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.”
FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 1994

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Nancy Scheiber Walton

It has been another successful and interesting year for Fort Ross Interpretive Association. The Board of Directors worked hard all year long on developing a new Mission Statement describing our objectives and goals, and on new bylaws. When the work is finished, the bylaws will be presented for a vote by the general membership via this newsletter. You can look forward to seeing them sometime next year.

Financially, the outlook looks very promising. There has been a turn around from the sales slump of 1992 and the sales in our Book and Gift Shop have increased. Thank you to all who have supported us and Fort Ross State Park by making purchases at the shop. Thank you especially to our hardworking staff of volunteers and paid employees: Jaci and Mose Hallett, Betty Cresswell, Lake Perry Sherry Madrone all under the direction of our capable Bookstore Manager, Lyn Kalani. For many people the Visitors Center is their initial interpretive contact. For some, who don't make it down to the Fort, it is their only interpretive contact. We appreciate such outstanding, friendly and informative staff.

Our committees have been very busy working on projects for the park. The Ranch Garden Subcommittee had a fun, rewarding work day in the Call Garden. The Ranch Committee had a successful fund raiser for the Call House. They raised $1,000 by raffling a Call family 1920's bowtie quilt. Work has commenced on the foundation of the Call House. You can look forward to another fund raiser next year around Easter: a tour of open houses along our coast!

The Indian Committee is planning a herb garden that will have native plants used by the Kashaya. The Curatorial Committee has replaced outdated manuals and guides and has bought appropriate archival materials to preserve what we have. The Costume Committee had a successful three day workshop in October. The Russian Committee will be having a meeting in Sacramento in November to meet with historians. Thank you to all our hardworking committee members and chairs.

In addition, FRIA published a Russian Cookbook that was put together by Wendy Platt and is now in our Book and Gift Store. A donation box, made by Nick Lee, was placed in the fort, for the benefit of the Interpretive Specialists Program. John Middleton helped organize and several of our directors were on hand to welcome Russian Senator Vladimir Schemeko to Fort Ross on July 18. We helped fund the Environmental Living Program, the Living History Day in July, and gave $1,000 to the state staff to use at their discretion, to either replace the wire cages in the Kuskov House or to make outdoor wooden tables for the fort.

It has been a great year and I wish to thank all who have worked hard on furthering the interpretation of Fort Ross State Historic Park. I am certain 1995 will bring many chances for all who wish to volunteer their time and expertise for the betterment of our park. I hope to see many of you at the Annual Members Meeting / FRIA Annual Winter party on the 10th of December at the Visitors Center. All are welcome. Das vedanya.
BOARD NOTES
by David Kenly, Recording Secretary
The October 8th Directors’ meeting was
graciously hosted at the residence of Jodi and
John Sperry, both offering opportunity for the
Costume Committee to conduct its workshop
in the Visitors Center and for the directors to
meet in a delightful new environment. Many
thanks to the Sperrys!

Agenda items were again varied. Mention was
made of the now completed Russian Cookbook
which is now available for purchase in the
bookstore. There will be a presentation of
the cookbook at the Gualala Bookstore on
November 15th with food prepared from the
recipes available to sample; a portion of all
sales proceeds on that date will be donated to
FRIA. Many thanks are due to our local
supporters.

Robin Joy gave a report on the Environmental
Living Program, attesting to its ongoing
success. Interested members may participate
provided they give Robin advance notice. She
may be contacted at the fort.

The annual meeting of the membership will be
held on December 10th, and the annual election
of directors will be conducted at that time.
Please be sure to vote. The nominations have
been submitted and approved by the Board.
Nominees Violet Chappell, David Kenly, Lee
Kosso, Jeannette Rosson, and Frieda Tomlin
are presented as incumbents; Doni Tunheim
and Vivian Wilder are presented as new
nominees.

Laurie Horn and Frieda Tomlin represented
FRIA at a conference held in Bakersfield which
was primarily concerned with events at
Allensworth State Park. Laurie spoke
enthusiastically of the diverse methods
members of other cooperating associations
exercise to raise funds for their organizations,
and she spoke of knowledge gained from state
representatives in the clarification of
cooperative association and state
responsibilities.

Garden work by members of the Indian
Committee will be held off until the current
phase of Call House renovation is completed.
The laundry room has been moved, and much
of the excavation under the back of the Call
House has been completed.

Jodi Sperry has been appointed by our
president and approved by the Board to be the
new chair of the Membership Committee;
thanks and good luck to Jodi for taking on this
responsibility. Many thanks to outgoing chair
Gloria Frost for her fine work in this capacity.

CALL HOUSE
by Jeannette Rosson
Never has it been said more sincerely “It gives
me great pleasure to report” that the Call
House restoration news is really good! We
have at last succeeded in physically starting
the plan for the foundation stabilization. The
digging is literally inches away from completion
and the cement should be poured and set before
your next newsletter.

A special thanks is in order for the diligent
FRIA volunteers for countless hours of effort
and patient endurance of frustrating delays.
Also grateful recognition is due to a wonderful
cooperating entity known as the “Probation
Industries of Sonoma County”. They have
made available energetic, efficient crews to
accelerate our progress. All who came to work
seemed to be bitten with a fervor for the
project. Last, but certainly not least, has been
the enthusiastic interest and support rendered
to us by the Sonoma County Landmarks
Commission, who have granted us this year
$12,350 to be used for our Call House
restoration project. The State Park has
specially made authentic “shakes” ready to
reroof the house before the winter rains.

The Garden Committee is maintaining the
garden until ongoing work is completed. Call
Mary Lynn Gauthier at 847-3468 if you
would like to work in the garden. A new
committee is being formed to catalogue and
plan interior furnishing. Call our enthusiastic
chairperson, Laurie Horn, at 823-5890 to join
this group. Call John Sperry at 847-3457 if
you would like to join the stabilization work.
THE FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION
BOARD AND STAFF INVITES
ALL FRIA MEMBERS
TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 10:30 A.M.
FORT ROSS VISITOR CENTER
FOLLOWED BY
HOLIDAY POTLUCK LUNCHEON
AT 12:30 P.M.

BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH TO SHARE
(BEVERAGES AND HAM WILL BE PROVIDED)

HELP US BUILD A FIRE IN THE FIREPLACE
HEAT UP THE SAMOVAR AND DECORATE THE HOLIDAY TREE
PAUL SHEBALIN AND GEORGE ALEXANDER WILL SING AND TEACH US A
RUSSIAN SONG

TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET YOUR BOARD AND STAFF...
JOIN US FOR SHORT TALKS BY BOARD AND FRIA MEMBERS ABOUT
PROJECTS IN THEIR SPECIAL FIELDS OF INTEREST

FOLLOWED BY HIKING IN THE PARK
AND/OR 19TH CENTURY PARLOR GAMES

PLEASE COME!
MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association, Incorporated, is to promote for the benefit of the public the interpretive and educational activities of the California Park Service and Fort Ross State Historic Park.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

♦ To enhance and conserve the interpretive and educational resources of Fort Ross State Historic Park, as well as those of the State Park Service.
♦ To sponsor, publish, distribute, and sell appropriate items which increase visitor understanding and appreciation of Fort Ross State Historic Park.
♦ To acquire materials and equipment for use in the educational and interpretive programs of Fort Ross State Historic Park.
♦ To develop and maintain a library.
♦ To preserve historical material associated with Fort Ross State Historic Park, and to provide and maintain adequate and secure storage facilities in an archivally sound environment.
♦ To sponsor, support, and assist scientific research and investigations relating to Fort Ross and presentation of these studies to the public.
♦ To promote interpretation that reflects current research.
♦ To plan, organize, and implement fund raising programs to support the interpretive and educational activities of Fort Ross State Historic Park and of the State Park Service.
NEW BOOK REVIEWS

Included with this newsletter is a Fort Ross Bookstore Price List. We encourage you to support Fort Ross by doing some of your holiday shopping in the bookstore. There are so many wonderful books that it was difficult for your FRIA staff to choose, but we have prepared some reviews for you: (hb hardbound, pb paperback)

CHILDREN'S
(all children's reviews by Lake Perry)

THE GRANDPA TREE - story by Mike Donahue, illustrations by Susan Dorscy. A story illustrating the universal cycle of beginnings, growth, aging, death and regeneration, using an Elder Tree and grove of seedlings. Simple line drawings convey the spaciousness of wilderness nature. Accessible to the youngest listener and a refreshing reminder to adult readers. $5.95 pb.

THE GREAT CHANGE - text by White Deer of Autumn, illustrations by Carol Grigg. Native American grandmother and granddaughter dialogue on the nature of change, life and death, while going about their day's work. Revealing of a particular culture and tradition, this could be any elder and perplexed youngster, anywhere. Watercolors by renowned artist Grigg beautifully and simply echo the narrative. $13.95 hb.

THE EYES OF GRAY WOLF - by Jonathon London, illustrated by Jon Van Zyle. Fabulous paintings fill each page, telling the Wolf's story as well as the printed words do. Wolves are shown as social creatures in their native environment, rather than as the horrors of fable and modern thriller. More about wolves' endangered status and honored role as teachers in Native American cultures is included at the back. $13.95 hb.

MAMA, DO YOU LOVE ME? by Barbara M. Joose, illustrated by Barbara Lavallee. An Inuit mother and daughter enjoy a 'telling question and answer exchange which includes more and more exaggerated possibilities: "Mama, how long will you love me?" "I'll love you until the Umiak [canoe] flies into the darkness, till the Stars turn in fish to the sky, and the puffin howls at the moon." A tender story of a child "testing the limits of her independence, and a mother who reassuringly proves that a parent's love is unconditional and everlasting" (from the book's jacket). $13.95 hb.

FAIRY DUSTERS AND BLAZING STARS, EXPLORING WILDFLOWERS WITH CHILDREN - by Suzanne M. Samson, illustrated by Preston Ncel. The flowers are animated: Monkeyflowers become monkeys on the stalk, Indian Paintbrushes carried by fairies swab the page in primary colors...you get the idea: a fanciful means of engaging anyone in learning more about common flowering plants of North America. Identified again in the back, the Latin names, growing patterns and habitats are described. $9.95 pb.

THE SLEEPING LADY - retold by Ann Dixon, paintings by Elizabeth Johns. A story of indeterminate origin about Mount Susitna which lies across Cook Inlet from the city of Anchorage, Alaska. Remarkable paintings, each one framed in an echoing motif. This tale is a poignant one of lovers separated by warring neighbors, promised to be reunited only upon the creation of community peace. $14.95 hb.

KOSHKA'S TALES, STORIES FROM RUSSIA - written and illustrated by James Mayhew. Colorfully and skillfully painted, this collection of tales is woven into a whole by Koshka (the Cat). Not so much an emcee as an "interpretative specialist" this feline companion and the jeweled pages are a treat. Add a snuggle-up with a Swetica of any age, cups of cocoa, and this book to welcome another season of blustery Autumn. 16.95 hb.

JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF NATURE by Joseph Cornell and Michael Deranja. These fascinating nature stories and absorbing activities guide the reader on an ever-deepening exploration into the heart of a site. As the journey unfolds, you'll "read" the sounds of nature; attract ad care for the local wildlife; and savor the quiet, yet dramatic, effects of dawn and sunset. This book is especially useful for young adults (ages 12-17), adults, teachers and scout leaders for any shared adventure into the deepest wilderness or your own backyard, your awareness of nature will be enhanced. $9.95 pb.

GIFT BOOKS
(reviews by Lake, Sherry and Lyn)

WITNESS, ENDANGERED SPECIES OF NORTH AMERICA - by Susan Middleton and David Littschwager. Ms. Middleton writes in the foreword: "As these species experience their homes, threatened ecosystems, disappearing around them, perhaps we, the human species, can understand ourselves as cause of their predicament, and now their only hope. We, the photographers. offer these images as evidence of what is being sacrificed in the wake of our human transformation of the earth. It is our deep hope that if we practice love for these creatures, these kin of ours, they will remain with us as evidence of our true heritage." Each species has two full pages, for both color and black/white "portrait", and status, population, habitat, threats, and other pertinent data. $29.95 pb.

PRINTS OF THE WEST - By Ron Tyler. Magnificent collection of early Western prints housed by the Library of Congress, highlighting the colorful lives of the artists, the art of the print and the role printmakers played in the proliferation of images of the West. Includes grand landscapes, wild animals, and rugged individuals from 1809 to 1900. This book is of interest for its beauty but also for the detail in the art assisting historical research. $39.95 hb.

BIRD WATCH - By Bates Littlehales. Spectacular photographs of the Birds of North America by a former staff photographer for National Geographic magazine. Captions provide details about the season, location, and each species habits. These intriguing photos demonstrate the interaction of birds with each other and the world around them with images of rare simplicity and power. $34.95 hb.

THE FIRST AMERICANS - Photographs from the Library of Congress- text by William H Goetzmann. These images were shaped by the marketplace to which they were intended and by the attitudes of the photographers and their culture. Intriguing glimpses into native life profoundly affected by the illusions, contradictions, and ironies which have characterized attitudes toward Native Americans since the time of Columbus, these photographs are a fascinating cultural and social document. $34.95 hb.

INDIAN COUNTRY: A History of Native People in America - by Karen D. Harvey and Lisa D. Harjo. With heartfelt Native perspective, this book begins with the indigenous people's earliest migrations to this continent and describes a Native pride and culture that cannot be extinguished despite the ensuing conflicts with the invading Europeans. Native Americans, both anonymous and renowned, describe through stories, myths, songs, and quotes the pain of broken government treaties, removal from their tribal lands, and forced adaptation to the white man's ways. The book ends with a chapter on contemporary Native life leaving no doubt that the
Native culture is alive and strong. The book’s activities are appropriate for middle grades through junior high but adaptable for other students and fascinating for all ages. $27.95 hb.

RUSSIAN PROVERBS - by Chris Skilled, illustrated by Vladimir Lubarov. This one is worth a reading group’s perusal. It could be the translations, the obscurity of Russian social perspective, or the seeming incongruity of the proverbs with the accompanying illustrations, but for me, this book is full of intriguing puzzles! $6.95 hb. (review by Lake)

NATURE’S HABITATS - by Jerome A Jackson. Photography by Bates Littlehaus. Simply browsing this book for its beautiful photos will bring you into a fuller awareness of the wonder and artistic detail in nature and compel you to take a closer look at the beauty in our surroundings. The text examines the distinguishing features of North America’s five major types of habitat and details the vital role habitat diversity plays in the stability of our environment in a simple, straightforward, and entertaining manner. 118 pages, $39.95 hb.

COASTAL WILDFLOWERS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST by Elizabeth L. Horn. Although written for the far northern California coast and up into British Columbia, this is one of the finest little identification books to come out in some time. Most, if not all, the plants featured are found along our coast. The book is valued for its fine color photography which gives more detail or a different perspective than most other books of this kind and the botanical information is complemented by information on the edible and medicinal uses of the plants. Small enough for your backpack, 179 pages, $14.00 pb.

VISITING EDEN - the Public Gardens of Northern California Photographs by Melba Levick, Text by Joan Chatfield Taylor. This is a delight to the eye and a guide to explore the many beautiful gardens all within a few hours’ drive from here. Although they all are open to the public, many are not generally known so you will find yourself on a little treasure hunt of botanical wonders. Text provides the history of place designers, owners, and gardeners. 127 pages, $18.95 pb.

IN THE SPIRIT OF MOTHER EARTH - Nature in Native American Art - Text by Jeremy Schmidt and captions by Laine Thom. To Native Americans, creating a work of art—or even a tool or weapon—was paying reverence to the cosmic forces of the Earth’s spirit. With over 100 color photographs, this book shows how nature has influenced the exquisite handiwork of Native American people through the ages. At a time when humankind is perilously out of balance with the forces of nature, this is a timely tribute to a valuable philosophy of life and art. 118 pages, $19.95 pb.

THE FINE ART OF RUSSIAN LACQUERED MINIATURES - by Vladimir Guliyev. This collection of over 250 of the exquisitely painted, luminously delicate lacquer work famous in Russia since it began in the mid seventeenth century is displayed in full color. Many of these artworks have been inaccessible until recently and reflect a wide range of fine artistry from early to recent times. A book of rare beauty for the collector or admirer of this fine art. 287 pages, $22.95 pb.

WILD CALIFORNIA: Vanishing Lands, Vanishing Wildlife - by A Starker Leopold, Photographs by Tupper Ansel Blake. Rich and varied habitats, with their plants and animals, are gone forever, destroyed by the conversion of valley lands to agriculture, the damming of streams, the cutting of forests, the paving of meadows. This book makes a persuasive argument for identifying and protecting areas of unspoiled California before they disappear. This is a stunning photographic guide to the six major California regions-from the Sierras to the desert with a text presented in a style of authority and eloquence. 144 wide pages, $25.00 pb.

CALIFORNIA IN DEPTH: A Stereoscopic History - by Jim Crain. Complete with a 3-D viewer and 170 st...
PRESERVING THE FORT ROSS ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD
by E. Breck Parkman
Reprinted from Proceedings of the Society for California Archaeology, Volume 7
Society for California Archaeology 1994, San Diego

ABSTRACT
A major archaeological program is currently under way at Fort Ross State Historic Park, located on California’s North Coast. The two major aspects of the program concern the Native Alaskan Village site and the Russian Orthodox Cemetery. Traditionally, little has been known about either the Village or Cemetery, and this lack of understanding has made their protection more difficult. It is the author’s contention that the Fort Ross archaeological resources must be made more visible if they are to be preserved. This paper, then, is a discussion of the rationale behind the program’s implementation.

INTRODUCTION
Fort Ross State Historic Park (hereafter, FRSHP), located on the Sonoma County coast in northern California, is an internationally significant historic resource (see Farris 1989; Lightfoot et al. 1991). The park contains numerous archaeological sites, many of them associated with the Russian-American Fur Company’s 1812-1841 outpost, “Colony Ross”. Currently, a major scientific undertaking, known as the Fort Ross Archaeological Project, is underway at FRSHP. The project is being conducted under the direction of Dr. Kent Lightfoot, of the University of California at Berkeley (hereafter, UCB), and has involved the archaeological programs of UCB, Sonoma State University, and Santa Rosa Junior College. Additionally, a second project, the Russian Cemetery Restoration Project, is also underway at FRSHP, under the direction of Dr. Lynne Goldstein of the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

The preservation and interpretation of cultural resources are two of the more important goals of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (hereafter, DPR). Naturally, these goals pertain to archaeological sites as well as other kinds of cultural resources. Archaeological preservation, or, perhaps more accurately, “conservation”, is accomplished by the DPR to a relatively high degree, in comparison to other public land stewards. However, the interpretation of the archaeological record is a only occasionally undertaken. Those projects recently conducted at FRSHP serve as examples of how both interpretation and preservation can be realized, and how the former might positively affect the success of the latter. This paper, then, is a discussion of the Fort Ross archaeological program, and a synthesis of the rationale behind its implementation.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE DPR MAKES CLEAR THE REASON WHY FORT ROSS BECAME A STATE HISTORIC PARK:

The function of the California State Park and Recreation Commission and the Department of Parks & Recreation is to acquire, protect, develop, and interpret for the inspiration, use, and enjoyment of the people of the State, a balanced system of areas of outstanding scenic, recreational and historic importance. These areas shall be held in trust as irreplaceable portions of California’s natural and historic heritage.

If the concept of “historic preservation” is truly to have meaning, then it is at FRSHP that “preservation” will ring true. Parks such as FRSHP are created in order that we, as a society, might preserve some representative sample of what our world was once like. As we continue to develop and change forever the natural and cultural landscapes around us, parks like Fort Ross become environmental islands (and, perhaps eventually, “sacred” lands, such as Yosemite National Park), to which our population can escape in order to better appreciate our natural and historic heritage.

Another aspect of parks such as FRSHP is that they represent moral and legal commitments to the belief in and necessity of preservation. Indeed, as a society, we justify much of our development and destruction of the environment on the fact that we have preserved representative samples of outstanding resources, be they the finest of the old-growth redwoods, the most scenic of the beaches, or the most significant of the archaeological sites. These outstanding resources are set aside and protected from development and destruction, so as to explain and justify our inability to protect other aspects of our world. Parks are a basic element of our civilization, and that fact should not and must not be separated from any review of developments that encroach on park values. FRSHP represents a “set-aside” where some of California’s finest archaeological resources were deemed to be irreplaceable” portions of our state’s historic heritage, and were thus acquired so as to protect them, and hold them in “trust” for future generations. FRSHP exists in part due to the tremendous destruction realized this century by California’s archaeological record. Therefore, those development projects which are not consistent with park values, should be perceived as threats to the reason and being of the park. Such projects undermine the very foundation of the preservation movement, and are an affront to our own moralistic definitions of what civilization entails.

BasIS FOR PRESERVATION
FRSHP is an approximately 3,000 acre unit of the California State Park System. It was acquired by the State of California in 1906, in order to protect the last architectural remnants of the old Russian compound. Later acquisitions, including a 2,000-acre purchase in 1991, have allowed the park to absorb into its holdings, the surrounding historic viewshed, and the associated archaeological sites found outside the compound.

The historic landscape that comprised the heart of Fort Ross was acquired by the State of California in recognition of its extreme significance, and in order to protect and preserve it for future generations of Californians. These lands were transferred to the DPR in recognition of this Department’s responsibility for managing such resource-sensitive properties. Indeed, the

Those archaeological sites located within FRSHP are among the best protected of any public-owned sites in California. The park’s primary archaeological sites (those located adjacent to the Russian compound) have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Fort Ross is listed on the Historic American Buildings Survey, and has been designated a State and National Historical Landmark, as well. Other protection is made available by the California Coastal Zone Conservation Act of 1972. The Fort Ross sites are best protected, however, by inclusion in the state historic park. Additionally, the park’s General Plan (Carlson 1976) created a “Zone of Primary Cultural Interest”, and included within it the park’s primary archaeological sites.
FRSHP was acquired in order to protect and preserve these sites, and they have been deemed to be "irreplaceable" portions of California's historic heritage, to be held in trust for future generations.

Given all of the resource protection cited above, it is quite apparent that historic properties, such as FRSHP, should be and will be protected for future generation. But can they really be preserved? In spite of all this apparent protection, there is reason to fear that they cannot be preserved.

**THREATS TO THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD**

The Fort Ross archaeological record is very well protected, and yet it is not. Coastal erosion and other natural processes (including the destructive effects of gophers, wild pigs, acidic soils, and wildfires) are chipping away at the resource base. Indeed, coastal sites along the entire California coast are being impacted by erosion. Archaeological projects, including the Fort Ross Archaeological Project, have been initiated to evaluate and salvage precious samples of the eroding sites. Such projects include Sonoma State University's excavations at MacKerricher State Park (White 1989), Sinkyone Wilderness State Park (Wacchter 1988), and Salt Point State Park (Lightfoot et al. 1991:82-83).

Archaeological sites are also being impacted by way of cultural processes. Impacts are realized as a result of illegal collecting ("pothunting") activities, by the degradation brought about by excessive site-visitation, and by the effects of the current fiscal recession and, consequently, government's growing failure to protect its public resources. Archaeological resources throughout the State Park System are potential casualties of these impacts, Fort Ross included.

Fort Ross might serve as an example, then, of how California's "protected" cultural resources are threatened. In the following, I discuss the kinds of impacts, actual and potential, that threaten the FRSHP archaeological record, and the strategy that has been employed to combat them.

Coastal erosion constitutes one of the greatest natural threats to the archaeological resources of FRSHP, and, in fact, the entire coastline of California. Although it is understood that coastal erosion is a natural process that cannot be eliminated, it can be slowed in certain situations. Engineered solutions, such as the rip-rapping of an exposed site, are costly, and cannot realistically be employed at every endangered site. With relatively small amount of funding available for such projects, it is first necessary to evaluate the relative significance of endangered sites so as to best utilize our monetary assets. At FRSHP, at least three archaeological sites are being severely affected by coastal erosion. Two of these sites, SON-1453 and SON-1454/H, both of which contain pre-Contact deposits situated on the edge of a terrace immediately north of Fort Ross, were test excavated by crews from Sonoma State University, under the direction of Dr. David Fredrickson and Santa Rosa Junior College, under the direction of Thomas Origer, in 1988 (Lightfoot et al. 1991:82-83). Endangered portions of the site deposits were excavated and analyzed, and thus serve as important samples should the sites be totally lost. A third site, SON-1898/H, located on the north side of Fort Ross Beach, was excavated by crews from the University of California at Berkeley, under the direction of Dr. Kent Lightfoot, in 1988-89. This site represents a Russian-era work site with both primary and secondary deposits of Russian, native Alaskan, and native Californian materials. Whereas no further work (or stabilization) is anticipated for SON-1453 and SON-1454/H, it is not yet clear what will become of SON-1898/H. An engineered solution to the site's erosion may yet be attempted by the DPR.

Other natural impacts, including the adverse effects of wild fires have happened to the Fort Ross archaeological sites. A wild fire in 1991 burned a substantial area with FRSHP, and resulted in significant damage to SON-177, a large Kashaya Pomo ridge-top residential site. Through the use of prescribed burning, and the archaeological survey work that accompanies it, it is possible to lessen or eliminate the adverse effects of wild fire on archaeological resources (Parkman et al 1981). To date, control burns have not been implemented at FRSHP, although they have been initiated at nearby Salt Point State Park (see Bramlette and Fredrickson 1990).

The adverse effects of feral pig rooting have been relatively severe at FRSHP, especially in the upland meadows and ridgelines. The pigs often root the upper 10-20 cm (sometimes more) of site deposits in their search for edible foods. Although the DPR has conducted a successful pig-eradication project at nearby Annadel State Park, little has been done to eliminate the problem at FRSHP.

The Fort Ross archaeological sites are also being adversely affected by cultural processes. For the most part, these cultural impacts are gradual, and often more a matter of resource degradation than outright destruction. For example, with an ever-increasing park attendance, those sites adjacent to the Russian compound are experiencing increasing amount of pedestrian and vehicle compaction, as well as illegal artifact collection. In the case of the latter, many tourists follow an old American custom of taking home a souvenir of their visit. These souvenirs are normally "only" an artifact or two, and might consist of a square nail, an especially attractive ceramic shard, a glass bead, gun flint, or stone projectile point. Although it is illegal to collect artifacts within a state park, there is insufficient staffing at FRSHP to prevent it. The Native Alaskan Village site, located immediately adjacent to the compound, is the most heavily collected site, since it receives most of the visitors. More serious collecting ("pothunting") has not been noted at FRSHP in recent years, although serious incidents have been recorded at nearby Salt Point State Park, and at the Duncan's Landing Rockshelter site (SON-348/H). The Duncan's Landing incidents resulted in the site being sampled, then protected by an engineered solution that included the placement atop the site of a protective mesh of fencing and fill material (See Parkman 1993; Schwaderer et al. 1990).

Perhaps the greatest cultural threat at work at FRSHP is one of a more enigmatic and frustrating nature. It is a problem involving the uncontrolled growth of California's human population, its dwindling tax base and subsequent public program cuts, and the growing failure of governmental bureaucracies to uphold the public trust in terms of resource protection. This is especially troubling given California's history as a leader in historic preservation (Owned 1987). Although these new threats are partly a result of the current recession and California's changing demographics, much of the blame can be traced to the past 12 years of "Reaganomics": the "Trickle-Down" economic philosophies of the Reagan and Bush administrations. From the very start, the Reagan administration set a tone for what followed: that public lands, regardless of their status, were resource reservoirs to be exploited by private industry, be it ranching, mining conglomerates, lumber companies, or the oil industry. Even the deeds of President Bush, who wanted to be
archaeological record, as well as their responsibility for managing it (i.e., through protection, preservation, and interpretation).

Neither park professionals will be allowed to manage the archaeological record, however, is another matter entirely. Regardless of their own sense of professionalism, the pro-resource and pro-park decisions made by state and federal park superintendents and resource managers are increasingly subject to override by the politically-appointed and politically-motivated agency heads. The past 12 years of officially-sanctioned anti-environmentalism have resulted in both state and federal bureaucracies top-heavy with non-environmentalists. The California State Park System is no exception. Among the upper management staff, resource management, especially the study and preservation of archaeological resources, is usually seen as a low priority, when compared to recreation, revenue generation, facility maintenance, and law enforcement.

Whereas the DPR was once the proud sponsor of resource preservation and recreation, its leadership during the Reagan-Bush era has increasingly identified recreation as the Department’s primary mission, to the detriment of resource preservation (see Dillinger 1990:314-315). It was not until after World War II that recreation became recognized as an aspect of the DPR mission. By that time, an improved highway system allowed California’s increasingly mobile population greater access to the far reaches of the state. Whereas resource preservation could not be viewed as a commodity for generating revenue, recreation could. As a result, there slowly developed an unconscious movement toward de-emphasizing resource preservation as an aspect of the Department’s mission, while elevating the importance of recreation. During the era of Governor George Deukmejian (1983-1991), the administrations of DPR Directors William Briner and Henry Agonia actively endorsed the movement toward emphasizing the role of recreation in the Department’s mission. This movement continues, and has been intensified by the current fiscal crisis facing the DPR.

The de-emphasizing of resource preservation occurs at all levels of the DPR’s operation. For example, the Department’s official Mission Statement (quoted above) recently underwent several revisions. In at least one of these, the last sentence, which reads, “These areas shall be held in trust as irrereplaceable portions of California’s natural and historic heritage”, was deleted. At the same time, and as a result of the recession-inspired reorganization of the DPR, the Department’s Resource Protection Division, which for years has safeguarded park resources, has been renamed the Resource Management Division (while the Development Division has been renamed the Environmental Design Division) (DPR 1992). The word “protection”, like “irreplaceable” and “trust”, was apparently perceived as not being user-friendly. While these semantical changes may be purely coincidental, they might also be an indication of the environmental woes that are about to befall the DPR. Regrettably, it has been years since DPRs management (albeit with some exceptions) demonstrated the environmental sensitivity appropriate for an agency that might be considered the environmental conscience of state government.

While the lack of environmental sensitivity among an organization’s upper echelon might be acceptable for some agencies, it is unacceptable in the case of those responsible for environmental protection, such as the DPR and the National Park Service. A solution to the problem will be found in removing state and federal park agencies from political interference, while at the same time increasing the environmental professionalism of their staff (see Gordon 1989; Pritchard 1991).

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Although protected, the Fort Ross archaeological record is still far from being safe, given the many problems facing the DPR, the State of California, and the nation. Because of the state’s current fiscal crisis, the DPR is undergoing a drastic downsizing and reorganization. As a result of this reorganization, there is now very little archaeological oversight for FRSHP. In the new organization, there are no cultural resource specialists assigned to the park or the Russian River-Mendocino District Office. Oversight will come from Sacramento, where a single archaeologist assigned to the Northern Service Center will keep watch on FRSHP, as well as the numerous other state park units of the former Northern, Inland, and Central Coast Regions, which together comprise approximately two-thirds of California. It is an almost hopeless responsibility, and the Fort Ross archaeological record will certainly suffer.

At the same time, as a result of the state’s fiscal crisis, the DPR’s budget has been drastically reduced by the Governor. The late William Penn Mott, Jr., former head of both the DPR and the National Park Service, warned that the Governor’s budget cuts, unless lessened in their severity, would destroy the park system (Philp 1992). While DPR’s current director Donald Murphy (a park professional promoted from within the Department), is attempting to make the cuts without jeopardizing park resources, the severity of the problem will almost certainly result in compromises. At Governor Wilson’s mandate, the DPR is studying ways to open up parklands to private commercial ventures, so as to offset the budget cuts (see McHugh 1992). Golf courses, water slides, and bed-and-breakfast inns may someday be a common sight in parks. However, as Aldo Leopold (1966:289-290), the great American conservationist, pointed out, such “developments for the crowd” are a step backwards, and “merely water poured into the already-thin soup” (1966:290). Developments such as these “authenticate the human spirit and stupefy the human mind” whereas parks should be places that “elevate the human spirit and enlighten the human mind” (Callcott 1989:265). Section 1801 of the DPR’s Operations Manual makes a similar connection between parks and environmental awareness:

Sometimes, natural or cultural values may be of little interest, while the opportunity to enhance the sites for provision of recreational opportunities is the prime park system value. But in every instance, the value of resources for park system purposes is not a commercial or commodity value, but rather an intrinsic value that is significant to human appreciation and enjoyment of the environment. It is this basic difference between park system values and commercial values that makes extremely difficult, if not impossible, the expressing of environmental values in monetary terms for conversion to or comparison with commercial values, despite many ingenious but inadequate attempts to formulate such expressions. It also requires of the resource manager in the state park system an orientation toward resources completely different from the attitude of the person who manages resources for commodity production. (DPR 1979)

In order to empower the DPR’s resource managers in developing this orientation, or vision, they are provided (in Section 1801 of
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD, CONTINUED P. 2

the "environmental president", did not match his campaign rhetoric (See Craig 1991). As a result, parklands, forests, and wilderness preserves have undergone a 12-year siege, with disastrous results (e.g., see Anonymous 1990; Findley 1990). Indeed, the threats posed to parks by a resource-hungry American society are not unlike those facing parks throughout the developing world (e.g., see Lucas 1992).

The DPR has not been spared the growing confrontations between environmentally-motivated resource professionals and their politically-motivated agency heads (see Dillinger 1990). .

GIVING ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD VISIBILITY

Preserving archaeological resources, especially archaeological districts, such as Anderson Marsh or Fort Ross, is similar to the preservation of wilderness areas. No amount of human impact can be tolerated, especially that which is brought about by development and exploitation. The philosophy of protecting archaeological resources on parklands, as opposed to those on non-parklands, is much like the distinction that exists between the concepts of "preservation" and "conservation", as delineated by Sierra Club founder John Muir, and forester Gifford Pinchot (see Muir 1901:270-71, 1908: 217; Vickery 1986:88-91). Outside California's parklands, we are at best struggling to conserve our archaeological record, by attempting the preservation of some sites while allowing the destruction of others. In the case of many of the sites slated for destruction, we mitigate the loss by preserving archaeological knowledge based on salvage excavations. However, preserving knowledge derived from a destroyed site and preserving the site itself are two entirely different things. Within the parklands, our mission is to preserve the archaeological record, and that required preserving each and every site. Every site is considered equally significant, and the whole (i.e., the district) is considered as important as any particular part (i.e., the site). Whereas conservation allows us to value individual trees, or archaeological sites, while devaluing the forest, or archaeological district, preservation means saving the entire forest, or district, so that we preserve the many relationships existing among the various parts. This, in turn, allows us to better appreciate a landscape's natural ecology, and the cultural dynamics of its human occupation.

Unfortunately, as increasing human population pressures turn parklands into environmental "islands", more and more adverse impacts loom on the horizon. When these impacts become real, the government usually confusing preservation with conservation, and thus determines how much of the resource is to be mitigated so as to allow the destruction of the other. In light of the destruction that has been done to California's archaeological record - scholars fear that 98% of the nation's archaeological record could be destroyed by the year 2050! (see Hersher 1989:68; Knudson 1989:71) - preservation is essential on parklands. Allowing developments to destroy park resources, even if a portion of the sites are excavated, is no different than allowing the clear-cutting of a protected wilderness. The dilemma for park archaeologists, then, is how to bring about true preservation? That brings us back to Fort Ross, and the subject of this paper.

In 1988, we initiated the Fort Ross Archaeological Project in order to evaluate the impacts being realized by coastal erosion. Soon, the project was expanded in order to afford more visibility to the archaeological record. During the mid-1980s, it seemed as if the DPR viewed FRSHP as a relatively insignificant park, with law enforcement, rather than interpretation or resource management, being of primary concern. The historic interpretation that was available did not always appear to be entirely accurate (see Parkman 1992a). The Fort Ross Archaeological Project began with Dr. David Fredrickson's and Thomas Orier's field classes from Sonoma State University and Santa Rosa Junior College test excavating SON-1453 and SOL 1454/H. That same year, Dr. Kent Lightfoot and a field class from the University of California at Berkeley began an investigation of SON-1898/H, the Fort Ross Beach site. The Berkeley work has continued at FRSHP, and has included a comprehensive survey of the park, and an investigation of the Native Alaskan Village site, SON-1897/H (Farris 1991, 1993; Lightfoot 1992; Lightfoot et al, 1991).

Additionally, the Fort Ross investigations have been supplemented by the Russian Cemetery Restoration Project, under the direction of Dr. Lynn Goldstein of the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. From 1990-1992, field crews from Milwaukee excavated the historic cemetery to relocate what was thought to be about 50 Orthodox graves (Goldstein 1991). In fact, at least 136 graves were found during the excavation. This project was conducted under the close supervision of the Russian Orthodox Church, the Kodiak Area Native Association, and the Sonoma County Coroner's Office. Now that the cemetery has been redefined archaeologically, the next step in this sensitive and significant project is to return it to its historic appearance, by marking each gravesite with an appropriate grave marker.

Under the direction of Drs. Lightfoot and Goldstein, and Dr. Glenn Farris of the DPR, the Fort Ross archaeological program has emerged as one of the nation's premier archaeological investigations, resulting in tremendous benefit to FRSHP and the DPR, the academic and professional communities, members of the Russian Orthodox and Native Alaskan communities, and the general public. As a result of these projects, the park's archaeological record has become increasingly more visible and interpretable. Indeed, the goals of the Fort Ross investigations include locating the remains of a native Alaskan house and the individual grave locations within the Russian Cemetery so that the two can be accurately reconstructed. There is currently little for the public to see outside the reconstructed walls of the Russian compound. This results in their false impression that Colony Ross was nothing more that a fort, when, in fact, the area outside the walls was a thriving settlement (Parkman 1992a). Just as the public fails to appreciate the nature and signficance of the archaeological record found there. By reconstructing a portion of the settlement, we hope to provide the visibility necessary to better protect the archaeological record, and make irrelevant the old saying, "out of sight, out of mind!"

The Fort Ross archaeological record has also been made visible by the large amount of news media coverage generated about it (see Parkman 1992b). The interest of the news media in Fort Ross in 1991 resulted in local, state, national, and international coverage. As a result of the coverage, park visitation increased, with many of the visitors coming to see the Russian Cemetery or the Native Alaskan Village, and the archaeologists who were working there.

With the increased visitor and news media interest, the DPR appeared to grow more appreciative of FRSHP. In fact, in 1991 - DPR presented it annual award for resource management to the Russian River District, primarily for its support of archaeological work at FRSHP. For the first time in years, it appeared that DPR recognized the significance of the Fort Ross
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD, CONTINUED P. 3
the Department's Operations Manual) with the following directive:

"To be effective, the state park system resource manager must be able to recognize the intrinsic and inspirational values of the environment and must continually strive to defend them from destructive or damaging influences. [DPR 1979]

Additionally, park managers are reminded that park visitors, unless properly managed, can lead to the destruction of the State Park System:

Wise management of the environmental and cultural resources of the park system should be accompanied by an understanding and sympathetic management of people visiting units in the system. With the ever-increasing use of the state park system, skilful control and management of people will assume greater significance in total management of the system. Unless the significance of this management duality is recognized, and equal attention is given to management of both visitors and resources, the values the system attempts to perpetuate may be destroyed. [DPR 1979]

But the DPR's dilemma is how to provide for the increasing costs of preservation and public enlightenment when the funds come from the decreasing tax base? Surprisingly, state government's answer is to commercialize the parks, the very thing the DPR managers are supposed to be guarding against! To an increasing degree, DPR managers, like their US Forest Service counterparts, are being asked to view park resources as commodities for economic exploitation. Of course, the commercialization of the parks must be seen as a giant step backwards, and perhaps even an abandonment of the DPR's mission. However, without completely overthrowing the state bureaucracy and the collective consciousness of the California public, there are probably no immediate solutions to the dilemma. As Raymond Damson noted in his classic study, The Destruction of California, "our very economic system prevents our doing the things needed to protect our environment from destruction" (1965:191).

With the increased pressure to commercialize the parks, there will come pressure to bend the rules, and further prioritizing of resource protection and preservation as elements of the DPR mission. In fact, the DPR recently held much-needed empowerment workshops which instructed its staff to break the rules if the result benefits the program (see Anonymous 1993). While there is a genuine need for empowerment, it must be properly applied, otherwise there is the risk of adversely affecting park resources. For example, it is probable that the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 will be one of the rules broken.

Earlier fears of environmental backsliding led to the formation of the California Parks and Conservation Association in 1989, comprised mostly of concerned state park professionals. A similar organization of US Forest Service professionals, the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, was begun that same year. Both organizations were formed in response to a similar problem - the destruction and plundering of public lands by outside interests, and the inability or unwillingness of agency management to prevent it.

The recent vision of the DPR, and the federal government, has been one that involved the privatization and commercialization of public lands (see Lopez 1988:81-82). This is the conservative agenda. Many believe that it must be replaced, instead, by a long-term vision involving the "greening" of public lands. Society's anthropocentric tendencies are endangering our public lands at a time when we desperately need to adopt a more biocentric vision (see Callcott 1989:264-265; Leopold 1966:261-262, 271-272; Norton 1984) Be it a wilderness or an archaeological district, parklands must be protected at all costs. It may even become necessary to redefine public parks as "sacred" places, for that is surely what they shall become in the 21st century. Indeed, Yosemite National Park is already considered a sacred place by many!

Archaeologists must share in a vision that looks beyond our immediate condition, and recognize the future for what it will be. Preservation may not save our planet, but it can serve as an important step toward changing the way we think about our place in this world, and that may prove to be our salvation. The preservation of an "irreplaceable" portion of the cultural environment can facilitate the preservation of that which is irreplaceable in the natural environment, both being part of a common struggle to raise the American consciousness in regard to resources and public lands.

CONCLUSIONS

In closing, I would like to offer several recommendations that might better enable the protection of the Fort Ross archaeological record:

1. The DPR must expand its commitment to cultural resource management by increasing the number of cultural resource specialists on its staff, providing them with more representation within the Department, and allowing them greater authority in policy-making decisions.

2. The DPR must interpret the archaeological record. This means increasing the number of interpretive specialists on staff. Archaeologists also need to become more involved with public education. There is a tremendous need to make the archaeological record more visible to the public, so as to ensure their appreciation of it.

3. The DPR must be more responsive to the public (see Dillinger 1990:315). (For example, the Fort Ross Citizens' Advisory Committee was disbanded by the state several years ago, against the wishes of the Committee, and at a time when the DPR most needed its input. This occurred at the same time that the DPR was acknowledging its need for public involvement[see Agonia 1990].)

4. Finally, the DPR's cultural resource specialists must develop a strong, environmentally-grounded philosophy for handling their responsibilities, and this philosophy must be endorsed by the DPR.

According to the late Edward Abbey (1989:84), "Wilderness begins in the human mind." I believe that preservation begins there, too. Indeed, it is a new cornerstone of our ever-evolving collective consciousness. To deny preservation is to admit that which is savage about our society, whereas to defend it, is to admit that which is civilized. It is our challenge, then, to help lead the way toward a greater and more responsible civilization, where the preservation of our natural and cultural landscapes are considered utmost duties of both the individual and society. It is in such a society that the Fort Ross archaeological record might be truly preserved.
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10:30 A.M. FRIA BOARD AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, 12 NOON HOLIDAY LUNCH

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FRIEDA TOMLIN*
NANCY WALTON
DAVID WILLSON

Board members whose name is followed by an * have terms expiring this year. There are five 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 1994 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 10, 1994 meeting. Please mail your ballots in time to arrive before this date, or bring them to the meeting. Family memberships receive two votes.

STATEMENTS FROM THE CANDIDATES

VIOLET CHAPPELL - incumbent. Having served for several years on the FRIA Board, I feel the roll of the board is to ensure that an accurate history of Fort Ross is kept. As an active member of the Kashaya Pomo Tribe, I hope to include more Indians from the Kashaya Pomo community in the Fort Ross projects. Most important to me is to keep a true history of Fort Ross.

DAVID S. KENLY - incumbent. In having served one term on FRIA’s Board, I’ve developed a strong sense of the diversities offered at Fort Ross, and of the need to maintain a strong overview that our natural and historical resources remain both well preserved and well presented to the public. That the directors be better suited both to advancing particular areas of interest and to advancing the concerns of their colleagues, I’ve consistently advocated strengthened and restructured procedures in FRIA; my work in defining our mission and goals shows that commitment. I believe that my work as Recording Secretary and as member on various committees reflects contribution to various aspects of our organization; and that my efforts may lead to a smoother and more efficient operations through clarified definition of the numerous roles and responsibilities available at Fort Ross State Historic Park. I hope to be reelected to the Board of Directors. I am a resident local to Fort Ross, and I have been a participant in Fort Ross activities for the past decade.

STATEMENTS CONTINUE ON REVERSE
LENORE M. KOSSO - incumbent. After serving for one year on the FRIA Board of Directors to complete another’s term, I have chosen to run for a full term. I am a retired archivist/manuscript curator, currently living at the Sea Ranch. As the new chair of the FRIA Curatorial Committee, I am especially interested and concerned about preservation and conservation of the historic material at Fort Ross. We have already taken measures to protect the historic photographs in the Library and we are making plans to provide the manuscripts, books and artifacts with a secure and archivally sound environment. I have greatly enjoyed my year on the FRIA Board, working with interesting and enthusiastic people in the lovely setting of Fort Ross State Park. I look forward to continued service.

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, and American settler, at a very unique historic park. Most recently we have been making encouraging and wonderful progress on the Call Ranch restoration. I love Fort Ross!

FRIEDA TOMLIN - incumbent. A native of Sebastopol, I raised a family in San Mateo and retired from co-op nursery school teaching after 20 years. Now I’m working part time at SRI International in Menlo Park and as a part time elderly care giver. I have been involved with Fort Ross for over 37 years in work, play and dreams. I followed the activities of the Fort Ross Advisory team for 20 years and have served on the FRIA Board for at least 10 years. I am interested in and seek to co-operate with all the aspects of the State Park. My main ambition is to see this a working, learning, hands on park for the children. I have lived and traveled intensively in the United States and abroad. I am pleased with my past contributions to Fort Ross and look forward to continuing my involvement.

DONI TUNHEIM - She is a part time local resident of Plantation. She likes the initial stages of new projects and is enthusiastic about working on the Call House restoration. Her past experience includes: 1990-1994 - Chair, Santa Cruz County Historical Commission; Past President, Santa Cruz Historical Society; co-founder of Adobe Coalition, a group established to preserve and restore Santa Cruz Mission - a successful project!

VIVIAN WILDER - I would like to serve on this board because we [Kashaya Pomo] need to be represented. Fort Ross is a very important part of our history, so maybe I can be of some help in preserving our true history.

****************************************************************BALLOT****************************************************************

PLEASE CLIP AND MAIL

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( ) LENORE KOSSO
( ) JEANNETTE ROSSON
( ) FRIEDA TOMLIN
( ) DONI TUNHEIM
( ) VIVIAN WILDER