15,000 Cheer Fireworks At University Stadium

Fifteen thousand people, mostly children, cheered the “rockets’ red glare” and “bombs bursting in air” at Tucson’s gala 38th annual Fireworks Show in the University of Arizona Stadium.

They also stood at attention while Co. A, 5th Memorial Cavalry Regiment, commanded by Capt. Richard L. Walthers, lowered the nation’s flag and tenor Charles Hartung sang “The Star Spangled Banner,” accompanied by the Amphitheater Summer Concert Band.

The color guard of four was outfitted in what master of ceremonies Paul Mayer described as “authentic 1890 uniforms,” including suspenders on the outside of the shirts.

Earlier in the day, a number of marching and motorcade units participated in the first annual Pima Jaycee parade. Included were 25 peace marchers.

Most of the crowd that filled all but a few seats of the entire west stands of the stadium last night arrived early and sat through a two-hour preliminary show before the hour-long main event began with sizzling, crackling and loud booms.

The aerial bombs with their red, white, blue and orange showers of sparks almost overhead drew repeated applause and cheers.

Out of 3,700 little boy and girl letter-writers on the subject that the Fourth of July as the greatest patriotic holiday, the winner was 11-year-old Eileen Meinhart of Helen Keeling School. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Meinhart of 2731 N. Estrella Ave.

The winner received a $50 savings bond.

Second place went to 10-year-old Roberta Jean Craig of Holloway School, daughter of Mrs. Lois M. Craig, 3721 N. Tyndall Ave. Her prize was a $25 bond.

The bonds were given by Robert Paulin.

The Tucson Junior Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of the fireworks display with the City Parks and Recreation Department, honored a deceased member, Dedrich Simpson Barber, by dedicating the 1967 show to his memory. A plaque was presented to Mrs. Barber by general chairman Manny Celi.

Entertainers included the Tucson Boys Band, directed by Henry E. Devyust; “Los Changuitos Feos,” directed by the Rev. Charles H. Rourke; the Amphib band, directed by Larry Wilson and Shirlee Bertolini and three champion baton students.

A parade of antique automobiles and model airplane flying exhibitions were other features.

The Pima Jaycee parade started at El Con Shopping Center, turned west on Fifth Street, south on Country Club and wound up at the Randolph Park bandshell.

Theme of the parade was “support our American servicemen through pride in our American Heritage.”

Peace marchers were led by Mrs. James E. McDonald, 3461 E. Third St.

Ranging from around 15 to 60 years old, they carried red, white and blue signs reading “Back our Boys by Bringing them Back.” “Soldiers for Peace — not War,” “Support our Boys — all the way Home,” and “Must we kill our Boys to save our Face?”

The U.S. Fifth Cavalrymen’s group was named the outstanding entry, with the multiple entries of the Arizona Antique Car Club second, and the Old-Timers Band, third.