

43 reasons for loving Americans

The Vietnam War, mugging, business takeovers, Spiro Agnew, worship of the motor car—all good reasons for hating Uncle Sam, right? Well, it's not much fun being the richest country in the world and being unloved by everyone.

To put matters in perspective here, from the pages of the British humor magazine *Punch*, are some items of interest.

- 1—They are not so mean as to charge money for matches.
- 2—They look after their teeth.
- 3—They do not badger their friends to come and bail them out when arrested, but ring up their friendly bail bond operator who "springs" them for an agreed fee.
- 4—Their Declaration of Inde-

pendence includes that splendid objective, "the pursuit of happiness."

5—They have learned to give away cash and crops in the certain knowledge that the recipients will hate them for it.

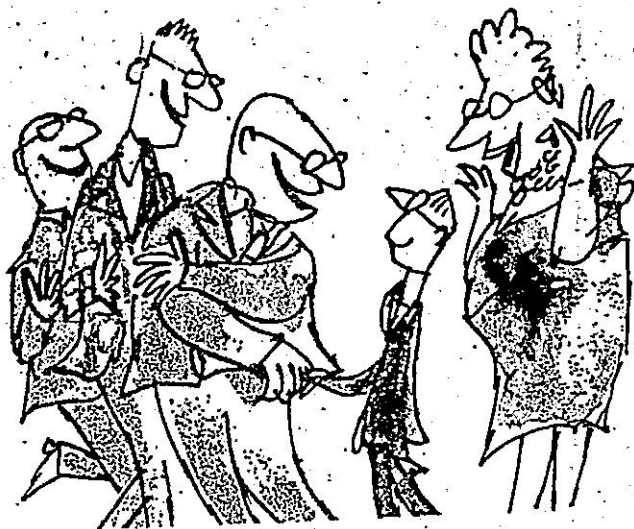
6—They do not jaywalk in cities.

7—Their drivers are punctilious in giving way to pedestrians when turning on a green traffic light

8—They build cars with bumpers all at the same height.

9—They have far more, and far better, and far cheaper motels than the rest of the world.

10—They excel at introducing people and at remembering the names of those introduced to them.



11—They do not regard their national flag as raw material for underwear.

12—They have the most fascinating Yellow Pages in the world, with telephone numbers of tree surgeons who can be called day and night.

13—They think nothing of moving their houses up the road to a better site, hiring a contractor who will perform the feat with TLC (Tender Loving Care).

14—They lead a rich full life without stringing letters after their names, or calling each other "esquire" or "your Grace."

15—They make the only hamburgers worth eating.

16—Their trains have the most stirring, the most deep-throated bel-
low of any trains anywhere.

17—They have coin-in-the-slot machines at filling stations which provide large blocks of ice for motorists' ice-boxes.

18—They show superb, unflagging hospitality to visitors.

19—They give a good joke a good run for its money — like the Singing Telegrams, which lasted for a whole generation.

20—They have steadfastly refused to incorporate cricket in the American Dream.

21—Their generals and admirals, on tropical stations, do not go about in shorts.

22—They perpetuate the bucolic institution of the hayride.



23—They have had the infinite good sense to number their streets instead of giving them names like Deepdene and Glenside and Hazel-mere.

24—They have proved that God does not strike soldiers dead for saluting without their caps on.

25—They are the world's great inventors, to name only the moon car, the mechanical cotton-picker and the battery-operated swizzle-stick.

26—They made it possible for a man to go round the world with only one shirt and one suit, washable each night.

27—They introduced the supermarket, making it unnecessary to discuss the weather with a dozen different shopkeepers.

28—They gave us Woolworths.

29—They dreamed up a condition called All-Over Loveliness, and then invented the wherewithal for achieving it.

30—They devised the jolly custom of greeting heroes by hurling ticker-tape and torn-up telephone directories at them.

31—They buy up, for gratifying sums, the typescripts of books whose authors are without honor in their own country.

32—They have an abundance of funds and foundations ready to finance esoteric researches: e.g., determining how many men marry a girl from the next block.

33—They give a bad musical a short run for its money, taking off a \$600,000 flop after two nights and charging it to experience.



34—They pioneered the notion of working one's way through college.

35—They have never shown any false reverence for stockbrokers.

36—They have universities which are not ashamed to teach salesmanship and ice-cream manufacture.

37—They set up a valuable tradition of exposure journalism, commonly called muckraking.

38—They have preserved the English language from ossification, though not without doing it a number of grave injuries.

39—They save valuable ground space, and avoid unsightly clutter, by piling up office blocks one on top of the other to cloud level, achieving a certain majesty in the

40—They, are intensely air-minded and offer internal flights at less than a penny a mile.

41—They punctuate long roads across the prairie with jesting notices to keep the driver awake ("The Friendliest Town By A Dam Site," "Rudyard: 596 Nice People, One Old Sorehead").

42—Their love of innocent fun has led them to train armies of drum-majorettes and to establish baton-twirling academies for their instruction.

43—They have built in the desert a city of sin called Las Vegas which they maintain as an Awful Warning to themselves and to all mankind.