

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