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GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC

Form N-30D

July 25, 2002

GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS
COMPANY, INC

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT
JUNE 30, 2002

A Closed-End Investment Company
listed on the New York Stock Exchange

450 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10017
212-916-8400 1-800-436-8401
E-mail: InvestorRelations@gainv.com
www.generalamericaninvestors.com

TO THE STOCKHOLDERS

For the six months ended June 30, 2002, our stockholders experienced a decrease of 16.5% on their investment in our Common Shares (assuming reinvestment of all dividends). The net asset value per Common Share decreased 13.6%. By comparison, our benchmark, the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index (including income), declined 13.2%. For the twelve months ended June 30, 2002, the results were negative as well. Our stockholders experienced a decrease of 21.3% and the net asset value per Common Share decreased 15.1%; these compare with a decline of 18% for the S&P 500. During each period, the discount at which our shares traded increased moderately and at June 30, 2002, it was 7.9%.

As set forth in the accompanying financial statements (unaudited), as of June 30, 2002, the net assets applicable to the Company's Common Stock were \$935,286,977, equal to \$30.08 per Common Share.

The decrease in net assets resulting from operations for the six months ended June 30, 2002 was \$148,701,738. During this period, net realized loss on securities sold was \$20,031,348 and the decrease in unrealized appreciation was \$124,588,557. Net investment income for the six months was \$1,318,167 and distributions to preferred stockholders amounted to \$5,400,000.

During the six months, 141,500 shares of the Company's Common Stock were repurchased for \$4,171,536 at an average discount from net asset value of 8.5%.

The decline in equities, now in its third year, accelerated in the period just ended and may be approaching a climax. We have had virtually no exposure to the debacle related to the telecommunications industry nor to any of the headline-grabbing examples of corporate malfeasance. Our cash reserves, furthermore, remain substantial. That our portfolio has declined in line with the S&P 500 benchmark, nonetheless, reflects the fact that stock valuations have remained high when viewed historically - an insuperable burden in the context of only modest economic recovery.

Our major holdings remain largely unchanged. Without exception they are sound, growing enterprises whose ownership should prove rewarding over time.

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We would remind you that on March 26, 2002 the Company completed the development of a Web site. It can be accessed on the Internet at www.generalamericaninvestors.com and contains a wealth of information about the Company, including current NAV and market price data as well as historical dividend payments, financial reports, notices and press releases.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS COMPANY, INC.

Spencer Davidson
President and Chief Executive Officer

July 10, 2002

2 STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES June 30, 2002 (Unaudited)

General American Investors

Assets

INVESTMENTS, AT VALUE (NOTE 1a)

Common stocks (cost \$430,793,009) \$
Corporate discount notes (cost \$307,481,399) -

Total investments (cost \$738,274,408) 1,

CASH, RECEIVABLES AND OTHER ASSETS

Cash, including margin account balance of \$11,944	\$	117,573
Receivable from broker for proceeds on securities sold short		22,024,835
Dividends, interest and other receivables		558,884
Prepaid expenses		6,137,016
Other		508,222

TOTAL ASSETS 1,

Liabilities

Payable for securities purchased		5,245,129
Preferred dividend accrued but not yet declared		240,000
Securities sold short, at value (proceeds \$22,024,835) (note 1a)		16,296,340
Accrued expenses and other liabilities		7,707,440

TOTAL LIABILITIES

7.20% TAX-ADVANTAGED CUMULATIVE PREFERRED STOCK -

6,000,000 shares at a liquidation value of \$25 per share (note 2)

NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK - 31,090,063 shares (note 2) \$

NET ASSET VALUE PER COMMON SHARE \$

Net Assets Applicable To Common Stock

Common Stock, 31,090,063 shares at par value (note 2)		\$31,090,063
Additional paid-in capital (note 2)		575,384,945
Accumulated realized loss on investments		(19,802,378)
Undistributed net income		1,370,904

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Unallocated distributions on Preferred Stock	(5,640,000)
Unrealized appreciation on investments and securities sold short (including aggregate gross unrealized appreciation of \$407,770,928)	352,883,443

NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK

(see notes to financial statements)

3 STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS Six Months Ended June 30, 2002 (Unaudited)

General American Investors

Income

Dividends (net of foreign withholding taxes of \$21,770)	\$ 3,394,084
Interest	3,220,980
Other Income	229,782

Expenses

Investment research	3,518,378
Administration and operations	1,308,137
Office space and general	246,669
Transfer agent, custodian and registrar fees and expenses	125,284
Auditing and legal fees	124,000
Stockholders' meeting and reports	90,425
Directors' fees and expenses	71,092
Miscellaneous taxes	42,694

NET INVESTMENT INCOME

Realized Loss and Change in Unrealized Appreciation on Investments (notes 1d and 4)

Net realized gain (loss) on investments:	
Long transactions	(21,212,129)
Short sale transactions (note 1b)	1,180,781
Net realized loss on investments	(20,031,348)
Net decrease in unrealized appreciation	(124,588,557)

NET LOSS ON INVESTMENTS

DISTRIBUTIONS TO PREFERRED STOCKHOLDERS

DECREASE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS

(see notes to financial statements)

4 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

General American Investors

Six Months
Ended

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	June 30, 2002 (Unaudited)	

Operations		

Net investment income	\$ 1,318,167	\$
Net realized gain (loss) on investments	(20,031,348)	
Net decrease in unrealized appreciation	(124,588,557)	

Distributions to Preferred Stockholders:		
From net income, including short-term capital gain	-	
From long-term capital gain	-	
Unallocated distributions on Preferred Stock	(5,400,000)	

Decrease In Net Assets From Preferred Distributions	(5,400,000)	

DECREASE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS	(148,701,738)	

Distributions to Common Stockholders		

From net income, including short-term capital gain	(5,933,997)	
From long-term capital gain	(3,435,472)	

DECREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM COMMON DISTRIBUTIONS	(9,369,469)	(

Capital Share Transactions		

Value of Common Shares issued in payment of dividends (note 2)	-	
Cost of Common Shares purchased (note 2)	(4,171,536)	

INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS - CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS	(4,171,536)	

NET DECREASE IN NET ASSETS	(162,242,743)	

Net Assets Applicable to Common Stock		

BEGINNING OF PERIOD	1,097,529,720	1,

END OF PERIOD (including undistributed net income of \$1,370,904 and \$52,737, respectively)	\$935,286,977	\$1,
	=====	==
(see notes to financial statements)		

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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

General American Investors

The following table shows per share operating performance data, total investment return, ratios and supplemental data for the six months ended June 30, 2002 and for each year in the five-year period ended December 31, 2001. This information has been derived from information contained in the financial statements and market price data for the Company's shares.

Six Months

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	Ended	Year Ended December 31,		
	June 30, 2002 (Unaudited)	2001	2000	1999
PER SHARE OPERATING PERFORMANCE				
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$35.14	\$39.91	\$41.74	\$34.87
Net investment income	.04	.41	.53	.45
Net gain (loss) on securities - realized and unrealized	(4.63)	(.66)	6.12	11.32
Distributions on Preferred Stock:				
Dividends from investment income	-	(.07) (a)	(.11) (b)	(.07) (c)
Distributions from capital gains Unallocated	- (.17)	(.29) -	(.29) -	(.35) -
	(.17)	(.36)	(.40)	(.42)
Total from investment operations	(4.76)	(.61)	6.25	11.35
Less distributions on Common Stock:				
Dividends from investment income	(.19) (d)	(.88) (e)	(2.30) (f)	(.71) (g)
Distributions from capital gains	(.11)	(3.28)	(5.78)	(3.77)
	(.30)	(4.16)	(8.08)	(4.48)
Capital Stock transaction - effect of Preferred Stock offering	-	-	-	-
Net asset value, end of period	\$30.08	\$35.14	\$39.91	\$41.74
Per share market value, end of period	\$27.70	\$33.47	\$36.00	\$37.19
TOTAL INVESTMENT RETURN - Stockholder				
Return, based on market price per share	(16.51)%*	4.33%	19.10%	39.22%
RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA				
Net assets applicable to Common Stock, end of period (000's omitted)	\$935,287	\$1,097,530	\$1,155,039	\$1,094,519
Ratio of expenses to average net assets applicable to Common Stock	0.54%*	1.02%	1.09%	1.01%
Ratio of net income to average net assets applicable to Common Stock	0.13%*	1.15%	1.24%	1.23%
Portfolio turnover rate	10.84%*	23.81%	40.61%	33.68%
PREFERRED STOCK				
Liquidation value, end of period (000's omitted)	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Asset coverage	724%	832%	870%	830%
Liquidation preference per share	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Market value per share	\$25.95	\$25.90	\$24.25	\$21.75

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Shares	COMMON STOCKS	

AEROSPACE/DEFENSE (2.4%)		

500,000	The Boeing Company	(COST \$15,978,442)
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SERVICES (2.9%)		

535,000	Cisco Systems, Inc. (a)	
728,700	Cox Communications, Inc. Class A (a)	
180,000	NTL Incorporated (a)	
		(COST \$13,742,586)
COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND SYSTEMS (0.2%)		

175,000	Oberthur Card Systems S.A. (a)	
339,500	Wind River Systems, Inc. (a)	
		(COST \$8,061,069)
CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES (3.9%)		

275,000	Ethan Allen Interiors, Inc.	
875,500	Ford Motor Company	
150,000	Newell Rubbermaid Inc.	
150,000	PepsiCo, Inc.	
		(COST \$24,180,403)
ELECTRONICS (2.0%)		

692,500	Molex Incorporated Class A	(COST \$14,877,393)
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL (INCLUDING SERVICES) (1.7%)		

600,000	Waste Management, Inc.	(COST \$11,720,621)
FINANCE AND INSURANCE (30.1%)		

300,000	American International Group, Inc.	
275,000	AmerUs Group Co.	
500,000	Annaly Mortgage Management, Inc.	
700,000	Annuity and Life Re (Holdings), Ltd.	
315	Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Class A (a)	
78,912	Central Securities Corporation	
625,000	Everest Re Group, Ltd.	
500,000	Golden West Financial Corporation	
440,000	John Hancock Financial Services, Inc.	
350,000	M&T Bank Corporation	
300,000	MetLife, Inc.	
550,000	PartnerRe Ltd.	
600,000	Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated	

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260,000 SunTrust Banks, Inc.
 225,000 Transatlantic Holdings, Inc.

(COST \$122,875,607)

7 STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS June 30, 2002 (Unaudited) - continued

 General American Investors

Shares COMMON STOCKS (continued)

 HEALTH CARE (13.2%)

 PHARMACEUTICALS (10.4%)

240,000 Alkermes, Inc. (a)
 300,000 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
 270,000 Genaera Corporation (a)
 600,000 Genentech, Inc. (a)
 495,000 IDEC Pharmaceuticals Corporation (a)
 264,000 MedImmune, Inc. (a)
 140,000 Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (a)
 150,000 OSI Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (a)
 1,000,000 Pfizer Inc

(COST \$68,946,841)

MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS AND DEVICES (1.3%)

 290,000 Medtronic, Inc.

(COST \$862,614)

HEALTH CARE SERVICES (1.5%)

 74,000 BioReliance Corporation (a)
 450,000 Health Net, Inc. (a)

(COST \$9,077,421)

(COST \$78,886,876)

MISCELLANEOUS (1.6%)

 Other

(COST \$28,830,503)

OIL & NATURAL GAS (INCLUDING SERVICES) (4.0%)

 850,000 El Paso Corporation
 1,250,000 Halliburton Company

(COST \$34,153,312)

RETAIL TRADE (19.7%)

 675,000 Costco Wholesale Corporation (a)
 2,045,000 The Home Depot, Inc. (b)
 2,650,000 The TJX Companies, Inc.

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570,000 Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

(COST \$49,514,414)

SEMICONDUCTORS (1.3%)

337,400	Brooks- PRI Automation, Inc. (a)
197,000	EMCORE Corporation (a)
1,644,900	IQE plc (a)
250,000	Zarlink Semiconductor Inc. (a)

(COST \$21,075,656)

SPECIAL HOLDINGS (a) (c) (NOTE 5) (0.2%)

(d)	Sequoia Capital IV
432,000	Silicon Genesis Corporation Series C Preferred
546,000	Standard MEMS, Inc. Series A Convertible Preferred

(COST \$6,896,127)

TOTAL COMMON STOCKS (83.2%)

(COST \$430,793,009)

8 STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS June 30, 2002 (Unaudited) - continued

General American Investors

Principal Amount	SHORT-TERM SECURITIES AND OTHER ASSETS
---------------------	--

\$85,400,000	American Express Credit Corporation notes due 7/1-7/30/02; 1.75%-1.76%
47,000,000	Ford Motor Credit Company notes due 7/8-7/16/02; 2.02%-2.04%
74,700,000	General Electric Capital Corp. notes due 7/11-7/25/02; 1.74%-1.78%
64,400,000	General Motors Acceptance Corp. notes due 7/2-8/1/02; 2.00%-2.02%
36,600,000	Sears Roebuck Acceptance Corp. notes due 7/1-8/12/02; 1.70%-2.04%

(COST \$307,481,399)

Liabilities in excess of cash, receivables and other assets

TOTAL SHORT-TERM SECURITIES AND OTHER ASSETS, NET (32.8%)

PREFERRED STOCK (-16.0%)

NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK (100%)

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STATEMENT OF SECURITIES SOLD SHORT June 30, 2002 (Unaudited)

General American Investors

Shares COMMON STOCKS

378,000	Molex Incorporated
100,000	Southwest Bancorporation of Texas Inc.

TOTAL SECURITIES SOLD SHORT (PROCEEDS \$22,024,835)

(see notes to financial statements)

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

General American Investors

1. Significant Accounting Policies

General American Investors Company, Inc. (the "Company"), established in 1927, is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 as a closed-end, diversified management investment company. It is internally managed by its officers under the direction of the Board of Directors.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Certain prior year financial statement items have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.

a. SECURITY VALUATION Securities traded on securities exchanges or on the NASDAQ National Market System are valued at the last reported sales price on the last business day of the period. Listed and NASDAQ securities for which no sales are reported on that day and other securities traded in the over-the-counter market are valued at the last bid price (asked price for open short positions) on the valuation date. Corporate discount notes are valued at amortized cost, which approximates market value. Special holdings are valued at fair value in the opinion of the Directors. In determining fair value, in the case of restricted shares, consideration is given to cost, operating and other financial data and, where applicable, subsequent private offerings or market price of the issuer's unrestricted shares (to which a 30 percent discount is applied); for limited partnership interests, fair value is based upon an evaluation of the partnership's net assets.

b. SHORT SALES The Company may make short sales of securities for either speculative or hedging purposes. When the Company makes a short sale, it borrows the securities sold short from a broker; in addition, the Company places cash with that broker and securities in a segregated account with the custodian, both as collateral for the short position. The Company may be required to pay a fee to borrow the securities and may also be obligated to pay any dividends declared on the borrowed securities. The Company will realize a gain if the security price decreases and a loss if the security price increases between the date of the short sale and the date on which the Company replaces the borrowed securities.

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c. FEDERAL INCOME TAXES The Company's policy is to fulfill the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code applicable to regulated investment companies and to distribute substantially all taxable income to its stockholders. Accordingly, no provision for Federal income taxes is required.

d. OTHER As customary in the investment company industry, securities transactions are recorded as of the trade date. Dividend income and distributions to stockholders are recorded as of the ex-dividend dates.

2. Capital Stock and Dividend Distributions

The authorized capital stock of the Company consists of 50,000,000 shares of Common Stock, \$1.00 par value, and 10,000,000 shares of Preferred Stock, \$1.00 par value, of which 31,090,063 shares and 6,000,000 shares, respectively, were outstanding at June 30, 2002. On June 19, 1998, the Company issued and sold 6,000,000 shares of its 7.20% Tax-Advantaged Cumulative Preferred Stock. The Preferred Shares are noncallable for 5 years and have a liquidation preference of \$25.00 per share plus an amount equal to accumulated and unpaid dividends to the date of redemption.

The Company is required to allocate distributions from long-term capital gains and other types of income proportionately among holders of shares of Common Stock and Preferred Stock. To the extent that dividends on the shares of Preferred Stock are not paid from long-term capital gains, they will be paid from ordinary income or net short-term capital gains or will represent a return of capital.

Under the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Company is required to maintain an asset coverage of at least 200% for the Preferred Stock. In addition, pursuant to the Rating Agency Guidelines, the Company is required to maintain a certain discounted asset coverage for its portfolio that equals or exceeds the Basic Maintenance Amount under the guidelines established by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. The Company has met these requirements since the issuance of the Preferred Stock.

The holders of Preferred Stock have voting rights equivalent to those of the holders of Common Stock (one vote per share) and, generally, vote together with the holders of Common Stock as a single class.

At all times, holders of Preferred Stock will elect two members of the Company's Board of Directors and the holders of Preferred and Common Stock, voting as a single class, will elect the remaining directors. If the Company fails to pay dividends on the Preferred Stock in an amount equal to two full years' dividends, the holders of Preferred Stock will have the right to elect a majority of the directors. In addition, the Investment Company Act of 1940 requires that approval of the holders of a majority of any outstanding preferred shares, voting separately as a class, would be required to (a) adopt any plan of reorganization that would adversely affect the Preferred Stock and (b) take any action requiring a vote of security holders, including, among other things, changes in the Company's subclassification as a closed-end investment company or changes in its fundamental investment policies.

In accordance with Emerging Issues Task Force Topic No. D-98, "Classification and Measurement of Redeemable Securities," effective for the current period, the Company has reclassified its Preferred Stock outside of permanent equity in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. In addition, distributions to Preferred Stockholders are now classified as a component of the "Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets Resulting from Operations" in the Statements of Operations and of Changes in Net Assets and as a component of the "Total from Investment Operations" in the Financial Highlights. This change has no impact on the Net Assets Applicable to the Common Stock of the Company.

 General American Investors

2. Capital Stock and Dividend Distributions - continued

Transactions in Common Stock during the six months ended June 30, 2002 and the year ended December 31, 2001 were as follows:

	Shares		Amount	
	2002	2001	2002	
	----	----	----	----
Shares issued in payment of dividends (includes 28,400 shares issued from treasury)	-	2,310,019	-	\$2,310,019
Increase in paid-in capital			-	78,700
Total increase			-	81,000
Shares purchased (at an average discount from net asset value of 8.5% and 9.0%, respectively)	141,500	19,000	(\$141,500)	(6,000)
Decrease in paid-in capital			(4,030,036)	(6,000)
Total decrease			(4,171,536)	(6,000)
Net increase (decrease)			(\$4,171,536)	\$80,300

At June 30, 2002, the Company held in its treasury 141,500 shares of Common Stock with an aggregate cost in the amount of \$4,171,536.

3. Officers' Compensation and Retirement and Thrift Plans

The aggregate compensation paid by the Company during the six months ended June 30, 2002 to its officers amounted to \$2,711,500.

The Company has non-contributory retirement plans and a contributory thrift plan which cover substantially all employees. The costs to the Company and the assets and liabilities of the plans are not material. Costs of the plans are funded currently.

4. Purchases and Sales of Securities

Purchases and sales of investment securities and securities sold short (other than short-term securities) for the six months ended June 30, 2002 were as follows:

	Purchases	Sales
	-----	-----
Long transactions	\$91,740,453	\$100,865,737
Short sale transactions	3,909,654	3,780,816
	-----	-----

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Total	\$95,650,107 =====	\$104,646,553 =====
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At June 30, 2002, the cost of investments for Federal income tax purposes was the same as the cost for financial reporting purposes.

5. Restricted Securities

	Date Acquired	Cost	Value (note 1a)
	-----	-----	-----
Sequoia Capital IV*	1/31/84	\$ 886,407	\$ 2,500
Silicon Genesis Corporation Series C Preferred	2/16/01	3,006,720	1,503,360
Standard MEMS, Inc. Series A Convertible Preferred	12/17/99	3,003,000	546,000
		-----	-----
Total		\$ 6,896,127	\$2,051,860
		=====	=====

* The amounts shown are net of distributions from this limited partnership interest which, in the aggregate, amounted to \$4,806,404. The initial investment in the limited partnership was \$2,000,000.

6. Operating Lease Commitment

In July 1992, the Company entered into an operating lease agreement for office space which expires in 2007 and provides for future rental payments in the aggregate amount of approximately \$5.6 million. The lease agreement contains a clause whereby the Company received twenty months of free rent beginning in December 1992 and escalation clauses relating to operating costs and real property taxes.

Rental expense approximated \$139,200 for the six months ended June 30, 2002. Minimum rental commitments under the operating lease are approximately \$403,000 in 2002 and \$504,000 per annum in 2003 through 2007.

In March 1996, the Company entered into a sublease agreement which expires in 2003 and provides for future rental receipts. Minimum rental receipts under the sublease are approximately \$203,000 in 2002 and \$64,000 in 2003. The Company will also receive its proportionate share of operating expenses and real property taxes under the sublease.

In addition to purchases of the Company's Common Stock as set forth in Note 2 on page 9, purchases of Common Stock may be made at such times, at such prices, in such amounts and in such manner as the Board of Directors may deem advisable.

11 MAJOR STOCK CHANGES* Three Months Ended June 30, 2002 (Unaudited)

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Increases	Shares	Shares Held June 30, 2002
<hr/>		
New Positions		
El Paso Corporation	850,000	850,000
Additions		
Alkermes, Inc.	20,000	240,000
American International Group, Inc.	70,000	300,000
The Boeing Company	75,000	500,000
Brooks-PRI Automation, Inc.	62,400 (a)	337,400
Cox Communications, Inc. Class A	150,000	728,700
Everest Re Group, Ltd.	75,000	625,000
Genentech, Inc.	275,000	600,000
Health Net, Inc.	50,000	450,000
Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	20,000	140,000
Pfizer Inc	110,000	1,000,000
Decreases		
<hr/>		
Eliminations		
AXT, Inc.	105,000	-
Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.	475,000	-
Johnson & Johnson	155,000	-
PRI Automation, Inc.	120,000 (a)	-
Viewpoint Corporation	226,100	-
Reductions		
AmerUs Group Co.	25,000	275,000
Annaly Mortgage Management, Inc.	25,000	500,000
BioReliance Corporation	26,000	74,000
Golden West Financial Corporation	25,000	500,000
Halliburton Company	150,000	1,250,000
IQE plc	201,100	1,644,900
M&T Bank Corporation	10,000	350,000
Oberthur Card Systems S.A.	75,000	175,000
PepsiCo, Inc.	25,000	150,000

DIRECTORS

Lawrence B. Bутtenwieser, Chairman
 Arthur G. Altschul, Jr. Bill Green
 Lewis B. Cullman Sidney R. Knafel
 Spencer Davidson Richard R. Pivirotto
 Gerald M. Edelman Joseph T. Stewart, Jr.
 John D. Gordan, III Raymond S. Troubh

William O. Baker, Director Emeritus
 William T. Golden, Director Emeritus

OFFICERS

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Spencer Davidson, President & Chief Executive Officer
Andrew V. Vindigni, Vice-President
Eugene L. DeStaebler, Jr., Vice-President, Administration
Peter P. Donnelly, Vice-President & Trader
Diane G. Radosti, Treasurer
Carole Anne Clementi, Secretary

SERVICE COMPANIES

Counsel
Sullivan & Cromwell

Independent Auditors
Ernst & Young LLP

Custodian
Deutsche Bank Trust
Company Americas

Transfer Agent and Registrar
Mellon Investor Services LLC
P.O. Box 3315
South Hackensack, NJ 07606-1915
1-800-413-5499
www.mellon-investor.com

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of
GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS COMPANY, INC.

We have reviewed the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities of General American Investors Company, Inc., including the statements of investments and securities sold short, as of June 30, 2002, and the related statements of operations and changes in net assets and financial highlights for the six month period ended June 30, 2002. These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Company's management.

We conducted our review in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A review of interim financial information consists principally of applying analytical procedures to financial data, and making inquiries of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters. It is substantially less in scope than an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the interim financial statements referred to above for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

We have previously audited, in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the statement of changes in net assets for the year ended December 31, 2001 and financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended and in our report, dated January 15, 2002, we expressed an unqualified opinion on such financial statement and financial highlights.

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New York, New York
July 15, 2002

ERNST & YOUNG LLP