



Tehipite Topics

September 2007 ☞ Vol. 53, No. 7

www.tehipite.sierraclub.org



Marie's Century

The following is taken from handout distributed at Marie Carnahan's 100th birthday celebration, May 2007.

Not many of us will live through and experience 100 years of history. The lady we honor today has done just that. Just four years after the Wright Brothers' first flight, Marie was born to William and Willie Pearl Gauling on May 5, 1907. Theodore Roosevelt was president. Marie had one older sister and a younger brother. Marie was just 11 when her mother died in 1919. Her father found it difficult to raise three children, so Marie was raised by a succession of family and friends.

Marie graduated from John Marshall High School in Richmond, Virginia in 1925, and later went to work for the Life Insurance Company of Virginia. She met a dashing, adventurous man named Truman Carnahan and they were married in 1930. In 1931, their daughter Barbara was born in Washington, D.C. Circumstances led them to pack up and come to California in 1935. They crossed the country in their 1928 Chevrolet coupe, furniture and all. "Carnie," as Marie called him, had family in Fresno. They actually set out for Corvallis, Oregon. Things didn't work out, so they traveled back to Fresno. Carnie found work in Fresno at the Chrysler dealership

See Marie, page 5

Help Wanted!

Your editors apologize for yet another late issue of *Tehipite Topics*. As we assemble the September issue long past deadline, we come to the sad conclusion that we simply do not have time in our lives to continue putting the *Topics* together, month after month. Marcia has begun working at a wildlife rehabilitation facility a couple days a week, and hopes to find time to do more writing. John juggles a very demanding full-time job while still keeping a hand in several environmental issues. Because of increasing

demands on his time, he finds that he rarely has a chance to enjoy the backcountry he has worked so hard to preserve. As John Muir proclaimed, "The mountains are calling, and I must go . . ." but we *can't* go, because we're much, much too busy. We have found that we are simply spread too thin to be fully effective in any area of our lives.

In March of 2008, we will have produced four years of *Tehipite Topics*. We have come to the conclusion that it is time to move on. We will continue to edit the *Topics* through June of 2008.

Meanwhile, we hope to find someone willing to take over our duties. Ideally, this should be someone who has a fairly good handle on Sierra Club policy and the goings-on within our chapter. But anyone who is environmentally conscious could step in and do the job quite nicely. All it takes is a bit of time, willingness to learn a few new computer skills, and a little patience. We are willing to train anyone who is interested. Please feel free to contact us for more information. ☞

John & Marcia Rasmussen
Topics@BigBaldy.com

September General Meeting

"The San Joaquin River: a Juncture of Circumstance"

presented by Chris Acree

Wednesday, September 19th at 7:00 P.M.
University of California Center
550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno
(across from Fashion Fair)

The San Joaquin River once flowed unrestrained to the Pacific Ocean, sustaining along its path indigenous civilizations for over 10,000 years. Today, residents of the Central Valley drink contaminated water, the Delta ecosystem is crashing, and there doesn't seem to be enough water to satisfy anyone's needs.

How did the river go dry? What role does the San Joaquin River play in the looming water crisis? How do we regain balance?

Join me in rediscovering one of California's most valuable natural resources and tracing the circumstances that led to the drying up of this once mighty river.

See *General Meeting*, page 6

Conservation & Executive Committees

Wednesday, September 12th at 7:00 P.M.
University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno



Tehipite Chapter

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Merced Group

Conservation and Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 6th at 7:00 P.M.

Thursday, October 4th at 7:00 P.M.

at Rod Webster's home, 345 E. 20th St., Merced.

Conservation meeting is first and can last 30-40 minutes. Anyone with an interest in local, state or national conservation issues is welcome to attend. Come just to get informed or get as involved as you wish.

Merced Group General Meetings

Third Thursday of the month

Sierra Presbyterian Church, 3603 M St., Merced.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Below is a listing of our proposed future meetings. Since their planning is still in progress, there may be changes in this schedule.

Thursday, September 20th

Julia Dumars

CEQA Workshop. This workshop will enable us to make a more informed response to the EIR for General Plan Updates for the City and County of Merced.

Thursday, October 18th

Dr. Tom Harmon, Lloyd Carter

Water Forum, with a special report by Merced River Stakeholders' Jan Mendenhall.

Possible outings to Fish Hatchery and/or gravel mining on the Merced River

Saturday, October 13th

The Merced River Alliance will host an event at Henderson Park in Snelling, from 9-1. For more information, contact Cindy Lashbrook.

Thursday, November 15th

Chad Kister

Global Warming/Climate Change

Saturday, December 1st

Photographer Sam Roberts

Annual Banquet at Sierra Presbyterian Church.

Sam Roberts is an award-winning photographer and writer based in the San Francisco Bay Area of California. To date, Sam has shot on four continents, usually while pursuing his other passions: mountain climbing, skiing and backcountry travel.

In his 15 years of business, Sam's files have grown to more than 50,000 images ranging from 1970s Afghanistan to current projects here in California.

Sam's mission is that his photography evoke an emotional response from viewers and, thus, inspires them to seek out, enjoy and protect the places his photographs represent. Consistent with his mission, Sam is a business sponsor of the California Wilderness Coalition, a member of One Percent for the Environment and a supporter of the Friends of Joshua Tree, where he is on the Board of Directors. You can check out his photos at www.srobertsphoto.com. The estimated price for the banquet is \$20. Reservation details will follow in future *Topics* issues.

Thursday, January 17th

Nick Robinson, Melissa Kelly Ortega (Asthma Coalition), David Lighthall

Forum on the proposed Wal-Mart and Air Quality

This may possibly be a Special Meeting depending on the timing of the EIR.

Thursday, February 21st

Bill Nicholson and Kim Espinoza

General Plan Update for the City and County of Merced



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Bear in mind the consequences.

The Yellowstone grizzly bear is an irreplaceable part of America's natural heritage, a symbol of the independence that defines the American character and an icon of all that is wild and free. The Bush administration set forth a proposal that would remove federal protection for the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Help Sierra Club protect our forest friends; they prefer the woods than being on display.

Get grizzly and JOIN Sierra Club.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
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Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
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Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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Exchange Student

by Melinda Warner

Lin is an interesting teen from South Korea, who adapted wonderfully to life as a two-semester exchange student in a Fresno high school. I shared several fun activities with her as her local coordinator. She surprised me with her love for athletics. Her grandmotherly host mother had no idea Lin would want to participate in her school's soccer, swimming and tennis teams. She ran with me two miles at ease, at the beach during an outing to Southern California. We also had fun together helping the environment. Lin's program required her to participate in 16 hours of community service (8 hours per semester) as part of her schooling abroad experience, and she seemed interested in an environmental project. First she came along with my family to an Earth Day event at Millerton Lake, where she helped plant native plants and remove invasive weeds during a restoration project. Our last adventures was a nine-mile canoe trip down the San Joaquin River with Richard Sloan and friends. We were there at 5:30 A.M. and Lin helped pick up trash along the shoreline via canoe, prying out bottles wedged under waterlogged branches and spotting plastic bags and discarded lawn chairs along the way. During one fun rapid, she exclaimed it was like an amusement park. When her paddle was momentarily taken by the water or when we went backward down a rapid she took it all in stride. Perhaps Lin had never before been active in improving the environment. I certainly enjoyed showing her some ways that we can take care of the treasure of our natural resources, with active participation in improving recreational sites. She enjoyed the beauty of our amazing natural land while earning her community service credits. What a great way for Americans to show what America is all about! Now Lin has gone home to her country with all kinds of great memories and I am trying to find host families for a new batch of high schoolers, arriving in August, who come from all over the world. Recently, while reading profiles of some of these exchange students, I found a German girl who is on a rowing team *and* wants to participate in environmental projects! She is also a violist and hopes to join a school orchestra. It reminded me again of my time with the adventurous Lin, who also played the flute in her school orchestra. Would you and your family think about hosting a student to share your home, your country and your interests? Students have their own spending money and health insurance. Families with or without children are welcome to apply. To find out more, call Melinda Warner at (559) 270-1328. You can also go to the CIEE website at www.ciee.org/hostfamily.



National River Cleanup Week on the San Joaquin River

Marie, from page 1

of R.C. Green, as an accountant. In 1938, their son Robert was born. About 1938, they moved to a 20-acre ranch on Locan, just north of Kings Canyon. Carnie wanted to try his hand at raising cattle. Then World War II started. Everything changed. With no warning, Carnie suddenly died from an illness in 1942. With the help of family and friends, Marie and the children moved back to town, in the Roosevelt High School area. In 1945, Marie went to work in the Fresno County Board of Supervisors' office, where she stayed until retiring 25 years later, in 1970. More tragedy struck Marie when Robert died in 2004, and Barbara in 2005.

Marie bought a home on McKenzie Avenue in 1948, and still lives there today. She still holds onto her love for the mountains, and is proud of her membership in the Sierra Club since 1959—a total of 48 years. She has fond memories of trips to the high Sierra, up above Yosemite. She kept fit by working out at the YMCA, evenings and weekends for many years. She is still an active member of her church, Sierra Vista Methodist, where she has belonged since the early 1940s.

During her Century, Marie has lived through Prohibition; Women's Suffrage; two World Wars; the Great Depression; the Korean, Vietnam, and Cold Wars; assassination of a President; jet and rocket travel; landing on the moon; the defeat of communism in Russia; the development of television, microwaves, satellites, and cell phones; the nuclear and computer ages; medical marvels; and so much more. All in all, she's just about seen *everything*. Today's celebration is intended to honor this unique, caring, and beloved lady for her full Century of Life. ❧

Marie Carnahan Article, Reprinted from *Tehipite Topics*, May, 1997

by Joan Weeks

"I joined the Sierra Club," says Marie Carnahan, "in 1959, to get to the mountains. In those days, you had to have a sponsor. Mine was Gordon Nelson, a reporter for the *Fresno Bee*."

Marie, who has been a member of the *Tehipite Topics* labeling "club" for decades, has traditionally celebrated her birthday with a trip to the mountains or another place of natural beauty. She is looking forward to May 5, when she will turn 90. But, in appearance and in spirit, she defies the calendar.

"I remember going up to Yosemite when they were considering their General Plan some 20 years ago," she says. "I hiked up to Vogelsang three times. They had good food there, fresh meat and vegetables. Once we hiked in one way, seven miles, and then headed out the Lyle Fork of the Tuolumne River, 11 miles."

Marie used to cut the stencil for the *Topics*. "The editor would bring the material to me, along with a stencil and a typewriter, and I would type the whole thing.



Tolumne Meadows, September, 1959. Marie Carnahan, Ready to Start for Gaylor Lakes.

"The chapter would have barbecues on the Kings River at Camp 4-1/2. And we had what we called the Chairman's Walk, including parents and children, every so often, at some place close by."

There was a historian for the chapter, who would gather newspaper clippings on conservation subjects throughout the year and display them at the annual banquet.

"Once I filled in for Virginia Reedy, when she went to Europe," Marie recalls.

"David Brower was a frequent speaker." Marie keeps rosters from the 1960s and thinks there may be people younger than she is who have belonged to the chapter longer. "I can't remember a time when George Whitmore wasn't a member," she says.

Marie was secretary, "and a sort of troubleshooter," for the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, serving the County for a quarter of a century in the old courthouse. She has been retired for 27 years. She reared her two children as a single mother after her husband, Carnie,

See *Marie*, page 7

Valley Land Alliance

The Valley Land Alliance was formed to protect the uniquely productive Central Valley. Its mission is to educate and build alliances to protect our farmlands. The Alliance supports policies that ensure a domestic and local food supply; promote the economic viability of farming/ranching; require future growth to pay for public services (roads, sewers, water, schools, police and fire); attract good, paying jobs that compliment a dynamic agricultural economy; and protect our natural watershed.

The Alliance is taking action to: unite with others to promote our quality of life, maximize citizen participation in General Plan Updates and key land use decisions, serve as an informational clearinghouse on land use, identify and assess models where counties have successfully implemented ordinances preserving agricultural lands, support legislation protecting farmland for future generations, and conduct workshops about the significance of our region to the local and world economy.

Some statistics on the Central Valley

- We are the fastest growing region in the state.
- By 2040, American Farmland Trust estimates that 900,000 acres of farmland will be lost to urbanization and another two million acres will be compromised because of proximity to urban areas.
- The University of California Agricultural Issues Center states that for every 100 agricultural and production jobs in the Valley, 92 additional jobs were created in the region.

There are many ways to support the Alliance. These include membership donation, fund raising, graphic design, mailings, meeting attendance, letter writing, and publicity.

Contact the Alliance for more information.

Valley Land Alliance, P.O. Box 102, Cressey, CA 95312
(209) 386-3572

www.ValleyLandAlliance.org ☞

Outdoor Getaway in Scenic Eastern Plumas

News Release from California Department of Fish and Game

Eastern Plumas County is a wonderful region in California for accessible, spectacular scenery without the crowds. No matter what your outdoor hobbies may be, there's something here for you. This region offers fantastic fishing, snow sports, kayaking and canoeing in gentle waters, easy to moderate hiking, meadows covered with 200 plus species of wildflowers, wildlife viewing (including pronghorn antelope and an abundance of bird species), scenic drives, beautiful campgrounds, and charming mountain towns. To make planning your trip easier, there is now a nature recreation brochure for Eastern Plumas County, centering on the town of Portola as the gateway.

In this brochure you'll find information on seven *must see* wildlife adventures, wildlife viewing, Sierra Valley (a birding heaven, nationally recognized by Audubon Society), recreational activities in Plumas National Forest, fishing at it's best (including Lake Davis, to be stocked with rainbow

trout starting fall 2007), wildflower viewing, kayaking and canoeing, scenic drives, and local events and attractions. This brochure also contains useful local contact information for the Portola region.

To plan your adventure to the wild side of the Sierra Nevada, away from congestion and heavy tourism, you'll want to get your hands on a copy of the "Portola Gateway to the Northern Sierra Nevada" brochure. To receive a hard copy of this brochure or find out more detailed information about the Portola region, call the Portola Visitor Center at (530) 832-0671 or visit www.portolavisitorscenter.com. Or you can contact the Plumas County Visitors Bureau, (800) 326-2247 or (530) 283-6345, or the Eastern Plumas Chamber of Commerce, (800) 995-6057 or (530) 836-6811. The easiest way to locate this new brochure is to visit www.dfg.ca.gov/lakedavis/docs/plumas-recreation.pdf. ☞

General Meeting, from page 2

The presentation will trace the human history of the river and find solutions for how we can restore the river and regain a balanced approach to water management. Learn about river restoration and the legal battle that is giving new hope for the San Joaquin River.

Chris Acree is the Executive Director of Revive the San Joaquin, a local non-profit, promoting a collective stewardship that will revive the economic, environmental, and recreational benefits of a healthy San Joaquin River. ☞

Outings Schedule

Outing Ratings

Distance	Elevation Gain
1) up to 6 miles	A) under 1,000 feet
2) 6 to 10 miles	B) 1,000 to 2,000 feet
3) 10 to 15 miles	C) 2,000 to 3,000 feet
4) 15 to 20 miles	D) 3,000 to 4,000 feet
5) over 20 miles	E) over 4,000 feet

Our Tehipite Chapter Outings Co-Chairs are Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780 or jbord606@yahoo.com and Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971 or RiverRich1509@aol.com. Please contact them with any questions concerning our outings program. Contact the trip leader directly if you are interested in one of the listed trips.

Tehipite Chapter outings are free and open to the public. All leaders are unpaid volunteers assuming responsibility for a good trip, and your cooperation is mandatory. Please review additional trip and participant requirements at www.tehipite.sierraclub.org/outings.

September 15th - Saturday

Day Hike (2B) Moderate +
Little Shuteye
A wonderful jaunt to a great lunch spot peak.
Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

September 16th - Sunday

Day Hike (2B)
Gaylor Lake
Walk up to silver mine ruins near the Tioga entrance station in Yosemite.
John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

Marie, from page 5

died at the age of 38. She has lived in her present neighborhood for some 50 years and enjoys her pleasant, well-kept home and garden.

Still quite active, even after a severe knee injury four years ago, "something like Bill Clinton's," she does water aerobics at the downtown YMCA three times a week. "I've been going there for 11 years," she says. "It's like a family."

Originally from Richmond, Virginia, a place she considers hopelessly segregated, Marie goes every Sunday, with Lula, an African-American neighbor, to St. Mark's United Methodist Church. Marie is often the only Caucasian in attendance. Then the two of them proceed to services at the

September 22nd - Saturday

Day Hike (4C) Very Strenuous
Table Meadows and Table land
Start at Wolverton trailhead in Sequoia National Park. We will be on the Pear Lake trail until we reach the ranger hut. From the ranger hut it is all cross-country. All hikers must stay within view of each other after leaving the trail.

Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780

September 22nd - Saturday

Day Hike (1A) Easy
Willow Creek

Don Redmond (559) 268-1537

October 7th - Sunday

Day Hike (2B) Moderate
9.4 mile hike to George Lake via Lower and Upper Twin Lakes in the Kaiser Wilderness. Upper Twin Lakes is a real gem, and if fall has started to do its magic, the aspens should be beautiful.

Karen Hammer (559) 298-5272

October 14th - Sunday

Day Hike (2B)
Lewis Creek
Route to be determined by group interest.

John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

Join The Sierra Club Online!

Visit www.sierraclub.org/membership

Nellie Lake hike led by John Cameron



Nellie Lake hikers, with Sierra the German shepherd filling in for me, while I take the picture.



Yours truly, Sierra, John Cameron and a Nellie Lake trout.



Lewis Creek hike led by Don Redmond.

Sierra Vista United Methodist Church, with a white congregation. Of St. Mark's, Marie says, "I like the music." But she likes the people, too, and joins the group at frequent potlucks.

An avid reader, Marie is fascinated by the War Between the States and often goes to the Civil War Round Table in Fresno.

As she approaches her memorable birthday this month, she looks ahead as much as back to the past. "I want to continue to go to the Y and to stay in my home," she says, simply.





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TEHIPITE CHAPTER

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Tehipite Topics is available, in color, on the Chapter website at <http://tehipite.sierraclub.org>.

Deadline for *Tehipite Topics* is the second Friday of each month—September 14th for the October issue. Submit material to Topics@BigBaldy.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

by Gerald D. Vinnard, Chapter Chair

Would you like to get more out of your Sierra Club membership? If the answer is yes, please consider becoming more active in your Chapter's activities. We have a wonderful group of members whose time, energy and enthusiasm make the activities of our Chapter possible, but we can always use more help. If you are interested in getting involved with conservation issues, outings, publications, or chapter administration please contact the Chapter Chair, Gerald D. Vinnard, at (559) 431-5780 or by e-mail at gvinnard@cvip.net. We look forward to hearing from you! 🐾



National River Cleanup Week on the San Joaquin River



Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento.

Clair Tappaan Lodge is the perfect autumn base camp for anyone who enjoys the wide variety of activities offered by the Tahoe area. Autumn is the secret season in the Sierra when the summer crowds go home, temperatures cool off, and the fall colors come out. Short hikes to secluded mountain lakes are perfect for introducing the family to the mountains. The nearby Pacific Crest Trail offers expansive views for both novice and advanced hikers. Donner Lake offers great kayaking and fishing while Donner Summit has long been a destination for rock climbers and mountain bikers.

Guests enjoy excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual and communal atmosphere. See you on Donner Summit...



For more information about the Lodge or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at www.ctl.sierraclub.org or call (800) 679-6775.