

## Oral Histories

Number: OH 4

Date: 80's

Condition:  
Good

Holdings:  
WPL

Initials: DP

Interviewee: Robert (Bucky) Schuler & Gary Bennett

Interviewer: Chuck Upton & John Stevens

Abstract:

Side A

00- 34 Musical introduction for Voices and Visions program on KOTO radio.

34-50 Introduction of guests, Gary Bennett and Bucky Schuler by John Stevens. John speaks of the importance of the celebration of July 4th in Telluride.

50-110 Gary speaks of the city's July 4<sup>th</sup> celebrations. Names the events that were held on the Fourth every year. Bucky's thoughts and recollections on jet fly over in '63 or '64. Also speaks of Colorado National Guard participating with large gun and demonstrations in the Town Park. John adds his thoughts about the National Guard demonstration.

110-131 Gary gives history of Fire Department and dates of the early celebrations. The earliest celebration was held in 1884 in Columbia by the Hook & Ladder Number 1.

131-250 Gary describes contests between towns in the mining events. Bucky describes kids events. Bucky tells about the 6:30 AM dynamite blast to start the day. Chuck Upton reads list of events from 1971 local paper. Bucky describes the greased pole event. Description of the water fights with fire departments from other towns. A skydiver landed in tailings pond one year and had to be rescued by the firemen. Speaks of the melodrama at the Sheridan opera House and fireworks and dance afterwards. Bucky mentions first big name dance band in 1963. Albuquerque Drum and Bugle Corp were here also that year. Barbecue was free in the early days.

250-314 Gary speaks of last large celebration in 1975 and talks about the reasons it was discontinued. The department started them again in 1978 on a very small scale. Memories of different celebrations, then and now. John speaks of why the celebrations were discontinued.

314-337 Memories of the parade. Describes the Pekkarines float as the Statue of Liberty. John speaks of the patriotism of the Pekkarines who were originally from Finland.

337-360 Gary describes procedure of fireworks and protective measures taken to prevent fires from stray sparks.

360-398 Discusses the financial arrangements supporting the event. Money comes from donations.

398-454 Speaks of the organization involved having a celebration. Describes how the volunteers all work together. Chuck talks of the impressive fireworks. John speaks of the firemen's obligations and commitments to the community.

454-530 Final thought about the past celebrations. Bucky tells story of Roy Elliott and Slim Parson's gambling games. Gary mentions that it is such a good reunion for old timers. Gary invites everyone to this year's celebration.

530-542 Final sign off. Music.

Description: sound cassettes (30 minutes)

Subjects:

Introduction

Memories of early celebrations

Descriptions of events

History of celebrations

Parades and fireworks

Firemen organization