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BERT GEIKOUMAH, KIOWA

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

TRANSCRIBED BY: LENDA BUTLER

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DATE OF INTERVIEW: 07-28-67

GENERAL SUBJECT: KIOWA STORIES AND MEN'S SOCIETIES

PARTICULAR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

TRUE STORY OF HOW TWO KIOWA MEN ESCAPED FROM BIG NUMBER OF  
NAVAJOES

ADOPTED BROTHERS AS CLOSE AS REAL BROTHERS

STORY ABOUT GIRL WHO TURNED INTO A BEAR AND HOW HER BROTHER  
AND SISTERS BECAME STARS

STORY TOLD TO SCARE CHILDREN AND MAKE THEM BEHAVE  
KIOWA HORSE TASSEL SOCIETY

THE OHOMO ORGANIZATION GIVEN KIOWAS BY THE CHEYENNES  
MORE ON THE HORSE TASSEL COMPANY

THE KIOWA BLACKLEGGINGS OR BLACKFOOT SOCIETY

KIOWA GOURD DANCE

REMINISCENCES OF CAMP LIFE

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Bert Geikoumah was born in 1881. He attended the Kiowa School in Anadarko and finished the sixth grade. He may have attended school also at Haskell or Carlisle for he is regarded as having been one of the best educated Kiowas as a young man. He remembers the last Kiowa Sun Dance. As a young man he was a member of the Horse Tassel Society, and when that became defunct he joined the Ohomo organization. At the time of this interview he was totally blind and bedfast, but mentally alert. He spoke English well, but was somewhat hard of hearing. He was born about three miles north of Mount Scott. His father was Guna'oi, and his mother was a daughter of Haitseke, also known as Gaapiatan. Haitseke was a famous war chief and noted peyote leader. He was old at the time of James Mooney's visits in the 1890's. Mooney stayed with Haitseke's family part of the time, and Bert remembers him well.

INTERVIEW SITUATION: This interview took place at Bert's bedside in the home of his granddaughter, Mrs. Trina Hunter. Mrs. Hunter assisted in the interview by talking to her grandfather in Kiowa and English and explaining the question, and generally smoothing out the difficulties of communication.

In this manuscript she is sometimes referred to as "Mrs. Hunter", and sometimes as "Granddaughter."--J. Jordan