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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

Fort Ross Interpretive Association

Spring NEWSLETTER - 1985

Spring fever always gets us when the poppies spread sunlight along the roads and in the fields. That means Fort Ross beckoned and the north wind blew the four editors of your NEWSLETTER down the road. It sailed us straight into the entrance to the towering rooms of the new Visitors Center. Bill Walton led us into the halls and back rooms as workmen scaled the rafters and ladders overhead. It was such a busy place we wished for hard hats and tried to keep out of the way of what was going on. It's pretty exciting. My biggest surprise was the auditorium for film projection, talks, maybe even meetings! The possibilities for community use are titillating. Bring folks together and things happen. Is it time for another college level history course to be held at Fort Ross? The former course under the auspices of Sonoma State was well attended and a worthy bit of education.. Florrie Milligan conceived and implemented it as a requirement for docents. A high standard was maintained by a variety of teachers who knew their stuff. Let's do it again.

Living History Day will be August 10.

There will be two training days for the Living History Day Program. Please try to attend one of the training days if you are interested in participating.

The first training day will be Sunday, June 2 at Fort Ross (the day after the joint meeting) If you want to make a weekend of it, overnight camping can be arranged at the "Arky" Camp, at the Fort, or at Salt Point.

The second training day will be on June 29 at Santa Rosa, location to be determined.

If you are interested in being a participant or helping with Living History in any way, contact Bob Anderson at 865-2391 or at home (after 6 p.m.) at 847-3403 or contact Shirley Mraz at Fort Ross, 847-3286.

That cottage we salvaged for the docent's course and use, is about to become a staff residence. The Call House will be available to volunteers. A fair exchange. The Volunteer Project Funds of the 1984 Bond Act, has made available \$10,000 for stabilization and restoration of the Call House. The state is saying "volunteer" more often.

Editor's note: (Sacramento even had a course on Volunteer Management.) They are trying - but volunteers can't be managed, that's the difference from employees. Turn them loose and they move mountains. Manage them and they disappear into the woodwork. With 250 members big things are possible.

The dates for the Call garden as submitted for conceptual approval are 1915 - 1920. Is it logical that the house should have the same dates? There is a new Call house Committee and their Chairman is Mercedes Stafford - Laurie Horn, James MacKenzie and Shirley Mraz are members of her committee.

The sales counter Book and Gift Shop needs YOU! The opportunity to visit with travellers from all over the world, is very special. Selling our wares is satisfying but the bigger service is to give the Fort Ross guest as hospitable, knowledgeable, (if possible) helpful contact, in their short time with us. The monies earned at that little counter is dependent on volunteers behind the cash register. Your Board is proud to have voted \$2,815.00 for purchase and maintenance of a copy machine. A maximum of \$2,000.00 was voted for a public address system - Our Board determines how our money is spent.

If you are a volunteer who needs a place to stay overnight near Fort Ross, there is free camping for you at Salt Point, some times at the "Arky" Camp, and eventually in the Call House.

Volunteers who move their own kind of mountains are Marjorie and John Smith - all the way from Placerville. That same spring day we headed up Fort Ross Road to get out of the wind, and at the Russian Orchard we saw two people inside it. Reporters for the moment, we pulled up to investigate. Marjorie and John had come to see to making water basins around

the trees but were met with a scene of disaster. Two deer had trapped themselves inside the deer proof fence and girdled many of the newly planted trees. The Smiths had some cuttings and were doing complicated bridge grafts across the ravaged areas to get the cambium layer functioning and save the trees. They request everyone to drive by the orchard when possible and check out the animals. If there are marauders, report to a ranger pronto! There are still some trees for sale at the Fort right now. Maybe they should be planted.

Nicholas Rokitiensky writes with his usual verve and good news of plans for bell replicas, possible college classes in Living History presentations, and additions to the Fort Ross book. He extends the generous offer of the San Francisco Russian Community business men to provide refreshments and entertainment for the opening of the new Visitor's Center, as they did for the 1974 dedication of the Chapel. Wasn't that a day to remember? We look forward to this coming one.

Kaye Tomlin and Rokitiensky have correctly duplicated the flag of the Russian American Company. We'll look for it at the Visitor's Center.

The New Helvetia Brigade - more Fort Ross volunteers at work, spent the weekend of March 16 and 17 doing artifact maintenance, cleaning flint lock weapons subject to rust and remortaring the outdoor BBQ. Bill Pritchard constructed a single and a double bed for the Kuskov House. Glenn Burch and Dave Godwin were polishing up the flint locks.

Your elected board are:

Jeannette Rosson, Chairperson; Vice-Chair, Elizabeth Sidorov; Treasurer, Kathryn Russell; Corresponding Secretary, Mercedes Stafford; Wally Aktsinov, Sr; Gloria Frost, Pat McAdam, John McKenzie, Jim MacKenzie, Nicholas Rokitiensky and Richard Tooker. Park Staff - Robert Robles and Robert Anderson act as Executive Secretary and Recording Secretary, respectively.

The Board voted unanimously to invite Anita Silva to fill a current vacancy on the Board.

1985 Calendar for Fort Ross Interpretive Association Board Meetings

April 20, Saturday, Santa Rosa
 June 1, Saturday with Advisory Committee at Fort Ross
 August 17, Saturday at Fort Ross
 October 19, Saturday, Santa Rosa
 December 17, Saturday in Santa Rosa

People You Care About

John McKenzie - yes he did have an emergency trip to Santa Rosa after a small heart attack, but he is home taking it very easy. Alice caught a bug of some sort soon after but is alright now. Good recovery to you, Mr. Fort Ross! They appreciate the good wishes from many friends.

Kay Tomlin has lost his mother, Viva Leiva Tomlin, grand daughter of Mercedes and George Washington Call. Our thoughts are with the family, cousins and many relatives we know.

Wally Aktsinov, Sr. and Gladys Curvers announce their marriage! They may even move closer to Fort Ross if they can find the right house.

Wally knows about a memorial medal struck for a millenium celebration in the Russian Church. Persons interested can call Wally - 523-2072.

John and Cindy Hughes have moved to Eureka. They write there are lots of volunteers but organizing the gift shop is Cindy's project and all planning seems to be John's. Address is 3431 #A, Fort Ave., Eureka 95501 - still have a 707 telephone - 445-3704.

Liz and Bud Lucky's address is P.O. Box 444, Shasta 96087.

And we care about YOU.

Flash: A new cooperating Association of the Russian River District in being formed. The second meeting will be in Duncans Mills, April 16, 7 p.m. The February 28th meeting provided people glad to be officers, and of special comment was the interest in the California Harbor Seal.

Greetings from your Fort Ross Interpretive Association Chairman!

This portends to be an auspicious, exciting year for Fort Ross - all systems are GO!

Please contact me or Mr. Robert Robles, Department of Parks and Recreation manager if you can help with dedication of the Visitor's Center, the Call House Museum, Ranch Day, Indian Day, Russian orchard, newsletter, and so on. Most of all, we need a Co-ordinator for the Book and Gift Shop.

Financially this has been a banner year because of unceasing efforts of many valiant Fort Ross supporters. In 1984, receipts from all FRIA ventures totalled \$40,777.41; our disbursements were \$25,605.43. The Association has some outstanding expenses but the balance at hand is \$14,730.86. Itemized financial reports are always available for study at meetings or on request from the Department of Parks and Recreation district office.

Association Expenses - 1/1/84 - 12/31/84

Postage	\$176.00
Printing (incl. NEWSLETTERS)	\$442.00
Supplies	\$182.00
Environmental Living Program	\$719.00
Special Days Expenses	\$649.00
Indian basket for Visitor's Center	\$400.00
Trees for Russian Orchard	\$201.00
Coffee, tea, etc. for Visitors	\$585.00
Other	\$175.00

\$3,529.00

We are anxious to make Living History Day an additional annual traditional day at Fort Ross. The responsibility for this event is now with the local district office. Many hands and organizational help will be needed. Please share your talents with us. Please note the Calendar for Board Meetings and attend any you can - all meetings are open.

The dates for Ranch Day, Indian Day will be determined at the April 20th meeting.

Any board member can confirm meeting date and place, in case of Acts of God, etc.

Looking forward to seeing more of you,

Jeannette Plante Rosson

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Russian River District
P.O. Box 123
Duncans Mills, CA 95430
(707) 865-2391



March 26, 1985

FORT ROSS STATE HISTORIC PARK VISITOR CENTER

By: Ranger Bob Anderson

There have been some significant and exciting changes at Fort Ross in the last three years. Two new buildings, the Officials Barracks and the Kuskov House, have been completed inside the Fort compound. The stockade walls are undergoing replacement, the Fort Ross Orchard has been rejuvenated, and work continues on the stabilization of the Call House. But one of the most significant changes is the soon to be completed Visitor Center.

The Visitor Center has long been a dream of interested people who have been involved with Fort Ross. The General Plan for Fort Ross, approved in February 1976, called for a Visitor Center but it has been a long time coming. After two budget proposals failed to gain final approval, Senator Barry Keene's S.B. 705 passed and \$800,000 was appropriated from the 1980 Bond Act. Final approval from the Department of Finance and the Public Works Board was given on May 7, 1984, and work began in the fall of that year.

The architect for the project is Freebairn-Smith and Associates from San Francisco. The building design has gone through several modifications over the years due to monetary restraints and input from concerned groups and individuals.

A major fund raising effort was needed to secure funds for the working drawings. Henry Trione, Chairman of the Geyser Peak Winery donated \$25,000. The California State Parks Foundation raised an additional \$25,000., largely through the efforts and support of William Penn Mott, Jr.. This effort was also supported by the participation of the Fort Ross Citizens Advisory Committee and the Fort Ross Interpretive Association.

The structure is located near the parking lot, .3 miles away from the Fort compound. It is constructed of rough cut redwood and has approximately 4,000 square feet of floor space. The location of the Visitor Center was chosen for several reasons. First, visitors will get an overview of the Fort and its place in history before actually walking down to view it. Secondly, most modern day intrusions can now be moved to the Visitor Center (such as the Book and Gift Shop) so that visitors will get a feeling of "stepping back in time" when they enter the Fort. Thirdly, the site location provides some protection from the prevailing northwest winds.

March 26, 1985

FORT ROSS STATE HISTORIC PARK VISITOR CENTER

By: Ranger Bob Anderson

Page 2 of 2

The building has an exhibit room, an audio-visual and meeting room, a book and gift shop, park offices, storage vault and public restrooms. It has a huge open beam ceiling, fireplace and an area where the Fort, Call House and the former Indian Village site can be viewed.

Exhibits will depict the flow of history af Fort Ross. Visitors will better understand why the Russians came to Fort Ross, how they lived, what they did, how they interacted with the Kashia-Pomo, and why they left. Other major exhibits will include the Ranch Era, the Park Era and the Natural History of the Fort Ross area. Many people have been involved in the story line for the Visitor Center, including Department of Parks and Recreation staff, members of the Fort Ross Citizens Advisory Committee and the Fort Ross Interpretive Association.

There will be a major dedication ceremony when the building is completed and the exhibits in place. Hopefully this will be in mid-July. There will be a major public relations campaign at that time so that all those who have shown an interest and worked towards the completion of this project can come to Fort Ross to celebrate the official dedication of the building.

Memberships were due April 1st

\$3.00 for individual

\$5.00 for family

Check payable to Fort Ross Interpretive Association, Inc.

Mail to: Betty Musser, 9532 Clint Court, Cazadero, Ca. 95421

Your dues are due

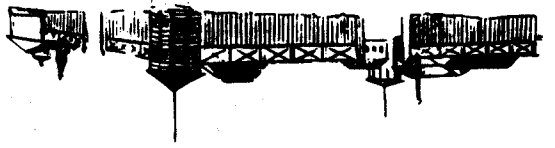
Your dues are paid

Have a great Summer and include Fort Ross!

Your Spring NEWSLETTER editors - Eve and Abe Crittenden
Betty and George Musser

Kaye and Frieda Tomlin
2259 Cobblehill Place
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