

T-272-1)First of Two Interviews)
THOMAS BENTLEY, SHAWNEE
INTERVIEWED BY: DAVID JONES
INTERVIEW DATE: APRIL 17, 1968
TRANSCRIBED BY: DAVID JONES

GENERAL SUBJECT: ORIGIN OF SHAWNEES; LAND LEASING

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

LIFE HISTORY DATA
ABOUT HIS FATHER, AGENT WHO MOVED KICKAPOOS TO MEXICO (MARTIN
J. BENTLEY)
ORIGIN OF THE SHAWNEE
ABOUT MEXICAN KICKAPOOS
MEXICAN KICKAPOO MEDICINE BUNDLES
RULES FOR BUNDLE OWNERS
VISION/QUESTING
PEOPLE WITH POWER: SUPERNATURAL
OBTAINING PEYOTE, PRAYING BEFORE DIGGING PEYOTE, ABOUT USING
PEYOTE IN RELIGION
HOW THE SHAWNEE GOT PEYOTE
THE SHAWNEE BANDS AND THEIR ORIGINS
ABOUT THE SHAWNEE BREAD DANCES
EARLY SHAWNEE HAIR STYLES
ABOUT THE YUCHI
HOW FATHER GOT TO BE SHAWNEE AGENT
HOW THE SHAWNEE GOVERN THEMSELVES
HOW THE SHAWNEE GOT THEIR CONSTITUTION
ABOUT THE LEASING OF LAND, PRICE OF LAND, ETC.

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Thomas Bentley was born in 1899 in what is now Cleveland County, Oklahoma. His father was Martin J. Bentley, a white man, who was special agent to the Kickapoos in the late 1890's. Thomas is also part Yuchi. He says he is more Yuchi than Shawnee, but he is enrolled as a Shawnee. At the time of this interview he was married to a Caddo woman and was living near Gracemont, Oklahoma.

Note: The other interview on this tape is: Mary Poafpybitty Neido, Comanche