

America



America is land, land from Atlantic to Pacific shore.

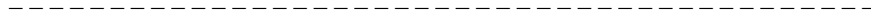
America is mountains.

Misty blue of ridge on ridge of the Blue Ridge Mountains;

Coal deep in the Appalachians;

Rugged granite peaks of the Rockies, the Tetons, and the High Sierra;

America is mountains.

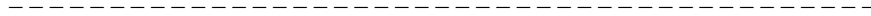


America is prairies and plains.

Fields of wheat in Kansas, fields of corn in Iowa, spreading far and wide.

Plains for grazing cattle from Texas to Wyoming;

America is prairies and plains.



America is rivers.

The Hudson in the East, where Fulton tried his steamboat;

The Ohio, down which traveled many pioneer families;

The Missouri, followed by Lewis and Clark to open the Great Northwest;

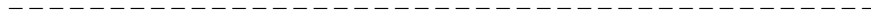
The Colorado, cutting the magnificent Grand Canyon;

The Great Mississippi, flowing down through the heart of the land,

With many small rivers flowing into it to make of it a wide, wide river,

Flowing down from northern lakes to the muddy delta of New Orleans;

America is rivers.



America is lakes.

The five Great Lakes, Superior, Michigan, Ontario, Erie, Huron,

Shining blue waters with boats for pleasure

And freighters with cargoes of ore and lumber;

Man-made lakes, made by dams for irrigation,

Meade, Kentucky, and Lake of the Ozarks;

Minnesota's thousand lakes and all the small lakes here and there:

Okeechobee, Winnepesaukee, Kelavan, and Mohawk;

America is lakes.

America is bridges.

Brooklyn Bridge, George Washington Bridge,

Spanning the rivers which surround Manhattan;

Golden Gate Bridge, over the Pacific entrance to San Francisco Bay;

Bridges across the Mississippi, the Missouri, the Ohio;

Bridges on every highway, over small streams and creeks;

Bridges to shorten distances;

America is bridges.

America is roads.

New York's parkways with their Dogwood in bloom;

The Pennsylvania Turnpike across the entire state;

The Redwoods Highway among the ancient Sequoia;

Route 1 from New York to Florida;

Route 101 from Portland to San Diego;

Route 30 from Atlantic to Pacific;

Roads crisscrossing every state;

High roads and low roads;

America is roads.

America is farms.

Tiny produce farms, huge cattle ranches.

And acreage of every size in between;

Dairy farms giving milk and butter and cheese,

Poultry farms giving eggs and fowl,

Cattle farms with sheep, pigs, cows, and oxen;

Rolling fields of wheat, corn, rye, and barley,

Rice and soya, cotton, tobacco;

All those growing things to serve man's needs,

America is farms.

America is villages and towns.

Gathering centers for farmers to come to,
Centers for business, centers for shopping;
Railroad towns, mining villages,
College towns, resort villages;
America is villages and towns.

America is churches.

The little white church on a village green;
The meeting house on a country crossroad;
The city Church or cathedral,
With stained-glass windows and a lofty spire,
Offering sanctuary to those in need,
Instpiation to those who seek
A home for the spirit of man;
America is churches.

America is schools.

Little red schoolhouses,
Consolidated schools in the country,
Big-city schools on a busy street;
Teachers and books and equipment
For all American children--
A home for the mind of man;
America is schools.

America is cities.

Vast centers for manufacturing,
Skyscrapers and apartment houses,
Parks and museums and zoos,

**Big schools, big churches,
Supermarkets, chain drug stores,
Railway stations, airports;
America is cities.**

**America is industry.
Men and machines using coal, oil, and iron ore;
Building railroads, bridges, factories,
Instruments, tools and weapons;
The equipment modern man needs to live.
Men and machines using cotton, wool, and many new synthetics
To weave into cloth and fabric,
For clothes, blankets, airplane wings;
The protection modern man needs to live.
Men and machines taking trees for lumber, making bricks from clay;
Quarrying stone, granite, quarts, and marble
To build homes and schools and churches,
Factories, plants, and stores;
The buildings modern man needs to live.
America is industry.**

**America is people.
Young people, old people,
People from every country of the globe,
All gathered in America to build a New Democracy.
Indians and negroes,
English, Scotch, and Irish,
Dutch and French and German,
Swiss and Scandinavian,
Mexican, Italian,
Polish, Russian, Greek,**

Japanese, Chinese, Philipinos from the Far East,
Arabs, Turks, Armenians from the lands of the Near East;
Young people, old people;
America is people.

America is families.
Fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers,
Nephews and uncles and grandfathers,
Nieces and Aunts and Grandmothers;
Loving each other and making homes
On farms, in towns, in cities,
Where they may work and think and play
And grow into good American citizens;
America is families.

America is hands.
Hands at work,
Hands at leisure,
Hands of men and
Hands of women;
Hands of children in their growing,
Hands holding a crayon, a pencil, a pen,
Or a brush of soft camel's hair,
Translating the picture in the artist's mind, in his heart,
To paper that others may look on.
Hands using a pen or pencil
To put words together in beauty, in truth,
Transferring the thoughts in the author's mind, in his heart,
Into books that others may read.
Hands playing a piano,
Plucking strings of a harp;

Hands pressing the stops of a flute,
Holding the bow of a violin,
Or rhythmically beating a drum,
Making music for others to hear;
America is hands.

America is voices.

The Pilgrims: "All people that on Earth do dwell..."

Patrick Henry: "Give me liberty or give me death!"

Thomas Jefferson: "All men are created equal."

Abraham Lincoln: "With malice toward none..."

Franklin Denalo Roosevelt: "We look forward to a world founded upon four essential freedoms."

America is voices.

America is folklore.

Jack tales and tall tales of heroes of the land:

Paul Bunyan and Tony Beaver falling lumber,

John Henry and his steel-driving hammer,

Casey Jones and Engine 382,

Pecos Bill of the Texas Rangers,

Davy Crockett who could "whip his weight in wildcats,"

Johnny Appleseed spreading orchards over the land;

Tall heroes of the land.

Tall heroes from the sea and the river:

Cap'n Dow with a hole in his doughnut,

Old Stromalong and his Great White Whale,

Mike Fink on the Old Mississipp',

Steamboat Bill and the Captain's Top Hat,

Yankee Doodle's cousins, all

Tall heroes building a tall America:

America is folklore.

America is poetry.

Henry W. Longfellow: "This is the forest primeval.
The murmuring pines and the hemlocks..."

Felicia Hemans: "The breaking waves dashed high
on a stern and rock-bound coast..."

Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Here once the embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard 'round the world."

Stephen Benet: "Sing Ho! For our George Washington, the first in war,
the first in peace, the first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Rachel Field: "A road might lead you anywhere,
To harbor towns and quays..."

Robert Frost: "Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That sends the frozen ground-swell under it..."

Carl Sandburg: "The fog comes on little cat feet."

Edna St. Vincent Millay: "O world, I cannot hold thee close enough!
Thy winds, thy wide grey skies!"

Emily Dickinson: "There is no frigate like a book
to take us lands away!"

Walt Whitman: "I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear..."

America is poetry.

America is music.

Singing schools in colonial days,

Minstrel shows on the old Mississippi,

The Floradora Sextet,

The Fiske Jubilee Singers,

Fred Waring's Pennsylvanians,

A symphony orchestra in every city,

The Metropolitan Opera,

The music festival in the Berkshires,

Easter morning in Hollywood Bowl,

Special concerts for children,

College sings, serenades at camp,

Music at work, music at play,

**Music healing in hospitals,
Music over the air in every home from radio or television.
America is music.**

**America is a dream,
A dream we all are building,
Of a vision we have of the future,
When freedom and peace will prevail.
A dream comes true when the people
Keep their vision clear.
A dream comes true when the people
Work for the good of the whole.
A dream comes true when the people
Keep the faith of their fathers.
A dream comes true when the people
Work with faith in the future.
America is a dream--
A dream we all are building.**