

Russian-Born Woman, Now Alpine Resident, Grateful for Peace
July 7, 1953

The following tribute to Alpine was written by one of its residents, Helena Baroness, of Rt. 1, Box 307. Born in Russia, she emigrated from there as a child to Western Europe. She came to the United States 13 years ago and more recently moved to Alpine for reasons of health.

With the perspective of a world traveler, she here presents her sentiments of her new-found home, dedicated to the "Alpine writers."

ALPINE. . . not a town . . . not a village . . . just a way of life, offering that which I was looking for: no movies, no drug stores, no sidewalks, no stop lights . . . but a welcome road to a rare, roughly scattered community of individualists as sturdy and spicy as the hills they inhabit. Each one standing apart, set firm in his creative achievements, evoking an impenetrable fortress, yet so easily reached by gentleness.

Folks well weathered, well seasoned, blossoming forth with smiles of assurance, with eyes of sparkling freedom. None alike but all gathered under the great common denominator: LOVE.

A love for life the Alpine way, away from artificiality and superficiality; away from glamour, clamor, glitter, fuss, decay; close to Nature and its CREATOR.

Here, I came to readjust my sense of values, to rejuvenate in body and mind, to live a life of fullness from the ground up . . . up into the unfathomable depths of Infinity . . . past moons, stars, beyond either . . .

The setting is stimulating, pregnant with contrasts: a jealous land of subtle beauty and hidden bounty, ready to yield to the man of ingenuity and perseverance, giving enough. A well, a garden, an orchard are yours for the digging.

And dig you do: assiduously, lovingly, enraptured by the earth's contact 'til you feel part of it, 'til you understand the ONENess of it ALL . . . then, you take time out to think . . . then, to write . . . only the angry, offensive roar of planes occasionally remind you of the confusion of our civilization, screaming a threatening warning to blast it out.

However, those strident intruders pass quickly on, chased by the ageless PEACE guarding her mountainous domain. Eternal, vigilant, so willing to enter any and every open door.

Helena Baroness