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TOM BENTLY, SHAWNEE
INTERVIEWED BY: DAVID JONES
NO TAPE RECORDER USED
INTERVIEW DATE: APRIL, 1968

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

STORY ABOUT THE $100 STINK-BAG
ORIGIN OF THE WHITE MAN, THE INDIAN, AND THE NEGRO
BEING DOCTORED BY A COMANCHE

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Tom Bentley was born in 1899 in Cleveland County, Oklahoma. His father was M. J. Bentley, Indian Agent to the tribes at the Shawnee Agency. His mother was part Shawnee and Yuchi, but he is enrolled as a Shawnee. He is now married to a Caddo woman and lives in Anadarko.

(This material was taken verbatum from informant. No tape recorders were allowed.)

There was this man named Fred Sky, I think that's him. He went all among these Indians...Kickapoo, Shawnee, all of them, buying Indian things....bead work, carving, and all. He just go out to houses and stop at the door and ask them what they want to sell. It didn't matter if it was new or not, he'd buy it if they sell it. He got about everything the Indians owned that way....just buy it up and keep it for himself probably. I don't know. But this one old man told him, "You think you got everything that the Indians got?" He said, "Yeah. I bought it all." The old man, "You ain't got a stink bag. That's something sacred to these Indians. They don't tell no white man about it." That got him interested. He wanted one, you know, because he had all that other stuff. "Can you get me one?" The old man was going traveling among those tribes up in the north and he told him, "I look for one, and if I get it, I'll send it C.O.D." That Fred Sky said that would be good, so the old man took off, and was gone a good time. Fred Sky didn't hear nothing from him. That old man traveled around and enjoyed himself, and one day he remember