

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: Marv Poaspybitty Neido, Comanche