

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

November - December 1995 Newsletter

STATE PARK BUDGET CUTS

In 1998 the state park system will be 75 years old—three quarters of a century of vision and stewardship and hours of work by Californians to develop an awesome legacy of nature and history. As we approach this anniversary the inheritance is in danger. I am interested in working on this issue with others; please call me at (510) 849-0508. Do read the excerpts below from the excellent article by Laura Svendsgaard, President of Friends of California Parks. *Maria Sakovich*

BUDGET UPDATE—Full Funding Provides Short Lived Joy As Puzzle Pieces Spell Potential “Doom” for State Parks from *Friends of California Parks Issues Update July/August 1995*.

“On Thursday, July 27th *Friends* received a call from Senator Lockyer’s office to advise us of the “good news - the Big Six had agreed to fully fund State Parks for the 1995-96 budget year.” While we still had to wait for the Legislature and Governor to approve the budget, it was the first solid sign of hope we’d received since January. With fingers crossed and continuing efforts, we anxiously followed the budget discussions through Senate approval, Assembly approval and, on August 3rd, final approval by the Governor which included the \$19.4 million transfer from the Beverage Container Recycling Fund. ...Not all budget battles since Prop. 13 have ended this “successfully”. But through the dedication of park professionals and volunteers, we have worked together to overcome the obstacles and preserve the essence of the California State Park System. It is becoming frighteningly clear however, that unless the legislature provides a secure and adequate funding mechanism in 1996, State Parks as we know them today, will cease to exist by the year 2000.

The likely existence of a covert plan to divest state parks was first disclosed in May by a legislative staff member in a discussion about the budget and the eight Los Angeles beaches slated for transfer. In presenting the case for DPR’s retaining ownership of the beaches, *Friends* was asked “did you know the Resources Agency has promised that any state park not generating enough revenue to cover its overhead by the year 2000 will be divested?” Stunned, we acknowledged that many “divestiture” discussions had taken place over the years, but we had no knowledge that a time frame had been established. Subsequent discussions with legislative staff revealed the promise to divest was known by many. Efforts to substantiate

the claim proved futile, until late July when a DPR staff member advised reliable sources that the divestiture of eight Los Angeles beaches “would be the first of many.”

In difficult fiscal times it’s prudent to assess the role each facility plays in achieving the overall mission of the Department. However, an assessment based solely on political and economic agendas ignores the stewardship responsibilities of government. And while the concept of divesting state parks is disturbing in its own right, two other factors pose equal threats to the existence of state parks. The first deals with the placement of political appointees to high positions within the Department of Parks and Recreation. Over the last few years, 7 political appointees have taken key DPR positions—either existing or newly created. While acknowledging that outside experts can provide fresh and innovative insight, of enormous concern is the lack of understanding and sensitivity some appointees have for the intricacies of the State Park Mission, and the premise upon which they received the “exempt” position. Specifically, to carry out and be loyal to the agenda of the current administration.

The opinions of park professionals, whose whole lives have been dedicated to preserving the integrity of California’s State Park System, are becoming blended with a covert agenda that has little to do with parks’ role in providing for a healthier society. And increasingly, professional opinions are totally disregarded to the benefit of economic gain; either in the form of revenue generation for the Department, or financial gain for other agencies or private enterprise. While revenue generation is clearly an important aspect of present day government, every effort must be made to ensure that the Department’s Mission is not compromised in any way.

The second factor is the appearance of indifference to the plight of both state and local parks. While the legislature provides special funding for special interests, California’s parks grovel year after year for funding which does little more than preserve parks in an anorexic state. Society’s focus on crime, education, health and the economy, fails to acknowledge that parks play a very positive role in affecting each of these issues. At the same time, park program reductions have severally affected the Department’s greatest public relations tool—the interaction between the public and park interpreters. Both the legislature and society in general appear indifferent toward the breakdown of parks, though it should be argued that a 17 year fiscal crisis, coupled with the silenced voices of park

professionals has left the legislature and the public painfully unaware of parks present condition, of efforts to significantly alter its future integrity, and parks ability (if adequately cared for) to provide for a healthier society.

...At some point, those who recognize the enormous value of parks gentle role in bettering society, must speak out and clearly claim that "enough is enough!" Revenue generation is NOT what parks are about. Lands entrusted to the care of the state for the use and enjoyment of our children, and our children's children are NOT to be divested in order to accommodate a short-sighted administration's covert agenda. The expertise and opinions of individuals who have dedicated their lives to State Park System must NOT be silenced, ignored or overruled to the detriment of the State Park's Mission. And the legislature :must not be allowed to ignore the responsibility they bear in utilizing tax dollars to provide public services which cannot feasibly be provided by private enterprise.

Enough is enough! The focus in 1996 must be on the legislature. They defend and enact special funding legislation every day. If they can do it for the Recycling Program, for off-highway vehicles, for boating, and countless other special interests, they can and must do it for parks. ...But within the ranks of the legislature, we are cultivating allies—a handful of elected officials who know of park's plight, who know of park's needs, and who know and honor park's value. We may not succeed in generating \$20 million through new legislation in 1996, but we can no longer be silent. We can no longer grovel for subsistence funding and retain the dignity of state parks.

Divestiture, political appointments, legislative indifference and years of inadequate funding have clearly taken a toll on the resources and programs. But the essence of what makes California's State parks has been retained. And we are now at the precipice, the "event horizon". With the formation of four DPR committees to explore ways of reducing overhead or increasing revenue, the writing is clearly on the wall. Revenue Generation, Conversion (i.e. divestiture), Program Reduction, and Closure/Surplus Committees leaves little room to doubt that the Department is the victim of errant public policy.

The first step in this agenda is the transfer of the eight LA beaches. It must not be viewed as a "local" issue. If accomplished, the precedence of divestiture on the basis of political and economic agendas will be set. The prophecy of divesting parks not covering their overhead will have begun. And once begun, efforts to retrieve the loss or reverse the trend will be many times harder than stopping the first step. The decision to divest state parks should rest with the parks' owners—the people of California. Let them choose between funding or divestiture. Park staff and volunteers have created and protected the fragile essence of state parks for generations...But protecting that essence in the next four years is going to require that we join together and focus efforts on our Senate and Assembly representatives, holding them accountable for providing the funding necessary to restore our state and local parks to health. Parks play a significant role in providing for education, healthful recreation, as an alternative to crime, and ensuring a robust economy. Only by funding a complete program will parks be able to fulfill its role in service to society. A healthy society has a healthy park system. Hold YOUR State

Senator land Assembly Member accountable for doing everything in their power to provide secure and adequate funding for state and local parks!..."



The following information was submitted by Ranger Karen Broderick: "I have included some information that might be helpful in giving you an idea on what is happening. The LA County beaches have already been given away, but the information from the Friends of State Parks is still relevant. If you do not have time to write to your senator or to Governor Wilson, then just drop a postcard stating that you are concerned about the proposed budget cuts on state parks in 1996-97, and that you support funding for your parks."

TAPPED STATE PARKS BRACE FOR CUTS from *Voice of the California State Park Peace Officer* Vol. 16 No. 9. "California's state park system, which has survived in recent years by raiding millions of dollars from other budgets, is bracing for a bleaker future because officials perceive slimmer hopes of getting any more infusions of outside help. Park planners are beginning the painful process of figuring out how to run a scaled-down park system with \$20 million to \$25 million less money—a large potential loss considering that the entire operating budget is about \$125 million. "There isn't any way to continue business as usual," state parks Director Donald Murphy told staff last week..." It is unclear whether officials have in mind closing some parks or keeping all the parks open with fewer rangers and maintenance staff and interpreters. Those answers are expected to materialize in the coming wee' behind closed doors and without public involvement, from teams of park staffers assembled by Murphy. Officials may not have to implement the cost cutting ideas if the governor and Legislature next year manage to find the money to keep running the state's 268 park units, said Deputy Director Patricia Megason...To make ends meet in recent years, the parks department has either raised camping fees or raided other budgets...For the 1995-96 fiscal year, for example, the parks department received a one-time-only transfer of \$19.4 million from a state recycling fund, according to Megason...While some agencies such as the Transportation Department can rely on a steady source of funding such as a dedicated gasoline tax, the parks department must compete against prisons, schools, and other services for money from the general fund. While it was just last month that the Legislature and Wilson approved a 1995-96 budget, agencies are already busy drafting proposals for the next year's spending plan. That is why Murphy and the parks department are busy now planning what lawmakers will ultimately be debating next summer. Different groups or park officials are figuring out how to raise more revenues through fees or corporate sponsorships, how to reduce spending at the parks, whether any parks can be transferred to other government agencies and whether any "surplus" parks can be closed."



**Governor Pete Wilson, State Capitol, Sacramento 95814.
Fax (916) 445-4633, Phone (916) 445-2841**

THE BODEGA MIWOK AS SEEN BY M.T. TIKHANOV IN 1818

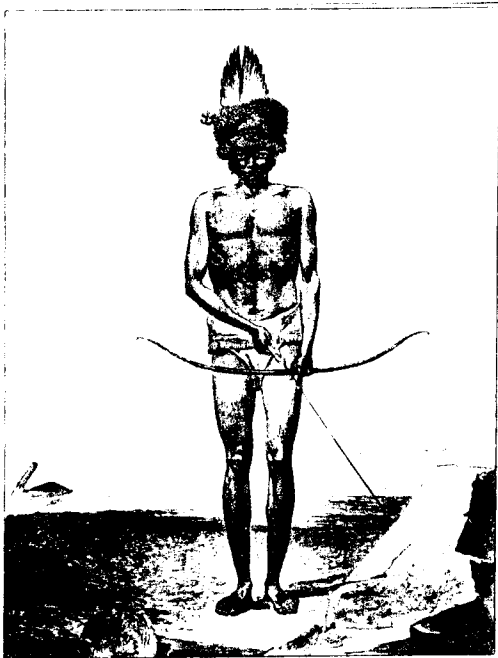
by Glenn Farris, California Department of Parks

(Paper presented at the California Indian Conference, UCLA, October 7, 1995)

ABSTRACT

In 1818 a Russian scientific expedition under the direction of Vasilii Golovnin visited Bodega Bay (called by the Russians, Port Rumiantsev). Apart from the written accounts of at least three members of the expedition concerning the people there, the expedition artist, Mikhail Tikhonovich Tikhanov, produced five known paintings picturing the life of the people. These remarkable paintings are the only ones known of the Bay Miwok people near the time of early contact with Europeans. What makes the drawings even more valuable is that they were done by an artist specifically commissioned to render detailed ethnographic drawings of peoples encountered on the expedition. Because of their association with the Russians headquartered at Fort Ross, some authors have mistakenly identified the individuals pictured as Pomo.

Thanks to some contemporary Spanish accounts and mission records, we can piece together additional details of the individuals and what was going on at the time, especially the fact that the expedition was at Bodega Bay at the time of a shift in the leadership of the Bodega Miwok people due to the death of the old chief.



INTRODUCTION

On September 21, 1818, the Russian naval ship, *Kamchatka*, under the command of Vasilii Golovnin, arrived at Bodega Bay (renamed by the Russians Port Rumiantsev). It was bound around the world on a scientific expedition. Several of the junior officers on the voyage later were quite successful in the Russian Navy and Russian-American Company Administration (Matvei Muraviev, Fedor Lütke and Baron Ferdinand Wrangel). Apart from the account rendered by Captain Golovnin (1979), there were three other detailed journals by Lieutenant Fedor Lütke (Dmytryshyn et al. 1989:257-285), Collegiate Secretary Fedor Matiushkin (1971) and Baron Ferdinand Wrangel (Safaraliev 1990:35).

However, of greatest importance to the subject at hand was the presence on the expedition of a freed serf named Mikhail Tikhonovich Tikhanov, born about 1789, who had been sent to the Russian Academy of Arts in 1806 to be trained as a painter thanks to the patronage of his owner, Prince D. N. Golitsyn (Safaraliev 1990:33). After his painting, "The Shooting of Russian Patriots by the French in 1812" had been awarded a gold medal, in 1815 he finished his academic training and was put on a state stipend. In recognition of this, he was freed from serfdom by his owner (Pierce 1990:506). Two years later he was recommended to the Golovnin Expedition and sailed from Cronstadt in August 1817 on the *Kamchatka*.

Tikhanov's assigned duty was to record in drawings native peoples of the various places visited. Paintings of indigenous peoples were to be done both full face and profile to fully capture the dress, ornaments, tattoos, etc. The five drawings known from the visit to Bodega Bay are particularly notable because they are the only known drawings of Bodega Miwok people (in contrast to other, better known drawings of Coast Miwok people by Louis Choris in 1816). At the time of the Golovnin visit the Spanish *asistencia* of San Rafael had only been started and had not gathered in the people of Bodega Bay.

The five paintings by Tikhanov included two portrayals of a young man identified only as Baltazar. In one scene he is seated and in the other he is standing, bow and arrow in hand. In both he is wearing a fur headpiece, probably of sea otter skin, with a pair of feathered bird wings sticking up at the right rear held in place by a thong. A loin cloth girds his waist. He is standing on the beach very near to the waterline with a pelican playfully included in the water.

A third painting is of a comely young woman holding a large carrying basket apparently filled with fish, probably surf smelt, freshly netted. In addition to wearing dangling earrings, she also has two strands of a clam shell bead necklace and a skin wrap draped around her hips. A small child is pictured in the background, crouched down on his hands and knees seemingly by a bush.



In addition, there are two remarkable views set in the interiors of houses. One of these is a composite of "everyday life" showing many activities which may or may not have gone on simultaneously. These included a man holding a straight pipe, a woman using a pestle to pound wild rye apparently in a hopper mortar and another woman nursing a child with a second child in a cradleboard behind her. In front of this woman is a basket of mush or pinole being stone boiled in a basket and a fire for heating the rocks nearby.



The second interior drawing is of a more serious subject, the death of the old chief. In it we see the back of a head and part of the body lying on its side with a woman in grief next to him. Her hair is cut short in apparent mourning and around her shoulders is a rabbit skin blanket. In the foreground are two men squatting down on their haunches. One of them is wearing a hairnet and in his hands he holds with apparent reverence a feathered headdress, very possibly that of the dying (or deceased) chief.



By great good luck we have a description of Tikhonov at work on these drawings by his expedition mate, Matiushkin (1971) who said he went ashore at Bodega Bay and walked along the shoreline.

About a mile beyond the anchorage I saw a puff of smoke from behind a small promontory. I climbed it and saw a band of New Albion nomads. They all looked at me, but since I was aware of their peace-loving nature and special affection toward Russians, I approached them boldly and soon noticed our painter in their midst. Surrounded by savages, he laughed and played with them, while drawing their pictures. Most of all, he amused them when they saw some one of them on paper. Mikhail Tikhonovich drew many of them just for pleasure, and from these he made two paintings. One represents their chief, lying in a hut of branches and reeds, at the point of death. His wife is in tears, and several men surround his bed. One of them, with a bunch of feathers, seems to be acting both as a physician (for he is pulling straps across the sick man's stomach) [sic ?] and as a priest, telling the sick man's fortune. The other painting shows a woman cooking food.

Although I do not believe that the version of the death scene which has come down to us is the exact one that Matiushkin saw and described, it is clearly based on the same event. Several points in Matiushkin's description are particularly important to us. He identified the individual in the death scene shown lying

THE BODEGA MIWOK page 2

down with his back to the viewer as none other than the old chief. In fact, given the sad look on the face of his wife and her short, disheveled hair, this painting is probably a remarkable rendering of a scene closely following his death. As we all know, it was common for California Indian women to cut their hair short in mourning at such a time. Two men shown in the drawing seem to be reverently witnessing the event with the one wearing the hairnet holding a plume of feathers and strings of black, white and yellow cylindrical beads. This individual may possibly be Vallí-éla, the man about to replace the dying Tolló as chief (cf. Payeras 1995).



BALTHAZAR, TOLLO AND VALLI:ELA

The young man shown in two of the drawings was identified by Tikhanov as having the name Balthazar. It is intriguing to note that in December 1821, a young man of 18 years of age was baptized at Mission San Rafael under this same name, Balthazar. He was said to come from the village of Tauyomi (San Rafael baptism 627). His parents' Miwok names were Catcat (SRb 625) and Bohomen (SRb 626). They were baptized at the same time, whereas his sister was baptized about two years earlier in February 1820 (SRb 370). Although I do not have a positive identification of where the village of Tauyomi was, it may well have been associated with a campsite about 3/4 of a mile north of Bodega Bay calle *Tauwakpulok* (Kelly 1991:74).

Two Bodega Bay Miwok men, Vicente and Rufino are shown in the San Rafael *asistencia* records as having been baptized in 1819 and 1821, respectively. Thus they may well have been at their village on Bodega Bay at the time of Golovnin's visit.

They were certainly at San Rafael at the time that Fr. Payeras interviewed them in October 1822 (Payeras 1995:335; SBMA n.d.). It is interesting to note that each one had a child, both of whom were baptized simultaneously (SRb's 79 and 80) on April 5, 1818, about five months before the arrival of the Golovnin expedition at Bodega Bay. The account provided by Vicente and Rufino identifies the chief of the village near Bodega as being named Tóllo at the time the first Russian representative, Timofei Tarakanov, arrived circa 1807 (Farris 1993), but having died in 1818, Vallí:éla, had succeeded him. This latter chief, identified as *Valenila* by Golovnin (1979:165) in 1818, is undoubtedly the same one. Golovnin reported his interaction with the Bodega Miwok chief as follows:

The chief of the people living next to Port Rumiantsev came to see me when my sloop was anchored there. He brought gifts consisting of various parts of their regalia, arrow, and household items, and asked to be taken under Russian protection. An Aleut who had lived over a year among these people acted as interpreter. [This Aleut is not otherwise identified, but is very likely the individual mentioned in another contemporary (1818) account by Fedor Lütke (Dmytryshyn et al. 1989:275).] This chief, called Valenila, definitely wanted more Russians to settle among them in order to protect them from Spanish oppression. He begged me for a Russian flag, explaining that he wanted to raise it as a sign of friendship and peace whenever Russian ships should appear near the shore. In view of all this, it would be contrary to justice and reason to assert that the Russians occupied land belonging to someone else and settled on the shores of New Albion without having the right to do so.

Another, more jaundiced, description of the chief comes from Fedor Lütke (Dmytryshyn et al. 1989:275-276):
There is no evidence that they [the Indians of Bodega Bay] revere God, and in general it seems that not only do they have no understanding of God, but that they never even wonder how and for what purpose they and everything else around them were created [!]. Nevertheless there was one among them who called himself their leader, and whom our people by custom refer to as a toion. But we could not determine how extensive his power is over all the others. We did not even see any exterior indications of respect shown him by the others, and he would not have looked any different from the others if some of our people had not given him two shirts the day before, both of which he wasted no time in putting on. It appears that this position is hereditary, because his father was also a toion.

In a separate account of Golovnin's visit (Matiushkin 1971:66-70) we learn more of "Valenila".

The very day we weighed anchor the Indian chief sought to pay us a visit. He came out to us in a longboat, wearing two shirts (given as a present to him for some service) and a garland of

intertwined grasses. Looking over our ship, he was impressed by its size. Although our captain [Golovnin] gave him some axes, knives, etc., most important of all for him was a Russian military flag, which he was told to raise as soon as he saw a ship like ours. On such occasions he was promised valuable gifts from our fellow countrymen. This Indian, Valennoela, who visited us, is not an elder of the settlement here, but because of the chief's illness, he was chosen by his comrades on account of his bravery.

Valli-éla appears again in the historical record in a lengthy report by Mariano Vallejo (1833) of his visit to Fort Ross and to Bodega Bay in late April and early May of 1833. At Bodega Bay Vallejo encountered the chief of the Indian village across the bay from the Russian port establishment. He gives the name of the chief as Gualinela.

A chief of the Christian Indians lives nearby [the Russian settlement at Bodega Bay] on his rancheria, Tiutume. At present his band numbers only 43 men and women. Their objective is to guard the Russian buildings because the Russians ensure that they are not to be bothered by outsiders while they remain on their rancheria. Before the arrival of the Russians, it was the opposite case. Gualinela is the name of the chief of the rancheria. He told me that a few days prior to my arrival there were 200 armed men, some heathen Indians and some Christians from [Mission] San Rafael. They had banded together to discourage any troops of soldiers from passing through their area. This information was confirmed by a Christian Indian from the mission San Rafael named Toribio. Toribio had informed the Indians that they would be killed or taken to San Francisco and that they would be beaten and kidnapped by a "fierce captain of soldiers." Captain is what they call all of our commissioned officers. By saying these things, Toribio managed to alarm all the Indians. The Christian Indians and the heathen alike responded to him saying that they were a united people, armed, brave, and ready to die. They agreed that they were tired of suffering the cunning and treacherous lies of the soldiers, who said one thing, then did another. The soldiers, they said always promised friendship but as soon as their confidence had been gained, the soldiers would violently imprison them and take them to the Missions San Rafael or San Francisco Solano. There they would be forcibly converted to Christianity. The Indians also said they would not allow themselves to be taken, as was common before Toribio arrived. Essentially this is the statement verified by the Christian Indians and by Gualinela, chief of the Tiutume rancheria.

The name given to the chief of the village at Bodega Bay at the time of the purchase, *Tóllo*, does not have a known meaning in the Bodega Bay Miwok language (Catherine Callaghan 1970; personal communication 1993). It must be a variant of *toion*, a Siberian term often used by the Russians for "chief" (and known

to have been later applied to the Kashaya Pomo chief at Fort Ross). On the other hand, the name *Valli-éla* is interpreted Catherine Callaghan (personal communication 1993) as being properly "*wállin ?éla*, roughly 'Great Water Spirit'." Isabel Kelly (1991:342) reports a shift in moieties from generation to generation among the Bodega Miwok. According to her main consultant, Tom Smith, a Bodega Miwok, "I am Land; my boy gets a Water name" (Kelly 1991:342). Kelly (1991:342) then goes on to point out a number of cases where the model does not hold, but it may have been due to a breakdown in customs in the modern period. At any rate, it could be that if *Valli-éla* would be a name derived from the Water moiety, *Tóllo* would probably have had a Land moiety name. The suffix "-éla" (translated by Callaghan as "Water Spirit") appears in several instances in Indian names of the San Rafael mission records. Rufino Ottacaliva died and was buried in May 1835. His wife, Rufina (Bapt. No. 536) is shown in a subsequent marriage (San Rafael Marriages Number 538) to have the native name, *Tole-éla*. This may suggest a moiety link with *Valli-éla*.

Another contemporary description of the village from the 1818 visit is provided by Fedor Lütke (Dmytryshyn et al. 1989:275):

September 22 [(October 3), 1818]. We went ashore to an Indian settlement some distance to the north. I believe it would be difficult to find a people who have less political comprehension than these Indians. Their living quarters are more like beehives or anthills than human habitations. They are made of sticks stuck in the ground in a semicircle about one and one-half arshins [42 inches] high; these are fastened together and then covered with dry grass or tree branches. These dwellings do not give them shelter from rain or foul weather, which, fortunately for them, is quite rare in the area where they live.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The paintings of the people at Bodega Bay in 1818 by Mikhail Tikhonovich Tikhonov are notable in their own right. However, when elucidated by the accounts of other members of the Golovnin Expedition, as well as the reminiscences of two men from a village at Bodega Bay recorded by the Spanish priest, Fr. Mariano Payeras, a better understanding of the full import of these paintings is developed. There is a tragic epilogue to the story of this remarkable painter. Later in the expedition after leaving the Philippines, Tikhonov began showing signs of mental disturbance which only grew worse, becoming very severe by the time the *Kamchatka* arrived at the Azores. He never was able to recapture his creative abilities even though he lived to the considerable age of 73. The 43 known paintings by Tikhonov from this voyage are now in the Museum of the Russian Academy of Arts in St. Petersburg (Pierce 1990:507-508; Safaraliev 1990:38-39).

FORT ROSS IMPACTED BY CALTRANS REPAIRS TO COAST HIGHWAY ONE

by David S. Kenly

During the 1995 winter storms, Highway One (at approximately a mile south of Fort Ross) started to slide into the ocean; there were then approximately fifteen slides in that vicinity between Meyers Grade Road and Fort Ross, two of which were considered to be of major proportion. At that time, the road was judged to be unstable, resulting in its closure for the remainder of the winter. An alternate route was utilized on Meyers Grade Road and Seaview Road.

It was then realized that major repairs would be necessary if Highway One were to be used again.

CalTrans started to repair these slide conditions. In doing so, CalTrans declared need to remove an estimated 100,000 cubic yards of earth material in order to rebuild the road section that had failed, and which may have high potential for failure during future winter storms. The excavate material will be generated from the two major failures only, and does not account for the potential of need to excavate the other slide areas.

In that transportation with large earth-moving trucks over long distances from the area of the slide could be treacherous to Highway One traffic and to heavy equipment operators, and be expensive and time-consuming, the preferred disposal site for all of the removed material was declared to be nearby. It is recognized by geologists that the slide and proposed disposal sites are in immediate proximity to the actual San Andreas fault and Fort Ross coal mine. Additionally, there are fragile ecosystems which support several endangered species of plant and animal life, to include certain strains of Coho Salmon and the Yellow Legged frog. Much of the area surrounding Fort Ross is considered by archaeological experts to have strong archaeological value; there are numerous known sites of interest, and there are many suspected sites of interest. The area is considered to be of scenic value and a possible addition to Fort Ross State Historic Park.

In the process of selecting a disposal site, two locations had been given consideration by CalTrans, with the major emphasis on one of them (hereafter known as Site A), while the other (hereafter known as Site B), appeared only to have been given cursory

consideration, and may have been rejected for various reasons which do not give priority to the local environment.

Site A lies immediately adjacent to Department of Parks and Recreation land. It lies on the inland side of and approximately one half a mile from Highway One, within immediate view of a state developed encampment used in the past by visiting archaeologists and known as "the Archy Camp"; it is in an area next to where the original Russian road from Fort Ross to Bodega Bay is suspected to lie, and it is IMMEDIATELY next to the surveyed (by CalTrans) line of the San Andreas Fault. It's location relevant to the slides is the further of the two considered sites. Material deposited there would have been placed in a bowl shaped valley which appears to be the headwaters area of a tributary draining into sensitive riparian zones of the Fort Ross Creek. CalTrans engineers have said that no damage will come to that creek, but it was the concern and opinion of many locals that their promises need be adequately substantiated. In the event of natural catastrophe such as earthquake or heavy rain, it is their belief that deposited material could likely have cascaded onto the Fort Ross Park property, destroying developed resources, valuable and known archaeological sites, the only remaining man-made evidence of the 1906 earthquake in the area (an old, split redwood fence which is disjunct at the actual site of the faultline), and the delicate riparian habitat of the Fort Ross Creek. The process of depositing the soil would have heavily impacted the park lands themselves, even though the actual deposit site would have been on the neighboring private land, owned by a partnership belonging to the Soper Wheeler Corporation.

The other site (Site B), also belonging to Soper Wheeler, had been deemed preferable by many from both archaeological and environmental viewpoint. It lies on the ocean side of Highway One some greater distance from the actual Fort Ross colony and any known archaeological sites. It lies on flatter ground which, unlike Site A, would not require the building of "keyways" by heavy equipment. It is appreciable distance from any creek or major run-off, thus affording greater possibility of protection of riparian

habitat. Without going into further detail, many locals concluded that it was by far preferable.

Fiscal impact of one choice over the other would have been negligible, but local speculation says that Site B is the economical choice. When an estimated 16,000 truck runs are each reduced by approximately one mile of travel distance and ten minutes of operator time, the savings quickly add up.

Nevertheless, and against the opinion of many, Site A was chosen by CalTrans as the disposal site. It had been "signed off" on September 14, 1995 for start of this project by the Sonoma County Department of Permits and Resources Management.

It was the opinion of some that Site A was chosen because of a misunderstanding born out of reference to the undesirability of oceanside dumping, or for the fact that Site B is within the jurisdiction of the Coastal Commission. Site A, while visible from certain roadside vistas, was deemed to be out of sight.

Letters were filed with various public agencies decrying the "Site A" plan of action.

Public announcement by the involved agencies had been minimal. The statute of limitations would have expired at the end of September, and various Sonoma County residents networked in the days just prior to the start of work. The Sierra Club sent a brief flurry of letters of objection. Assemblyman Dan Hauser protested directly to the head of CalTrans (James W. Van Loben Sels). A letter to Ms. Kathy Jacobs of the Sonoma County Planning Department, with carbons sent to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, the Coastal Commission, CalTrans, Department of Parks and Recreation, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Department of Fish and Game, First District Assemblyman Dan Hauser, Make Thompson (Second District), Senator Quentin Kopp (Head of the Senate Transportation Committee), and the NCNRCC State Parks Chair, Evelyn Newman, spoke to the potential of violation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by the CalTrans folly.

On September 20th, Eric Koenigshofer, currently running for fifth district supervisor, filed papers initiating an appeal of the county's permit for the grading work. A temporary restraining order, valid through the review scheduled for the following Tuesday by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, was implemented on the following day.

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors placed the "CalTrans Issue" on their agenda of Tuesday, September 26, 1995. Many interested parties attended. The supervisors did not extend the emergency permit to CalTrans and Ghilotti Brothers Construction to dump 200,000 cubic yards of excavated earth on Site A, but with strong and able brokering by Bob LaBelle, DPR District Supervisor (Duncans Mills), the alternate site was chose.

The issue is not closed however. Now that the large trucks have dumped their loads at Site B, the juncture of both private and state lands, CalTrans engineers are already voicing desire to develop other sites. It may now be important that citizen concern and involvement be maintained to insure that our local interests be properly protected.



Footnote from Ranger Bill Walton:

Fort Ross staff, district resource ecologists and archaeologists as well as the superintendent were able to suggest a compromise to CalTrans which involved the use of some state park land for soil disposal. We reluctantly allowed the use of some state park lands for soil deposits in lieu of a potentially more threatening disposal site. CalTrans engineers worked with park staff to make the disposal site harmonious with the existing terrain.



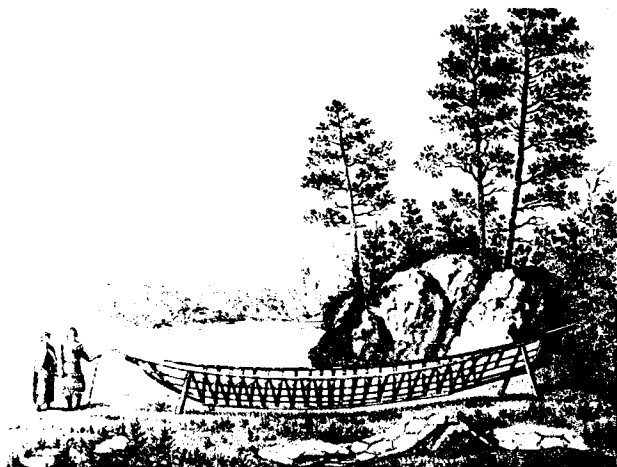
Earthquake fault zone on county road near Fort Ross, 1906

NEWS FROM THE FORT

THE BAIDARA PROJECT

by John Sperry

The board has approved FRIA sponsorship of The Baidara Project. We will seek grants to support the construction of a thirty foot open skin boat typical of those used here for freighting and long offshore travel. The boat is of Aleut design. Our program will involve Aleut and local school children in appropriate phases of construction. Target completion date is early summer 1996. Any grant assistance will be greatly appreciated.



CONGRESSWOMAN LYNN WOOLSEY VISITS ROSS

It is a top priority of Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey of the US House of Representatives to hear from the people she represents about the important issues facing our nation. That is why she paid a visit to the Museum Visitor Center Library on October 7 to hold Community Office Hours. Knowing that it is difficult for many West County residents to come to her Santa Rosa office, Woolsey held Community Office Hours in Fort Ross to give local residents the opportunity to meet one-on-one with her to discuss federal issues or problems they may be having with federal agencies. Residents who were not able to meet with her can write to her at 439 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 or call her at (707) 542-7182.

PLEASE VOTE!

Letter To The Editor from Mary Lynn Gauthier,
Call Garden Committee Chair and
a member of the Nominations Committee

The slate of candidates for the FRIA Board of Directors was adopted by the board, based on the recommendations of the nominating committee. FRIA now faces the challenges of huge state budget cuts, the state's new proposed voluntary association contract, and new proposals from the state, and perhaps from us, for revenue enhancement.

We encourage you to select candidates who can work together with balance, leadership, expertise and energy to sustain our efforts to provide for the long term good health of FRIA's work.

GOURMET GALA FOR THE GARDEN

TWO GRAND FEASTS AT THE HOME
OF CHEF JACK SCHNEIDER
OVERLOOKING THE SEA
IN TIMBER COVE

JANUARY 18TH & MARCH 21ST
AT 5:30 PM
22220 COAST HIGHWAY ONE

A Benefit for the Call House
Garden Restoration

Seating Strictly Limited to 24 per Feast
\$75.00 Per Person

For Reservations Call:

Doni Tunheim (707) 847-3761

Mary Lynn Gauthier (707) 847-3468

Stitch In Time End of Season Sale

Custom orders 20% off

Miscellaneous Children's clothing 20% off

1838 Woman's Lowell Mill dress, size 10, 30% off (one only)

Early to Mid 19th Century Men's Shirts 15% off

Men's and Women's Russian folk shirts 20% off

Women's Woven Drawstring skirts 15% off

Shawls, scarves, day caps, men's neckerchiefs, all 15% off

Aleut kamleikas 10% off

Women's Sarafans 10% off

Supply limited, Order now for Christmas Gifts

Sherry Madrone

P.O.Box 314 Cazadero, CA 95421 Phone 707 632-5245

NEWS FROM THE FORT

BOARD NOTES

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING RESCHEDULED

Members of the FRIA Board of Directors met on October 14; not enough directors could attend to reach the quorum required to conduct business. The meeting has been rescheduled for November 18, Saturday, at 10:30 AM.

PLEASE COME TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AND FRIA BOARD MEETING SATURDAY DECEMBER 9

Business Meeting 10:30. Potluck Lunch 2:30

BETTY CRESSWELL

Betty Cresswell, octogenarian and valued Thursday volunteer in the Fort Ross Bookstore passed on on August 23. Betty was a resident of Seaview Ridge above Fort Ross. The staff at Fort Ross enjoyed getting to know her, and we have missed her very much. She had made herself an 1830s dress which she wore on Living History Day 1995. The Cresswell family has donated this beautiful dress to the Fort Ross costume collection. Thank you: it is a special way to remember Betty.

RUSSIAN CONSUL VISITS ROSS

by Nicholas Lee

In May of this year, Fort Ross was honored with a short visit from Consul Eugene A. Smirnov and his wife from the Consul-General of the Russian Federation's San Francisco office. They toured our facilities, spending time in the museum, bookstore and compound, and then walked down to the beach. The cove reminded them of a former posting in Mauritius.

Inside the stockade they expressed deep interest in the buildings and their history. They noticed that several icons were misplaced. Icons should be placed to the top right opposite corner of the room from its main entrance. They also tactfully pointed out that several Cyrillic messages, especially those in the Officials' Barracks, were incorrectly written. Apparently, all words ending with a consonant at that time, had a special letter sign/symbol at the end of the word. (Ъ) For example, "Situation Plan of Fortress Ross", wording taken from the 1817 Russian-American Company map sent to Madrid:

СИТУАЦИОННОЙ ПЛАНЪ
КРѢПОСТИ РОССЪ

During the course of their visit, the Smirnov's also mentioned that there had been a move afoot to send apprehended members of the rebel Decembrist movement to Alaska and California to provide an intellectual resource element to the colonies.

The Consul and his wife enjoyed their brief sojourn here at the fort, especially the engaging personality of Interpretive Specialist Caerleon Safford, who capped her presentation by allowing the distinguished visitor to fire one of the cannon, much to his delight!



Mercedes Call's Garden

MERCEDES CALL'S GARDEN

by Marci Hoard, Park Aide Fort Ross

The fall is here! Pumpkin orange sunsets highlight Mercedes Call's garden like no other seasonal light—pure gorgeousness. The full moon on the 10th of August was so lovely too. I stayed to watch it rise after a volunteer time in the garden. Being here on a weekly basis has really showed me why Mercedes and her family loved it so much. The garden is coming back to life and I feel Mercedes' spirit—one of cooperation, kindness, motherhood and a deep connection to creating beauty in her garden. Volunteer work is at an all time high, please join us if interested! (Fort Ross Maintenance contact number 847-3249)

CONTACT CALL GARDEN COMMITTEE CHAIR MARY
LYNN GAUTHIER AT 707 847-3468 FOR INFORMATION
ABOUT ONGOING VOLUNTEER PROJECTS IN THE
GARDEN AND VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS.

FALL BOOK REVIEWS

We encourage you to support Fort Ross by doing some of your holiday shopping in the bookstore. There are so many wonderful books to choose from. Reviewed by Lake Perry.

THE SEVEN STATES OF CALIFORNIA, A NATURAL AND HUMAN HISTORY - by Philip L. Fradkin. This book review came into being after hearing the author on radio KPFA saying things like, "You have to go back and separate myth from reality" and "When the majority of the people do not share in the power, we face trouble". Fradkin details, for instance, the complicated social milieu around the Modoc/Anglo wars, Japanese American internment camps in California, and early redwood logging on the north coast, weaving the geologic particulars of the terrains, current and millennial, of what he calls the "seven states" of California: Deserts, the Sierra, Land of Fire, Land of Water, The Great Valley, The Fractured Province, and The Profligate Province (L.A.). Since the author's home had just survived the most recent conflagration at Point Reyes, he was vibrantly reawakened to the inseparability of "nature" and "human nature", which perspective often declares itself in the book's arrangement of personal stories and volcanic, glacier, seismic, flood, fire and drought cycles and events. *"I do not research a place or a topic lightly. To describe a landscape I first go there and immerse myself in it—meaning to live, camp, drive, walk, climb, ski, paddle, or sail across that space. Then I will draw on what I have seen and recorded in my tape recorder, notebook, and camera; historical and contemporary still photographs and videotapes; topographical and geological maps; oral memories; and a wide variety of written materials."* (Fradkin) The majority of the source books on California listed by the author in writing this current work happen to be carried in the FRIA Bookstore. \$30/pb (hb=hardbound, pb=paperback)

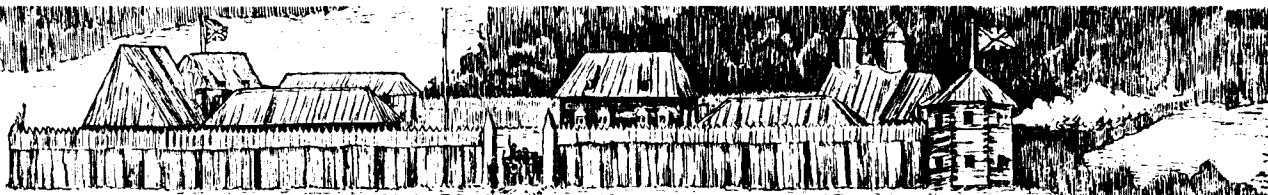
CROSSROADS ALASKA, NATIVE CULTURES OF ALASKA AND SIBERIA - by Valerie Chaussonnet. *"Making a dwelling a home by conceiving, fabricating, and using unique, personal, functional, or surprising objects is a universal human endeavor that found a high expression among the Native peoples of Alaska and the Russian Far East. Crossroads Alaska is about the living spirit of North Pacific cultures, as contained within a collection of some three hundred very old to brand new small objects. Ranging from thousand-year-old insect-shaped harpoon heads to late nineteenth-century tool boxes in the form of fish, these objects were designed to make their owner feel at home in his or her universe. Most of these artifacts were built for use in the village or away on the hunt rather than for market, and several are miniatures used as teaching aids. They were all chosen from American and Russian museum collections as objects that best tell the story of the inexhaustible creativity and resourcefulness of Alaskan and Siberian people when it comes to making the world a warmer, more beautiful, more significant, more efficient, and therefore more human home."* (From the Introduction). This exhibition and book are derived from the *Crossroads of Continents: Cultures of Siberia and Alaska*. *"Above all, it illustrates the marvelous diversity and ingenuity of the cultures and peoples of the North Pacific region who have learned to adapt to their environments in unique and creative ways."* (From the Preface by William W. Fitzhugh, co-author of the *Crossroads* volume.) \$19.95 /pb



THE LITTLE SEVEN-COLORED HORSE - A SPANISH AMERICAN FOLKTALE - By Robert D. San Souci, illustrated by Jan Thompson Dicks. *In this magical tale of a youngest brother's adventure, Juanito sets out to prove to his mean older brothers that he is capable of guarding his family's farm. In the process, he captures a magical horse, who promises that if Juanito will free him, he will help Juanito whenever he is in trouble. The horse keeps his promise and Juanito's dramatic journey begins.* Fine, flowing, most colorful watercolor illustrations, a glossary of Spanish words used in the text, and Notes on Sources and Settings complement this beauty. \$14.95/hb

IN FULL VIEW, THREE WAYS OF SEEING CALIFORNIA PLANTS - by Glenn Keator, Linda Yamane, Ann Lewis. An artistic collaboration of words, photographs, collage, paintings, this latest gem from Heyday Books articulates on local co-beings: the Seaweeds & Algae, Coyote Bush, Crops and Other Aliens, Lichens, Muchrooms and many others. Other chapters are titled Gathering, Seasons, Plant Names, etc., with artwork interspersed abundantly. Essential histories of Native American use, culture, and wisdom come with each topic: *"Stinging nettles! With respect and deference we wisely leave space between nettles and ourselves wherever we meet, for a close encounter of the tactile kind is not soon forgotten. But not all friends are 'touchable'; and though less appealing in the conventional sense, nettles nonetheless have much to offer and their most valuable gift is well-hidden...String!"* Yamane, herself a member of the Rumsien Ohlone tribe, offers so much of value about the plants which were used daily in so many ways by the people who lived here for so long, self-sufficiently. \$12.95/pb

VISIONS OF THE NORTH - NATIVE ART OF THE NORTHWEST COAST - By Don and Debra McQuiston, text by Lynn E. Bush, photographs by Tom Till. Another newcomer, along the elegant lines of other Chronicle Books offered in the bookstore like *The Spirit of Native America, Beauty and Mysticism in American Indian Art*. This 130 pages of gorgeous full color photographs of totem poles, ceremonial masks, decorative blankets, canoes, and other elaborate items crafted by Native Americans, reflect the resources and geological diversity of an abundant environment and the inhabitants' creative expressions of it. Text explains the photographs and traditions of the past and current artists in four chapters: Of Forest and Sea, A Vision of Art, The Southern Coast, and The Northern Coast. A bibliography is included. \$19.95/pb



Membership Application

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ \$5.00 senior/student _____ \$7.50 regular _____ \$10.00 family _____ \$25.00 organization \$ _____ donation

I/we would like to volunteer at Fort Ross _____ In what capacity? _____

Calendar of Events

November

18 (Saturday) 8:30 FRIA Executive Committee
18 (Saturday) 10:30 FRIA Board Meeting (Rescheduled from October 14 because of lack of quorum)

December

9 (Saturday) 10:30 FRIA Directors and Annual Members Meeting
9 (Saturday) 2:30 Annual Christmas Potluck



Fort Ross Interpretive Association

Board of Directors: Violet Chappell, Gloria Frost, Laurie Horn, David Kenly, Lenore Kosso, Nicholas Lee, John Middleton, Jeannette Rosson, Maria Sakovich, John Sperry, Frieda Tomlin, Nancy Walton, David Willson

Staff:

Wendy Platt, accounting
Lyn Kalani, bookstore manager & administration, newsletter editor
Lake Perry, bookstore assistant, mail order, membership
Sherry Madrone, substitute bookstore assistant

Bookstore Volunteers:

Jaci Hallett, Moses Hallett

Membership Chair Volunteer:

Jodi Sperry

Mission of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association

The mission of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association, Inc. is to promote for the benefit of the public the interpretive and educational activities of the California Park Service and Fort Ross State Historic Park.

- ◆ To enhance and conserve the interpretive and educational resources of Fort Ross State Historic park, as well as those of the State Park Service.
- ◆ To sponsor, publish, distribute, and sell appropriate items which increase visitor understanding and appreciation of Fort Ross State Historic Park.
- ◆ To acquire materials and equipment for the use in the educational and interpretive programs of Fort Ross State Historic Park.
- ◆ To develop and maintain a library.
- ◆ To preserve historical material associated with Fort Ross State Historic Park, and to provide and maintain adequate and secure storage facilities in an archivally sound environment.
- ◆ To sponsor, support, and assist scientific research and investigations relating to Fort Ross and presentation of these studies to the public. To promote interpretation that reflects current research..
- ◆ To plan, organize, and implement fund raising programs to support the interpretive and educational activities of Fort Ross State Historic Park and of the State Park Service.

Fort Ross Interpretive Association
19005 Coast Highway One
Jenner, CA 95450
(707) 847-3437

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1
Jenner, 95450

Please check your newsletter label to determine membership expiration!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL ELECTION FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VIOLET CHAPPELL
GLORIA FROST*
LAURIE HORN *
DAVID KENLY
LENORE KOSSO
NICHOLAS LEE*
JOHN MIDDLETON

JEANNETTE ROSSON
MARIA SAKOVICH*
JOHN SPERRY*
FRIEDA TOMLIN
NANCY WALTON
DAVID WILLSON

Board members whose name is followed by an * have terms expiring this year. There are five seats to be filled in this year's election. Two directors, Gloria Frost and Laurie Horn, have decided not to run for re-election. We thank them for their many contributions and time served on the board.

Please read the information about each candidate. The following slate of candidates for election to the Board of Directors of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association for 1995 has been approved by the present board, and is hereby submitted to the membership in advance of the election.

The ballots for the annual election for the FRIA Board of Directors will be counted at the December 9, 1995 meeting. Please mail your ballots in time to arrive before this date, or bring them to the meeting. Family memberships receive two votes.

STATEMENTS FROM THE CANDIDATES

JOHN ALLEN *"I am currently a community college instructor of Asian and European history. I was formerly employed as a research associate by the California State Archives on a major museum project. Along with researching and editing museum reports and doing artifact searches, I also have curated and fabricated museum exhibits. I have done historical illustration and have worked with the staff of DPR and FRIA members on historical reconstruction projects at the park. My interest in history is wide ranging: Byzantine and Russian history and culture, Siberian expansion and the development of the Pacific Rim. As a native of Alaska and long time resident of my adopted state of California, I also take a special interest in the Russian involvement in North America. As an educator who has made use of class visits to our state parks and museums, I am very concerned about the educational value of Fort Ross' interpretive programs. I would work to improve on the great potential that already exists for public outreach about the history of Fort Ross and would try to look at new and creative ways to overcome the impact that any future budget restraints might place on the park's efforts to interpret this unique part of California's history."*

LUDMILA ERSHOW *"I am a professor of Russian language and literature at San Francisco State University. I have lived in San Francisco since 1952, and have been an active member of the Bay Area Russian community during that time. I am a member of the Russian Center of San Francisco, the Congress of Russian Americans, and FRIA. I work with the Russian American Community and Services and Diocesan Outreach to Refugees, and the Russian Consulate. Born in Shanghai, I earned Brevet d'Etudes at the College Francais. My Ph.D. is in Slavic Language and Literature from Stanford University. In 1992 I established a summer study abroad program in St. Petersburg for students from San Francisco State. I accompany my students to St. Petersburg, and my friends and relatives keep me in touch with Russians, who are very excited about Fort Ross and Russian America. My chief interest in Fort Ross is the Russian period. My serving on the Board would put to work for FRIA my contacts in the local Russian community and my access to academic and cultural circles in Russia."*

NICHOLAS LEE (incumbent) *"If reelected, I will continue to support FRIA and DPR in their mission to continually upgrade interpretation, visitor services and the compilation of accurate historical material. In the difficult financial circumstances that now face state parks, it is more than ever important that FRIA, as a California State Park Cooperating Association, continue to assist Fort Ross in every way possible. Innovation, harmony and cooperation are of paramount importance. I am committed to increasing FRIA's role by effective, efficient evolution and expansion."*

STATEMENTS CONTINUES ON REVERSE

OTIS PARISH *"I am a member of the Kashaya Band of Pomo Indians, whose aboriginal territory encompassed the Fort Ross State Park lands. I started my education in a one room school on the Kashaya Reservation north of Fort Ross in the late 40s. I attended Healdsburg High School... During the early 60s I attended the VanSlyke Horological Institute on Oakland, training as a clock and watch maker... In 1971 I applied to Sonoma State University... I completed my undergraduate studies receiving my BA in Interdisciplinary Studies, in California Indian Histories and Cultures, with a minor in Anthropology in 1977... In 1978 I was hired to work in the Warm Springs Dam Archaeological Study, bringing together a committee of local Pomo Indian people to act as cultural advisors to the study... and worked as archaeological field technician on the same study. In 1983 I moved to the Bay Area and a job with the Consortium of United Indian Nations Inc. in Oakland, working with that organization for 13 years as a Job Counselor, Career Developer, and Substance Abuse Counselor, finally retiring in June, 1995. In 1994 I applied to University of California Berkeley's Department of Anthropology in their Ph.D. program. I was accepted and am currently pursuing my education. I have published some of my writings and was involved in narrating a film ... 'The Spirit Lives.' I am a teller of Kashaya traditional stories... My life long interest has been education and the use of education to get a clearer picture of the lifeways of my Kashaya people. My interest spans the time from the future to the present to the historic, and most importantly the prehistory of the Kashaya people. For me to better understand the future I must have a better understanding of the people who have come in contact with the Kashaya during its historic periods. I believe I can make a contribution to FRIA in a way that can have a long and lasting positive effect for the cross-cultural understanding for natives and non natives... I believe that the Kashaya part of the park's plan could be further developed thereby enhancing other components as well.*

MARIA SAKOVICH (incumbent) *"In the past three years I have developed a thorough knowledge of the history of Fort Ross State Historic Park and its current needs. As a result of my research and my participation as a member of the board, I have come to understand the importance of Fort Ross to many groups. Not only is it important to Californians, but also to many in Russia. From my experience in public history, education and non-profit organizations, I have brought (and will continue to bring) thoughtfulness and balance to board deliberations and actions. FRIA will have a crucial role to play in the coming years as state budget support for parks shrinks. More than ever before parks and people need to work closely together to preserve our inheritance - Russian and American.*

JOHN SPERRY (incumbent) *"Can I make this fun reading? I'll try! Filed away somewhere here is a BS in Chemical Engineering, an MA in Anthropology, and records of having taught for too many years, physics and math at Sierra College. Yes, I worked too, in engineering, at lofty status, for 20 years. Just recently I voluntarily did a science lab once a week for Fort Ross 7th and 8th graders until my analyst explained to me why I couldn't sleep. At Fort Ross I've been up to here in Call House restoration work - foundation, roof and fund raising. I plan to turn now to the building of a baidara and seeking grants to fund the project. Baidaras, thirty foot skin boats, were important freight craft here at the fort. They were of Aleut design. Re-election to the board isn't a condition of this work; it will just make it easier. Thanks!"*

DONI TUNHEIM - *"I would like to be elected to the Board of FRIA because I feel I have experience and energy to offer to help further many of the plans for Fort Ross that I have heard discussed. I live close enough that attendance at meetings is easy. I believe that boards should have active, involved members. As chairwoman of both the Santa Cruz City Historic Preservation Commission and the Santa Cruz County Historic Preservation Commission, I have long experience dealing with historical buildings and sites. As co-founder and co-chairman of the Adobe Coalition, I worked for ten years with all levels of local and state governments as we successfully promoted, funded and oversaw the restoration of Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park. We also produced and funded the annual Santa Cruz Mission Fiesta and Parade, a multi-cultural event for thousands of people. While taking an active role over the past year in the restoration the Call Ranch at Fort Ross, I have met many of the staff and volunteers. As co-chair of the First Annual Home Sweet Home tour to benefit the Call Ranch, I am enjoying my involvement in the community. I feel my hands-on experience would be beneficial to FRIA. Serving actively on committees, working through consensus to complete projects at Fort Ross are my goals. Besides my volunteer experience, I run my own business as an architectural color consultant, consulting all over the US and Hawaii. My forester husband and I, as owners of Plantation Forest, want to be useful members of the local community."*

JERRY H. WHEELER *"I am a long time resident of the Fort Ross area and have participated in Living History Day for the last two years as the blacksmith. I know that my talents and skills would enhance the programs at the fort."*