

or something on it.

(Do any of the designs that are painted on there have any religious meaning?)

Yeah. Oh, at Indian City you've seen some of them tipis up there with them big turtles on it

Yeah.

SNAPPING TURTLE: KIOWA DOCTOR WITH DECORATED TIPI

That's them Snapping Turtle's tipi. Tonakat, they call him. Big medicine man.

(Oh, is that right?)

Yeah, that's his tipi.

(Do you know what the turtle means on it?)

Well, that's the name of that man. He's got that medicine. Snapping turtle medicine. You know what snapping turtles are. When they bite you, they don't turn loose. They say, when it thunder, that's the time they turn you loose.

(Oh, is that right?)

Snapping turtles.

(By snapping turtle medicine you mean for decorating with?)

Yeah he's got that. That old man. Yeah, he had that. He goes in the water and stays under there, I don't know how long and come out.

(Is he still living?)

No, he's dead. And this--well that's the same guy. We had a man named White Coco (?) around here. He was sick when he was about big as Jimmy here, I guess (about 4 years old). Took him down the river here somewhere. He went in the morning about 10 or 11 o'clock. Stayed in there until about 3 o'clock and come out of the water, then boys start screaming. He come out and took the baby up on the bank, there, and gave it to the parents. And said, "Here, take him. He's all right now." That's how much power we had back there, the Kiowas. I don't know, I don't believe any white man can do that--go in the water and stay there. It's not no tricks. It's just somebody just give them