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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 www.fortross.org
FORT ROSS NEW-LETTER  
OF FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION  
SEPTEMBER 2, 1978

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN: The main purpose of F.R.I.A. is the interpretation of the Fort Ross story for all those who are interested. In October, with the publication of the new revised edition of FORT ROSS, we will be furthering this goal. This booklet bears little resemblance to the first effort. Text, graphics, paper and printing are all of much better quality and the covers and centerfold will be in color.

Bickford O'Brien, retired professor of history, U.C.Davis, has been the hard-working Editor-in-Chief, Michael Tucker took responsibility for the design and graphics. Other major contributors are Nicholas Kostyansky, John McKenzie, Mercedes Stafford, Edna Guerrero, David Perd, Otis Parrish and Diane Spencer-Hancock. To all these people I wish to extend a grateful "thank you" for your many volunteer hours of planning, writing and research. The booklet will be available at the Fort Ross sales counter by mid-October. The price is $2.50.

BY-LAWS: Walt Schenn has done a big job of amending our by-laws. The proposed amendments will be mailed to you, 195 members, please cast your vote within 30 days of receiving them. Your Board, on the basis of Section 1 and 111, has made the decision that a simple majority of those responding will determine the vote.

NEXT MEETING: San Francisco October 21: Paul Shebalin has made the arrangements for us to meet at the Holy Virgin Cathedral, 5210 Geary Blvd., between 26th. and 27th. Please note a try at a new time! 2 p.m. Saturday afternoon. There will be a program as well as a business meeting. All are welcome.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 8th is a day to remember for the Second Annual Ranch Day Picnic, at the Gall Picnic Grove in Fort Ross State Historic Park. In the afternoon will be a separate session for anyone interested in the Russian influence on the area. The time is 12 to 3 p.m., but come early and stay late and enjoy a care-free day! The public is invited. Bring your lunch but game and soft drinks will be available for a donation. In 1768 the State of California purchased this area, including the old Russian orchards, as well as a sheep-shearing operation (said to be the earliest in the state). The Gall Picnic is in addition to the State Historic Park, and it was officially dedicated by the Park Department on October 9, 1977, with a "lay hiccups" picnic. This year the theme is Ranch and Western and costumes in Western style will be worn by all who care to do so, to enter into the spirit of the day. (Sponsored by F.R.I.A. Interpretive Association, Mercedes Stafford as Coordinator, Jeannette Rosen, Chairman).

FORT ROSS BOOK AND GIFT SHOP REPORT FOR NEWSLETTER: The long, sunny days of summer brought a record number of visitors to Fort Ross and most agents and volunteers in the Book & Gift Shop on their toes. During June, July and August more than 7,000 people signed the Visitor Register emanating from all parts of California. In addition, surprising 418 foreign visitors from 42 countries found their way to Fort Ross. These figures are conservative as many single signatures include couples, families and sometimes larger groups. Most people leave with postcards and literature, so word of Fort Ross is spreading far and wide. Thanks to all our hard-working volunteers, sales receipts for the three months totaled $11,499.12—a record which is hard to beat. The shop has a good selection of books and other items suitable for gifts, ? may not take advantage of the 10% discount to members and come out to do your Christmas shopping while we're open.

INFORMATION REPORTED: The Mussers and the Crittenden's.

(Signed) Jackie Hallett.

BICKFORD O'BRIEN, RETIRED PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, U.C. DAVIS, HAS BEEN THE HARD-WORKING EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, MICHAEL TUCKER TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DESIGN AND GRAPHICS. OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS ARE NICHOLAS POLITANSKY, JOHN MCKENZIE, MERCEDES STAFFORD, ENA GUERRERO, DAVID PERI, OTIS PARRISH AND DIANE SPENCER-HANCOCK. TO ALL THESE PEOPLE I WISH TO EXTEND A GRATEFUL "THANK YOU" FOR YOUR MANY VOLUNTEER HOURS OF PLANNING, EDITING AND RESEARCH. THE BOOKLET WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE FORT ROSS ALONG WITH THE RANCH AT MID-OCTOBER. THE PRICE IS $2.50.

BY-LAWS: WALT SCHENK HAS DONE A BIG JOB OF AMENDING OUR BY-LAWS. HE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS WILL BE VOTED ON BY ALL MEMBERS AT A SPECIAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 21: PAUL SMECKENMAH HAS MADE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR US TO MEET AT THE HOLY VIRGIN CATHEDRAL, 6210 GEARY BV.D., BETWEEN 25TH AND 27TH. PLEASE NOTE THAT A NEW TIME: 2 P.M., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21. THERE WILL BE A PROGRAM AS WELL AS A BOOKLETT MEETING WILL BE HELD FOR ALL AS WELCOME. \n
FLORRIE MILLIGAN, CHAIRMAN

UNOAY OCTOBER 6TH IS A DAY TO REMEMBER, FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL RANCH: AT PICNIC, AT THE CALM PICNIC GROVE IN FORT ROSS STATE HISTORIC PARK. IN THIS REGION, THE RANCH ARRANGEMENTS ARE IN THE HANDS OF DR. HESE. (JUST 1/2 MILE ABOVE THE HISTORIC STOCKADE AREA) IN THE COMPANY OF THOSE WHO SHARE A INTEREST IN FORT ROSS. THE GATHERING WILL TAKE PLACE IN AN OLD-CO,, ASHIONED RANCH STYLE PICNIC, WITH GAMES AND ENTERTAINMENTS, AND HELP YOUR WRIST PASTIC. THE TIME IS 12 TO 3 P.M., BUT COME EARLY AND STAY LATE AND NOULY A CARE-FREE DAY. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED. BRING YOUR LUNCH BUT CARRY NO WINE DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR A DONATION. IN 1976 THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA PURCHASED THIS AREA, INCLUDING THE OLD RUSSIAN ORCHARD, AS WELL AS SECOND-GROWTH REDWOODS (SAID TO BE THE OLDEST IN THE STATE) FROM THE CALL FAMILY, AS AN ADDITION TO THE STATE HISTORIC PARK. AND IT WAS ORNAMENTALLY OCEDED BY THE PARK DEPARTMENT ON OCTOBER 9, 1977, WITH A "GAY NINETIES" PICNIC. THIS YEAR THE THEME IS RANCH AND WESTERN AND COSTUMES. IN WESTERN STYLE WILL BE WORN BY ALL WHO CARE TO DO SO. ENTRANCE TO THE SPIRIT OF THE DAY. SPONSORED BY FR. ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION, MERCEDES STAFFORD AS COORDINATOR, JEANETTE ROSS (CHAIRMAN).

ORT ROSS BOOK AND GIFT SHOP REPORT FOR NEWSLETTER: THE LONG SUMMER DAYS, F. SUMMER BROUGHT A RECORD NUMBER OF VISITORS TO Fort Ross, AND KEPT JOYCE AND VOLUNTEERS IN THE BOOK & GIFT SHOP ON THEIR TOES. DURING THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST, IMPRESSIVE 7, 000 PEOPLE SIGNE THEIR VISITOR REGISTER EVERY DAY. THE SHOP IS A HOT SPOT, AS REMINDERS OF THE FORT ROSS HISTORICAL PERIOD. SURPRISING 418 FOREIGN VISITORS FROM 42 COUNTRIES FOUND THEIR WAY TO ORT ROSS. THESE FIGURES ARE CONSERVATIVE ES, AND MANY ARE FROM SMALL GROUPS, INCLUDE COUPLES, FAMILIES, AND SOMETIME, LARGER GROUPS. MOST PEOPLE LEAVE THE BOOKS AND LITERATURE, SO WORD OF FORT ROSS IS SPREADING FAR AND WIDE. THANKS TO ALL OUR HARD-WORKING VOLUNTEERS, SALES RECEIPTS FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS TOTALLED $ 1114, 929, 929 -$ A RECORD WHICH IS HARD TO BEAT. THE EXPO HAS A GOOD SELECTION OF BOOKS AND OTHER ITEMS SUITABLE FOR GIFTS. DURING SEASON, A 10% DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS, AND GIVE A BUT YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WHILE THE WEATHER IS FINE.

(DON HICKLEY)

INDIAN DAY AT FORT ROSS WAS SEPTEMBER 2ND. LABOR DAY WEEK-END, A FINE DAY. JENNY MARRFUG'S CULTURAL GROUP, AND THE ROMO BRAVES EDUCATION, ENTERTAINED THE INDIANS, AT LEAST 500 HAPPY INDIANS. WE REALLY SEE TO BE GETTING THE THREE LAUREL CONCEPT (INDIAN, RUSSIAN, AND CALIFORNIA RANCH PERIOD) UNDERWAY. MANY YEARS OF RUSSIAN DAYS ON MEMORIAL DAY, AND JULY 4TH; 3 ANNUAL INDIAN LISTS, AND NOW OUR 2ND ANNUAL RANCH DAY. THE FLOW OF HISTORY CONCEPT MOVES ON AS HISTORY DOES. THE MOST EXCITING NEWS IS THAT THE FORT ROSS RUSSIAN PERIOD BUILDINGS' RECONSTRUCTION IS ON THE WAY TO FORT ROSS. THE RUSSIAN COURT FROM RUSSIA WILL BE ARRIVING ON OCTOBER 1ST. JUST SHED THEM INSIDE THE STOCKADE WILL RENEW OUR FAITH IN THE ACTUAL APPEARANCE OF THE OFFICIALS BARRACKS, AND THE KUSKOV HOUSE, WHICH WAS OFFICIALLY BROKEN, FOR BOTH. -ON JULY 4TH.

FROM NEWSLETTER EDITORS: THE MUSSES AND THE CRITTENDEN'S.