



Big Bend High School dedicated

With the first day of classes less than two weeks away, Big Bend High School was official dedicated on Saturday, Aug. 2. A crowd of several hundred turned out for the ceremonies and were greeted by Terlingua Common School District Superintendent Kathy Killingsworth, school board members, VIPs and the teachers, staff and students of Big Bend High School.

have anywhere to hang out, and a lot of their off time was spent in the parking lot. Prior to 1996, Lajitas/Terlingua high schoolers had to commute to Alpine, 80 miles north, a 160 mile round trip from Terlingua and a 194 round trip from Lajitas. It was the longest commute in the world. "The new school building gives them a place to be", said Kathy.

Burgess of Terlingua, Virginia Carrico of Lajitas and Ron Sanders of Big Bend National Park give the board a broad base of representation in the area. Private donations from over 200 individuals, organizations and trusts eventually accounted for almost two-thirds of the over half a million dollars necessary to construct the new building. "This was a very non-tradi-



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The new high school building fulfills the hopes and dreams of a lot of people, especially the 45 students who will be attending school there for the first time. It's not that often you see kids hanging around school before it starts, but Lajitas/Terlingua area kids are excited about the new facility and eager to try it out.

"It'll be great to have the facilities to run our program", said School Superintendent Kathy Killingsworth. "This will give the kids a greater sense of pride and ownership in their school."

Last year, the '96-'97 school year, the first year there has been a high school in south county, classes were held in temporary buildings on the Terlingua School campus. Between classes the kids didn't

Since the tax base in the area is too low to float a bond issue, some creative fund-raising efforts were needed to raise money for the new building. In February of 1995, the "Stop the



Kathy Killingsworth

longest ride" campaign was launched by the Big Bend Educational Corporation, chaired by the Rev. Judith

tional way of funding", said Kathy, "but it fits for the Lajitas/Terlingua area."

"I feel like this is truly a community school", Kathy added. "So many people helped out."

Kathy will be assisted this year by Laura Kennedy, Business Manager; Raquel Baeza, Secretary; Andea Odom, Counselor. Faculty members are Vaughn Camacho, English and head teacher, high school campus; Garry Henderson, Math; Betina Kearns, Art and Social Studies; Wendy Flippo, Science; Debbie Williford, Home Economics. Part time faculty members will be Ted Arbogast, Computer Science; Steve Brennecke, Geology; Mary Diesel, Business Computers.

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