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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
NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY - MARCH, 1992



This issue of the Newsletter is dedicated to KAYE TOMLIN who passed away from us unexpectedly on Thursday, February 6, 1992. It is a celebration of his many contributions to Fort Ross State Historic Park.

There will be a MEMORIAL for Kaye on Sunday, April 5, 1992 at 2:00 P.M. at the San Mateo Unitarian Church. The church is located at 300 Santa Inez in San Mateo. All of Kaye's friends are welcome.

For those who would like to make a contribution, the family prefers that donations be made to the FUND FOR RESTORATION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE CALL RANCH HOUSE, Fort Ross Interpretive Association, 19005 Coast Highway 1, Jenner, CA 95450.

◆◆◆◆◆ INCREDIBLY WILLING TO SHARE HIS ABUNDANT ENERGY ◆◆◆◆◆

The death of Kaye Tomlin deprives the Fort Ross Interpretive Association of the services of one of its most important and effective members as well as reducing still farther the number of living direct descendants of G.W.Call. In addition to the personal sorrow felt by those of us who knew and worked with Kaye, his passing leaves a vacuum for the FRIA which will be difficult to fill.

For those of you who did not have the good fortune to know Kaye, he was an enormously likeable, towering figure of a man who never took himself too seriously, was almost always cheerful, and was never too busy to chat refreshingly with an acquaintance or with those he had just met. He was incredibly willing to share his abundant energy and his sizeable fund of knowledge about the Call family, about Fort Ross itself, and about the territory which he had known and loved since boyhood.

He will be genuinely missed by the writer and, I believe, by everyone who knew him. Mose Hallett



6 FEBRUARY, 1992

6 February 1992 - So many times in the past I have sat down to this typewriter and written a letter to Kaye Tomlin. But today, I am writing a letter about him. For many days now, we who have loved him have been forced to wait to hear the dreaded news that he had departed from us. Our hearts have gone out to his family in their time of trial. Their courage was evident as they gathered for a final farewell to their dear husband and father. How helpless we have all felt. I am so far away, but I felt somehow close to my family in their time of sorrow.

Kaye was a young, vital man who died before his time. But let us not just think of the number of years that he lived, because it is wrong to judge the length of a man's life by years. We should instead judge the length of his life by his deeds, his virtue, his impact on others' lives and by the many other good qualities which Kaye possessed. We can ask why God would take such a good man after such a short time with us. And God might answer that because he was so perfect and untarnished, he was taken before life could spoil and corrupt him.

He was part of the old west, because he chose to be. He read and learned about the west that was before he was born. He listened to the stories about the old west. He was a part of the old west during the summers he spent at Fort Ross. He was a part of the old west by preserving it for future generation, the many papers and pictures that would have been lost without his caring mind and hand. The world was changing fast as Kaye grew and learned, but he remained untouched by the rush and thoughtlessness of these changes. In early January, I dedicated a part of my "Book of Memories", which I am writing for my grandchildren, to Kaye. I will share my thoughts and writings with you.

"Kaye is many things to me: the salt sea breeze, the sound the cypress makes in the wind, my great-grandmother's garden, fresh abalone, wild sea birds on the wing, sailing ships, pepper trees, Gravenstein apples, the children's forest, the great earthquake, Sea Ranch, family ties...Also remembered is the tall, sensitive, thoughtful youth of my childhood. Dark touseled hair, he was like a beautiful, rare lily growing in the Redwood Forest...Thank you for binding the family together with your love, your letters, and your writings. So much would have been lost without you."

He will never be far from you. And when you least expect it, you will feel his loving touch when the wind blows, you will hear his voice in the trees and his rich laughter will be in the sunlight. We share in your grief. We also celebrate his life.

Sincerely, Anna Pearce Hawkins, Fairfax County, Virginia

IN MEMORY OF KAYE

My thoughts of Kaye begin way back when he was five or six years old. At that time my Aunt Emma Call and her brother, Uncle Carlos Call, lived in the ranch house at Fort Ross. Carlos ran the sheep ranch.

In the summers and at Easter vacation Kaye, with his brother Jack, would come to Fort Ross with their Mother and Grandmother, their Grandmother being a sister to Carlos and Emma. Living near Fort Ross, my Mother, my sister and myself spent many days visiting with the family. So I remember Kaye and Jackie growing up at Fort Ross. Jackie and Kaye were always together, so we always referred to them as such, Jackie and Kaye. They were always investigating something, and going somewhere on the ranch. They always left the house in a run, as if they were going to miss something that was going on. Sometimes it was to the Sandy Beach or the Rocky Beach, the prune orchard or up Fort Ross Creek. They would go with Uncle Carlos to check sheep, into the pick-up along with the dogs Trixie and Axle, and off to do some work on the ranch. There was wood to get in for winter, sheep to feed, sheep to get into the corrals. There were also times, as they got big enough, when they could go fishing with Uncle Carlos out in one of his boats. There was the launch the Chinook, and later the big boat, the Ranger.

Kaye's interest in history began early, just by hearing the stories as we sat around the dinner table, by seeing the buildings around Fort Ross and hearing of the events of them, the hotel, the slaughter house, the blacksmith shop, and so on. Then came the time when John McKenzie came as the State Park Ranger, and the boys would find early day artifacts and take them to show to John. At this time Kaye was unknowingly being drenched with local history. When any neighbors or friends stopped by, they were always invited to dinner. At this time dinner was the noon meal. While the meal was going on, many stories of old times were retold. One friend, Lee Williams, whose family owned the little ranch north of the Fort from Kohlmer Gulch to the Timber Cove Line, was a very comical fellow and kept the boys and everyone else laughing.

Kaye loved to hunt deer, and for a long time killed his buck every year. He killed his first deer here at my Mother's ranch, and he and I packed it out of the canyon on my saddle horse. He also helped his Uncle Carlos in the summer, along with his brother, when alfalfa hay was put through a hammermill, mixed with molasses, and blown into the barns for winter feed for the sheep. When P.G.&E. first came into this area in the mid fifties, Kaye and Jack were big enough then to get a job with them, and worked at clearing the right of way. At that time they camped all summer up near the Picnic Grounds, in the redwoods.

Always it was back to Fort Ross. So when Kaye and Frieda married it was the same, the visits to Fort Ross continued. His deep love for the place and the family, and the history of the coast showed in the extensive work he put in on the rewriting of the book on the history of Fort Ross. Who else would think of measuring the large eucalyptus tree and having it registered in the large tree registry. He recently put in much time on facts and pictures of the old dairy barn. His desire to save this barn with its old redwood framing, and other buildings of the same era in the ranch complex, was so intense that he phoned me from his hospital bed to discuss this project.

You gave us the desire, the knowledge and the enthusiasm to continue with your work. Barbara Black

A MAN NAMED KAYE

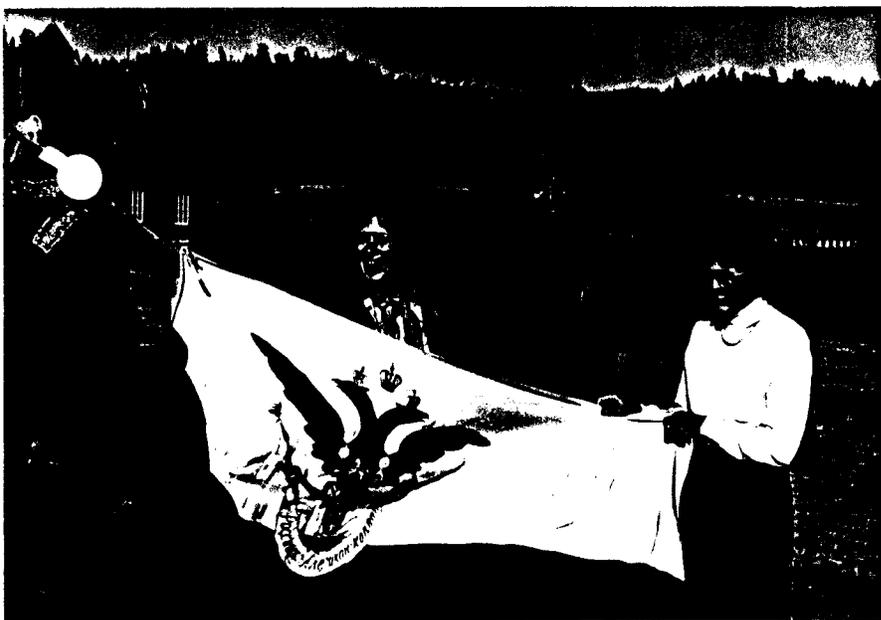
It was a constant testimony to his abiding sense of humor and playfulness that F. Kaye Tomlin dealt with gender confusion over his seemingly feminine name. When explaining how the name derived from a change in a family surname, Kaye had a perfect entrée into his favorite subject, his life-long love of the history of Fort Ross. When it came to discussing Fort Ross, a term like prolific was inadequate; something more like Tsunami seems appropriate. To be a correspondent with Kaye meant sending out an off-hand observation or comment and receiving thick envelopes of tidbits and treasures in return. These covered every aspect of the lives and characters associated with this special place on the Sonoma Coast. Characters, especially, were a fascination to Kaye. His intense interest in the ever-changing human kaleidoscope that ebbed and flowed through the history of Métini--Selenie Ross--Muniz Rancho--Dixon & Fairfax Lumber Mill--Call Ranch--Fort Ross SHP was highly infectious. On the all too rare occasions that we would get together, in person or by phone, the talk would be wide-ranging, the ideas stimulating. Our common frustration was that there never seemed quite enough time. Each new revelation or comment from one would call up an excited response. Kaye was a consummate story-teller, but he also had the patience to sift through archives to document his information. Whereas he started by quoting often his late uncle Carlos Call and other old-timers, he ended by being a major source in his own right.

Though he had a personal interest and connection in the century of Call Family residence, he could be just as interested in knowing about the Kashaya people, the Benitz Family with their far-flung descendants and even obscure characters like James Dixon, the lumber mill operator from 1867-1873. On my last sighting of Kaye he was in the guise of an imposing promyshlennik in a white outfit, breathing life into the opening of the Oakland Museum exhibit. That image of robust health made it even harder to imagine his passing, but it is one that I am glad to have to hold onto. Although the image of a Cossack named Kaye may have struck some as odd, can any of his friends and acquaintances imagine him going through life as Fred?

Kaye is no longer with us, but he has left behind a truly monumental legacy of humanistic research communicated far and wide. He stands in the good company of numerous others who have been smitten by Fort Ross. With the exception of John McKenzie, few others have spread their net so wide to touch on all periods of its occupation. He really immersed himself in the flow of history of the place and has now passed into that flow. by Glenn Farris

ALWAYS THOROUGH RESEARCH AND THOUGHTFUL DELIVERY

In going through folders and files of FRIA papers recently, I found myself very often coming across copies of articles pertaining to the Russian period sent to me by Kaye Tomlin. Immediately recognizable by the little yellow stick-up notes attached to them that invariably said "John, I thought this might be of interest to you", they contained a wealth of information about the Russians, not only at Fort Ross, but in California, Alaska, and unbelievably, in Russia. The information ranged from government reports to accounts of Russian ship's officers vaccinating the inhabitants of Monterey in the 1820's. Kaye's research has helped the costume committee in their choices of appropriate outfits, and a color copy of the original Russian-American Flag of 1806, unavailable anywhere else, was supplied by the Chairman of the Ranch Committee. Kaye Tomlin served, and should continue to serve, as an example of the type of FRIA member we should try to be. He was involved in every aspect of FRIA activity, and I dearly hope he will not solely be remembered for his involvement with the ranch period. From editing to volunteer interpretation, Kaye was there to contribute his always thorough research and thoughtful delivery. A fine teacher in the best sense, it is my very deep regret that I did not know him long enough to be a good student. John Middleton, Chairman, Russian Committee



KAYE WITH FRIEDA AND SVETLANA G. FEDOROVA OF THE INSTITUTE OF ETHNOGRAPHY, ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, RUSSIA WHEN SHE VISITED ROSS, 1988



KAYE AT LIVING HISTORY DAY 1991 (RIGHT)

MANY JOYFUL DAYS

On June 4, 1873, George Washington Call purchased 2,500 acres of land north of the Russian River. The land belonged to John Dixon and Ada Fairfax and included what was left of the Russian settlement from the early 1800's. Call was a successful businessman from Ohio who had been searching for ranch land in Northern California. He had recently come from Chile, where he had business interests. He came with his Chilean wife Mercedes and their three young children. At Ross, Call found the perfect environment for which he had been looking, a place to peacefully raise his family.

When the Calls arrived they found many of the old Russian buildings still intact. Some were in better shape than others, and with some hard work, the Rotchev house, the home of the final Russian American Company manager, was made comfortable and liveable. This hewn log structure became the family residence until 1878. It was within these historic walls that two more Call children were born. Undoubtedly, as the children grew, all of the old Russian buildings became locations for fun and games and fantasy. So generations of Calls lived at or visited the pastoral site now known as the Call Ranch, and became instilled with a sense for this location's unique place in the history of the west.

One of those descendants, Kaye Tomlin, who spent many joyful days on the ranch and who bore a striking resemblance to old "G.W." himself, passed away this week. Kaye was a tireless researcher and chronicler of Western Sonoma County, and he was often seen at Fort Ross over the years with his wife Frieda. Even when at his home in San Mateo County, his heart was here at Ross as his spirit is here now. We will all miss him.

Daniel F. Murley
State Park Ranger
Fort Ross State Historic Park



MERCEDES CALL IN HER GARDEN



GEORGE W. CALL 1906
BY THE EARTHQUAKE TREE

TRAILS

The entire text of Kaye Tomlin's proposal for the development of trails at Fort Ross State Historic Park is included in this newsletter, not only to illustrate the scope of Kaye's volunteer contributions, but also with the hope that others will be inspired to carry on with this very important concept. Editor

To: Fort Ross Interpretive Association, Inc.
From: Kaye Tomlin
Date: 12 December 1991
Subject: A Proposal to Develop a Plan for the Development of Interpretation of Features at Fort Ross State Historic Park that are Outside of the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest, With Special Consideration for the Natural History and the Development of Trails

BACKGROUND

When I was appointed to the now defunct Fort Ross Citizens Advisory Committee (FRCAC) some fifteen years ago, I did so in order to assist the development of the interpretation of the natural history at Fort Ross State Historic Park. One way to accomplish this purpose, I thought, would be to develop a series of trails that would have multiple purposes--to provide visitors with: (1) a sense of the interesting natural history and outstanding natural features of the area, (2) information on some of the historical features of the Park that are outside of the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest, tying these sites to the the natural history, where possible, (3) opportunities to see some of the wonderful scenic spots in the park, and (4) access to day picnic areas.

Believe it or not, but I got sidetracked along the way, concentrating most of my efforts working for the interpretation of the Russian Era! Worse than that, there has been virtually no progress toward implementing the natural history and trails portions of the General Development Plan (GDP) for the Park. On top of this situation, the GDP, that projects are required to follow, does not address parts of the recently acquired Park land. Admittedly, natural history is a "secondary theme" at Fort Ross, but there have been opportunities that could have been taken advantage of in the past, and FRCAC and the Fort Ross Interpretive Association (FRIA) were not consulted and did not/have not stepped forward to suggest direction. For instance, steps could have been taken long ago to have trails and interpretation of natural history at Fort Ross included in California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) long-range budgets and in various State bond acts.

Recognizing the current fiscal and personnel constraints facing the CDPR will make it difficult to make any progress in such an endeavor, I nevertheless believe there are actions that both FRIA and CDPR can take to get this interpretive aspect started to be addressed.

One important thing to recognize at the onset is that the GDP, which was completed in February 1976, addressed a proposed park area that was significantly smaller than what is now available. Further, most of the newly acquired area was not acquired specifically for use in interpreting historical or natural history aspects of Fort Ross, but is to primarily protect the "view shed" and to provide an area for maintenance facilities, ranger residences, and an administration center. However, within the new acquisition area, and to some extent in the older Park area, there are features significant to Fort Ross history that have not been truly considered for development by the CDPR. I believe it is time this situation be addressed.

One of my major criticisms of the GDP is that there was little effort made during the plan development, for probably good reason, to find out what the resources outside of the fort area were--both natural and historical. I therefore believe that one of the first steps needed to initiate any actions for future Park development for these aspects must be aimed at developing an updated plan, whether or not such a plan will become an official part of the GDP. Following is a discussion of a possible framework to help get a process initiated.

PROPOSAL

Basically, I propose the following steps toward getting such a "project" going:

1. Appoint a Natural History/Trails Committee--charge the Committee with the task of developing a preliminary plan addressing the combining of interpretation of natural history features with historical features/events (that are mostly away from the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest) and natural history interpretation in the Visitor Center. This plan, when finally approved, should be able to be used by FRIA and the CDPR to implement a long-range, comprehensive interpretation of these various aspects. It will be very important to assure that there is meaningful Kashaya representation on this Committee. Give the Committee a deadline for returning with a preliminary plan.
2. Coordinate the development of the plan with the CDPR District Superintendent--assure that the Committee's work will fit existing CDPR procedures and formats and that there is CDPR representation/liaison on the Committee.
3. Determine potential ways to accomplish the work--possibilities include use of FRIA funds, volunteer help (FRIA, handicapped trails group, Sierra Club, other volunteers), CDPR funds, CDPR help, bond funds, getting projects on CDPR "master lists" now for future funding.

One of the more important tasks in developing this plan will be to specifically identify natural history and historical features in the Park, layout a proposed plan for trails, and develop ideas for combining these different aspects. One of my long-held beliefs is that trails can be made to serve multiple purposes--to provide a vehicle to help interpret the natural history, to provide scenic opportunities for visitors, and to meld the history of Fort Ross with the other aspects.

To give you an idea of what I am talking about regarding natural history/historical features and trails, I have attached: (1) a list and explanation of "resources" at Fort Ross that could/should be made available to the public, and (2) a list of potential trails that could be developed.

As a final note, I want to share several long-held ideas that that might prove useful to a Committee undertaking the tasks I have proposed. The "combining" of history and natural history could easily be demonstrated by examining the redwood and tan oak trees. One could not only describe these trees in context with their natural setting, but one could also describe them in the diverse ways the three cultural eras at Fort Ross (Indian, Russian, Ranch) "used" them. Along the same line, interpretation of Fort Ross Cove could describe the rich marine life as well as activities in the cove by the three cultural eras.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I request that this proposal be reviewed by the FRIA Board of Directors and appropriate action taken to initiate the proposed work. I further request that a copy of this proposal, and FRIA's response to it, be forwarded to the District Superintendent of the CDPR Russian River District.

**A PARTIAL LIST OF
NATURAL HISTORY/HISTORICAL FEATURES AND RESOURCES
AT FORT ROSS STATE HISTORIC PARK THAT ARE**

OUTSIDE OF THE ZONE OF PRIMARY CULTURAL INTEREST

Following is a partial list of both natural history features and historical sites that are within the boundaries of the Fort Ross State Historic Park but outside of the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest.

- The "Children's Forest"--a truly marvelous example of pigmy redwoods, located near Kolmer Gulch. Some of these trees are so twisted and knurled that they need immediate help to keep some of the large branches from breaking and falling, thus keeping their unusual "scenic" value. This spot should be developed for visits by the public and protection should be provided. A trail could be developed to it from the coast highway.
- "The Island"--a beautiful grove of large redwood trees near Kolmer Gulch. This grove, surveyed and with some of the trees named by some members of the Call family, used to literally be an "island" in a sheep field; now the forest is reclaiming the fields nearby. This would be a great place to run a trail to for use as a daytime picnic spot. As for the Children's Forest, The Island could be developed and protected, with a trail to it from the coast highway via The Children's Forest.
- The San Andreas Fault--the fault zone in the Fort Ross area is an excellent example of the San Andreas, and it is easily accessible to the public, especially in the Russian Orchard/Picnic Grove area. Another spot that would be easy to develop and be most interesting is the spot where the fault comes to land (from Bodega Bay) just downcoast from the "Red Barn"; it is a great place for a possible interpretive panel that can show visitors that Bodega Head is on the west of the fault and that the faulting action created the dramatic rise of the mountainside along the coast.
- The Russian Logging Area/"Picnic Grove"--this magnificent grove of redwoods and douglas firs located by the Russian Orchard, has long been identified as one of the original Russian logging areas, and perhaps a location of one of their saw pits. It was also used during ranch times as a picnic grounds, a place to host community events (including the return visit from Argentina of Josephine Benitz). One of the redwood trees split from the ground up during the 1906 earthquake. This area is also designated as a day picnic area in the GDP. However, there are some real barriers in the way of completing that project, as the tops of many trees in the grove are deformed, posing a potential hazard to any visitors unless the problem is able to be addressed.

- The California Nutmeg Grove--possibly the largest grove of these trees in California, located on both sides of Fort Ross Creek. Professor Emeritus Emanuel Fritz, when he first saw this grove six or seven years ago, could not keep from raving about what he saw. A trail to this grove would be easy to develop, and this trail would be a portion of a loop trail that I will propose, below.
- Fort Ross Creek--this is an excellent example of a small coastal creek that runs through a magnificent redwood/fern setting. Most of the portion of this creek between Coast Highway 1 and the "Archy Camp" (or one of the Dixon mill sites beyond) has been formed by faulting action of the San Andreas.
- Kolmer Gulch--while downstream portions of this gulch are still somewhat untouched from the late 1800s, the upper parts were severely damaged during the logging operations in the 1950s-1970s; among other practices, contrary to the law, bulldozers were run up and down the creek bed. The area may be recovering somewhat, and this area could be interpreted to show visitors what the damage consisted of and how recovery is proceeding.
- The Dixon Prairie--this small open prairie, located between the Picnic Grove and Seaview Road, is an example of an open area in the redwood/fir/tan oak forest.
- The Eucalyptus Tree--this tree (blue gum), probably planted in 1880 and currently the largest such tree identified and registered in the United States, is located about 100 feet from the Visitors Center. While this feature is in the Zone of Primary Cultural Importance, there is no indication to visitors of its existence or importance.
- Fort Ross Cove--this site is one that, when developed for interpretation, would provide a vastly increased sense of what Fort Ross was to visitors with minimal cost. There is a unique opportunity at the Cove to interpret natural history and, at the same time, to explain/contrast the "use" of the cove by the three cultural groups--Indian, Russian, Ranch. This could be accomplished with a series of interpretive panels placed strategically at several spots overlooking the Cove.
- Native American Sites--there are a number of Native American sites that have been identified over the years by a number of different projects. It may be possible to identify some of these sites that could be interpreted to visitors within the context of this proposal. However, it is clear that there may be overriding sensitivities that could preclude any site from being specifically identified--not only sensitivities of the Kashaya people, but also regarding the need to protect archaeological aspects of any site.
- Historic Mill Sites--there were two sites James Dixon had for his mill. The first of these, surely established in 1867, was in Kolmer Gulch near where the road from the Picnic Grove crossed the creek. The second site, probably established around 1870, was not far upstream on Fort Ross Creek from the current Archy Camp.

- Old Russian Road--while most of this road within the Park is actually designated as being in the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest, there has been no effort whatsoever to take any actions to provide for its interpretation, either by developing a trail along it or by providing interpretive panels at or near the fort that can clearly illustrate the feature to visitors.
- "Black Bart Turn"/"Shotgun Point"--these spots, that are on Coast Highway 1 about 2 1/2 miles down the coast from Fort Ross, are at the place Black Bart made one of his most famous holdups, in 1877; it was there that he left his first (of two) poems that identified him by name.
- The "White House"--this site, located near the current Archy Camp, was the home of James Dixon sometime between 1867-73; it burned down, probably before 1873.
- The Call Orchard--this orchard site is located along the San Andreas fault between the Russian Orchard and the California Nutmeg Grove. It was probably established in the 1870s.
- The Benitz Orchard--this site is mostly a cleared field now, with only about four or five of the remaining approximately 1,700 apple trees that Benitz planted in 1858.
- The Wreck of the Windemere--while I believe this site is currently not technically part of the Park, it is adjacent to it and can be easily seen from the Park land on the ocean bluff above Kolmer Gulch. It is the site of the wreck of the schooner *Windemere* in 1883.
- The "Benitz" Warehouse--this site, located in the field just down the coast from The Sandy Beach, was where Benitz stored his potatoes that were awaiting shipment from Fort Ross to San Francisco, Sonoma, and Sacramento (one year he shipped 400,000 pounds); this was probably a Russian-built warehouse, as it the 1817 map shows it as a building site. It blew down in a storm in 1878.
- The Benitz Coal Mine--this site, located in Fort Ross Creek just upstream from Highway 1, was used in Benitz' time, and possibly by the Russians before him. Benitz made a number of agreements in the area for mineral rights in the 1860s, one in 1863 with the Fort Ross Coal Mine Company.
- The George Harry Call Barn--this building, located just off Seaview Road in the recently acquired Park land, was probably built in the first decade of this century. It could be used in an interpretive program for the Ranch Era and/or natural history.
- Plant Species--following are some of the plant species that could be interpreted at Fort Ross:
 - *Dichondra*--this plant (*Dichondra donnelliana*), which grows in the Park, is a rare and endangered species in its native habitat.
 - *Buckwheat*--this plant (*Chorizanthe valida*), which grows in the Park, is a rare and endangered species in its native habitat.

- California Poppy--this plant (*Eschscholtzia californica*), while not rare or endangered, is closely tied to the Russians in California. The poppy was collected by Adelbert von Chamisso (a famous figure in German literature) and named for his friend and colleague, Johann Eschscholtz. Both men were members of the Russian round-the-world scientific expedition headed by Otto von Kotzebue that was in California in 1818; Eschscholtz returned on the second Kotzebue expedition in 1824, traveling to Fort Ross.

- Other Native Species--there are about fifty other California plant species that were collected and named by Chamisso and Eschscholtz, some of which are located in the Park.

• A Wildflower Field--there is reportedly a patch of wildflowers located near the George Harry Call barn just off Seaview Road. According to descriptions, it is an impressive display; however, indications are that the flowers were brought into the area with the stock feed, so these flowers are probably not native to the area.

• Animal Species--there are a few California animal species that were collected and named for/by Russian scientists, including the tiger beetle (*Omus californicus eschscholtzi*), monterey salamander (*Ensatina eschscholtzi eschscholtzi*), stellar jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*), gumboot chiton (*Cryptochiton vosnesenskii*), yellow-faced bumblebee (*Bombus vosnesenskii*), isopod (*Idotea vosnesenski*), live oak cluster beetle (*Cibadalis blaschkei*), and the bombardier beetle (*Branchinus tschernikhi*).

In addition, interpretation of animal species in the Park should include descriptions of animals that were there in historical times but are no longer around--for example: the California condor, grizzly bear, elk, and antelope (note there are historical stories that are available for each of these).

A PARTIAL LIST OF

POTENTIAL TRAILS THAT COULD BE DEVELOPED

AT FORT ROSS STATE HISTORIC PARK

Following is a partial listing of potential trails that could be developed at Fort Ross State Historic Park that would have multiple purposes--to provide visitors with: (1) a sense of the interesting natural history and outstanding natural history features of the area; (2) information on some of the historical features of the Park that are outside of the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest, tying these sites to the natural history, where possible; (3) opportunities to see some of the wonderful scenic spots in the park; and (4) access to day picnic areas. Where indicated, it is suggested that consideration be given toward development of portions of trails that are accessible to the handicapped.

- Scenic Loop Trail--a trail that I originally conceived of in the mid-1970s that would start/end at the Russian Orchard. Visitors would be able to visit the Russian Orchard, Call Orchard, and the Nutmeg Grove as well as hike through the woods and up the hill to a most spectacular site that provides sweeping, photographic views of Fort Ross and the coast. It is suggested that the portion of the trail from the Russian Orchard to the California Nutmeg Grove be developed as accessible to the handicapped; it is also suggested that a short handicapped access trail be developed between Fort Ross Road and the scenic overlook site at the top of this loop trail.

Major historical and natural history sites/features along this trail would include: the Russian Orchard, the San Andreas fault, the Call Orchard, and the Nutmeg Grove.

- Bluff Trail--such a trail would run along the bluff top between Windemere Point and the end of the downcoast portion of the Park; it would allow campers at the Fort Ross Reef Campground an easy way to hike to The Sandy Beach and Fort Ross. It could/should be developed in conjunction with the Coast Walk group that is in the process of trying to define and develop an ocean front trail along the entire length of California.

Major historical sites/features along this trail would include: the wreck of the *Windemere*, Signal Point (site of an old ship signal), the Fort Ross Cove shipping storage area, Fort Ross Cove, and the Benitz warehouse.

- Russian Orchard to Kolmer Gulch Beach Trail--this trail would run between the Russian Orchard and Kolmer Gulch beach. From the Orchard it would proceed to the west over the San Andreas fault zone and past the Benitz Orchard. It would then cut south toward the ocean, crossing Highway 1, ending at Kolmer Gulch beach.

Major features along the way include: the Russian Logging/Picnic Grove, the San Andreas fault, the Benitz Orchard, The Island, the Children's Forest, and Kolmer Gulch beach.

- Visitor Center to Russian Orchard Trail--this trail would connect the Visitor Center to the Russian Orchard, and thus make all the other trails coming/going from the Orchard available to hikers who want to start from the main parking lot.
Major features along the way include: a Russian windmill site, the Kashaya village site (Mettini), and the Russian Orchard.
- Russian Road Trail--this trail would start at one of the fort's sally ports, go down to The Sandy Beach, up the small gully that comes into Fort Ross Creek from an easterly direction, cross Highway 1, connect with the Nutmeg Grove to Russian Road Trail, and end in the vicinity of the Archy Camp or Dixon's second mill site.
Major features along the way include: The Sandy Beach (site of Russian manufacturing and Russian/Rancher lightening of produce/products to offshore ships), the Russian Cemetery (via a short offshoot trail), the "south" Nutmeg Grove (via a short detour on the Nutmeg Grove to Russian Road Trail), the White House, and Dixon's second mill site.
- Russian Cemetery Trail--this small offshoot trail would branch off of the Russian Road Trail near Highway 1 and proceed directly to the Russian Cemetery.
- Fort Ross Creek Trail--this trail would start where the Russian Road Trail crosses Fort Ross Creek below the fort. It would proceed up the creek, crossing the Nutmeg Grove to Russian Road Trail (see below), and ending at the Russian Road Trail near or at the Archy Camp.
Major features along the way include: the Benitz coal mine (possibly also used by the Russians before him), the flume that was being used during Benitz' time, a magnificent redwood/fern forest, log jams/small water falls, and the San Andreas fault.
- Nutmeg Grove to Russian Road Trail--this trail would start from the Nutmeg Grove on the north side of Fort Ross Creek, down into the creek (connecting with the Fort Ross Creek Trail), up from the creek to the Nutmeg Grove on the south side of Fort Ross Creek, and end at some point on the Russian Road Trail (probably near or at the Archy Camp).
Major features along the way include: a magnificent redwood/fern forest, the Fort Ross Creek, and the "south" Nutmeg Grove.
- Russian Orchard to Seaview Loop Trail--this long loop trail could be developed so that it would connect with a parking area off the Seaview Road, allowing hikers to start at that spot as well as from the Russian Orchard area. It would proceed northwest on the current dirt road to Kolmer Gulch for a short distance and then turn north (up the hill) through the Dixon Prairie to Seaview Road, following somewhat where the old telephone line went. Near Seaview Road, the trail would again cut west, proceeding along upper boundary of the Park, and then go south (downhill), connecting with Kolmer Gulch about at Dixon's first mill site. From that point, the trail could either: (1) proceed along the existing dirt road back to the Russian Orchard; or (2) take a course slightly to the south, going along old logging roads to the east branch of Kolmer Gulch, up that gulch to the San Andreas fault (connecting with the Russian Orchard to Kolmer Gulch Beach Trail), and then proceeding east to the Russian Orchard, or (3) allow hikers to take either branch of the trail.
Major features along the way include: the Russian Logging Area/Picnic Grove, the Dixon Prairie, scenic views from along the Seaview Road Park boundary, Kolmer Gulch, Dixon's second mill site, and the San Andreas fault.
- Wildflower Interpretive/Scenic View Trail--this loop trail could be developed starting at the George Harry Call Barn. It would provide access to the wildflower area near the barn and then loop along the "high country" nearby to provide visitors with impressive scenery of the coast. If stabilized and developed, the barn could hold some displays and/or other presentations to augment the visitors' experience by combining interpretation of the Ranch Era and the natural history of the area.

NEXT FRIA BOARD MEETING SATURDAY APRIL 11, 1992

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