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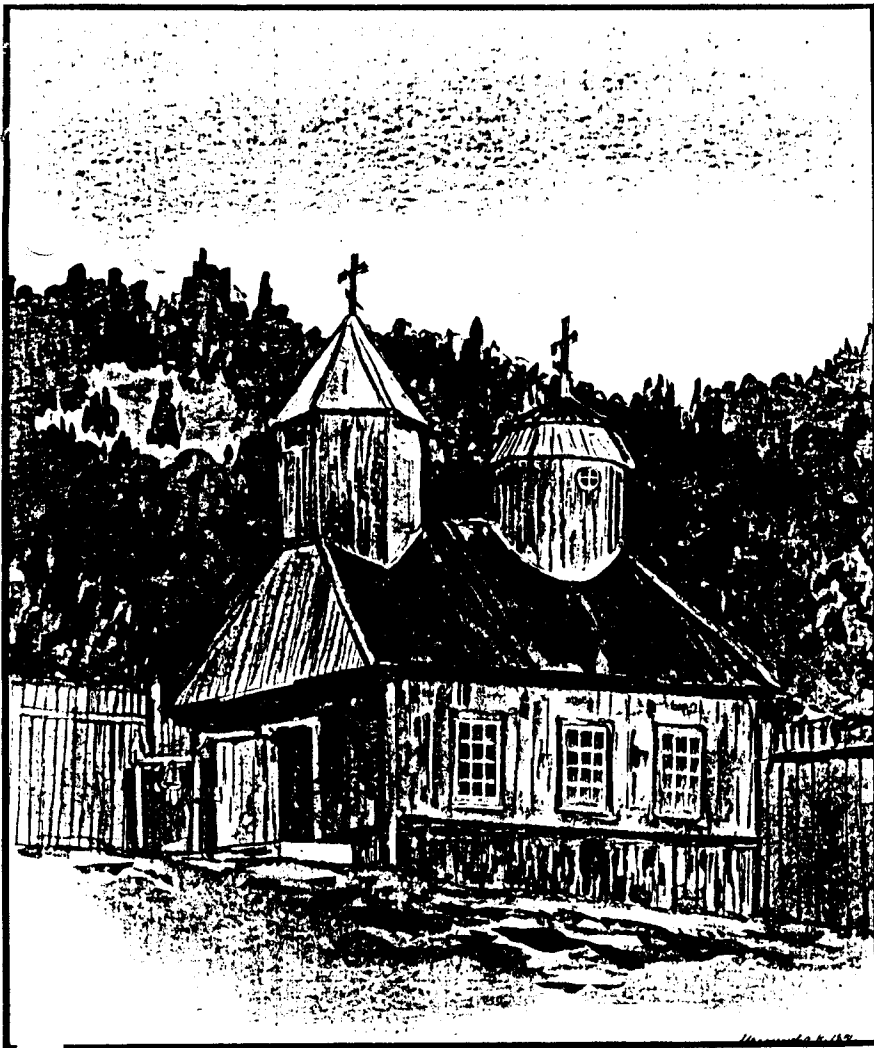
Fort Ross and Salt Point parks have benefited greatly from many dedicated volunteers and staff who have given generously to these parks. Board of directors from FRIA and FRC have fundraised, organized events, overseen volunteers, spearheaded interpretation and restoration projects, and offered substantial 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
NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER - NOVEMBER, 1991
(AND DECEMBER)



Mikhail T. Tikhonov's watercolor, "Vallazar, an Inhabitant of Northern California" (1818), shows the youth in profile and full-face. (Collection of the Scientific Research Museum of the Academy of Arts, U.S.S.R.)

RUSSIAN AMERICA: THE FORGOTTEN FRONTIER

*An Exhibition on the time when
American History was Russian and
Russian History was American*

THE OAKLAND MUSEUM
GREAT HALL HIGH BAY
OCTOBER 26, 1991 - JANUARY 5, 1992

This exciting exhibition traces the history of Russia's late 18th and early 19th century exploration and settlement of North America. Explore the impact of Russian traders and Aleut hunters on the sea otter trade. Discover Russian settlements from Fort Ross to Sitka. See Aleut *baidarkas* (kayaks), Alexander Baranov's armor, Orthodox church icons, Vitus Bering's log book and delicate watercolors by Russian artist and explorer M.T. Tikhonov.

We would like to thank FRIA members who attended the opening of RUSSIAN AMERICA: THE FORGOTTEN FRONTIER as volunteer costumed interpreters: DAN MURLEY, BILL WALTON, JOHN MIDDLETON, DAVID WILLSON, LYN KALANI, ROBIN JOY, NANCY WALTON, NAOMI FUCHS, DAVID KENLY, FRIEDA TOMLIN, KAYE TOMLIN, JOHN SALICO, DOREEN MENNEL, BILL MENNEL, WENDY PLATT, CAERLEON SAFFORD, TROY DUNHAM, TODD SCHNELKER, EILEEN DE DIOS, RICHARD BRADLEY, SARA GOULD GINESI, JUDY JOHNSON. We would also like to thank the Oakland Museum for inviting us to attend the opening. We appreciate the opportunity to expand our knowledge of Russian America and to view important artifacts and original art of the period. WE URGE ALL FRIA MEMBERS TO VISIT THIS EXHIBIT!

BASKETRY CLASS FORT ROSS FIELD SEMINAR

Whether you are looking to add that special touch to your Living History Day costume, or you just want to make something beautiful and utilitarian for yourself, or as a holiday gift, we have the class for you!

Drue Banister is a local Cazadero woman who has been weaving and teaching basketry in the Bay Area for over seven years. Drue has focused on Appalachian basket styles, which come from European peasant traditions. The basket we will make is a melon shaped egg basket. This basket is sturdy, functional, and beautiful. This class is appropriate for beginners and experienced weavers.

You will need to bring:

sharp scissors or pruners

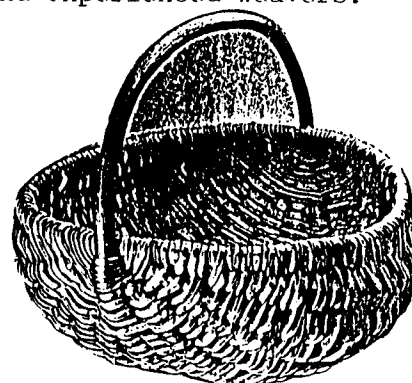
an awl if you have one

a pocket knife

a sponge or cloth

a bucket or bowl (opt.)

a sack lunch



This basket appears in
FOLK ART OF THE SOVIET UNION

Class will be held at the Fort Ross Visitor Center
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00p.m.

Class fee is \$25.00, all materials are included. Class size will be limited, so please register as soon as possible.



SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

PLEASE ENROLL ME IN DRUE BANISTER'S BASKETRY CLASS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 _____

SEND REGISTRATION FORM AND \$25.00 TO: FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

19005 COAST HIGHWAY 1

JENNER, CA 95450

(707) 847-3437

Russians host Ross-ers on tall ship

First person account by
John Sperry

On Friday, September 6, a contingent of 80 midshipmen and officers from the full-rigged ship *Pallada* came by bus to Fort Ross from San Francisco. The event was part of a great gala—the 250th anniversary of Bering and Chirikov's voyages to what became Alaska. More, it was a celebration of the whole Russian-American epoch, in which Fort Ross played a key role. (If you haven't visited Fort Ross, do so... you'll enjoy it!) Bodega Bay also was Russian in 1830.

"Locals" here responded on unbelievably short notice with tables full of breads, juices, fruits, and wines. The Russians brought sandwiches. Nothing survived the first hour! The day went down rich in history,

emotion (from midshipman to officer, current Soviet events were foremost on their minds), and friendship.

Late Friday night a call came to our house to the effect that the *Pallada* would be part of a marine parade in San Francisco the following day. We were invited to be aboard. Jodi declined, but I figuratively polevaulted immediately to Pier 43.

Actually, three uncoordinated cars took nine adults and two youngsters to Pier 43. Remarkably, we arrived at 10:07, 10:12, and 10:16 a.m. You will realize in a moment why minutes are important here.

We were the first to arrive. Rushing through a large crowd dockside, we saw the last of the ship's lines cast off from dock bollards. The ship— all 356 feet of her— was being

moved out by two tugs.

We despaired. I mean— we DESPAIRED. The other two groups arrived and joined the despair. End of story? No.

We shouted, "We're Fort Rossers!" We zinged Fort Ross Association cards into airplanes aboard. "Dos Verdanya!" they shouted back. "Goodbye!"

The gulf of water between us guaranteed our deepening despair by the minute. Midshipmen were hauling up fore-and-aft sails on the ship.

The *Pallada* is about 356 feet long, has three masts. The tallest looms 90 feet above deck. When fully clothed she carries 26 separate sails. Some, like jibs, are fore-and-aft, but the bulk are squaresails hung from yardarms. These can be positioned by their yardarms at a variety of angles relative to the ship.

By this device, the ship can sail "into" the wind, not straightway, of course, but, say, 45 degrees off to either side. The whole sail area is almost 30,000 square feet (a football field is 48,000 square feet). There are a jillion ropes and pulleys, stays and ratlines. Ships are things of beauty. There are very few left in the world.

Amongst us, on the dock of despair, was John Middleton, president of the Fort Ross Interpretative Association, fluent in Russian and well known to the *Pallada's* crew. He lived aboard her for a week in Seattle. John and another Fort Ross person were dressed in 1830s-style Russian Naval Officers uniforms. It was, after all, a commemoration.

Whatever transpired I do not know, except that at the abyss of our despair, when this beautiful ship was beginning to make her own way, we noticed the tugboat *Polaris* drop away and make a course straight to us on Pier 43.

By then, most of the public somehow shared our disappointment. They and we were electrified when *Polaris* pushed straight in to the pier and we— royal, no, but special,

yes!— persons got pulled by a strong friendly deckhand up onto the huge rubber bow fender and thence to the tug deck. A lady observer, in disbelief, wondered aloud, "What's the magic word?"

And then we were off to the *Pallada*, now about 20 percent clothed in sail and making good way toward the Bay Bridge, a good half mile from Pier 43. We went alongside carefully, an alley of fast-moving water between us, and with skills born of excitement, one at a time, we grabbed the Jacob's ladder and climbed to the *Pallada's* deck, where all of us stood in absolute jubilant disbelief.

Churchill's thumbs-up sign is such a powerful communication at times. At that moment we all gave it to the crew, who responded in kind.

We worked our way under the Bay Bridge, with midshipmen setting sail after sail until she was fully clothed and altogether beautiful. At about Hunter's Point we turned back and went westward almost to the Golden Gate.

By this time the topsail schooner Californian had joined us, as had the vintage sailing scow *Alma* and several other great old-time boats. Two fire boats tried to pump out San Francisco Bay— and all while modern sailing craft and power boats careened around us.

We ate borscht, stewed potatoes, and bread in the forward ward-room and watched San Francisco's skyline drift by the portholes. In some four hours it was ended.

Midshipmen swarmed up the ratlines of each mast, walked the footropes along yardarms, and secured the sails with gaskets. The swarming started at a virtual run but gradually slowed as the men reached 60-foot, then 80- and 90-foot levels.

Tugs picked us up and took us to dock, where an enormous public waited. The ship was opened to the public at 3 o'clock.

It was a superb effort of friendship by the Russians on the *Pallada*, a thrilling exercise for us.



Commemorative Medal

Dedicated to the 250th Anniversary of the Discovery of Alaska (1741-1991)

The famous expedition by Vitus Bering and Alexis Chirikov in the exploration of Alaska is almost forgotten history. This commemorative medal of the 250 year anniversary is a reminder of the time when 'The history of Russia and the history of America were part of each other.' The history of Alaska is inextricably connected to Russia and its maps will always reflect that fact. The geographic term 'A Russian America' appeared after the naval expedition of Bering and Chirikov in 1741, and was named after the Russian possession of Alaska, the Aleutian Islands, and the Northwest Coast of North America up to 54° 40' N. The names on the map of Alaska have immortalized the Russians who came to America.

MEDALS: Gold Plate on Bronze; Size: 2.5 inches; Number Struck: 150.

Designed by: Nicholas I. Rokitiatsky

Initial Letters H.U.P.

Issued under auspices of California History Center, De Anza College, Cupertino, California in 1991.

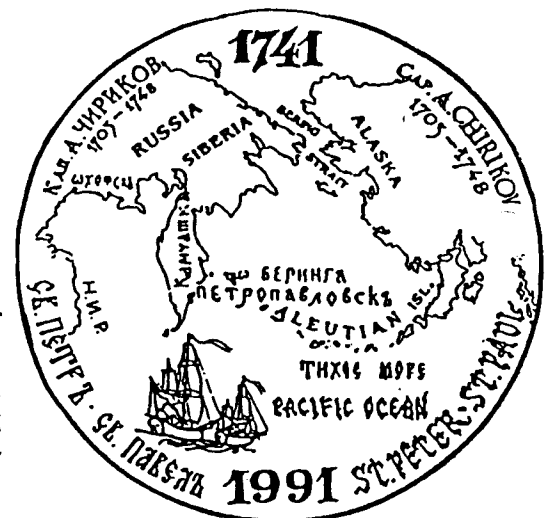


Obverse Side:

Script in Russian and English languages denotes 250 year anniversary of the discovery of Alaska (1741-1991) with pictures of Vitus Bering.

Reverse Side:

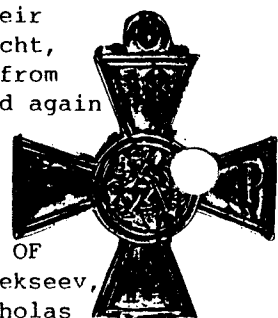
Map of North Eastern part of Pacific Ocean. Two ships, St. Peter and St. Paul commanded by two mariners Vitus Bering and Alexsel Chirikov discovered Alaska in 1741.



Three vessels participating in the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Bering - Chirikov Expedition have sailed into California waters. Fort Staff and members of FRIA have welcomed visitors from these ships at Ross. When the crew and passengers from the Academic Shirshov visited on August 24, COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS were presented to A. I. Alekseev, Senior Historian, Captain Villen Alper and crew, and to Gennadiy I. Zolotov, Deputy Counsul General U.S.S.R., who was also in attendance--a historic occasion for the Fort. Another of the COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS was presented to Captain Yuri Arsentie and the crew of the sailing ship Pallada when they visited Ross on September 6.

A third vessel participating in the Celebration, the yacht Baikal, anchored in the Fort Ross Cove on two occasions while its crew of ten visited the Fort. On their first visit two COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS were presented--one to the crew of the yacht, and the other to the Irkutsk Regional Museum. (This yacht, and its crew, are from the City of Irkutsk.) Their first visit was also on September 6. They arrived again a week later, this time dressed in Russian American costumes. They presented to Fort Ross a Russian American Company flag, hand painted by Fort Ross Intern Victor Malashev.

Speaking of medals, the Interpretive Committee of FRIA has presented the CROSS OF DISTINCTION OF FORTRESS ROSS to the crew and Captain of the Shirshov, A. I. Alekseev, Gennadiy I. Zolotov, the Captain and crew of the Pallada, and to Professor Nicholas I. Rokitiatsky, a special numbered cross.



VOLUNTEERS, PLEASE RESPOND!

Dear Members and Friends,

As part of our continuing effort to better co-ordinate volunteer interpretive efforts at Fort Ross, we have merged volunteer activities into a new committee. The Fort Ross Volunteer Interpretation Committee will set standards and guidelines for costumed interpretation. The Committee will strive for quality and accuracy as well as the entertainment and education of both audience and participant.

We are working on a packet of information for those interested in volunteer interpretation including, and in addition to, Living History Day. Our output depends on your input, so please, take a few moments to fill out the following questionnaire. Please address responses and information to my attention.

Thank you for your time,

Denise Abbott

Denise Abbott
FRIA Volunteer Co-ordinator
19005 Coast Highway 1
Jenner, CA 95450

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Occupation _____
Previous volunteer experience/education _____

I would be willing to share my skills in the following areas:

<input type="checkbox"/> Working with children	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodworking
<input type="checkbox"/> Leatherwork	<input type="checkbox"/> Metalwork
<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Storytelling
<input type="checkbox"/> Interpretive food preparation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Textile arts i.e. spinning, weaving, sewing, embroidery, basketry etc.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

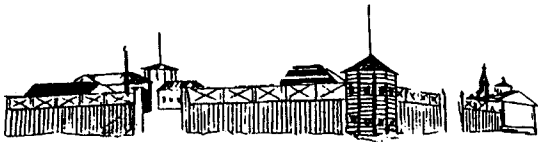
What classes or seminars would you be interested in taking or teaching at Fort Ross? _____

Fort Ross is frequently honored with special guests from the Soviet Union and Alaska. May we put your name on a list as a possible host for an overnight or dinner guest? _____

What is the maximum number of guests you can accommodate? _____

We would appreciate any additional comments or suggestions. _____

THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IS DESIGNED TO BE FOLDED, STAMPED AND MAILED. NO ENVELOPE IS NECESSARY



FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.
19005 Coast Highway 1 • Jenner, California 95450

DENISE ABBOTT, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION
19005 COAST HIGHWAY 1
JENNER, CALIFORNIA 95450

ANNUAL ELECTION

FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DAN DEKAY
GLORIA FROST
NICHOLAS LEE
KENT LIGHTFOOT
BETTY MACKENZIE*
JOHN MCKENZIE*
JOHN MIDDLETON

JEANNETTE ROSSON*
JOHN SPERRY
FRIEDA TOMLIN*
DAVID WILLSON
ELIZABETH SIDOROV
NANCY WALTON

BOARD MEMBERS WHOSE NAME IS FOLLOWED BY AN * HAVE TERMS EXPIRING THIS YEAR.
THERE ARE FOUR SEATS TO BE FILLED IN THIS YEAR'S ELECTION.

Please read the information about each candidate. The following slate of candidates for election to the Board of Directors of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association for 1992 has been approved by the present Board, and is hereby submitted to the membership in advance of the election.

THE BALLOTS FOR THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR THE FRIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE COUNTED AT THE DECEMBER 14, 1991 BOARD MEETING. PLEASE MAIL YOUR BALLOTS IN TIME TO ARRIVE BEFORE THIS DATE, OR BRING THEM TO THE MEETING.



BALLOT

Instructions: Vote for up to four (4)

Put in ballot envelope addressed to FRIA, stamp and mail

Or you may bring your ballot envelope to the December 14 meeting

() VIOLET CHAPPELL
() DAVID S. KENLY
() VANA LAWSON
() MOLLY LEE

() BETTY MACKENZIE
() JEANNETTE ROSSON
() FRIEDA TOMLIN

STATEMENTS FROM THE CANDIDATES

VIOLET CHAPPELL

To those concerned: My name is Violet Audra Parrish Chappell. My sacred name is Sul-Mat,ha. My mother's name was Essie N. Pinola Parrish. My father was Sidney D. Parrish. My mother's sacred name is Piwoy,a and my father's sacred name is T,le (Tuh'le). I grew up in the Kashaya area, and have been involved in cultural activities all my life. My mother taught me many important things about our people and our way of life. The professional areas I have experienced and the governing boards and committees I have served on are as follows: 1) I was the Teacher-Director for the TASK Head Start Center for 15 years, and was one of the founders of the Head Start Program in Sonoma County. 2) I was one of the founders of the Sonoma County Indian Council which was the organization which led to the establishment of the Sonoma County Indian Health Service. 3) The Ya Ka Ama Board of Directors 4) The Kashaya Business Committee 5) The California Indian Health Board 6) The California Inter Tribal 7) I was involved in organizing the California Indian Health Association, and served on the Ad Hoc Committee. 8) I served as Consultant to pre school education classes at Santa Rosa Junior College. 9) I was Consultant in pre school education to the Mendocino County Head Start Program in staff training. 10) I am a Consultant to Stanford University on Native American culture and education. 11) I have worked with the University of California, Berkeley as a resource person with the Native American class. 12) I have worked with The Reservation School Principal along with federal program consultants to establish a follow through program from Head Start to the elementary grade levels. 13) I met with Senators Robert Kennedy and Fannon when they visited the Rancheria concerning education... I still have the two annual feasts, The Strawberry and the Acorn Festivals, on a small scale. I like to go to the beach to gather shells and seaweed. I am a basketweaver. My hobbies are making beaded and shell necklaces, crochet, quilting and sewing, old fashioned doll making, and when in the mood, do portrait drawings from photos. I enjoy the native plants of the forest and making arrangements of them in vases. In these areas I am very creative. I feel, because of my knowledge of my ancestral background in religion and social aspects, I would contribute to the benefit of both Indian and non-Indian as a FRIA Board member.

DAVID S. KENLY

I'm a one decade resident of this area, a member of Fort Ross Volunteer Fire Department, six years a Fort Ross Militia member, and a participant in events during Living History Day and other interpretive occasions. I'm interested in local multicultural aspects, with focus on artifacts, traditions, and the numerous histories of the Fort Ross area. I appreciate the role that Fort Ross plays as common ground in the opening of dialogue between Russia and America, and I have been fortunate in being able to contribute my energies in co-hosting our many visitors from Mother Russia. I am current President of the Gualala Ranch Homeowners' Association, and in that capacity I've worked with many people and have helped moderate diverse opinions. I believe that I could offer additional perspective to Board discussion, in that I have both knowledge and interest in the many aspects of life at Fort Ross. I have strong interests in the graphic arts, and I have interest in the development and maintenance of FRIA's archives, especially in areas of graphic interpretation. I am an artist by calling, and I occasionally like to go fishing just off the coast.

VANA LAWSON

I am Kashaya Pomo, the daughter of Essie Parrish, world renown basket weaver and spiritual leader of the Kashaya. I coauthored the book The Kashaya Pomo Plants. I am employed as a cultural heritage technician at Ya Ka Ama. I am former member of Fort Ross Advisory Board, Sonoma County Indian Health Board and California Rural Indian Health Board. My experiences include coordinator for Point Arena Manchester Indian Health Project, coordinator for Kashaya Tribal Council, and research technician of Pomo Culture.

MOLLY LEE

I am very pleased and honored to be considered for the Board. This role would intersect with my interests in a number of ways which might, I hope, enable me to be of assistance. 1) I have been involved with research about Native Americans for over twenty years, and for fifteen of those with museum, archival, and fieldwork projects related to Eskimo, Aleut, and Northwest Coast Indian art and culture, in California, and Alaska, where I lived and worked for more than ten years. For the past five years I have been the historical researcher for a book about the Alaska Commercial Company, which took over the interests of the Russian American Company after the Alaska Purchase. 2) While in the Ph.D. program in Anthropology at Berkeley I have worked part-time at the Lowie Museum, where I have been principal architect of three successful NEH grants, two for exhibitions and one for publication. I should hope that my experiences with grantsmanship and fund raising for these projects would be useful as a Fort Ross Board member. 3) Finally, as a result of my association with the Crossroads of Continents exhibition I have had a modest amount of experience with the Soviet academic bureaucracy and have gotten to know a number of scholars and researchers at the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology both in Moscow and Leningrad. I have also met a number of scholars from the Soviet North. Given Fort Ross's commitment to scholarly exchanges with the USSR, these contacts might be helpful.

BETTY MACKENZIE

INCUMBENT I reside on the North Coast in Manchester. I am a history buff, and a long time member of the FRIA Board. I have been Recording Secretary in the past, and I have also been a volunteer in the Fort Ross Bookstore.

JEANNETTE ROSSON

INCUMBENT I reside on the North Coast at Timber Cove. I have been a member of the former Fort Ross Advisory Committee and the FRIA Board since their inception. I try to provide continuity for the Board by acting as a resource person for past Board actions. I have weathered both frustrating and rewarding days at Fort Ross, and feel that today we are in a very exciting phase of our development. I would very much like to continue to work towards goals set when the Interpretive Association was formed--the realization of the many facets of interpreting the flow of history, Indian, Russian, American settler, at a very unique historic park. I Love Fort Ross!

FRIEDA TOMLIN

INCUMBENT AND CURRENT VICE PRESIDENT I reside in San Mateo. I recently retired from nursery school teaching and now work part time in the Staff Activities Office of SRI International (formerly Stanford Research Institute). I have attended Advisory Committee and FRIA Board meetings since the mid 1970's and have done much volunteer work at Fort Ross. I am an active Living History Day participant. I am a member of the Call family and have access to much historical information about the Ranch Era.