

KHS Welcomes Jacques & Doris

As Exchange Students

My experiences in Kermit Texas!

At first I was under the impression that Kermit and my home town, Randburg, were of the same size, boy was I in for a surprise! I believe that living in a small town definitely has its advantages. You get to know the people better and they also get to know you well. You are better able to interact with the people once you see them on a day-to-day basis. The people have been really easy to get along with-this is because the people of West Texas are some of the best in the world. I was really impressed with the way I was immediately accepted into all of my host families. And into the community as a whole.

Going to school in Kermit was also different in the way things were done. What really impressed me the most was how well everyone got along with everyone else. I was able to learn about many things on a wide variety of subjects. All the teachers I came in contact with were really neat. They were not only interested in educating the students, but they were also interested in them personally, which I think is important. Everyone really cares about each other and this helps to build a strong school and a strong student body.

I have been all over Texas, as well as a good part of the Mid-West United States. Some of the places I got to visit were incredibly beautiful and also very interesting. This country has a fantastic history behind it - Be proud of it! Although there is not much to look at out here, it is still very beautiful in its own way. I will take back many pictures of this beautiful country to share with the people back home in South Africa. Not only will I take back many pictures, but many fond memories as well. I have been very impressed with the way society has been structured and I will take back these ideas with me and perhaps implement some of them. I have learned many things while being over here, the most important of which has been to be a better person, and this was by example. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed my year-over here. Thanks West Texans!!!



Foreign exchange students, Jacques Kuypers and Doris Kapfhammer, stop in the halls of KHS for a picture.

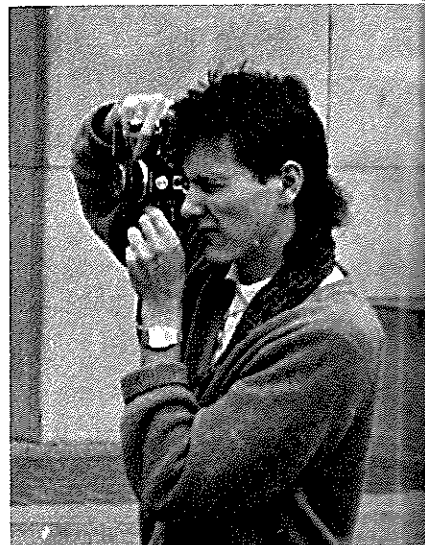


Foreign exchange student Doris Kapfhammer takes time out to pose for a picture by the KHS trophy case.

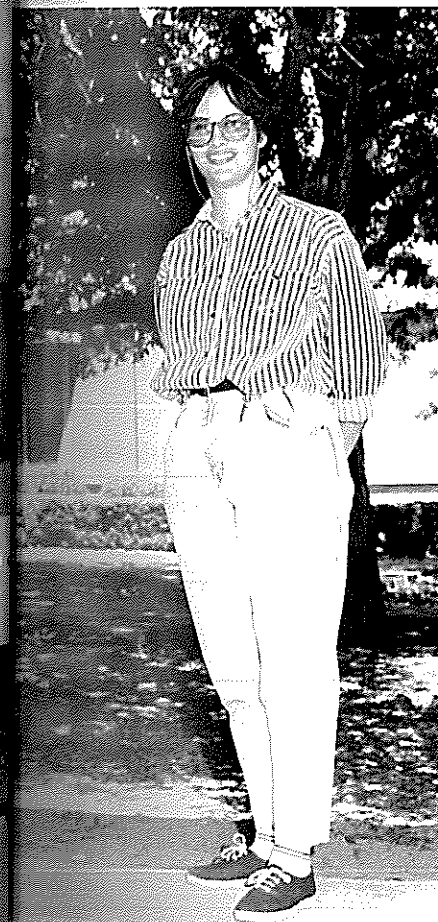


One of the trademarks for our "South African" was his green coat and its medals.

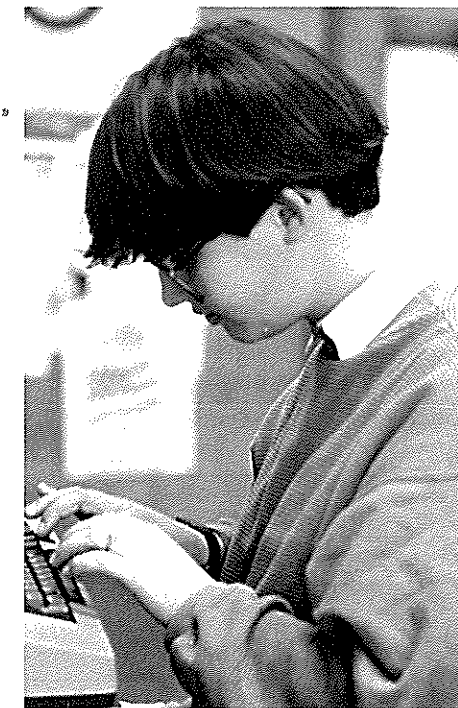
Presenting Jacques with his KHS diploma is KISD Superintendent Charlie Helmer.



Jacques became a camera-bug and several of his photos will be found in this yearbook.



Doris Kapfhammer gets a breath of fresh air and a little shade under a tree outside of KHS.



Typing was one of the many things you could see Doris Kapfhammer doing during the 1989-90 school year at KHS.

I can hardly believe that my stay here is almost over. Nine months ago I arrived in Kermit and didn't know anything about the "American way of life". Now I don't even know what I should take pictures of to take home to my parents, because everything is so familiar for me now and nothing seems unusual anymore.

Whenever I heard that I was going to Kermit, Texas, I didn't really know what to expect. I thought it could be pretty boring somewhere out in the desert in the middle of nowhere; especially for me, being used to living in a city with 1.3 million people.

But I always had my "American Dream". I always wanted to see a street that goes straight and finally ends on the horizon. West Texas was the perfect place to see that and even more: the most beautiful sunsets. In Munich, you can't watch a sunset. There is always a house, a tree or a mountain in the way.

Kermit has got to be the perfect place for me. People accepted me just as their own. They were all very nice to me, even when they sometimes had to be very patient with me whenever I didn't understand the Texas slang!

I also got the best Host family in the world, who I can't thank enough for all they have done for me. With them I went to a lot of places. We went to Fredericksburg, Alamo, Ruidoso, San Angelo, Lubbock, Fort Davis, and to the Rattlesnake Roundup in Sweetwater. We are also planning on going to see Carlsbad Caverns, El Paso or San Antonio.

My time here at Kermit High School was very special too. What I enjoyed the most was Sports. Back home, school sports are not that important. At the beginning of my school year in Kermit, I played JV Volleyball. I was not good at all, but I really liked it. After volleyball, I was a basketball manager and finally I played Varsity tennis. That's what I liked most. All those sports also gave me the opportunity to see more of West Texas.

All in all I had the best time here. Kermit became my second home. I will come back to visit, whenever I have the opportunity (and the money!).

Thank you very much to all the people who made me feel at home in Kermit, Texas!

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