

**Interview with Matthew Thomas about the history of kalenda
ID: T1065R07**

J. D. Elder: *Tell me about this “Fire Brigade, Water the Road.” When first did you hear that song, Mr. Thomas?*

Matthew Thomas: *Years upon years.*

J. D. Elder: *What was the story behind that song. What, what happened? Why Fire Brigade must water the road?*

Matthew Thomas: *Well, well the stick mens outside now. They want water in the road.*

J. D. Elder: *Why they want water—water in the road?*

Matthew Thomas: *Well they come out to make damage.*

J. D. Elder: *The stick men wanted to make damage? What kind of damage stick men could make?*

Matthew Thomas: *Plenty, plenty damage.*

J. D. Elder: *Tell me some of the damage they used to make?*

Matthew Thomas: *They could beat people. Bust your head. Do all kind of miracles. At the time they had bad stick mens, not like now. When you hear they come out you – their mother moaning.*

J. D. Elder: *Their own mother moaning for them?*

Matthew Thomas: *Yes.*

J. D. Elder: *Why must their mother moan?*

Matthew Thomas: *Oh well – jail behind –*

J. D. Elder: *Jail.*

Matthew Thomas: *The men interfere, you know.*

J. D. Elder: *Oh, I see.*

Matthew Thomas: *They want to beat a whole village.*

J. D. Elder: *One stick man could beat a whole village?*

Matthew Thomas: *Not a whole village. Ten stick men in a village you know, sir, how many men they could beat?*

J. D. Elder: *Could you tell me about the blood hole that they used to use in the old stick fight?*

Matthew Thomas: *Oh, that is long [ago].*

J. D. Elder: *Blood hole.*

Matthew Thomas: *Oh, that is years – I were a young boy at the time.*

J. D. Elder: *Yes, I see. Tell me about it.*

Matthew Thomas: *Well, I wouldn't able to tell you much about it.*

J. D. Elder: *Tell me what you remember. What they used to do with the blood hole.*

Matthew Thomas: *Well, when you get cut, like a razor here.*

J. D. Elder: *Yes.*

Matthew Thomas: *You get cut you have to go there in the blood hole and drain in the blood.*

J. D. Elder: *Ah, I see. The blood hole was for putting the blood from your head if you got slit — if you got cut.*

Matthew Thomas: *Yes.*

J. D. Elder: *Well thank you very much.*