

## COUPLAND CITY

These hardy persons and many others with similar stories became the first citizens of the brand new city of Coupland and the surrounding countryside. John Goetz' family moved from Germany, bought some lots in Coupland City and hauled lumber from Bastrop to build the first place of business, a combination general store and post office. In 1889 Sam Ging arrived from Switzerland by way of Bellville. By 1900 John Albers was operating the first cotton gin, and Mr. Peterson had opened a blacksmith shop. August Kreidel opened and operated the first bank in a tin and frame building. A weekly newspaper, the Coupland Herald, was published in the back of the bank building.

William and Louis Pfluger, whose people had come from Germany to Pflugerville, purchased a large block of about 1300 acres in and around Coupland. A. Muery moved into Coupland to manage a part of that land, and he fell in love with and married the boss's daughter, Lydia.

These stories duplicated many times over present a kind of pattern for the way the population of the Coupland area grew between 1890 and 1910. It became quite a bustling village, though it never developed into the spectacular success envisioned by its founders. In fact, by 1909 The Coupland City Corporation had long since forfeited its charter "by reason of failure to pay its franchise tax to the state of Texas and by reason of failure to elect officers to transact its business." All the shares of stock in the company and all the unsold lots in Coupland City were bought by William Pfluger, August Kreidel and R. Aschen.

The village that survives continued to grow modestly until by 1912 its borders were expanded to the south by the Muery addition to build a new two-story brick public school building. In 1913 the borders were once again expanded to the north when the Polzin addition was laid out for residential lots. In about 1915 the city of Coupland was probably at its peak with two hardware stores, two blacksmith shops and many other places of business. A steady decline set in about 1925 when automobiles and hard-surfaced roads made it possible for people to travel some distance to carry on their business.