

will appreciate its value as a reconciliation of the apparent dissimilarities in idea and attitude in Dreiser's fiction.

In addressing his topic, Hussman makes several significant contributions of other kinds: he uses all of Dreiser's fiction, not just selected works, to see the life and work whole; he provides close critical readings of the fiction and draws not only upon the published versions but also upon the manuscripts; and he takes Dreiser out of the narrow confines of literary naturalism to perceive his sometimes mechanistic and Social Darwinistic ideas as part of a larger effort to understand, an effort that also embraced Quakerism, Hinduism, even traditional Christianity.

The only flaws in this otherwise very sound book are an occasional plodding dissertation quality: some patches of biography which have no clear function, stiff catalogs of other critical opinion of books and issues, bits of awkward and inefficient prose. The sensible reader, however, will forgive these faults for the valuable organizing insight about Dreiser lying beneath.

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On the Banks of the Wabash: A Photograph Album of Greater Terre Haute, 1900-1950. Edited by Dorothy Weinz Jerse and Judith Stedman Calvert; photography editor, Kenneth W. Martin. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1983. Pp. 128. Illustrations, index. Clothbound, \$20.00; paperbound, \$12.95.)

Terre Haute entered the twentieth century alive with urban potential. Varied industries, good transportation, attractive agricultural surroundings, and a confident booster spirit all favored growth. The Vigo County seat nearly doubled in population between 1900 and 1920, while its downtown area mirrored the aggressive business expansion of other successful trade centers. After 1920, however, Terre Haute's urban prospects faded. Population growth ended, local business began to falter, and rude "sin city" barbs began to be hurled by outsiders. Individual success stories stood in contrast to community problems and invited study and explanation.

Between 1979 and 1982 the Vigo County Historical Society conducted an elaborate photographic history project designed to collect and interpret materials of the years from 1900 to 1950. Grant funding permitted the society both to collect materials and to use those photographs as the basis for interpretive public programs. The resulting book contains over three hundred examples of the scenes and portraits assembled during the search.

A majority of the illustrations are the product of one local source, Martins Photo Shop. Two generations operated this family firm from 1906 to 1976 and retained a commercial file of scenes and portraits whose range and technical quality are very good, if sometimes rather bland in content. The Martin contribution is supplemented from fifteen other local sources of more uneven quality.

The editors made several key decisions in their selection of photographs for *On the Banks of the Wabash*. Local landmarks and group pictures are presented in preference to individual portraiture; the years after 1920 receive substantially greater coverage than those before; and chronology is subordinated to a topical treatment. The emphasis is upon personal and local experience: in work, family, social service, recreation, and community response to wars and depression. There is a serious attempt to incorporate the undersides of urban life so seldom found in the visual record. Very little text accompanies the pictures, suggesting the original project's desire to stimulate individual response and public discussion. A number of the captions, however, contain effective and often unexpected insights along with the usual identifications.

On the Banks of the Wabash is intended for a local audience and should serve to further understanding of Terre Haute's mixed record of achievement. The book also deserves attention as a model for other urban centers of some of the ways by which photographs can become a basis for local historical inquiry.

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Sacred Sands: The Struggle for Community in the Indiana Dunes.

By J. Ronald Engel. (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1983. Pp. xxii, 352. Illustrations, maps, notes, index. \$24.95.)

J. Ronald Engel has written an informative volume that will be useful for a variety of readers, including those interested in the history of the ecological movement in the United States, those concerned about the competition for control of natural and scenic resources, and those committed to the preservation of representative areas of native habitat and natural environment. This book blends historical description, religious analysis, and social criticism in an interdisciplinary manner. It holds special interest for persons located in the Midwest, the Chicago area, and the state of Indiana.