

KIOWA NAMING CUSTOMS AND EXAMPLES OF NAMING

(Is that the way they do--give all boys their name right after they're born?)
 Soon after they're born. Every child receive his name after his relative right after he is born. That's the way I got mine.

(Is there any kind of ceremony that goes along with it when they give you a name?)

Well, not every time. Not necessarily. Once in a while. What they call the first rank--you'll read the Rank and File (Rank and Warfare among the Plains Indians)--in that story it says there were classified Indians as *gode*, *gopai*, *da* *po*, and *k* *da* *n* (these are the names or social classes or ranks which Bernard distinguished in this monograph). In other words, they classified the rank and standing of the society. First class, second and third--that's the way they are. But if those *gode* or first class society want to make a big hit or society ceremony, they give away presents at a ceremony. But not every time. It's not always necessary. But in appreciation of the honor to a young couple that's respectable, they elected to show off their appreciation by giving away presents. That's called a ceremony. They call a meeting and have a dinner and then give presents to friends--ponies and things like that--blankets. That's the honor for calling the name. And some of the ceremony and practice is still going on today. A boy come from Viet Nam or somewhere over here and they change this boy name after some noted brave chief, and somebody act in the ceremony and bestow the name in public and the parents, they serve the dinner or lunch and then they give presents. You go to these ceremonial dances among the tribes and you'll see some of that going on.

(Do they ever tell the story about the name?)

Well, there they tell about his brave deeds, who he is and what's honor--and from the time they name him after some notable chief and most of the people know the history of his life--who he is--like George Washington,