

TERRAPIN, SAMUEL

INTERVIEW

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Hummingbird & Bigby,
Investigators.
October 20, 1937.

Interview with Sam Terrapin,
President of the Kee-Too-Wah Society.
Stilwell, Oklahoma

The National Party started some time after the Civil War. Before the Civil War there were two parties with different names. This story that I am going to tell about the parties was told to me by James Terrapin who was an early day politician. James Terrapin was elected Sheriff of Goingsnake District three times. He was not an educated man or he would have been elected to some higher office.

The National Party at first was called the Coo-Wee-Scoo-Wee Party that is in Cherokee language. This word means Ross.

This Coo-Wee-Scoo-Wee Party went with the North in the Civil War. The word North means in Cherokee "Cold". So the present Republican Party is called by that name in the Cherokee language.

Since the Ross faction of the Cherokees favored the Union in the War, after the death of John Ross they changed the name of their party to the National. The word National

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#7941.

2

means the "Supporters of the Union".

The man that started this new party is not known to this younger bunch of Oherokees but it must have been Coo-Wee-Scoo-Wee Ross that started this new party.

Some old timers say that the first chief after the Civil War was the one who started this new National Party. So whoever it was who was elected or was defeated for chief on the National Ticket in the election following the Civil War was the person who started this party.