

THE TAMA INDIANS IN 1967

The Mesquaki Indians occupy 3,800 acres of land in Tama County of which approximately 520 acres are leased to a non-Indian for farming. The assessed value of the taxable Indian land has been set at \$122,285 by the Tama County Auditor.

There are 415 resident Indians on the Sauk and Fox settlement; about 50 live in nearby communities. Total enrolled members of the Mesquaki, including those scattered between Chicago and California whose names appear on the tribal record is around 780. Many of the resident Indians find employment in Marshalltown, Cedar Rapids, and Waterloo.

Today the Mesquaki recognize the need for education. Fourteen children are in kindergarten and 67 in the elementary grades in the Day School at the Indian settlement. There are 37 enrolled in the junior high school and 27 in the senior high school of the South Tama Community School District. Three Mesquaki are attending college and six are students at Haskell Institute. A few families attend the Presbyterian Church but most retain their tribal religion.

The 1967 Tama Powwow was attended by fully 6,000 on Sunday, August 13, while an estimated 20,000 saw the colorful four-day ceremonies. The powwow grounds are located on old U. S. Highway 30 four miles west of Tama-Toledo. The Mesquaki Indians continue to be governed by a tribal council of seven elected members. The powwow is run by a special committee of elected members.

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