

T-146

JAMES SILVERHORN, KIOWA

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

TRANSCRIBED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

DATE OF INTERVIEW: 09-28-67

GENERAL SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON SOME KIOWA SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, AND
CEMETARIES AND OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST.

PARTICULAR SUBJECTS DISCUSSED:

RAINY MOUNTAIN CHURCH AND CEMETARY
FAMILY NAMES ON GRAVE MARKERS IN RAINY MOUNTAIN CEMETARY
COMMENTS ON PEOPLE BURIED IN RAINY MOUNTAIN CEMETARY
INDIAN SCOUTS IN L TROOP
OLD TIME BURIAL AND PRIVATE CEMETARIES
MISSIONARIES AND INDIAN RELIGION
RAINY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL AND BOAKE'S STORE
BURNING CEDAR AND GETTING CEDAR ON LONGHORN MOUNTAIN
ZODALTONE, A SULFUR SPRING, AND SUGAR CREEK
GOTEBE
SUGAR CREEK CHURCH
SCISSORTAILS
SADDLE MOUNTAIN AREA--CHURCH, STORE, CEMETARY
ROLE OF MOKEEN AND OTHER KIOWA CAPTIVES IN SUN DANCE AND
DANGEROUS SITUATIONS

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

James Silverhorn was born in 1902 in the vicinity of Mount Scott in the Wichita Mountains. His father, Silverhorn, was noted as an artist and skilled craftsman, and worked for James Mooney, preparing models of the Kiowa Sun Dance for the Smithsonian Institution, copying calendars, etc. James and his brothers, Max and George, are all skilled craft workers today. James specializes in featherwork and threadwork, and George is famous for his work in German silver. (Note: George died in the fall of 1969.) James has been active in Native American Church work since about 1932 and conducts many meetings. His wife has been dead for several years, and he has a number of children and grandchildren. He is a custodian of four of the Kiowa medicine bundles or grandmothers, and at the time of this interview was keeping them in a storm cellar near his house, a few miles east of Fort Cobb.

NOTE: This tape and T-147 were made during a field trip to various points of interest in the former reservation area. The tapes are not well made and are difficult to understand in some places. Nevertheless there are some useful pieces of information here, and in order to bring it all together coherently, I transcribed the tapes and then organized the material in field note form. Much of the following are verbatim notes, but the comments are rearranged so that material pertaining to one subject is brought together, rather than scattered throughout the conversation. Most of the comments made while walking around through the cemeteries are difficult to understand and are omitted here. Some of the recording was done in the car en route from one place to another, and, while intelligible, has a lot of wind noise in the background. At the time of this interview James lived west of the Apache Y, close to the Washita River, near Steven Mopope's place. We went from his house to the Rainy Mountain Baptist Church