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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 Interpretive Association

Summer NEWSLETTER - 1984

Dates to be there

September 1 and 2 - Living History Days
(correction from the last NEWSLETTER)

September 9 - Indian Day

Sounds of building are now ringing through Fort Ross, punctuated at times by the firing of cannon and the ringing of the Chapel Bell. There is much activity in and around the Fort this summer.

This year's first Living History Day drew the largest attendance ever and there will be two more days for those who missed the event and those who want to experience more. Saturday and Sunday, September 1 and 2 of the Labor Day week-end you can take a step back in time to 1836. There will be some old and some new demonstrations and activities - threshing, adzing, coopering (barrel making), musket ball molding, metal shop and food preparation are in the plans. Food and drinks will be available for all. Piroshkis will be made for sale by the ladies of the St. Mary's Russian Church. Historic re-enactments by costumed participants will be presented and display rooms will be open for visitors.

More participants are needed. If you want to get into the act contact:

Council for Living History
Attn: Diane Spencer-Hancock
1630 La Playa Way
Sacramento, Ca. 95825 Tel. (916) 485-3;72

Information will be sent to you about costuming and roles.

Genny Marrufo is the chairman for Indian Day, September 9. She plans to have Native American food and dancing as well as demonstrations of grass games, arts and crafts. Laura Somersal, famous for her basketry will be there. And an Indian basket will be raffled!

Ground-breaking for the Visitors Center, Raach Day and the joint Boards of Directors meeting all took place June 3. After brief speeches from representatives of Parks and Recreation, legislative offices and State Park Foundation, John McKenzie turned the first shovelful of earth and three cannons boomed to mark the event. Spontaneously members of the audience representing many segments of the Fort Ross Community stepped forward, spoke a few words and broke more ground.

Now the building site near the parking lot is staked out, fenced off, and its trees cleared off so the heavy equipment can move in for the foundation work. Steve Hill of DOR-AN Builders walked your reporter over the bare land, pointing out the location of the numerous rooms of the Center to be. Cement will be poured by late August. Completion is scheduled for early 1985. Then the displays need to be installed before the long term dream comes true.

Work continues on replacing a portion of the stockage wall, from the entrance gate to the seven-sided Blockhouse. As part of the project the archeology work produced a flint lock from an old musket and a trade bead.

Correction - Victor P. Petrov, Ph.D. wrote to correct an item in the Spring NEWSLETTER. He is still in Arlington, Virginia and not in Leningrad doing research on Voznesensky.

People in the news

Rosalie Prosser who worked hard researching and re-establishing the Ranch House garden has recently been appointed Curator of the Sun House, Ukiah. The Sun House is the former home of the artist, Grace Carpenter Hudson who was so well known for her paintings of the local Pomo Indians and her husband, an early ethnologist and anthropologist in California. She invites us all to come and visit, Wednesdays through Sundays, noon to 4 p.m., at 431 South Main, Ukiah.

Herb and Mary Smith have returned to Fort Ross as Park Hosts. Last April they were settling in their new home and helping as needed around the Fort. Welcome back!

Welcome to Ed Redig who is the new Maintenance Supervisor in the Area. He formerly was at Hearst Castle and takes a great interest in historic restoration and preservation. He has been working on the Call Ranch House - porch and front side - replacing the floor joists. His enthusiasm is greater than his work time and Ed is asking for volunteers for carpentry work the weekend of August 25 and 26. Gardeners and painters are needed too.

Please call Salt Point Park (707) 847-3221 to volunteer. Messages will be sent on to Ed.

Jim MacKenzie, a faithful volunteer, has been working with Ed. As well as the foundation work on the Ranch House, it has been completely repainted, the Docent's Cottage has been reroofed, and trellisses have been installed for the climbing roses.

Jeannette Rosson, Chairman of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association has appointed a Budget Committee to make proposals to the Board for long-term use of the accumulated funds.

Jackie Hardin will serve as Chairman, the others are Jaci Hallett, Florrie Milligan and Elizabeth Sideroff. Members having constructive suggestions please contact a committee member.

Bob Robles, Area Manager, reported at the joint meeting of the Boards of the Advisory Committee and F.R.I.A. that he had received word that the Call Ranch House is very close to House Museum designation. The interpretive and restoration plans need further refining.

John Smith, retired Sonoma County farm advisor, reports that all trees recently planted in the Old Orchard are doing well with Park Staff watering. He has plans to make 70 more scions to graft onto root stock later this year. In 1986 these will be available for planting and for sale.

This information was just received from Glenn Farris, the State Archeologist. The business of studying and restoring Fort Ross continues through the activities of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Two recent occurrences are:

- a. Study of ceramics recovered at Fort Ross.
- b. Archeological excavations in the Russian Orchard area.

Hope to see you at the Fort,

Florrie Milligan, Temporary Reporter