

CARR file

1997

Date: Sat, 11 Oct 1997 10:04:47 -0400  
From: Ursula Keuper-Bennett <howzit@TURTLES.ORG>  
Reply to: Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation <CTURTLE@lists.ufl.edu>  
To: CTURTLE@LISTS.UFL.EDU  
Subject: Marjorie Carr "Our Lady of the Rivers" dies at 82

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I forward this to CTURTLE along with my sympathy and greatest respect for the Carr family.

All the best --Ursula

>Return-Path: <owner-audubon-florida@igc.org>  
>Date: Sat, 11 Oct 1997 09:08:09 -0400 (EDT)  
>From: CLee988343@aol.com  
>Sender: owner-audubon-florida@igc.apc.org  
>Subject: Marjorie Carr "Our Lady of the Rivers" dies at 82  
>To: audubon-florida@igc.apc.org, sstrahl@audubon.org, jflicker@audubon.org,  
> chenderson@audubon.org, edraper@audubon.org, tsadler@audubon.org,  
> earmstrong@audubon.org, tadams@audubon.org  
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>'St. Petersburg Times, published October 11, 1997

>GAINESVILLE -- Marjorie Harris Carr, an honored  
>defender of Florida's environment, has died at 82.  
>Mrs. Carr, noted for her devotion to the Ocklawaha River  
>in Central Florida, died Friday at her home Gainesville.  
>A former smoker, she died from emphysema, which she  
>had suffered from since 1990, said her daughter, Mimi  
>Carr of Gainesville.

>"She was our lady of the rivers," said Charles Lee of the  
>Florida Audubon Society. "Marjorie, more than anyone  
>else focused the attention of Florida and the nation on  
>river conservation."

>Despite her poor health, she continued to fight until nearly  
>the end of her life to free the Ocklawaha, a river that had  
>been damned as part of the Cross Florida Barge Canal  
>project of the 1960s.

>"Carr distinguished herself as a true giant in the  
>environmental community," said Gov. Lawton Chiles. "Our  
>state is a truly better place because of her work to protect  
>and defend our precious natural resources."

>Chiles has advocated naming the 110-mile Cross Florida  
>Greenway, a park consisting of the governmental lands  
>formerly dedicated to the canal, after Carr.

>For three decades Mrs. Carr battled for green space and  
>parks, and against barge canals. On Nov. 18, 1996, her  
>struggles put her into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame.

>The federal government's first female wildlife technician in  
>1936, she found her major cause some 30 years later. She  
>and others founded the Florida Defenders of the  
>Environment and challenged the Cross Florida Barge  
>Canal, a mammoth public works endeavor. As part of the  
>project, the once wild Ocklawaha River was dammed.

>"Why fight for the Ocklawaha?" she once said. "The first  
>time I went up the Ocklawaha, I thought it was dreamlike.  
>It was a canopy river. It was spring-fed and swift.  
>"I was concerned about the environment worldwide. What  
>could I do about the African plains? What could I do  
>about India? How could I affect things in Alaska or the  
>Grand Canyon? But here, by God, was a piece of Florida.  
>A lovely natural area, right in my back yard, that was  
>being threatened for no good reason."

>In 1971, thanks in part to Florida Defenders' work against  
>it, the Barge Canal was abandoned. Today, the land along  
>the Ocklawaha is the centerpiece for the Cross Florida  
>Greenway, one of Florida's most ambitious parks.  
>Still, 20 years after her victory, Mrs. Carr continued to  
>fight to remove the Rodman Dam and let the river run free.  
>The St. Johns River Water Management District in coming  
>months will consider the application of the Florida  
>Department of Environmental Protection to restore the  
>Ocklawaha River by tearing down Rodman Dam.

>Her chief opponents were bass fishermen, led by state  
>Sen. George Kirkpatrick, D-Gainesville. The fishermen  
>like the reservoir that obliterates 16 miles of the  
>Ocklawaha because it is full of trophy-size bass.

>"Marjorie's life was a tremendous series of successes but  
>the one thing she didn't live to see was the restoration of  
>Ocklawaha River," said Lee.

>"Clearly, Marjorie's passing will be a rallying cry to the  
>environmental community to get the job finished that she  
>had begun."

>Blessed with a childhood in the paradise of an unspoiled  
>Florida, she never lost her love for the wild.  
>Born in Boston, she moved to Bonita Springs in 1923.  
>Her father, Charles Harris, was a retired Boston  
>schoolteacher intent on raising oranges in his retirement.  
>"She was very New England but every inch a Floridian,"  
>her daughter, Mimi Carr, said.

>A bequest of \$500 from a maiden aunt allowed Mrs. Carr  
>to begin her studies at the Florida State College for  
>Women, now Florida State University.  
>When she graduated with a zoology degree in 1936,  
>Florida was wild and verdant, an undiscovered frontier for  
>scientists who prowled the landscape.

>In those days, Mrs. Carr wrote in her forward to  
>Ecosystems of Florida, "a graduate student could select a  
>set of animals to work on and realize that he or she was  
>the first to focus on that particular group in Florida." In

