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.