Alton-A Town Grew Where Valleys Meet

COMMUNITY SITE A NATURAL FOR PEOPLE AND RAILROADS

BY CRYST SWARTZKEP

Alton is right where you'd expect a railroad junction and the Van Deusen valley meets Ed River valley on a bend swept of fertile land. It is a natural community to be—where the roads meet, where the rivers come together, and where the land is rich.

Alton was settled in the early 1850s, a generation and a half before the first railroad tracks reached that area. It has seen its day as a pack train stopover; a terminus for engine builders, John Vannevar's Ed River and Eureka Railroad in the 1850s; and in later years as a leading distribution point, as well as a prosperous farming center.

Book for a few years ago, you may have come to the town on the Illinois and Michigan railroad, stopping at the station with the depot amusing name of 'Humbug,' and there met some of the most solid citizens of the town who claimed to be the 'first settlers' and who could tell you by heart all the facts and figures of the town's history.

Grove Motor Court has sold, enlarged setting.

We've been here a year and a half, and not yet a railroad has been laid in Alton! That may seem strange, but it is true. The railroad has not yet been laid in Alton, though the town has a railroad station and a depot.

Now, the Van Deusen river runs through the town, taking its course from the west to the east, and forming the boundary line between Alton and neighboring Rock River.

The Van Deusen river is not a mere stream, but a great waterway, with its own system of canals and locks, and it is the lifeblood of the town. Its waters are clear and cool, and it is a favorite spot for swimming and boating.

Alton School, built 1890, has seen its day.

Part of Alton's business community is located on highway.

Joe and Gene Gioscini have one of Alton's best kept lairs.

One of the many fine Gneisenau herds, Alton.

Divisions of highways has plant along river.

The H. L. Rollins house is one of Alton's best.

Alton-City of the Future!

A FINAL CHECK-UP

One of Alton's earliest families was the Miller family. Mr. and Mrs. Miller, who were early settlers in the town, are remembered with fondness by many of the older residents.

The Miller family has been in Alton for many years, and has always been active in the town's affairs. Mr. Miller was a prominent citizen, and his influence was felt in many ways.

In the early days, Alton was a busy town, with a thriving business community and a growing population. The town was well situated, with access to the Ohio River and the Great American Waterway, which made it an ideal location for commerce.

As the years went by, Alton continued to grow and prosper. The town was served by several railroads, which provided a vital link to the rest of the country.

Looking back on the early days of Alton, it is easy to see why the town was so well suited to the needs of its people. The town was well managed, and its leaders were able to guide it through the challenges of the past and into the future.

Alton is a unique and special place, and it is a place that is worth visiting and exploring. The town has a rich history, and there are many things to see and do. Whether you are looking for a quiet retreat or an active adventure, Alton has something to offer.

So why not come and visit Alton? It is a town that is well worth the visit.