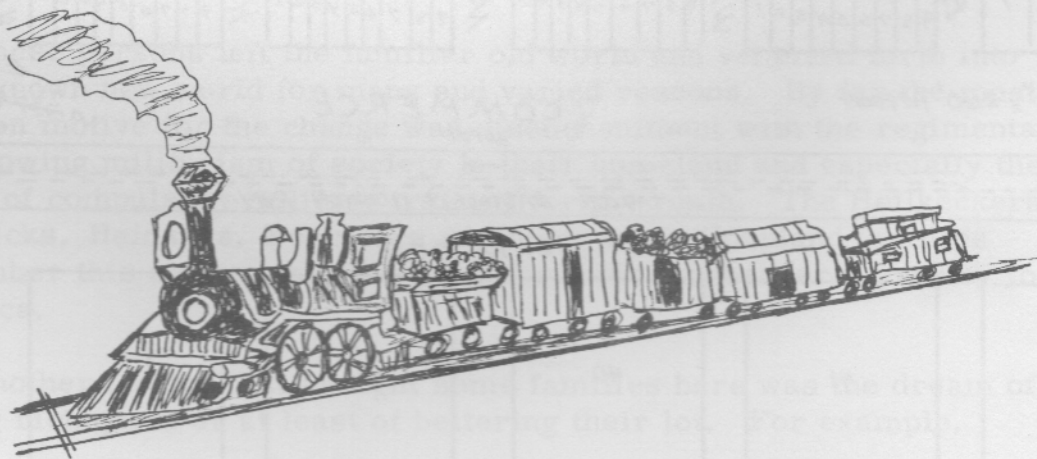


THE RAILROAD CITY

On February 3, 1887, the Taylor, Bastrop and Austin Railway bought a 100-foot right-of-way from Major Coupland to extend the rail line from Taylor to Boggy Creek toward Houston. Since the railroad cut right through his ranch, Coupland became inspired with a grandiose idea to build a city--as great cities elsewhere in the West were springing up along the rail lines. So Coupland got together with two men from Taylor, C. H. Welch and H. Dickson, to form a corporation. Its name was "The Coupland City Company" and its purpose, according to its charter, was "to purchase, subdivide and sell land in the town of Coupland." The capital stock of \$5000 was divided into 100 shares at par value \$50.00 each. As a site for the city, the company bought from the Coupland estate a rectangle of 200 acres of land on both sides of the railroad track.

A map was prepared showing the names of streets, which incidentally, have never yet come into common use. A city square was blocked off for a Town Hall, which also never materialized. Thursday, May 12, 1887, was the day of the public sale of lots. Trains on the new rail line brought people from Taylor on the north and Elgin on the south. Auctioneer J. A. H. Hosack came from San Antonio to serve as master of ceremonies. Posters were printed presenting the city of Coupland as "an inducement to capitalists who are seeking investments, a large, sure and increasing income for their investments." Merchants and tradespeople were offered an opportunity to make their labor bear fruit "an hundredfold." Farmers were promised rich soil and excellent conditions for raising cotton, vegetables, and fruit.



"COUPLAND CITY"
MARCH 28, 1887

TRAVIS

3	2
4	1

ELGIN

4	3
5	2
6	1

TAYLOR

6	5
7	4
8	3
9	2
10	1

BASTROP

6	5
7	4
8	3
9	2
10	1

AUSTIN

6	7	8	9	10
5	4	3	2	1

BROAD

6	7	8	9	10
5	4	3	2	1

1" = 260' APPROX

COMMERCE
DEPOT

TAYLOR - BASTROP & HONSTON RDY.

ALLIANCE

42	41	40	39	38	37
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GRANGER

43	44	45	46	47	48
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