

DURANT, WILL.

INTERVIEW

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Lula Austin,
Interviewer
August 26, 1937.

Interview with Will Durant.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

"CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STUNT"

The stunt was the "stealing" of the Star Mail Route from Caddo to Tishomingo, the latter place the Chickasaw capital, and bringing it to Durant. By means of a roll of string rolled onto a buggy wheel, the boosters showed to post office officials that the distance from Durant to Tishomingo was but six miles farther than from Caddo to Tishomingo and on the route from Durant Blue River did not have to be crossed. Every spring Blue River went out of its banks for from one to three weeks, delaying the mail, and it was no trouble to make officials see that it was better to send the mail from Durant than from Caddo.

Some thought the mail route was not worth the trouble but Mr. Durant said. "It soon developed that travelers and strangers, who had only the map to refer to, were coming to Durant because it was a Star Route point, and it became the local point of travel instead of Caddo."