



Courtesy Standard Oil Co. (N. J.)

This Means America to Me

By SAVOIE LOTTINVILLE, '29ba

The question, "What does America mean to me?" has been answered for me by that master poster-artist, Norman Rockwell, with his portrait of the grandmother and her young grandson, asking the blessing upon their Thanksgiving meal at a table shared by two Philistines, who quite evidently realize that they are witnesses to the Light. Other, older, civilizations may view this act of faith more cynically, but it signifies to me the simplicity, devotion, hope, and goodness of heart of a people who have earned the right to help the world. *(Mr. Lottinville is director of the University Press)*

By DR. EDWARD EVERETT DALE, '11ba

Our greatest heritage is the spirit of the pioneers. It was developed not only by those who for centuries moved steadily westward to conquer the wilderness, but by others who, in shops or laboratories, toiled to extend the frontiers of knowledge; for Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, and Luther Burbank were as truly pioneers as were Daniel Boone and Kit Carson. This pioneer spirit persists long after the conditions which produced it have disappeared. Two generations ago many a young bride left a good home and journeyed westward with her husband to live in an Oklahoma sod house or log cabin until title was secured to land that promised them a better future. Quite recently her granddaughter has often exchanged a lovely home for a pre-fab or tiny apartment in some college town until her G.I. husband has won his degree. This is but one example of the spirit which has built America. *(Dr. Dale is Research Professor Emeritus of History)*

Perhaps the best known symbol of what America's ideals are is the Statue of Liberty. Standing with upraised arm serving as a beacon, she welcomes the immigrant and the native born with the same message, "You are welcome here."

In a mood of Thanksgiving, eight alumni were asked to select the act, symbol or ideal that to them best expresses the spirit of America. These are their personal choices.

By L. B. MEADERS, '28

There is a paradox at the Mount Rushmore memorial that—once considered—goes a long way towards explaining the spirit of our country. The faces of four of our presidents are cut from granite, many times larger than life, at Mount Rushmore. This is impressive enough but there is a grandeur that is more subtle. The paradox and the grandeur are that, as represented at the memorial, we have taken to our hearts four men who were about as different as men can be. George Washington was the father of his country; Thomas Jefferson the architect of states' rights; Abraham Lincoln the binding force in a divided nation; Theodore Roosevelt the apotheosis of personal courage.

There is a magnificent uniqueness in a country that can revere four such varied personalities. This same uniqueness, which I hope we never lose, makes me proud to be an American.

This means America to me.

(*Mr. Meaders is president, Halliburton Oil Well Cementing Co.*)

By MRS. KITTY SHANKLIN ROUNTREE, '23ba

If one pushes hard enough, the solid, red door with the sign above reading "SPLIT-T" will open. Inside is real America to me. The char-broiled hamburger is Queen here. She can do what many of our laws have failed to do. Because she is the epicurean delight of all, the truck driver and the successful man of petroleum take turns in the order line. The crying baby, the boy in the tight blue-jeans doing the bop, and the young soldier's wife in the pink shorts are not frowned upon by the matron wearing the mink stole. Graduates of Oklahoma A&M and the University of Oklahoma sit at the same table even during football season, and the BIG REPUBLICANS and the small democrats discuss current events without rancor. The soft-spoken proprietor is like he is because there are tolerance and equality here. He knows the red door will be entered many times; he knows that prejudices will be left outside; he knows that these are real Americans hungry for a hamburger, char-broiled.

(*Mrs. Rountree is president of the Alumni Association*)

By DR. ROY GITTINGER, '02ba

No act of the United States has better exemplified the spirit of this nation than the adoption of the Marshall Plan. This act was altruistic and idealistic because it saved much of Western Europe from disintegration. It was practical since it rescued the nations of Western Europe from communism and an alliance with our rival and potential foe, Russia.

(*Dr. Gittinger is Regents Professor Emeritus of History at O.U.*)

By DR. MORRIS L. WARDELL, '19ba

America is a land of resources—water, soil, timber, oil, gas, iron, coal, uranium and mountains once filled with gold and silver. These resources help make us independent and democratic as well as helpful to other nations. Within reasonable limits, America is a land of freedom—freedom to speak, to write, to petition, to worship, to own property, to travel and to secure an education. Rapid transportation and rapid communication available to everyone makes an enlightened people capable of understanding mutual problems and participating in freedoms which we are willing to defend with our lives as did our fathers and mothers who have given us our heritage.

A sense of humor which carries us over rough places is an enviable characteristic. Leavened with sound judgment and a sense of appreciation of values, good humor is a basis of getting along with each other. Justice and morality prevail in our courts and legislatures. Popularly chosen executives guide us in domestic and international affairs.

All this means America to me.

(*Dr. Wardell is David Ross Boyd Professor of History at O.U.*)

By JUDGE ROYCE SAVAGE, '25ba, '27Law

As a trial judge in the federal judicial system, I frequently preside at the trial of cases in which the United States of America and one of its citizens are adversaries. On these occasions I am invariably impressed by the fact that under our system of government the humblest citizen comes into a court of justice, created and maintained by the government, and litigates with the sovereign upon absolutely equal terms. It is this equality of the individual and his government before the law that means America to me.

(*Judge Savage serves the Northern District of Oklahoma*)

By GOVERNOR ERNEST W. McFARLAND

To me, the Bible is the outstanding symbol of the spirituality of America. It is not only a great historical document, chronicling the events of its period, but contains also the basic concepts of freedom and dignity of the individual that has led to the democracies of today. It tells the whole story of mankind . . . In it can be found religious, civil and moral law. The Bible has outlived peoples and civilizations, it has endured burnings, bannings and persecutions. Standing as a bulwark against Godless materialism, it contains the complete rules of life and conduct for the people of America and those of all other Christian nations.

(*Governor McFarland is governor of Arizona*)