THE SECONDARY SCHOOL AND LOCAL HISTORY AWARENESS: KRUGERSDORP HIGH SCHOOL AND THE KRUGERSDORP CENTENARY

TONY VORSTER Krugersdorp High School

"History is too vast a subject to be confined to the classroom and too far-ranging to be restricted by a time-table. It contains limitless opportunities for moving out into the world. History is the sum of humanity and must not be divorced from man and the world by the school bell. Historical characters are more than names; they were men who breathed, who hoped and feared, who were in the world as we are. If we are to understand their times, we must understand the men themselves, and for this we must go to the relics and reminders they have left."

(Incorporated Association of Assistant Masters: The teaching of History p153).

Background to the Project

In order to participate in the centenary of the town and to make our students aware of the tremendous potential of studying local history, it was decided to involve all history students (Sts 6 - 9) in a collective project.

About four months before the centenary (planning in advance is imperative) the history department held a special meeting to work out the proposed programme.

The Project Itself

Each and every history student \pm 600 were expected to undertake a personal or group assignment. (See Document A).

These projects would be used for a display during the centenary week. Students were awarded prizes for the most successful project in each category.

The activities covered a three day period (See Document B) and culminated in a special history evening, involving Civic Leaders, prominent citzens of the town, parents, staff and students (See Document C).

Evaluating the Project

In assessing the entire project, it became very clear that the following emerged:

- It promoted unity amongst members of the history department.
- It offered the students opportunities for individual creativity and social integration (working in groups).
- 3. "It welded the students, staff and parents into a unity.
- It stimulated an awareness of the potential of local history.
- 5. It collected, for the history department, a wide variety of

- stimulus material and teaching aids.
- It projected the image of the School in a very successful history awarement and public relations exercise.
- It provided opportunities for local history tours/ excursions (Document D, E).

The KHS project was received with great appreciation by the public of Krugersdorp.

KHS project a winner

---- by -----Lara Warr

The Newsletter of the Krugersdorp Municipality also paid tribute to Krugersdorp High School in its May 1987 edition.

KRUGERSDORP HIGH

Thank you Krugersdorp High School for presenting such an interesting programme over four days in pertaining to Krugersdorp's history.

The Council sincerely appreciates the dedicated way in which Mr Langley, personnel and pupils have again brought to everyone's notice the cultural and historic importance of Krugersdorp and its people over one hundred years.

This was Krugersdorp High School's centenary project and included inter alia a tour through Krugersdorp during which places of historical interest were visited.

In a next issue of the newsletter some of the poems expecially written by pupils to commemorate our centenary, will be published.

KRUGERSDORP High School recently paid tribute to Krugersdorp's 100th birthday, with over 600 history student participating in organising an exhibition.

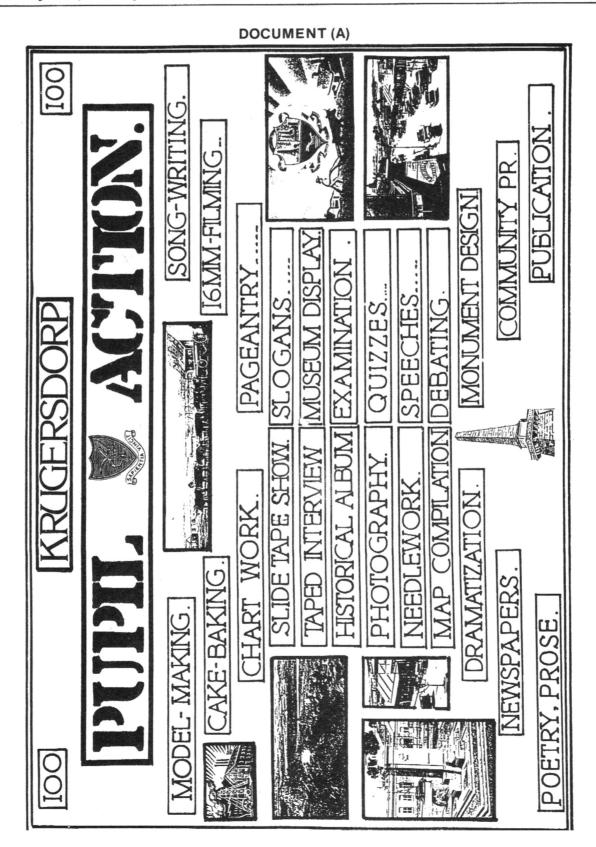
The exhibition featured many interesting displays, including models, charts, needlework, cakes, albums, publications, brochures, photography, museum artefacts, clothing, implements and books.

At the opening of the exhibition, which was held in the school many well-known and respected citizens of Krugersdorp were present.

Several students recited songs, poetry, and prose, all of which incused on Krugersdorp and Krugersdorp High School. Mr

J.W. Hall and Mr L.W. Vorster, history teachers at the school, presented a slide show which focused on the opening of Krugersdorp High School up until the present day.

Mr Robert Palk, chairman of the Krugersdorp Council for the Care of the Aged, gave an interesting talk on Krugersdorp's past, relating what the town was like when he arrived here in 1929



Programme of the Activities of the Week

Monday 27th April

Morning Assembly	:	07h30 - 08h00	Thematic Message	Mr L.W.Vorster
First break	:	10h05 - 10h25	History of Krugersdorp	Mr L.W. Vorster
Second break	:	12h30 - 12h50	Speech Presentation	Mr J.W. Hall
Afternoon Tour	:	19h00 - 17h30	Jameson Raid	Mr J.W. Hall Mrs C. Budler

Tuesday 28th April

First break		10h05 - 10h25	Poetry, Prose, Slogans	Mrs C. Budler
Second break	- Files	12h25 - 12h50	Krugersdorp Quiz	Mr J.W. Hall
Afternoon Tour	:	14h00 - 17h00	Local History Tour	Mr L.W. Vorster Mr M. Tyner

Wednesday 29th April

First break	:	09h40 - 09h55	Museum Visit Cake Judging	Mr M. Tyner Mrs C. Budler
Second break	:	12h00 - 12h25	Songs, Music	Mrs C. Budler
Afternoon Session	:	14h00 - 15h00	Work Session	All Staff
Gala Evening	:	19h00 - 22h00	Programme	All Staff

CONTINUATION OF THE FESTIVITIES

- * Standard Eight History Course Meeting at the Paardekraal Monument Lesson-on-site
- * Encouraging pupils and staff to participate in civic functions
- * Display to be housed in the old "Magistrate's Court" for the benefit of the Publicity Bureau.
- * Use of mementoes, souvenirs as prizes for school activities.
- * Liason with the Press: Krugersdorp News, Star.



PROGRAMME FOR WEDNESDAY THE 29TH

School Foyer, Minor Hall, S.F. van der Merwe Hall

1. VIEWING OF EXHIBITS (19h00 - 19h30)

2. Hall Programme (19h30 - 21h30)

School Choir : Mrs C. Grobbelaar

* Welcome : Mr L.W. Vorster

* Songs, Poetry, Prose : Pupils

Focus on Krugersdorp High School: Mr Hall, Mr Vorster

Snippets on Krugersdorp : Pupils

Presentation of Awards
 Mr J.W. Hall

* Lucky Ticket Draw : Mr M. Tyner

* Introduction to Address : Mr T. Langley

* Address : Mr R. Palk

Councillor G. Visser

* Focus on Krugersdorp : Mr J.W. Hall, Mr L.W. Vorster

* School Choir : Mrs C. Grobbelaar

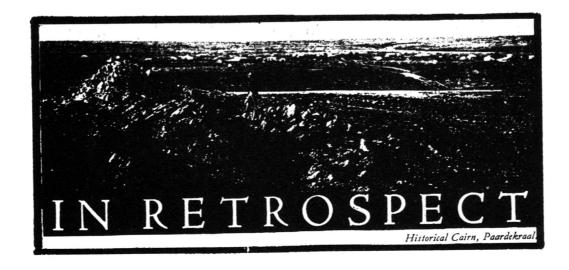
* School Song : Mrs C. Grobbelaar

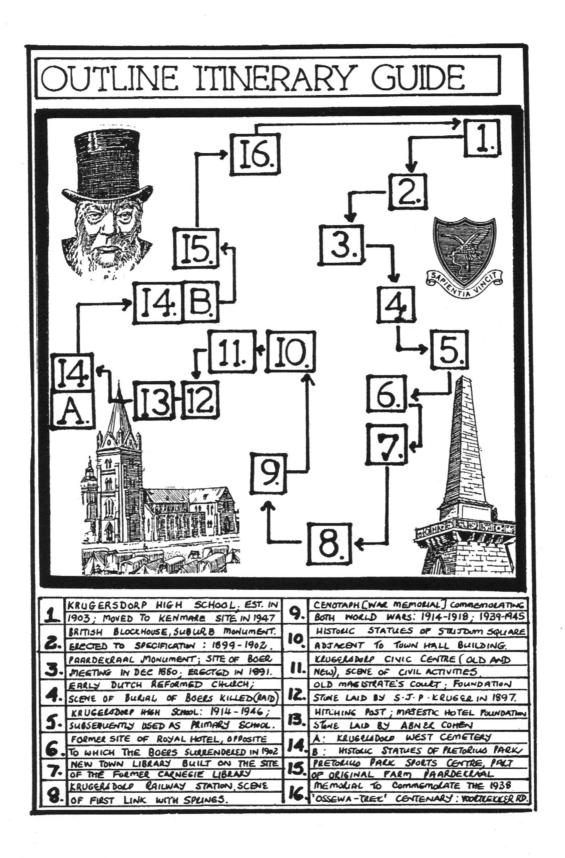
* Closure : Mrs C. Budler

3. Refreshments - (21h30 - 22h00)

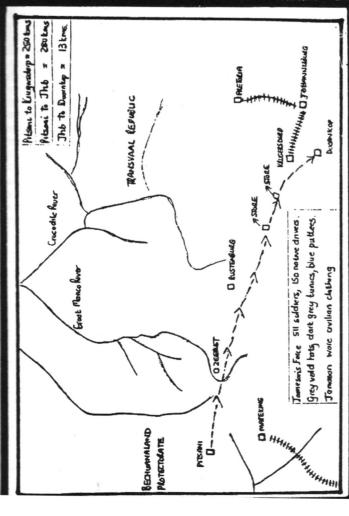
4. Exhibition

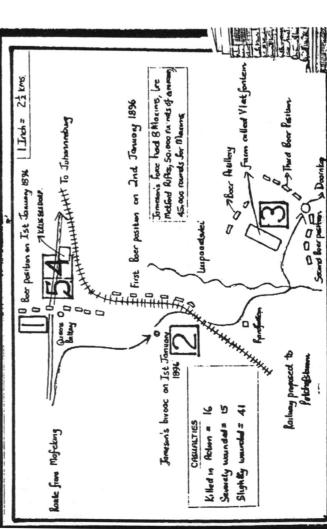
Models, charts, needlework, cakes, albums, publications, brochures, photography, Museum Display, clothing, implements, items of interest, books.





RAID JAMESON





GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE JAMEBON HALD

"Dr Leander Starr Jameson's ill-fated raid on the Transvaal at the end of December 1895, changed the history of South Africa. It generated passions and politics which eventally plunged the country into a tragic war.

And so for us, to recapture the atmosphere of the 1st and January 1896, following the footprints of the raiders.

We leave Krugersicrp High School at 14h00 and travel west, through Krugersdorp to Queen's Battery. We walk to the protection wall of the Boers and survey the route of Dr Jim and the Raiders, in their attempt to ride through Krugersdorp to Johannesburg. The Boer Commandos in position at the Queen's Gold Mining Company battery, ready to engage Dr Jameson's force. The Vierkleur is flying, and the Boers have their guns trained on the main road from Krugersdorp, It was a trup into which Jameson and his raiders rode; and walk to the spot where the first engagement took place. The Boers, which may be seen as the broad white line beyond the spruit. Study the photograph in the Barnett Collection. were 400 strong.

SITE 2

early mining cottages and disused shafts, slimes dam and headgearn; stop at Jameson's bivous (1st January 1896) and survey the scene of spasmodic skirmishes and the graves of raiders killed in action. Resume Journey along the 'back' road to Randfontein, passing

SITE 3

Follow the Randfontein-Roodepoort road, proceed southwards past the Impala drive-in to the site of the Raiders' capture at Doonkop. Note the monument on the side of the road. Consult the Barnett Collection. Note the scene of Jameson's Last stand before he Note the terrain, surrendered to the Boers on Vlakfontein farm. Note the terra prospecting trench, battlefield, and the original Vlakfontein farmhouse (nothing of which survives today).

Note the monument erected by the Historical Monuments Commission.

SITE 4

Resume journey to the old Court House, Krugersdorp, where Jameson and his men were temporarily housed, given medical attention. food and clothing, before being despatched to Pretoria under strong escourt of Boers. Note the foundation stone.

Note the <u>Dutch Reformed Church</u> in Krugersdorp, which was the venue of the funeral of Burgher MacDonald, killed in the Doornkop Note the Dutch Reformed engagement.

SITE 5

Burghers killed, are burled. Note the 900 odd concentration camp graves, the product of the Jameson-Raid and Anglo-Boer war. Return to K.H.S. at 17400 (5 o'clock), hoping that you have Proceed west to the old cemetery in Krugersdorp, where the 6 Return to K.H.S. at 17400 (5 o'clock), hoping that you have experienced the 'flesh and blood' of history.

"The Jameson Raid was the real declaration of war in the great Anglo-Boer Conflict" Jan Smuts, 1906.

A pupil's view - Tamsin Herbert (Std 9)



"History is too vast a subject to be confined to the classroom and too far ranging to be restricted by a timetable."

The accuracy of this quotation was put to the test by the History Department of Krugersdorp High School, who issued an unusual selection of history assignments which required practical rather than book knowledge. All topics were related to the history of Krugersdorp and assignments had to be submitted to co-incide with the centenary celebrations of this city. The aim of these projects was to familiarize pupils with the landmarks and monuments of Krugersdorp and to emphasize the importance of "reminders of the past".

On Wednesday, April 29, 1987 a "Gala History Evening" was held at the school, where all assignments were displayed and

the history of Krugersdorp High School was related to an interested audience by means of two slide-tape shows. Several pupils related anecdotes on the history of Krugersdorp.

Among the most striking projects were models of historical buildings and designs for monuments. Memorials of the future appear to be heading for a radical change. Outstanding projects included charts, needlework and photographs.

A popular section of the exhibition was the cakes. Surprising talent in the culinary arts was displayed in a assortment of "cake monuments". Fortunately most cakes remained intact for the evening though mouths watered and fingers itched.

Photographs of previous Krugersdorp High scholars and old school uniforms were a source of much amusement and old report cards and other documents were perused with interest.

The evening was a great success and made us aware that our actions of today will influence the history of tomorrow, i.e. that "Few will have the greatness to bend history itself but each of us can work to change a small portion of events and in the total of these acts will be written the history of this generation".