

July 9, 2022

Grand Canyon History Tidbit by Kim Besom

The Fourth of July

In past **Fourth of July** tidbits, from oral interviews, we heard about celebrating the holiday at Grand Canyon with rodeos in the 1930's, and going out to Tusayan for Fourth of July fireworks and a community picnic in the 1940's. **Dan Davis**, who lived at Grand Canyon as a kid in the 1950's and was interviewed in 1999, had a different memory of Fourth of July at Grand Canyon.

Interviewer: You once told me about where you'd go for **Fourth of July** fireworks.

Davis: The local residents- I remember driving out to Desert View on Fourth of July NIGHT after dark, and rangers would--I don't know if they were rangers, could have been Fred Harvey employees and rangers. Anyway, they would- I don't know where they got the fireworks, but they would hike down- I always used to say to the river, but I don't think they went all the way to the river, I'm not sure. But anyway, they would hike down. In fact, my dad would go down with a huge pack full of fireworks.

Interviewer: On the Tanner Trail?

Davis: On the Tanner Trail. I do recall pretty close to Unkar somehow, they would shoot fireworks off after dark, which were visible at Desert View.

Interviewer: Skyrockets?

Davis: Yeah, skyrockets and Roman candles. I do recall as a kid it was kind of neat. It was probably more something to do, but it was a long ways down there, and it wasn't as spectacular as you might think. You know, you could certainly see them, because it was dark, but it wasn't a spectacular show. It was just sort of a Fourth of July tradition.



02433: FLAG RAISING CEREMONY AT GRAND CANYON SCHOOL, 1953.