

# Dreiser once attended IU

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me as I first saw it, and especially after my confined Chicago days, seemed very beautiful. A wide brick walk led from the principal street of the town up a hill, at the crest of which and to the sides as one approached stood these several buildings . . . And to the east, northeast, and southwest, were hills and seemingly heavy growths of trees leading interminably hence."

Theodore's mentor, Miss Fielding, had told him to take Latin, geometry, English literature, and history. In addition to enrolling he had the problem of finding a place to live. It is not known exactly where he lived that first semester, but his biographies state that it was the home of a widow.

After he left Bloomington in the spring of 1890, Theodore put in his time as an apprentice in the newspaper business, and wrote novels about the social system as he understood it. The novels he wrote were controversial. *Sister Carrie* dealt with a poor working girl and *An American Tragedy* told the story of a poor boy who fell in love with the daughter of the owner of the company. He lost his perspective bride and drowned his mistress. The plot was so interesting that Hollywood producers picked it

up and made a movie of it. It was called "A Place in the Sun" and starred Elizabeth Taylor, Montgomery Clift, and Shelley Winters.

Did the year he lived in Bloomington scar Dreiser? Maybe. But maybe he was already scarred before he came to here with his physical impediments and his resentments. He came back to Bloomington one more time in 1941. He had been booked to speak in Indianapolis for a "left of center

cause". Fowler V. Harper, a professor in the IU Law School, introduced Theodore Drieser at the meeting in Indianapolis and brought him to Bloomington to attend an IU/Purdue football game. Theodore, who had been writing novels and pouring his anger and frustration out on paper, could not believe that the budding Indiana University which he saw in the year 1889-90 had burgeoned into a campus that was spreading all over the east side of Bloomington.



## SALE DAYS

— Special Hours —

Friday, February 22	10 to 6
Saturday, February 23	10 to 6
Sunday, February 24	12 to 5
Monday, February 25	10 to 6