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INTERVIEW

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Theodore R. Hamilton,
Investigator.
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Interview with Frank Dale
Krebs, Oklahoma.

A fight for the location of the county seat took place between the towns of Krebs and McAlester about two years before the Indian Territory became a state.

McAlester, being located and built up around two railroads, the Missouri, Kansas and Texas and the Rock Island, seemed the more logical choice but the little town of Krebs, with its many large mines, also offered a few possibilities and it had the city officials in the town of McAlester worried. Some leader of the movement in Krebs had figured out that Krebs was almost in the center of the county and that most of the money that was earned in the mines went into the hands of the Krebs merchants. Krebs also already had a race track and a fair grounds where annual celebrations were held by the people in the town. On the Fourth of July the American people had their big holiday and following that the Italian people celebrated what they called Columbus Day.

McAlester, in an attempt to settle the matter without going to the trouble to vote, sent a committee to Krebs

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to offer the town a proposition. During the course of this meeting the McAlester representatives were reported to have offered the town of Krebs the location of the annual fair that was held each year if the town would give up the fight, but to this offer, the town refused to listen and let the matter go to vote.

After the voting was over it was found that McAlester had won and accordingly the county seat of Pittsburg was located there. The town of Krebs complained bitterly and said that the voting was unfair but all to no avail, but for a number of years there was considerable enmity between the two towns because of the row over the county seat.