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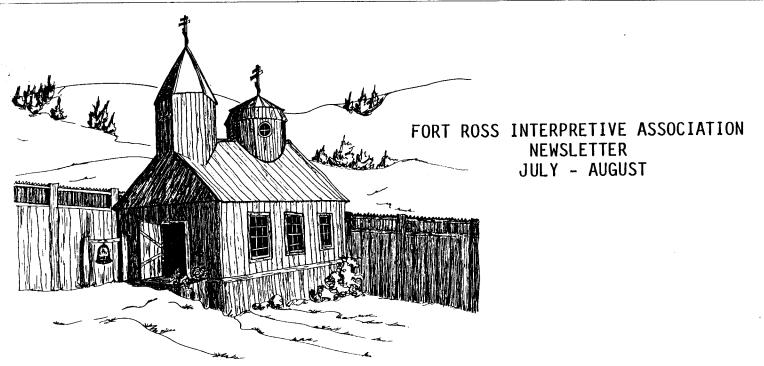
Fort Ross and Salt Point parks have benefited greatly from many dedicated volunteers and staff who have given generously to these parks. Board of directors from FRIA and FRC have fundraised, organized events, overseen volunteers, spearheaded interpretation and restoration projects, and offered substantial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



RESTORATION OF THE RUSSIAN CEMETERY AT FORT ROSS

The following update on the restoration of the Russian Cemetery is taken from a memorandum written by E. Breck Parkman, Regional Archeologist, California Department of Parks and Recreation to Marilyn C. Olson, Chief, Legislative Office. Dr. Lynne Goldstein, Sannie Osborn and the archeological field class from the University of Wisconsin will arrive in early July to begin the archeological aspect of the Cemetery Restoration Project. Work will continue into the first week of August 1990.

As per the request of Diane Stewart, of your office, I am supplying you with the following description of the Russian Cemetery Restoration Project at Fort Ross State Historic Park:

In 1988, I was approached by Ms. Sannie Osborn of the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, about the possibility of conducting archeological investigations within the historic Russian Cemetery located at Fort Ross SHP. The cemetery was used by the Russians beginning sometime after the founding of Fort Ross in 1812, lasting until the Fort's abandonment in 1841. About fifty people, all members of the Russian Orthodox faith, are thought to have been buried there. The exact location of the cemetery is not known, as the grave markers have long since disappeared.

Ms. Osborn's proposal was supported by Father Vladimir Derugin, of the Russian Orthodox Church, and then a member of the now defunct Fort Ross Citizen's Advisory Committee. Father Derugin wished someday to see the Russian Cemetery restored to its former condition, and realized that archeological work was necessary in order to do this. The restoration of the cemetery has long been a desire of many people associated with the Department:

"The next element proposed for development would be the site of the cemetery. It should be explored archeologically. Of course, the graves should not be disturbed, or if disturbed, the remains should be re-buried with dignity. The object of the work would be to locate and identify, if possible, the graves of the colonists. Burial practices and grave decoration during the early 19th Century, in Siberia and Alaska should be investigated, the cemetery restored and developed as an extended tour of the site. It would further add to the extent of the project and interest of the interpretation" (HISTORIC FORT ROSS: A PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT AND FEASIBILITY STUDY by Victor Hogg, 1970).

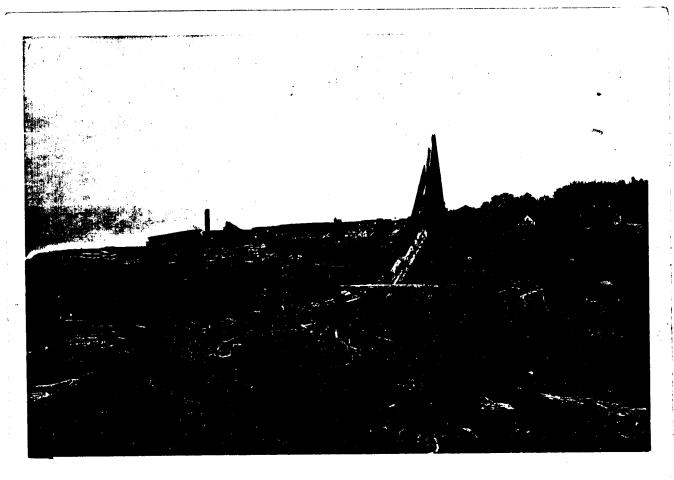
Ms. Osborn's proposal was also supported by a number of State Archeologists employed by the Department, including Dr. Glenn Farris (State Archeologist II, Resource Protection Division), our Department's leading expert on the history of Fort Ross. Given the support of Father Derugin and Dr. Farris I agreed to investigate the validity of Ms. Osborn's proposal.

Since my initial meeting with Ms. Osborn (11/28/88), I have conducted extensive research to determine whether a cemetery restoration project is feasible, in terms of legality, ethics, resource management, and public appreciation. I have concluded that it is, providing the project is conducted in a professional and dignified manner. The Russian Cemetery Restoration Project, as envisioned by me, will result in the cemetery being located, the remains identified, the 'last rites' given them by the Church, and, eventually, grave markers re-erected at each grave site. To accomplish these goals, archeological work is necessary, but it is important to remember that archeology is only one of several means being used to accomplish this project. The project does not consist of an archeological excavation in the traditional sense of the term, but rather, consists of a restoration which makes use of archeological procedures. To this end, it is important to note that the cemetery excavation will not result in the removal and curation of archeological collections, either artifactual or osteological. The archeological aspect of the project is to locate and identify individual gravesites so that they can be better managed and protected in the future. If this can be accomplished, the Russian Cemetery will once again look like it did during the Russian Era at Fort Ross (page 39 of the General Plan for Fort Ross states that, "The atmosphere of the Russian Settlement should be recaptured to the fullest extent possible.").

Until recently, I had assumed that the fifty or so people buried in the Russian Cemetery were all European Russians. This is probably the case, although I am somewhat less certain now. Since it has not been possible to identify next-ofkin for the people buried at Ross (although, I am hopeful that archival research might still help us at least identify the names of some of the Russians buried there), we have been working closely with the Russian Orthodox Church. As there are two distinct organizations within the Church, we have been careful to work with representatives of each. We have been working closely with Father Vladimir Derugin and Father Michael ()]eksa and have the support of both organizations within the Church. The Church is supportive of the project since it will allow for the 'last rites' being given the individuals buried there (this was not possible at the time of burial since there was never a priest stationed at Fort Ross), and will help restore the cemetery to its former appearance. The project is viewed not as an archeological investigation, but rather as a cemetery restoration. The Church holds services at Fort Ross every year, and part of the service includes a procession to the cemetery for prayers. A restored cemetery will greatly enhance this ceremony.

Whereas, I had assumed that only European Russians were buried within the Russian Cemetery at Ross, I also realized that somewhere within the area there must be a number of Native Alaskans buried. Many Native Alaskan men were brought to Ross by the Russians to hunt sea otter, the primary purpose of Ross Colony. Many, if not most, of these men came from Kodiak Island, Alaska, and were of the Koniag Eskimo culture. The Russians referred to these and all Native Alaskans as "Aleuts", a term that has confused the record since there were actual Aleuts also in the employ of the Russians. Upon arriving at Fort Ross, a number of the Koniags, and some of the Russians too, intermarried into the Native California community. There are marriages known between Koniag and Russian men with women from both the Kashaya Pomo and Bodega Bay Miwok It is not yet known how many of these wives converted to the communities. Russian Orthodox faith (presumedly a pre-requisite for burial within the Orthodox cemetery), or whether any of them died during the Russian occupation of Ross Colony. Since the Russians at Ross were very class conscience (as seen in their residential and work patterns), it is likely that only Russians and Creoles would have been buried within the Russian Cemetery at Ross. Alaskans may have had a separate cemetery nearby, or perhaps were buried at one end of the Russian Cemetery. That is only supposition, though. In order to evaluate the Cemetery Restoration Project in the most professional and ethical way possible, we have had to assume that there may be some individuals of Native Alaskan and, less likely, of Native Californian heritage buried there.

... In addition, the project has been endorsed by the ... Kodiak Area Native Association. At the same time, the wishes of local Kashaya community members will be respected, and should the remains of their ancestors be encountered in the cemetery, the archeologists will cease the excavation of those remains, marking the location and informing the Kashaya community of the discovery. When we are done, we will know where the cemetery is located, and will have some idea as to how many people are buried there. Then we will be able to delineate the boundaries of the cemetery, and re-erect crosses and other historically-accurate grave markers. When the project is completed, I truly believe that everyone will have benefitted: DPR will benefit in that the cemetery will be restored in such a way as to add to the public enjoyment and interpretation at Fort Ross SHP, and by the fact that we will be able to better protect and manage the cemetery; the Russian Orthodox Church benefits in that the cemetery will be restored in a way keeping with its sacredness; and finally, the deceased might be thought of as benefitting since they will be finally given the 'last rites' not possible at the time of burial, and their resting places marked once again with the Russian Orthodox cross.



1912 PHOTO OF BURIEL FIELD AT FORT ROSS

# ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE NATIVE ALASKAN VILLAGE SITE AT FORT ROSS

I am requesting that the following proposal be discussed at the next Board of Director's meeting of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association on June 9, 1990. The proposal consists of four points that concern the archaeological investigation of the Native Alaskan Village Site at Fort Ross. The purpose of the project is to undertake the necessary research to interpret the Alaskan Village as the first leg of a "rulture" trail that will take the public outside the garrison proper to view other kinds of archaeological remains. We are proposing that trailside displays be set up along the trail to facilitate the interpretation of the broader historic Ross community. The proposed starting date of the field work is the summer of 1991, with field work continuing in the summers of 1992 and 1993. Glen Farris and I are submitting a grant to the National Endowment for Humanities to fund the major expenses of the project, including and paying Koniag Eskimo students and scholars to work on the site with us.

The four points of the proposal are as follows:

- We are proposing that FRIA sponsor a Kashaya "tribal scholar" to work on the project. The anticipated cost for each year of field work (1991, 92 and 93) is \$2650 (\$13.25/hr x 200 hours). We would greatly appreciate the assistance of FRIA members in selecting a qualified candidate. The National Endowment for the Humanities will match dollar-for-dollar funds that we raise from the private sector. If FRIA members eponsor a tribal scholar, then I can request an additional Kashaya consultant to be paid by NEH. We are also contemplating other possible funding sources to hire several Kashaya high school students to work on the project. The reasons for involving Kashaya scholars and students are twofold. First, in excavating the Native Alaskan Village we will probably unearth some material culture of Kashaya people. It is very important to have Kashaya scholars on site to assist in the interpretation and proper curation of the materials. Second, we would like to get Kashaya scholars and students to participate in Fort Ross archaeological fieldwork. We are proposing that the second leg of the culture trail involve the interpretation of selected Kashaya sites. This leg of the culture trail will happen only with the full cooperation and assistance of the Kashaya community. We feel that my working closely with the Koniag Eskimos in studying and interpreting their ancestral village, the Mashaya may view the culture trail and archaeology in a more positive light.
- 2) We are proposing that FRIA assist in advertising to the public the excavation project. A sign can be conspicuously placed in front of the Visitor's Center to direct the public to the excavation. We will assign one of our crew members each day to serve as a public liason person. The duty of that person will be to give tours of the site and to answer questions.
- 3) We are proposing that FRIA advertise and sponsor several public tours of the excavation. Glenn Farric and/or I will give tours of the excavation in progress. In addition, we are proposing that FRIA sponsor "campfire" lectures in which the archaeologists can describe the project at a nighttime, outdoor slide show. The lectures should be free and open to the public. No lecture fees will be paid to the archaeologists. Several lectures could be given throughout each field season.
- 4) We are proposing that FRIA members participate in the project so that they can better appreciate archaeological field methods. Since most FRIA members work, we would set up special workshops on several Saturdays during the field season for them. At these workshops we will teach archaeological field methods, and discuss our latest findings.

Thank vow very much for bringing this to the attention of the FRIA Board of Directors.

Sincerely.

Kent Lightfoot

Associate Professor, Anthropology Director, Archaeological Research

Facility

Note: This project was approved at the June 9 FRIA Board Meeting



4.95

4.95 4.95

2.95 3.60 14.00

2.00 3.50 3.95

### ROOKS

### CHILDRENS BOOKS

Butterflies of the American West (coloring book) / Opler
Fort Ross - A Picture Book / Rickman
Fort Ross Coloring Book / Munson
Eyewitness Books PLANTS / Burnie
Eyewitness Books SEASHORE / Parker
The Land of Six Seasons / Verran
The Monarch Butterfly / Thurman
Peterson Field Guide Coloring Books
Birds
3.95

Peterson Field Guide Coloring Books
Birds
Fishes
Mammals
Seashores
Wildflowers

Sea Creatures Coloring Book / Whyte & Tachiera
Skazki (5 Russian Folk Tales)
Western Guide Conniferous Trees

Western Guide Conniferous Trees
Whale Primer / Walker
What is a California Sea Otter / Graves

## HISTORY BOOKS

Around the World on the Kamchatka / Golovnin	20.00
Bairdarka / Dyson	24.95
Builders of Alaska The Russian Governors / Pierce	7.50
Colonial Russian America / Khlebnikov	21.95
Fort Ross Creamery / Black	2.00
Fort Ross - Indians, Russians, Americans / O'Brien	2.50
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Pacific Sail / Morris	29.95
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Ruskaya Amerika / Petrov	2.50
The Russian American Colonies / Dmytryshyn	30.00
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Russian America / Chevigny	9.95
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Information / Wrangell	16.50
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The Wooden Architecture of Russia / Opolovníkov	60.00
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### FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

### **BOOKSTORE**

## MAIL ORDER PRICE LIST

## NATURAL HISTORY & FIELD GUIDE BOOKS

Abalone Book / Howarth	5.95
Audubon Society Nature Guides	
Pacific Coast / McConnaughey	15.95
Western Forests / Whitney	14.95
Audubon Society Pocket Guides	
Birds - Western Region	4.95
Flowers - Western Region	4.95
Insects & Spiders - North America	4.95
Manmals - North America	4.95
Manmais - North America	4.95
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Birds of North America / National Geographic	11.95
California Butterflies / Garth & Tilden	10.95
California Mammals / Jameson Coastal Access Guide / CA. Coastal Commission	12.95
Coastal Access Guide / CA. Coastal Commission	14.95
Coastal Resource Guide / CA. Coastal Commission	3.95
Common Edible Plants / Sweet	7.95
Early Uses of California Plants / Ball	3.95
Exploring Pacific Coast Tidepools / Braun Fishes of the Pacific Coast / Goodson	7.95
Fishes of the Pacific Coast / Goodson	13.95
Hawks (Peterson Field Guide) / Clark & Wheeler	10.95
Marine Biology Coloring Book / Niesen	9.75
Marine Mammals of California / Orr	9.95
Handbook of California Birds / Brown	8.95
The Mushroom Manual / Pearson	5.95
1001 Questions Answered About the Seashore / Berrill	
Pacific States Wildflowers (Peterson Field Guide) Niehaus	11.95
Plants of the Coast Redwood Region / Lyons	11.55
Pocket Finders (Nature Study Guild)	2.00
Pacific Coast Berry Finder	2.00
Pacific Coast Bird Finder	2.75
Pacific Coast Fish	2.73
Pacific Coast Tree Finder	2.00
Pacific Intertidal Life	2.00
Redwood Region Flower Finder	11.95
Roadside Geology of Northern California / Alt	12.95
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Seashore Plants of California / Dawson	7.95 8.95
Sea Vegtables Harvesting Guide / Pearson	6.95
Sharing Nature With Children / Cornell	9.95
Sharing the Joy of Nature /Cornell	
Shore Wildflowers / Munz	8.95
Tidepools and Near Shore Fishes of California / Fitch	6.95
Redwood, The Story Behind the Scenery / Rasp	5.95 12.95
Western Birds (Peterson Field Guide) / Peterson	15.00
Pocket Flora of the Redwood Forest / Becking	15.00

## "Interior of a Kolosh hut," 1827





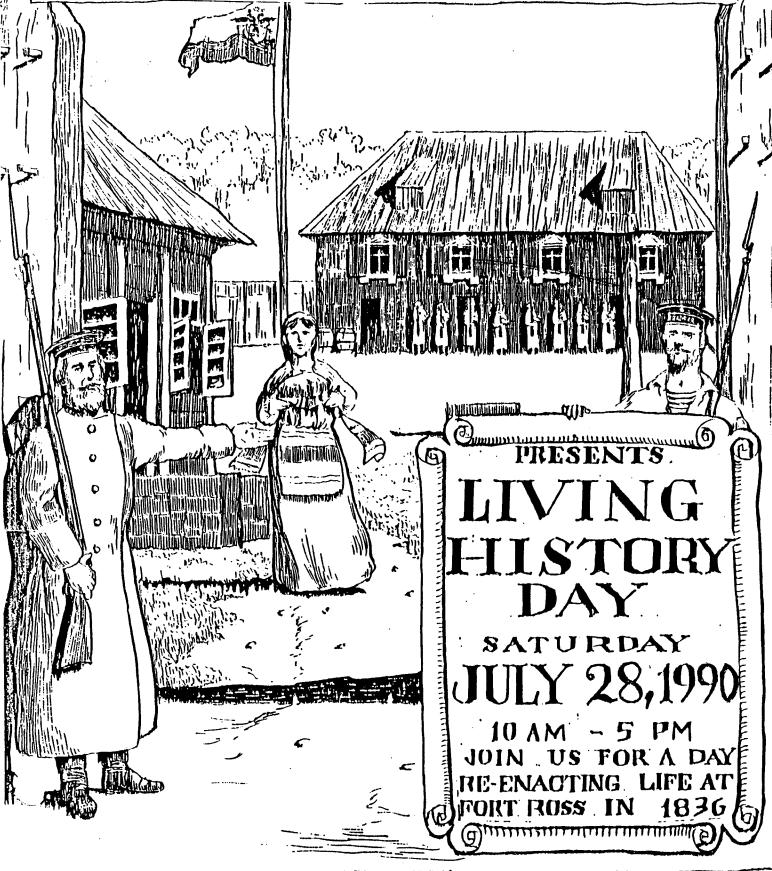
NATIVE CULTURES & CRAFT BOOKS		STATIONERY	,
Archaeology of California /Chartkoff Crossroads of Continents / Fitzhugh & Crowell The Eskimos and Aleuts / Dumond From Straw into Gold / Benson Handbook of North American Indians Vol. 8 CA. / Heizer Indian Baskets of North America / Lamb Kashaya Pomo Plants / Goodrich Natural World of California Indians / Elasser Pacific Basketmakers / Jones Pomo Basketmaking / Allen Pomo Dawn of Song / Stevens Pomo Indians of California / Brown A Sense of Place / Patterson Tribes of California / Powers The Way We Lived / Margolin  RUSSIAN CULTURE & CRAFT BOOKS	17.95 24.95 11.95 11.00 35.00 12.00 10.00 10.95 8.95 15.95 6.95 10.00 11.95 6.95	Notepaper - Fort Ross 1840 / Baum Pack of 10 each Pack of 10 e	2.50 .30 2.50 .3. 1.4 .75
Famous Russian Recipes / Kashevaroff Full Color Russian Folk and Needlepoint Designs / Halpern Russian Florals / Beath Russian Peasant Design Motifs /Stasov	5.95 3.95 4.65 2.75	MISCELLANEOUS  Cockades (hat pins) Coin Replica - 5 Kopek Cross - Russian - Sterling silver with chain	4.50 2.50 15.00
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Bell fort Ross - 1840 / Baum Grey Whale Sea Otter Shrubs of the Coast Ranges / C.N.P.S. Spring Wildflowers / C.N.P.S. Grace Hudson Posters  PRINTS  Chapel (matted) / Sebring Chapel / Mathis Commandants House / Mathis Fort Ross in 1841 / Voznesensky Fort Ross (matted, enlarged color photos) / Benoit	3.00 5.00 8.50 4.50 6.00 6.00 7.50 3.35 4.00 4.00 .50 35.00	Candles Rolled Bees Wax Fort Ross Shoulder Patches Model of Chapel (to be constructed) Beaded Necklaces by Violet Chappell Matreshka Dolls - Russian Stacking Dolls Wooden Cannon Wooden Baidarkas - Aleut Hunting Boat Wooden Baidarka with Aleut Apple Trees Descended from Old Russian Trees Pomo Colled Baskets by Myrtle McKay (call for price Russian Laquer Spoons, Plates and Bowls Russian Laquer Boxes	9.50 to 35.00 .50, long 1.00 2.50 5.00 28.00 5.10 to 25.95 10.00 15.00 15.00 2.85 to 20.00 9.00 to 150.00 21.50 to 50.00 7.00 to 42.00

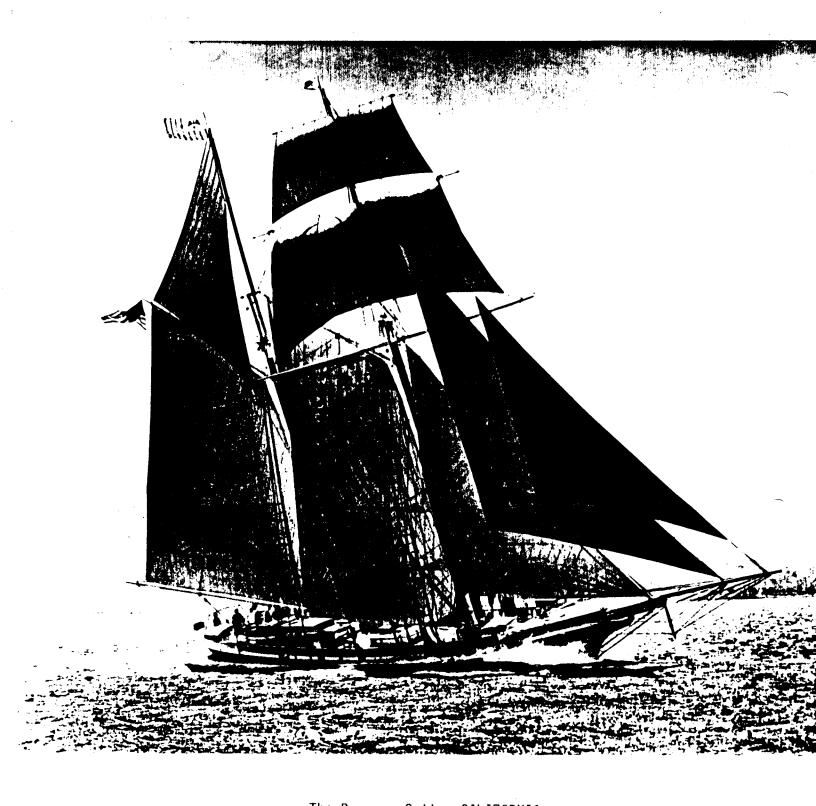


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707) 847-3437 or write: FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION 19005 Coast Highway 1 Jenner, California 95450		Total Amount Due

# FORTEROSS

STATE HISTORIC PARK





The Revenue Cutter CALIFORNIA

WEATHER PERMITTING the CALIFORNIA (pictured above) will visit Fort Ross on Living History Day masquerading as a Russian American Company ship. She will exchange welcoming cannon volleys and deliver a message from the Russian American Company to Colony Ross.

### ALWAYS LOTS OF NEWS!

## FORT ROSS HISTORIC ORCHARD

State Park Staff and the Black Mountain Fire Crew have put up a second layer of woven wire fencing all the way around the orchard. This fence is now seven feet high and hopefully will stop deer damage to the 105 daughter trees. Plans for mowing or disking are also underway. John Smith and Bill Walton are still searching for volunteers who would like to be trained to do regular orchard management. Call 707 847-3286 if you are interested.

## VISITOR CENTER NEWS

The Fort Ross Visitor Center Project LIST OF DONORS has been made by Kaye Tomlin and Dr. Robert Martines. The List of Donors was originally requested by William Mott. It is now available in the Visitor Center.

Among the numerous recent Soviet and Russian visitors to Fort Ross was the crew from the ice breaker Volga out of Petropavlovsk. This ship was visiting San Francisco to celebrate an anniversary of the United States Coast Guard. This was the first time since World War II that a Soviet Naval Vessel entered San Francisco Harbor. On May 15 Russian Officers and Sailors visited Fort Ross. They presented us with many gifts, including the ensign flag off their ship. The crew mingled with a visiting 4th grade school group from Fort Bragg. Members of the Fort Ross Staff gave them all a cannon demonstration, and the Captain of the Volga fired the Fort Ross Cannon. Each member of the crew was presented with a Fort Ross book.

## TRAVEL AND OUTREACH

John Middleton is in the Soviet Union for two months this summer. He is conducting research and making contacts related to Fort Ross. He has also been invited to study Russian Conservation techniques in the Conservation Department of the Museum of Ethnography in Leningrad.

Kent Lightfoot, Daniel Murley, Doreen Ferguson and Lyn Kalani are traveling to Kodiak Island, Alaska to the site of the first permanent Russian Settlement at Three Saints Bay. They will work on an archaeology project with the Kodiak Area Native Association, University of California Berkeley students and Soviet archaeologists. Lyn will be purchasing North Pacific cultural items for display in the Visitor Center and for sale in the Bookstore.



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

If you have not yet	renewed your mem	bership for 1990	), this is	the time	to do	it.
This Newsletter will	be the last one	you receive un	til you re	new.		
NAME						
ADDRESS						
TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:	\$5.00 Regular	\$7.50 Family	/\$25.0	0 Organiz	ationa	1

Donation \$

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 1--Archaeology begins at the Fort Ross Russian Cemetery. Archaeologists from University of Wisconsin Field School will be working through the month of July.

July 28, Saturday--LIVING HISTORY DAY

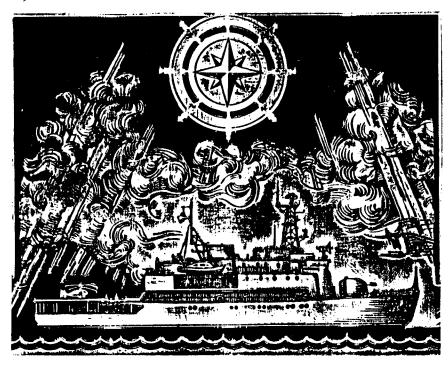
August 11, Saturday--FRIA BOARD MEETING

## FRIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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