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.”
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Last night, February 24, your Fort Ross Interpretive Association Board of Directors met and elected their officers for the coming year. "Catch 22": two of them have expiring terms, this March, from the Board when you, the membership elect the new Board members. If you don't elect these two to the Board, they cannot serve as officers; so you have the last say, for sure.

The officers of the Board just elected are:

- **Chairman**: Florrie Milligan (Mrs. Bill)
- **Vice Chairman**: Marina Ilyin
- **Corresponding Secretary**: Jeanette Rosson (Mrs. Marvin)
- **Recording Secretary**: Richard Tooker
- **Treasurer**: Moses Halley

The two newly elected officers whose Board terms expire in March and who must be elected to the Board if they are to serve as officers are: Florrie Milligan, Chairman; and Richard Tooker, Recording Secretary.

There will be seven vacancies to fill on the 13-member Board. If you feel confused, it may stem from the By-Law provision that officers are to be elected at the Board meeting just preceding the Annual Membership meeting (which elects the Board). The reason for that writing in the By-Laws was so that we would have experienced officers. Florrie Milligan and Richard Tooker certainly qualify.

Florrie Milligan: was the one who originated our Fort Ross Docent training and history courses. She has been a member since our incorporation and is well known to the volunteers who do the job on the site at Fort Ross.

Richard Tooker has also been on the Board, writes well, attends faithfully, and has accepted the difficult position of Recording Secretary for the coming year. He is a member of the California T'Oneer Society, Coastal Divers Club; is a maritime history buff; provides the calm voice of problem solver of our volatile group.

Remember: You may vote for seven (7) people for the Board, each of the eleven (11) candidates is well qualified to serve you. It will be difficult to choose from the following:

- Florrie Milligan (see above)
- Richard Tooker (see above)
- Jackie Halley: just finished her term as Treasurer; pioneered book-shop sales-counter; coastal resident; volunteer extraordinary.
- Ed von der Porten: First Chairman of this Association, lives in Jenner, teaches history and museum science.
- Angela Leboeff: professional accountant in San Francisco; organizer of special functions (Russian) at Fort Ross; attends regularly at Association meetings.
- Lida Schneider: resident of Jenner; member of original Docent class; generous volunteer at Book and Gift Shop.
- Virgil (Bud) Luckey: Park Ranger working and living at Fort Ross. He was nominated by the volunteer docent who would like to serve on the Board. He is an enthusiastic Fort Ross historian.
- Eve Crittenden: coastal resident; member volunteer and staff; past Board member; Chairman of Special Events.
- Mercedes Stafford: Santa Rosa resident; past Chairman of the Board; Call Family Historian.
- Joyce Constant: coastal resident; active member book and sales-cutter volunteers; has done many helpful projects in the community.
- Paul Shebalin: wild-life buff; coast-guardsman; frequent visitor at Fort Ross.

Of the above are active paid-up members of this Association.

**IF AND PLACE OF ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS**: The Board decision on directive of the Executive Secretary, is that election of Board members shall be held at the Annual Membership Meeting, this year, March 17, by written ballot (not mail ballot). You must attend the vote. March 17, 1978 7:30 P.M. 415 Steele Lane, Santa Rosa at Community Recreation Center (Tel: 528-5268). No proxies allowable.

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Members: Annual Meeting

For all members of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association

March 17, 1978 7:30 p.m. 415 Steele Lane, Santa Rosa, Calif.

Community Recreation Center

Location: It is east of freeway #101; take Steele Lane Exit; then turn east on Steele Lane and follow east about one-half mile. The building is on the North side of Steele Lane and there is parking all around the building (which looks like a church because it once was).

Introduction of each candidate for election to the board.

Written ballot election of seven candidates for the board.

Installation of officers and new board members.

Movies: "The Russians Come to Fort Ross in 1927" (don't miss it) and "Carlos and His Sheep" (a return by popular demand)

Double feature.

Fort Ross Interpretive Association: This organization is for anyone interested in Fort Ross. It is a membership organization. Now, as a member, you get to vote for the board members who will carry out the business of helping the volunteers do their thing, putting on special events, raising money to help interpret the three cultures, in the flow of history (Indian, Russian, and American) and to generally help the State Park System at Fort Ross State Historic Park. This is a project-oriented association, chartered as a corporation by the State of California. It is governed by its own by-laws.

Membership dues are for the year: April 1 to March 31:

$3.00 Single; $5.00 Family

Make checks for membership payable to:
Fort Ross Interpretive Association Inc.
Mail to or give it to her at the annual meeting
Betty Musser, 9352 Clint Court, Cazadero, Calif. 95421

Contributions from our readers: One of our members is Richard A. Pierce, author and teacher at Queen's University, Ontario, Canada. He has sent to the Editors of the Newsletter some information of real interest. We hope others will follow his example. We will print other items when space permits.

You all know the name of Rostchev who presided over the liquidation of Fort Ross in 1841. But, did you know he helped Captain Sutter establish his settlement in Sacramento in 1838? And what happened to Aleksandr Gavrilovich Rostchev after Fort Ross? Now comes a quote from Mr. Pierce:

"Returning to Europe in 1843, Rostchev lived in retirement until 1850, then traveled. From November 1851 to March 1852 he was back in California, at San Francisco and at Murderer's Bar on the Yuba River trying to perfect a gold washing machine. In Russia once more, he worked as a minor official and as a journalist. In the midst of his各项 listings of the rubber and coffee crops of his own choosing: He was a man, and as a man, he made mistakes. Although educated and a writer of some talent, he had failed at most of the things he had undertaken. His Princess left him some time after their North American experience. In the 1850s, she was superintendent of a school in Irkutsk, Siberia, and published a book for children."

When we stand, rainy days and sunny, in their house at Fort Ross, which includes our book and gift counter, these long-distance comings and goings are something to ponder. Maybe we can find a copy of Princess Helena's book to exhibit there.

We can dream. They did!

TheEditors
Mussers and Crittendens