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JAMES SILVERHORN, KIOWA

TRANSCRIBED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

INTERVIEW DATE: 10-03-67

GENERAL SUBJECT: PEYOTE RELIGION AND OTHER RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

STORY ABOUT WOMAN AND BOY IN PEYOTE FIELDS
SICKNESS CAUSED BY TOUCH OF A SPIRIT
INDIAN DOCTORS AND DOCTORING
GETTING SICK IN PEYOTE MEETINGS
MANNER OF PREPARING AND EATING PEYOTE
MEDICINAL VALUE OF PEYOTE
DOCTORING IN PEYOTE MEETINGS
DOCTORING CHILDREN AND HOW JAMES' DAUGHTER WAS TREATED FOR PNEUMONIA
PAYMENT TO INDIAN DOCTOR AND HOLDING PEYOTE MEETING FOR HIM
EFFECTS OF PEYOTE DURING A MEETING
NAMES FOR PEYOTE
INSPIRATION FOR BEADWORK DESIGNS FROM PEYOTE
AUDITORY EFFECTS OF PEYOTE
SOME BAD REACTIONS TO PEYOTE AND EATING TOO MUCH PEYOTE
AMOUNTS OF PEYOTE EATEN
NATURE AND CONTENT OF PRAYERS OFFERED IN PEYOTE MEETINGS
OLD TIME KIOWA RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND NAMES FOR GOD
DREAMS
JAMES' FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH PEYOTE AND FINDING HIS CHIEF PEYOTE
THROUGH A DREAM
MORE ON EFFECTS OF PEYOTE
SYMBOLISM OF THE CRESCENT-SHAPED ALTAR (MOON)
NATURE OF PRAYERS OFFERED
HELPING NEW PARTICIPANTS IN PEYOTE MEETINGS
USE OF SAGE AND WHY IT IS USED
KIOWA FEELING TOWARD THE EARTH
KIOWA ESCHATOLOGY
KIOWA TERMS FOR SPIRIT WORLD, SPIRIT, AND SOUL
DISPOSITION OF THE DEAD IN THE OLD DAYS AND STORY OF A MAN WHO
MARRIED A SPIRIT WOMAN
BELIEFS ABOUT OWLS AND DEATH

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 craftworkers today. James specializes in featherwork and threadwork, and George is famous for his work in German silver (George died in the fall of 1969). James has been active in Native American Church work since about 1932 and conducts many meetings. 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 stone cellar near his house, a few miles east of Fort Cobb.