

## THEME THOUGHTS

### Young America Speaks On Americanism

The average American today is industrious both for himself and his children.

Then, too, the average American is courageous. Although he may fail, he does not stop but tries again.

Most Americans have respect for the opinions of others, yet they speak their own and stick to them.

Wanda Murray

### BIOGRAPHY OF FATHER

William Thornton, my father, was born on May 8, 1906, in Airdrie, Scotland. Once I asked him why he had but one name; he said that by the time he came along his parents had run out of names.

He was the youngest in a family of six. He had one brother and four sisters. His chores were very much the same as any American boy's. He had a job carrying papers. Later he worked in a machine shop.

When he was in the tenth grade, he stopped school to work. He attended night school to complete the other year that he had lost.

We always are very interested when he talks of his boyhood days. One amusing fact that we learned was that the cheapest seats in the theatre

Typically speaking, the average American of today is a spunky and somewhat resolved fellow.

Like his undaunted forefathers the real American will forever fight for his opinions and act with all fairness and logic.

All in all the American of today is like the one of yesterday: he is imbued with a humorous and unwavering spirit. F.J.

were only one penny--equal to two cents in our money.

My father wasn't old enough to fight in the first World War, but his brother fought.

After the war, his father decided to come to America. A few years later two of his sisters joined Grandfather. When Daddy was sixteen years old, he and the rest of the family left Scotland for North Carolina.

He decided later to branch out under his own power. He went to Woodleaf; this too is in N. C., there he met Mother. They were married the day before Christmas, 1927.

Soon after Daddy came to America, he took out his naturalization papers, and now he is a citizen of the United States.

Jean Thornton

AMERICANISM, the indefinable quality which we are all so proud, implies more than a name applicable of American qualities; its being an American; its living American ideals and traditions. Loyalty to the war effort and staunch support of the occupational requirements are of main importance in these days of stress, but always optimism and intelligence are supreme requirements of an ideal American. Most Americans live up to these standards of a good citizen.

This is my idea of an ideal American: an industrious, patriotic, intelligent optimistic, and freedom--loving citizen of the United States. S.L.P.

Here is an American. He knows how to love his country and obey its laws. He feels that he is as good as everyone else and everyone is as good as he. He knows just how to associate with every person because he's a "hail fellow, well met." Bonds and stamps he buys on top of bonds and stamps. He is ready to fight or do anything to save his country and to keep the American citizenship. He has his faults, too; but, all in all, he is a clean, honest chap. R.E.