



**California Polytechnic State University  
Special Collections & Archives**

**Carrizo Plain Oral History Collection  
MS0185**

<b>Collection ID:</b>	MS0185
<b>Title:</b>	Carrizo Plain Oral History Collection
<b>Dates:</b>	1990 - 2013
<b>Creator:</b>	Jacqueline Czapla, Craig Deutsche, Nancy Warner
<b>Extent:</b>	2 LF, 4 document boxes, 114GB
<b>Abstract:</b>	Oral history audio recordings and transcripts of interviews conducted with residents of the Carrizo Plain region. Interviews conducted by Jacqueline Czapla and Craig Deutsche between 2008 – 2013. Collection also includes interviews conducted by Nancy Warner between 1990 - 1995, and copies of supplementary materials donated by Czapla and Deutsche interviewees.
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Repository:</b>	California Polytechnic State University Robert E. Kennedy Library Special Collections and Archives 1 Grand Avenue San Luis Obispo, CA 93407 Phone: 805-756-2305 Email: <a href="mailto:archives@calpoly.edu">archives@calpoly.edu</a> URL: <a href="http://www.lib.calpoly.edu/specialcollections/">http://www.lib.calpoly.edu/specialcollections/</a>
<b>Provenance:</b>	Collected by Jackie Czapla, Craig Deutsche, and Nancy Warner. Donated to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Special Collections and archives in 2013.
<b>Accessions:</b>	2013.011
<b>Processed by:</b>	Berlin Loa and Zach Vowell, 2016
<b>Preferred Citation</b>	MS0185 Carrizo Plain Oral History Collection, Special Collections and Archives, California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo



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**Historical Note:**

Jacqueline (Jackie) Czapla and Craig Deutsche conducted oral history interviews with residents in the Carrizo Plain region between 2008 and 2013. The interviews include current and former ranchers, seasonal workers, descendants of early settlers, members of Chumash tribes, and area residents. Interview subjects include local family history, sheepherding, ranching methods, land and animal management, local community relations, Basque and European immigration, and the Chumash culture and lands.

Jackie Czapla is originally from the Sacramento area and moved to Washburn Ranch in 1995 when her husband, a Bureau of Land Management employee, transferred to the Carrizo Plain National Monument. Jackie is an artist and horse trainer, and has worked with the Bureau of Land Management in different capacities. She is a board member with the Friends of the Carrizo Plain, a nonprofit, volunteer organization that supports the three managing partners of the Carrizo Plain National Monument. Encouraged by locals and colleagues, she originally planned to conduct an oral history project in 2002 with her own equipment and funding, but the project was delayed until 2008.

Craig Deutsche is originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is a desert conservation advocate and member of both the Sierra Club and the Friends of the Carrizo Plain. He taught chemistry and physics in the Los Angeles area for over 15 years. Since retirement he has led backpacking trips and service outings with several environmental organizations and has authored two books about the Carrizo region. He began working as a volunteer with the monument in 2003.

Jackie and Craig met at the Carrizo Plain National Monument visitor's center in 2007 while Jackie was working in education and Craig was working on a fence project. Intrigued with the history of the people and the plain, they recognized the need to record and preserve the stories of local residents. In late 2007 they agreed to pursue Jackie's oral history project and began contacting potential interviewees. The interviews were conducted between 2008 and 2013 at homes and ranches, at local churches and businesses, and at public events. The recordings were later transcribed by Jackie and Craig.

Nancy Warner, a biologist and consultant, worked in the San Luis Obispo area for over ten years. Her work included projects with Guadalupe-Dunes Preserve, the Pecho Coast Trail, and The Nature Conservancy of California. She worked with the Carrizo Plain National Monument from 1988 – 1991 as an Education/Volunteer Coordinator and as a biological consultant for a habitat restoration program. She conducted oral history interviews between 1990 – 1991 and later contributed her records to Jackie and Craig to be included in the oral history project.

The Carrizo Plain National Monument is located approximately 70 miles southeast of San Luis Obispo, where San Luis Obispo county and Kern county meet. The plain is traversed by the San Andreas Fault along the foothills of the Temblor Range and includes prominent natural features including Soda Lake, Painted Rock, San Andreas Fault, and grasslands. In 1988, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the Nature Conservancy partnered to purchase 82,000-acres of Carrizo Plain land in a joint effort to protect the California plain. In 1996, the Carrizo Plain Management Partners created a joint initiative called the Carrizo Plain Natural Area (CPNA) Plan.



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Carrizo Plain is located within the ethnographic territory of the Chumash people. Painted Rock and other cultural sites attest to the presence of indigenous people from approximately 11,000 BCE to the present. The Salinian from the north and the Yokuts from eastern inland areas are also thought to have visited and traded in the area. Evidence of Spanish expeditions date to the late 1600s, European expeditions in the late 1700s, and settlement rancher homesteads beginning in the mid-19th century with the establishment of land grants, mining prospects, and railroad construction.

Historically the plain has been referred to as Carrisa Plains by ranchers and settlers. Early Spanish explorers originally referred to the area as Llano Estero (Salt Marsh Plain) or *carrizo* for a wild reed-grass which may have grown near the plain at the time. The name was Anglicized and pluralized over time via written and verbal transmission, gradually becoming colloquially known as Carrisa Plains. In 2001 the plain was recognized as a national preserve and designated the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

**Scope and Content:**

The collection contains digital audio recordings of oral histories and typewritten transcripts of interviews conducted with residents of the Carrizo Plain region. Interviews were conducted by Craig Deutsche and Jacqueline Czapla between 2008 – 2013. The collection also includes interviews conducted by Nancy Warner in 1990 and 1991, copies of photographs, and materials provided by the interviewees.

**Arrangement:**

The collection is arranged in two series. Series I contains digital recordings and copies of supplementary materials provided by the interviewees including photographs, manuscripts, and genealogies. Series II contains transcripts of the recordings. Series III contains a manuscript Van Matre family history.

Each series is numbered and arranged in the order in which it was received by the creators. Three-digit interview numbers were assigned by Jackie Czapla and Craig Deutsche. Several numbers that appear to be missing from the order (i.e. 5, 56, and 74) were unused numbers and therefore have no related materials. Interviews conducted by Jacqueline Czapla and Craig Deutsche were digitally recorded utilizing a laptop computer. Interviews conducted by Nancy Warner were recorded on audio cassette tapes. The recordings were digitized by Cal Poly Special Collections and Archives in 2015.

Original organization has been preserved where possible. Materials may have been reorganized or rehoused for preservation and access purposes.

**Related Collections:**

MS0041 Painted Rock Pictograph Collection

MS0045 Wreden Ranch Records Collection

MS0060 Brumley-Noyes Radio Script

MS0182 Van Matre Personal Narrative of Life on the Carrizo Plain

MS0193 Robert C. Pavlik Papers on Carrizo Plain National Monument Advisory Committee, unprocessed



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**Sources:**

Deutsche, Craig. Another Place and Time. San Bernardino: Craig Deutsche, 2013.

Eichel, Marijean H. The Carrizo Plain: A Geographic Study of Settlement, Land Use, and Change. Dissertation, San Jose State College. 1971.

Whitley, David S., Ph.D. and Erika Martin Seibert, Ph.D. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Historic Landmark Nomination. 2007 and 2014.

**Access:**

Collection is open to researchers by appointment only. For more information on visiting, access policies, and reproduction requests, please visit our [Reference Services](http://lib.calpoly.edu/search-and-find/collections-and-archives/reference-services/) page online at <http://lib.calpoly.edu/search-and-find/collections-and-archives/reference-services/>.

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