All Eyes On: James and Karin Harmon

BY CASSANDRA McCARTY
Features Editor

James Harmon, professor of art history, took a journey 43 years ago that included a Volkswagen bus, a waterfall, toots and wine. After traveling around Germany while serving in the United States Seventh Army Band, James Harmon met Karin Hahn and after a brief courtship, they married.

Professor, wife share story of their first date, which took place by a road trip in a Volkswagen bus from Stuttgart to Urach to see a waterfall.

“On the way down there [to Urach] it clouded up, and there was thunder and lightning,” Karin Harmon said. “My husband stuttered around in German. It would have been much easier for me in English because I had spent a year in Great Britain, so I knew English. My husband insisted on speaking German, which was not easy. But through his insistence I have learned the language and the culture.”

On the trip, Karin said, “I decided I wanted to do that, and Karin was extremely helpful in that effort because she made it possible for me to bump up my language skills to the place where I knew it needed to be.”

Karin said that after they completed James’ education, he had always planned to stay in Germany after his time serving in the United Army Band to study the language and the culture.

“Although Karin and James have been married, there are times when they get on one another’s nerves, and marriage is not like the fairy tale painted for young children. Karin said that despite the years she and James have been married, they have grown together. With age and with time one learns to understand each other so much better.”

Karin Harmon said that what it did to their appearances. Karin said she and James did not fiddle around in their courtship, marrying quickly in a civil ceremony May 5, 1967. However, when his parents arrived from Indiana in the beginning of August, they had a church wedding.

“With age and with time one learns to understand each other so much better,” Karin said. “Although marriage is not like the fairy tale painted for young children. There are times when they get on one another’s nerves, and marriage is not like the fairy tale painted for young children. However, she said that as they grow in age, they have grown together.

Karin said that after James he insisted on speaking German. It was worthwhile to learn the language and the culture.

“Karin Harmon said. “And one would not want to be without [the] other.”

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