

19005 Coast Highway One, Jenner, CA 95450 ■ 707.847.3437 ■ [info@fortross.org](mailto:info@fortross.org) ■ [www.fortross.org](http://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](http://www.fortross.org)

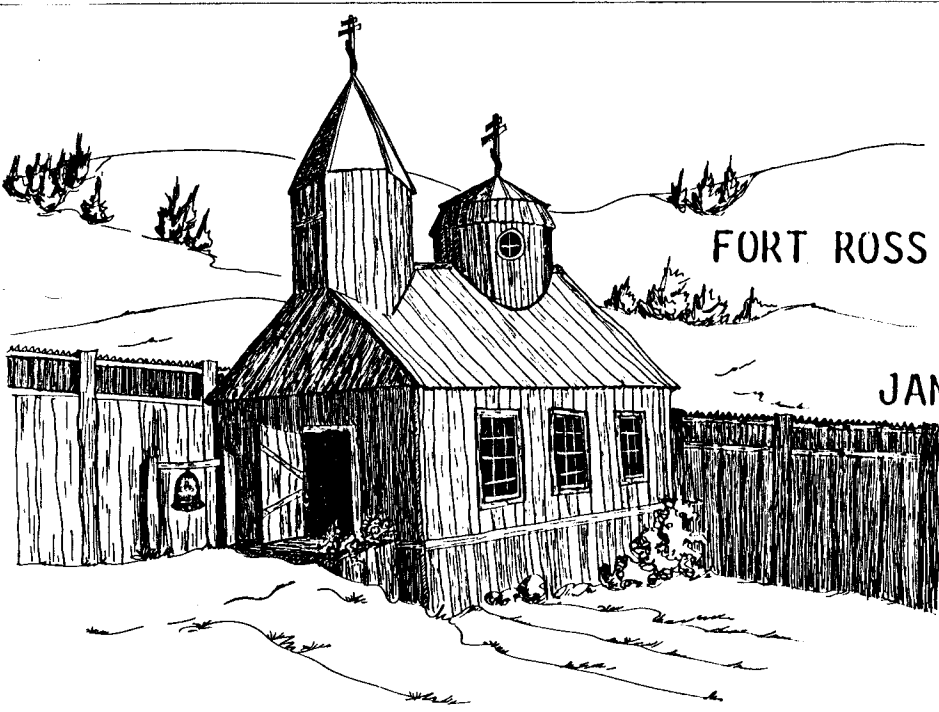
Fort Ross and Salt Point parks have benefited greatly from many dedicated volunteers and staff who have given generously to these parks. Board of directors from FRIA and FRC have fundraised, organized events, overseen volunteers, spearheaded interpretation and restoration projects, and offered substantial 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](http://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](http://www.fortross.org)



## FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - FEBRUARY  
1989

### ANOTHER GEORGE IS GONE

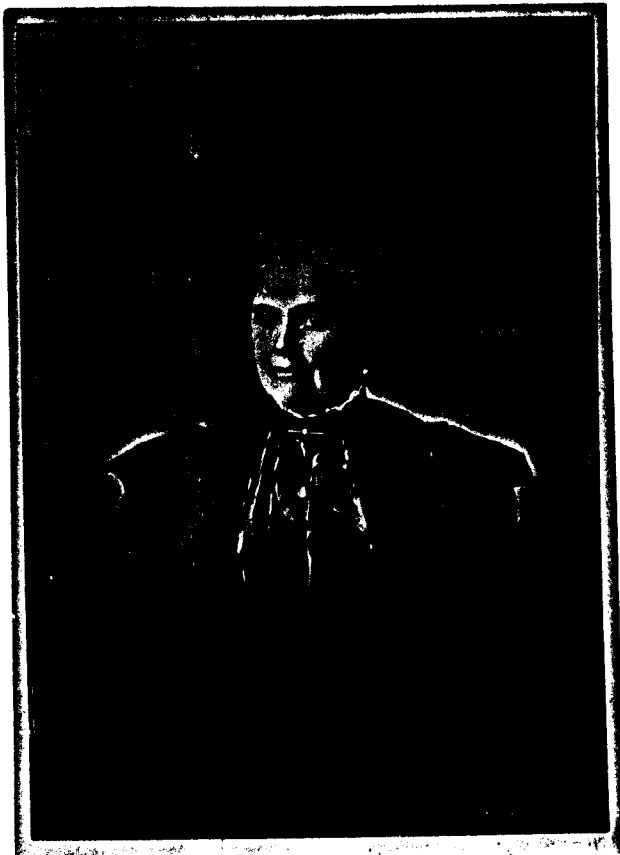
When I think of the Call family, I think of three generations. My grandparents, my mother and her sisters and brothers, and my generation. In this generation sixteen children were born. The oldest one, a boy, George Call Pearce, passed away in October, 1988. Now there are three left in my generation.

I didn't know George too well because he was older and lived in Ohio, but in the last twenty years we became good friends. We exchanged letters and when he made his yearly trip to California he would call and say, "Let's take a run up the coast, stop by the Fort, and look over the land and sea." And we would do this accompanied by other family members. We had a favorite place near Kolmer Gulch where we would walk and he and I would look at the tree that had been split by lightning. He always said it would be down by next year. I said, "No, it will outlive us all." It is still standing and he is gone.

We would go further up the hill into an open field where some old redwoods formed a group protecting everyone and anything from the hard coastal winds. We would go inside the redwood grove and sit down and talk about our ancestors, the Russians, who probably cut their timbers here, and what we did when we were children. All the children had been to this area very often with Uncle Carlos and we all loved it very much. Our grove now has signs reminding visitors of the people who lived here and saved those redwoods.

On George's agenda was always the Union Hotel in Occidental where he came to eat his first ravioli, as a little boy. It was a lunch stopover on the Narrow Gauge Railroad to Cazadero. How he loved to tell the waitresses his stories about the train. And they were always interesting..

by Laurie C. Horn

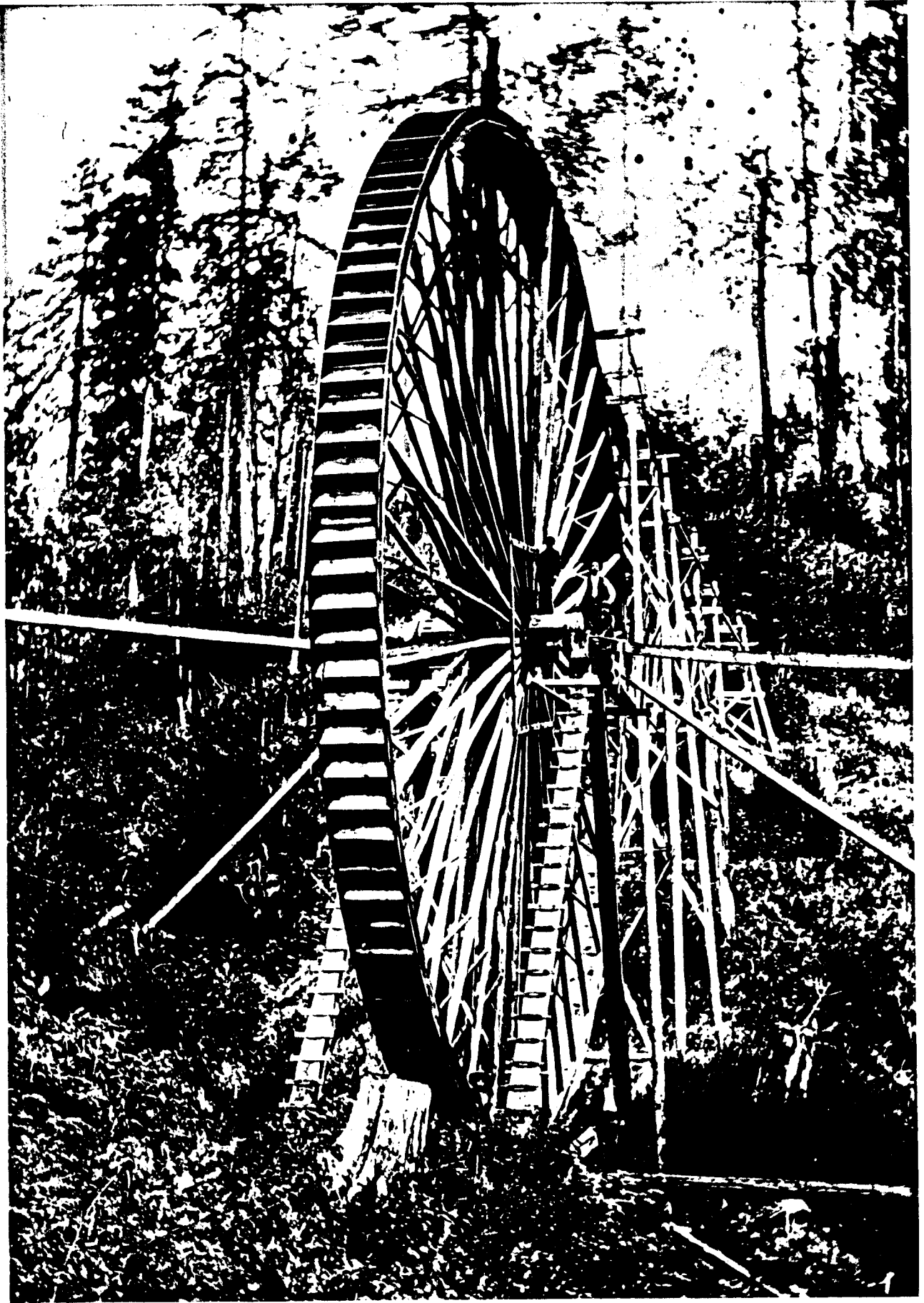


Mercedes Leiva Call



George W. Call

## GREAT WATERWHEEL



This waterwheel was sixty feet in diameter. It was located in Stockhoff Creek, five miles from Fort Ross. It was built around 1895 by "Happy Jack" Howard and William Haily entirely out of split fir timbers. It was abandoned because they could not secure lumber rights or customers for their saw mill. In this picture Carlos A. Call stands on the hub. His brother George is seated nearby, and their sister Mercedes stands in the brush at the rim of the wheel.

## FRIA NEWS

### The Fort Ross Interpretive Association Board of Directors for 1989:

Barbara Black  
Gloria Frost (Membership Chair)  
Jay Harris (President)  
Betty MacKenzie (Recording Secretary)  
Pat McAdam (Corresponding Secretary)  
John McKenzie  
Daniel Murley  
Helen Platt  
Jeannette Rosson  
Elizabeth Sidorov (Vice President)  
Lynn Silva  
Frieda Tomlin  
William Walton

(Irena Morgan has resigned)

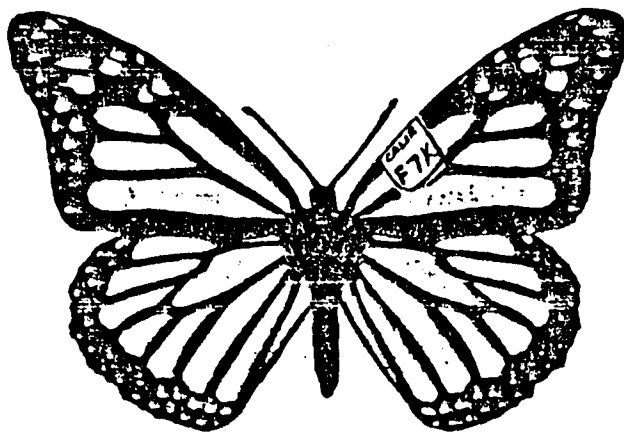
### Fort Ross Interpretive Association Consultants:

Wendy Platt (Treasurer)  
Lyn Kalani (Newsletter Editor, Field Seminar Coordinator, Bookstore Manager)

There are several items of general interest from the last FRIA Board Meeting:

Nature Packs for tidepool study suggested by Robin Dressler have been approved by the Board. By this spring there will be three beginner and two intermediate packs which may be checked out at the Visitor Center by visitors. They will contain books and learning aids for studying tidepools.

John McKenzie Day will be the second Sunday in August each year. This year the date is August 13, 1989 and there will be a celebration!



### BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR MONARCH BUTTERFLIES WITH TAGS

Thousands of Monarch butterflies (Danaus plexippus) are being banded throughout North America. A small paper tag is placed on the right forewing of each insect. The white-colored tags are 6mm x 10mm in size and are highly conspicuous. Each tag bears an individual number as well as instructions to return the monarch to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

Each fall all Monarchs west of the Great Plains migrate to a limited number of localities located along the sea coast of California to pass the winter months. The return migration inland takes place from January through March. The wintering colonies are threatened by urban development, uncontrolled tourism, and especially a lack of active management. Many sites have been destroyed in the last few years.

You can help conserve the migratory phenomenon of the Monarch. Each banded butterfly that is recovered provides critical ecological data.

If you find a DEAD banded Monarch send the entire specimen as well as where and when it was found to: Walter Sakai, Life Science, Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, California 90405 (telephone 213 450-5150) or Chris Nagano, Entomology Section, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90007 USA. If you find a LIVE banded Monarch record the tag number and send this information along with where and when it was observed to Walter Sakai or Chris Nagano. In either case, you will be notified of the location and the date the Monarch was tagged.



Dmitrii I. Zavalishin. "Dielo o kolonii Ross" (The Fort Ross Question), in Russkii Viesnik, (1866), no. 3, pp. 36-65. Excerpts from p. 5, 14, 34. (This translation was presented by Stephen Watrous in his class "Portraits of Prominent Russians".)

#### ZAVALISHIN'S RETROSPECTIVE EVALUATION OF THE ABANDONMENT OF FORT ROSS (1866)

In short, the history of Fort Ross, our colony in New Albion (the usual expression in California), consists of the following: it was established with the government's knowledge and permission on the assumption that with the development of agriculture and industry it would serve as a useful support [base] for our hunting and fur-trapping colonies [in Alaska], and subsequently for Kamchatka and the Okhotsk region. But this objective was not attained, chiefly resulting from the lack of governmental support, promised to the Russian-American Company. And the colony, never having offered the [expected] benefits, and deprived of any hope of improving its unfavorable situation, was vacated by governmental decision. As things were going, this happened not long before it would have come to nothing on its own, posing an even greater handicap for the Company, and possibly considerable difficulties for the government itself.

Our greatest mistake with respect to Fort Ross . . . consisted of the fact that we sought the consent and permission to do that which we had full right to do, without anyone else's consent and permission. On the other hand, other nations constantly acted, while asking no one, even when they had no right to act this way.

Thus, while we did not dare advance, nor even extend ourselves in an area which we already occupied without question - along the Slavianka River, which was christened with a native Russian name, an American sea captain, who asked nobody, openly took possession of a place between the Spanish settlements and the Russian ones, caring nothing of the rights of either. And what is more, this was along the Slavianka River itself, over which we had just intended to negotiate with its imaginary owners.

When finally the disadvantages of our situation and the need to find a way out of it became obvious, instead of seeking a direct agreement with the Spanish in California, whose interests could have been co-ordinated with our own, we let the last favorable time, in 1824, slip past. Subsequently, we turned to Mexico, to whom we could not offer enough advantages to purchase her consent.

Meanwhile, Americans from the United States, without asking anyone, settled places which we did not occupy, and this circumstance rendered fruitless, in all probability, even Mexico's consent, in the event it might have followed. The Americans, of course, would not give up the places they occupied, and this would inevitably have led to those very conflicts with the United States which even earlier we had supposedly decided to avoid through firm action.

In such a situation, nothing further was left but either to meet these conflicts head on, bearing in mind an endless prospect of troubles and losses, or to abandon the colony. The latter was chosen.

WEATHER NOTES

When the wind storm hit us in mid-December, it sent me scrambling to my files, because what was happening appeared to be quite similar to a recorded weather event at Fort Ross ninety years ago. I retrieved a paper Mercedes Stafford had put together titled "All About Apples" in which she had excerpted portions of Carlos Call's diary and added comments from other sources. Following are Mercedes' quotes from that diary and from the other sources from the year 1898 [my comments are provided in square brackets]:

December 9th--"Terrific wind from the NE last night and this morning. In night the wind blew down the chute, fences all around, gates, blue gum limbs, tore shingles off roofs, stove the blacksmith shop in, blew down the weather vane, and sign off store. Broke windows and shook down the apples in OLD ORCHARD [Russian Orchard]... wind lifted the planks (3" thick & 24' long) off the platform at chute, and would pick the water up and carry it in sheets. I think this was the hardest wind I ever experienced..."

December 10th--"George [Carlos' brother] and I went to OLD ORCHARD [the 'Benitz Orchard'] and picked up apples. About 125 boxes on the ground. Paper says the wind attained the velocity of 96 mi. per hour at Point Reyes during the N. Easter..."

December 18th--Carlos and George and Martin [Hansen, I believe] went to the 'new' orchard, in the PM and counted the remaining trees and found there were 463 left [out of the approximately 1,700 originally planted by Benitz]...

"We ship to R. & H. on the next steamer -

5 boxes Banana Apples	(Marked 2)	3 bxs.
3 boxes Virginia Greenlings	(" 3)	50¢
1 box Northern Spy	(" 4)	7 bxs. 60¢
2 boxes Bellflowers	(" 5)	1 bx. 65¢
2 boxes White Winter Pearmain	(" 6)	1 bx. 75¢
1 box Gloria Mundi	(" 7)	3 bxs. 80¢
1 box Baldwin	(" 8)	

These apples make a total shipped for the season to market of 481 boxes."

I thought this might be of interest, given the recent, similar wind storm. Maybe someone else can put down what happened this time, adding to the rich weather records at Fort Ross.

Kaye Tomlin December 1988

Editor's note: The big wind storm on the evening of December 14 was not accompanied by rain. It was clear and dry that night. Examination of the Fort Ross Log Book indicates that there was a small amount of minor damage to the Fort, grounds, and Russian Orchard. John Smith reports that one of the grandmother trees was broken by the wind (tree number 21), but that none of the 108 daughter trees were damaged. We have also had several hail storms this winter, with reports of very large hailstones. The photographs and text below are taken from the March, 1974 issue of "The Cooperative Observer".

FORT ROSS, CALIFORNIA CELEBRATES ITS 99th YEAR OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS WITH A SHOWER OF HAILSTONES



John McKenzie, Historian at Fort Ross State Historic Park, sends the above photos, taken by Mr. Evan Thompson, of sample hailstones from a brief but spectacular storm that struck Fort Ross at 12:35 pm, November 13, 1973. Uncommon in these parts, the hailstorm came close to the 99th anniversary of this weather station, which was started on November 11, 1874, by Mr. George W. Call (see March 1972 Newsletter). Most of the stones measured about one-half inch in diameter, with a liberal number reaching one and three quarters inch long and three quarters inch thick.

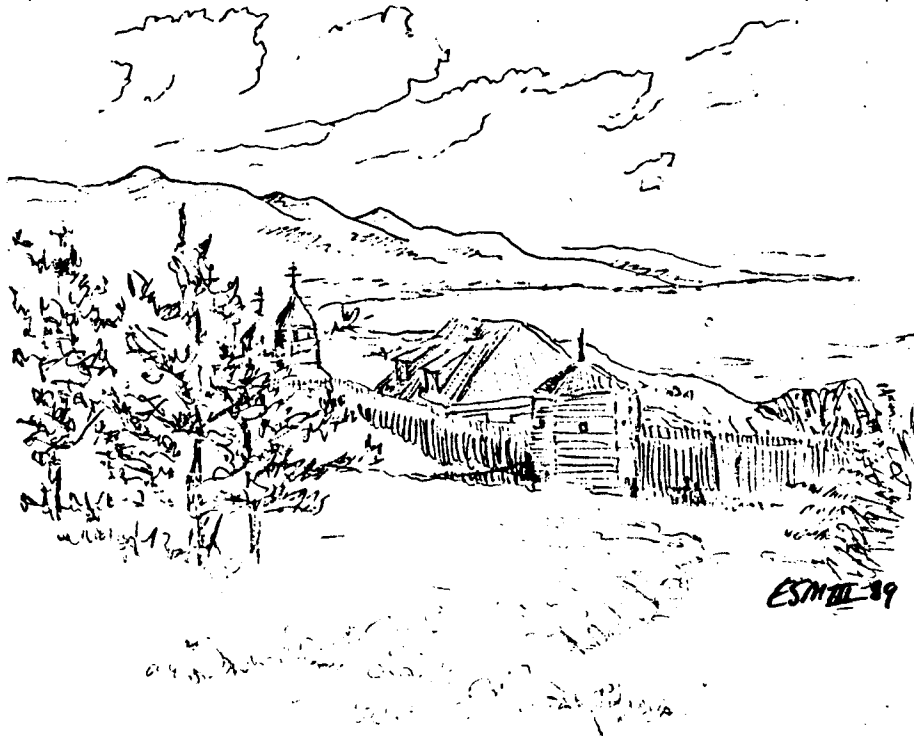
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WHALE WATCH: Bodega Head--weekends 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.  
Salt Point--Weekends 11:00 a.m. through the end of March

FIELD SEMINARS: The spring/summer Field Seminar Program will be in April, May  
and June. Look for the schedule in your March issue of the Newsletter.

FRIA BOARD MEETING: Saturday, February 11, 10:30 a.m.

NEXT NEWSLETTER: Mid March--due date for submissions is March 3--PLEASE CONTRIBUTE



Fort Ross Interpretive Association  
19005 Coast Highway 1  
Jenner, California 95450

