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JAMES SILVERHORN, KIOWA

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

INTERVIEW DATE: JUNE 9, 1967

TRANSCRIBED BY: PAM CHIBITTY

JULIA A. JORDAN

GENERAL SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

HISTORY OF PEYOTE AMONG THE KIOWAS

HOW PEYOTE WAS OBTAINED

TROUBLE WITH MINISTERS

JAMES MOONEY & NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH (NAC)

HOW JAMES GOT STARTED IN PEYOTE RELIGION

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 brother, 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.