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INFORMANT: JAMES SILVERHORN, KIOWA

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

INTERVIEW DATE: JUNE 6, 1969

TRANSCRIBED BY: LINDA BUTLER

TRANSCRIPTION CHECKED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

GENERAL SUBJECT: LIFE HISTORY MATERIALS AND INFORMATION ON OLD MAN SILVERHORN,  
KIOWA ARTS AND CRAFTS, CALENDARS, GHOST DANCE, AND MEDICINE BUNDLES

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

JAMES' FATHER, OLD MAN SILVERHORN

JAMES MOONEY WORKING AMONG THE KIOWAS

MORE ON SILVERHORN: HIS SKILL AS A CRAFTSMAN

SILVERHORN WORKING FOR MOONEY

NAMING PRACTICES

DECORATED TIPI

SNAPPING TURTLE: A KIOWA DOCTOR WITH A DECORATED TIPI

DOCTORING: PAYMENT FOR

KIOWA SILVER WORK

PAYMENT FOR CRAFT ARTICLES

HOW SILVERHORN BROTHERS LEARNED THEIR CRAFTS

WATER BIRD AS DESIGN MOTIF AND IN PEYOTE RELIGION

USE OF EAGLE FEATHERS

TURKEY AND OWL FEATHERS

SCISSORTAIL FEATHERS

DOCTORING WITH YELLOWHAMMER FEATHERS

DOCTORING: SUCKING THE SICKNESS OUT

JAMES' LEARNING FEATHERWORK

SOME EARLY PEYOTISTS

KIOWA CALENDARS

KIOWA GHOST DANCE

KIOWA CONCEPT OF SPIRIT OR GHOST

MORE ON GHOST DANCE

WHITE FOX, KIOWA PRIEST OR CEREMONIAL LEADER

KIOWA MEDICINE BUNDLES: THE "GRANDMOTHERS"

DZALDETALI BUNDLES (THE TWIN BOYS)

PURIFICATION OF MEDICINE BUNDLES IN RECENT TIMES: PRESENT DAY ATTITUDES  
AND PRACTICES

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 storm cellar near his house, a few miles east of Fort Cobb.