bay]	Worked at Ross as a convict for crimes (murder of Kodiaks and some others)	---	June 1820. Was released to return to his native place in May 1821 because of his old age and illness (disease)
3	Chichemik Чичемик	Male	from the Great Bodega [Bay]	Worked at Ross as convicted for crimes (see above)	---	June 1820. As it turned out, he was not guilty and he was released with some reward

The Fort Ross Interpretive Association soon plans to publish this manuscript by FRIA INTERN ALEXEY ISTOMIN, Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Moscow.

# RANCH ERA NOTES

## A MUCH NEEDED ROAD

THE WAGON ROAD UP THE COAST - A GREAT MOUNTAIN TO BE AVOIDED - THE "COAST TO BE CLEAR" TO THE GUALALA - HINT FOR A BRIDGE.

- We are much pleased with the action of the Board of Supervisors in making an appropriation of \$2,500 toward the building of a wagon road from Russian Gulch to Fort Ross. The road by good rights ought to have been built years ago and probably would, had it not been for the unfortunate and impecunious condition into which the county road fund had fallen. Enterprising men, however, who reside and are interested in the coast country, have subscribed liberally, and at the meeting of the Board at Santa Rosa, made a determined fight for the appropriation and carried their measure. The people on the coast subscribed \$4,800 for the road, and with what the county gives it will be sufficient to complete the enterprise. Among the subscribers we noticed the following: George W. Call, \$1000; W. R. Miller, \$1000; F. Leibig \$300; F. Hlemke, \$500; Miller & Getz, \$500; Funcke & Co., \$1000; S. Rien, \$50; A. Schroyer, right of way for 2½ miles; D. H. Jewell, right of way; besides several other smaller subscriptions. The subscribers take the contract to build the road, and it is expected that the highway will be ready for travel by the first of May. When completed the road from the mouth of the Russian River to the Gualala River will be one of the best in the State, the new road avoiding the one great and overshadowed obstacles that has ever been the dread of those compelled to make the coast trip. One other vastly important improvement is needed in this direction and that is a suspension bridge across the river at Duncan's Mills. This will, of course, necessitate the outlay of a considerable sum of money, but we believe its importance will justify the expense to the county. We have full confidence in the pluck and ability of the enterprising people of the coast to make the Board of Supervisors "see it" before many years.

From: THE SONOMA DEMOCRAT, JUNE 21, 1873

SUBMITTED BY BARBARA BLACK



FORT ROSS HOTEL (ROTCHEV HOUSE WITH TWO STORY BENITZ ADDITION) 1880

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 \* RANCH ERA COMMITTEE MEETING 10:00 A.M.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12 \* FRIA BOARD MEETING 10:00 A.M.

FRIA STAFF

WENDY PLATT, Treasurer

LYN KALANI, Bookstore Manager, Newsletter Editor, Administration

LAKE PERRY, Bookstore Sales

FRIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DAN DEKAY

GLORIA FROST, Membership Chairman

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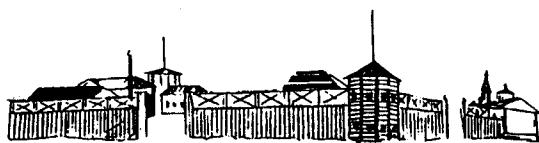
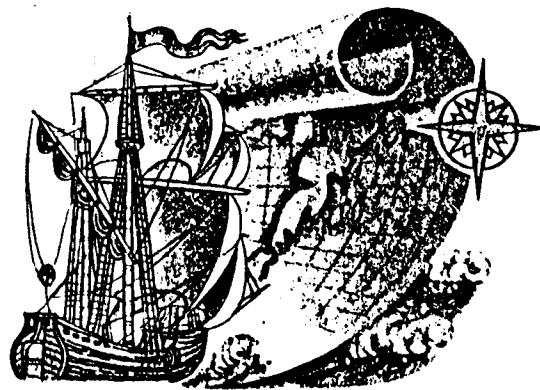
JOHN SPERRY

FRIEDA TOMLIN, Vice Chairman

DAVID WILLSON, Corresponding Secretary

ELIZABETH SIDOROV

NANCY WALTON, Recording Secretary



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