

# A 'nutshell' look at the town in '85

At the end of February in 1885, the committee of the Indiana Legislature concerned with Indiana University made a trip to Bloomington to have a look at the place. They were accompanied by the editor of the Indianapolis *Sentinel*, who wasn't all that fond of the town.

Neatly condemning Bloomington, by quoting heresay, he called the place a "back town, while many others unborn when she was of age have grown into almost metropolitan

## Looking back

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By Rose McIlveen

vigor and grace . . . " Such a slur could not go unchallenged. After re-printing in part the articles from the *Sentinel*, the Bloomington *Republican Progress* ran the following in several editions:

### "IN A NUTSHELL"

Bloomington, the best country town south of Indianapolis has:

3,000 souls  
Three hotels,  
Two dentists,  
Five jewelers,  
Two bakeries,  
Seven doctors,  
Two dairymen,  
Four turnpikes,  
Two grist mills,  
One \$40,000 jail,  
One brick yard,  
Sixteen lawyers,  
One coal dealer,  
An artesian well,  
One cigar factory,  
Two brass bands,  
Four restaurants,  
One opera house,  
Three drug stores,  
One marble shop,  
Two billiard halls,  
Two livery stables,  
One table factory,  
Four barber shops,  
Ten grocery stores,  
Two lumber yards,  
Three paint shops,  
Two harness shops,  
Seven dress makers,  
Two furniture stores,  
Two abstract offices,  
Six insurance offices,  
One telegraph office,  
Two photographers,  
Two spoke factories,  
One Chinese laundry,  
One brick court house,  
One furniture factory,  
One steam fire engine,  
Three fire companies,  
Four carpenter shops,  
Three millinery stores,  
Five Blacksmith shops.