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GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC

Form N-30D

February 01, 2002

GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS Company, Inc.

Established in 1927, the Company is a closed-end investment company listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Its objective is long-term capital appreciation through investment in companies with above average growth potential.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	2001 -----	2000 -----
Net assets-December 31	\$1,247,529,720	\$1,305,039,463
Preferred Stock liquidation preference	150,000,000	150,000,000
Common Stock	1,097,529,720	1,155,039,463
Net investment income	12,512,405	13,805,530
Net realized gain	70,720,822	217,372,941
Net decrease in unrealized appreciation	(87,697,439)	(45,048,910)
Per Common Share-December 31		
Net asset value	\$35.14	\$39.91
Market price	33.47	\$36.00
Discount from net asset value	-4.8%	-9.8%
Common Shares outstanding-Dec. 31	31,231,563	28,940,544
Common stockholders of record-Dec. 31	4,900	5,182
Market price range* (high-low)	\$39.70-\$27.50	\$44.00-\$35.63
Market volume-shares	5,009,500	4,896,700

DIVIDEND Summary (per share)

Record Date -----	Payment Date -----	Ordinary Income -----	Long-Term Capital Gain -----	Total -----
Common Stock				
Nov. 15, 2001	Dec. 20, 2001	\$0.82 (a)	\$1.26	\$2.08
Jan. 28, 2002	Feb. 11, 2002	.19 (b)	.11	.30
		-----	-----	-----
	Total from 2001 earnings	\$1.01	\$1.37	\$2.38
		=====	=====	=====
(a) Includes short-term gain in the amount of \$.45 per share.				
(b) Represents short-term gain.				
Nov. 13, 2000	Dec. 21, 2000	\$1.97 (c)	\$4.14	\$6.11
Jan. 29, 2001	Mar. 14, 2001	.06 (d)	2.02	2.08
		-----	-----	-----
	Total from 2000 earnings	\$2.03	\$6.16	\$8.19
		=====	=====	=====
(c) Includes short-term gain in the amount of \$1.49 per share.				
(d) Represents short-term gain.				
Preferred Stock				
Mar. 6, 2001	Mar. 23, 2001	\$.0963	\$.3537	\$.45

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Jun. 6, 2001	Jun. 25, 2001	.0963	.3537	.45
Sep. 6, 2001	Sep. 24, 2001	.0963	.3537	.45
Dec. 6, 2001	Dec. 24, 2001	.0963	.3537	.45
Total for 2001		-----	-----	-----
		\$.3852 (e)	\$ 1.4148	\$ 1.80
		=====	=====	=====

(e) Includes short-term gain in the amount of \$.2224 per share (\$.0556 per quarter).

Mar. 6, 2000	Mar. 23, 2000	\$.1281	\$.3219	\$.45
Jun. 6, 2000	Jun. 23, 2000	.1281	.3219	.45
Sep. 6, 2000	Sep. 25, 2000	.1281	.3219	.45
Dec. 6, 2000	Dec. 26, 2000	.1281	.3219	.45
Total for 2000		-----	-----	-----
		\$.5124 (f)	1.2876	\$ 1.80
		=====	=====	=====

(f) Includes short-term gain in the amount of \$.4056 per share (\$.1014 per quarter).

General American Investors Company, Inc.
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1 TO THE STOCKHOLDERS

General American Investors

The year just ended marked General American Investors' 75th Anniversary as a closed-end investment company. It will be remembered most for the tragic events of September 11th. It was also the first time since 1973-74 that our benchmark, the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index (including income), posted back-to-back negative returns, losing 11.9%. By contrast, the return to our common stockholders (assuming reinvestment of all dividends) was 4.3%, resulting from a decline in net asset value per share of 1.20% together with significant shrinkage in the discount at which our shares trade. We are encouraged by our performance, especially when viewed in the context of the extraordinary results of recent years.

The table that follows, which compares our returns on an annualized basis with the S&P 500, illustrates that over many years General American has produced superior investment results.

Years	Stockholder Return	S&P 500
3	20.0%	-1.0%
5	26.5	10.7
10	15.4	12.9
20	16.6	15.2
30	15.9	12.3
40	13.7	10.9

Long-term capital gain distributions for 2001 will total \$1.37 per share, including \$.11 per share that will be distributed in February 2002. Because of tax requirements unique to our industry, gains realized in November and December are paid in the following calendar year. Total dividends attributable to 2001, including net income and short-term capital gains, amounted to \$2.38 per share, or 6.8% of ending net asset value ("NAV"). This percentage has averaged 10.9% over the past 20 years.

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During 2001, 19,000 common shares of General American were purchased in the open market at an average discount to NAV of 9%. The Board of Directors has authorized repurchases of common shares when they are trading at a discount in excess of 8% of NAV.

The economy appears to be stabilizing amid nascent signs of recovery. In the past, aggressive Federal Reserve Board action has succeeded in ending recessions. In 2001, the Fed reduced interest rates eleven times, to 1.75%, the lowest level in forty years. As a result, the real rate (the nominal rate less inflation) is presently below zero. Together with current deficit spending, these actions should ensure future economic growth. The recovery is likely to be sluggish, however, and gains in corporate profits may well be modest. Importantly, there would seem to be little pent-up demand for consumer durables like cars and houses, two traditional well-springs of a cyclical rebound. It may take some time, furthermore, to purge the structural excesses of the last boom when both business and consumer spending rose to levels well above their respective rates of savings. While the number of newly unemployed workers may be receding, the unemployment rate could rise for some time. This would weigh on consumer confidence and spending.

In consequence, corporate profits face a number of headwinds and a return to vigorous growth may prove challenging. The relative strength of the dollar continues to impact export demand while adversely affecting the competitive position of U. S. manufacturers at home. With little inflation, more than adequate capacity and balance sheets already stretched, improving profit margins will not be accomplished easily. Markets, however, now reflect more fully subdued expectations for growth and profits. While a return to the environment that produced the out-sized gains of the five years ended in 1999 seems improbable, we are less guarded with respect to the market outlook than we have been in recent reports.

We have commenced work on the development of a website for General American. It will include corporate information, current NAV and market price data, historical reports, dividend payments, press releases and a means by which you can contact us and our transfer agent. Look for us on "the Web" at www.generalamericaninvestors.com toward the end of the first quarter.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Spencer Davidson
President and Chief Executive Officer
January 16, 2002

2 THE COMPANY

General American Investors

Corporate Overview and 75th Year

General American Investors, established in 1927, is one of the nation's oldest closed-end investment companies. It is an independent organization, internally managed. For regulatory purposes, the Company is classified as a diversified, closed-end management investment company; it is registered under and subject to the regulatory provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940.

As we celebrate our 75th year, we look back with pride on a record characterized by continuity of management and consistency of purpose with attendant superior

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returns. Over the last 75 years, the total return (exclusive of operating expenses) indicated for the Company is 13.1% compounded annually. In comparison, the total return for the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index (including income) is 10.6% per year.

During our first 21 years, Frank Altschul served as President and portfolio manager. He then served as Chairman followed by his son, Arthur G. Altschul (1961-1995), and by our current Chairman, Lawrence B. Buttenwieser. During this 75-year period, only 6 individuals served as President and portfolio manager; these titles are currently held by Spencer Davidson (since 1995).

Investment Policy

The primary objective of the Company is long-term capital appreciation. Lesser emphasis is placed on current income. In seeking to achieve its primary objective, the Company invests principally in common stocks believed by its management to have better than average growth potential.

The Company's investment approach focuses on the selection of individual stocks, each of which is expected to meet a clearly defined portfolio objective. A continuous investment research program, which stresses fundamental security analysis, is carried on by the officers and staff of the Company under the oversight of the Board of Directors. A listing of the directors with their principal affiliations, showing a broad range of experience in business and financial affairs, is on page 16 of this report.

Portfolio Manager

Mr. Spencer Davidson has been responsible for the management of General American's portfolio since he was elected President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company in August 1995. Mr. Davidson, who joined the Company in 1994 as senior investment counselor, has spent his entire business career on Wall Street since first joining an investment and banking firm in 1966.

"GAM" Common Stock

As a closed-end investment company, General American Investors does not offer its shares continuously. The Common Stock is listed on The New York Stock Exchange (symbol, GAM) and can be bought or sold with commissions determined in the same manner as all listed stocks. Net asset value is computed daily (on an unaudited basis) and is furnished upon request. It is also available on most electronic quotation services using the symbol "XGAMX." The figure for net asset value per share, together with the market price and the percentage discount or premium from net asset value as of the close of each week, is published in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and Barron's.

3 THE COMPANY

General American Investors

The ratio of market price to net asset value has shown considerable variation over a long period of time. While shares of GAM usually sell at a discount from their underlying net asset value, as do the shares of most other domestic equity closed-end investment companies, they, periodically, sell at a premium over net asset value. The last time the Company's shares sold at a premium for a prolonged period was the year-long period from March 1992 through April 1993. During 2001, the stock sold at premiums over and discounts from net asset value which ranged from a premium of 1.8% (July 6) to a discount of 8.5% (September 21). At December 31, the price of the stock was at a discount of 4.8% as

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compared with a discount of 9.8% a year earlier.

"GAM Pr" Preferred Stock

On June 19, 1998, the Company issued and sold in an underwritten offering 6,000,000 shares of its 7.20% Tax-Advantaged Cumulative Preferred Stock with a liquidation preference of \$25 per share (\$150,000,000 in the aggregate).

The Preferred Shares are noncallable for 5 years, are rated "aaa" by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. and are listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange (symbol, GAM Pr).

The preferred capital is available to leverage the investment performance of the Common Stockholders. As is the case for leverage in general, it may also result in higher market volatility for the Common Stockholders.

Dividend Policy

The Company's dividend policy is to distribute to stockholders before year-end substantially all ordinary income estimated for the full year and capital gains realized during the ten-month period ending October 31 of that year. If any additional capital gains are realized or ordinary income is earned during the last two months of the year, a "spill-over" distribution of these amounts will be paid early in the following year to Common Stockholders. Dividends on shares of Preferred Stock are paid quarterly. Distributions from capital gains and ordinary income are allocated proportionately among holders of shares of Common Stock and Preferred Stock.

Dividends from income have been paid continuously on the Common Stock since 1939 and capital gain dividends in varying amounts have been paid for each of the years 1943-2001 (except for the year 1974). (A table listing dividends paid during the 20-year period 1982-2001 is shown at the bottom of page 6.) To the extent that full shares can be issued, dividends are paid to Common Stockholders in additional shares of Common Stock unless the stockholder specifically requests payment in cash. Spill-over dividends of nominal amounts are paid in cash only.

Privacy Policy and Practices

General American Investors collects nonpublic personal information about its customers (stockholders) with respect to their transactions in shares of the Company's securities but only for those stockholders whose shares are registered in their names. This information includes the stockholder's address, tax identification or Social Security number and dividend elections. We do not have knowledge of, nor do we collect personal information about, stockholders who hold the Company's securities at financial institutions such as brokers or banks in "street name" registration.

We do not disclose any nonpublic personal information about our stockholders or former stockholders to anyone, except as permitted by law.

We restrict access to nonpublic personal information about our stockholders to those employees who need to know that information to provide services to our stockholders. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with federal standards to guard our stockholders' nonpublic personal information.

4 INVESTMENT RESULTS

General American Investors

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Total return on \$10,000 investment 20 years ended December 31, 2001

The investment return for a common stockholder of General American Investors (GAM) over the 20 years ended December 31, 2001 is shown in the table below and in the accompanying chart. The return based on GAM's net asset value (NAV) per common share in comparison to the change in the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index (S&P 500) is also displayed. Each illustration assumes an investment of \$10,000 at the beginning of 1982.

The Stockholder Return is the return a common stock holder of GAM would have achieved assuming reinvestment of all optional dividends at the actual reinvestment price and reinvestment of all cash dividends at the average (mean between high and low) market price on the ex-dividend date.

The GAM Net Asset Value (NAV) Return is the return on shares of the Company's common stock based on the NAV per share, including the reinvestment of all dividends.

The S&P 500 Return is the time-weighted total rate of return on this widely-recognized, unmanaged index which is a measure of general stock market performance, including dividend income.

The results illustrated are a record of past performance and may not be indicative of future results.

GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS						STANDARD & POOR'S 500 RETURN	
STOCKHOLDER RETURN			NET ASSET VALUE RETURN			RETURN	
CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT	ANNUAL RETURN	%	CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT	ANNUAL RETURN	%	CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT	ANNUAL RETURN
1982	\$ 11,929	19.29	\$ 11,842	18.42		\$12,155	21.55
1983	13,875	16.31	14,567	23.01		14,896	22.55
1984	12,881	-7.16	13,534	-7.09		15,831	6.28
1985	16,077	24.81	18,271	35.00		20,861	31.77
1986	17,873	11.17	20,312	11.17		24,760	18.69
1987	14,994	-16.11	20,826	2.53		26,057	5.24
1988	18,181	21.26	24,485	17.57		30,365	16.53
1989	27,017	48.60	33,755	37.86		39,966	31.62
1990	28,098	4.00	36,013	6.69		38,731	-3.09
1991	51,981	85.00	58,013	61.09		50,505	30.40
1992	59,664	14.78	60,073	3.55		54,339	7.59
1993	50,165	-15.92	59,021	-1.75		59,838	10.12
1994	46,222	-7.86	57,404	-2.74		60,598	1.27
1995	56,031	21.22	70,940	23.58		83,322	37.50
1996	66,946	19.48	85,107	19.97		102,411	22.91
1997	95,451	42.58	112,384	32.05		136,544	33.33
1998	125,337	31.31	151,875	35.14		175,528	28.55
1999	174,494	39.22	207,158	36.40		212,318	20.96
2000	207,822	19.10	243,701	17.64		193,019	-9.09
2001	216,821	4.33	240,776	-1.20		170,069	-11.89

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5 INVESTMENT RESULTS

----- General American Investors

[Line graph with heading "20-YEAR INVESTMENT RESULTS ASSUMING AN INITIAL INVESTMENT OF \$10,000" at top left hand side. The vertical axis is to the right side of the page and is labeled "CUMULATIVE VALUE OF INVESTMENT." The axis range is from \$0 to \$250,000 in \$25,000 increments. The horizontal axis, on the bottom of the page, consists of the years 1982 through 2001 in one year increments. Within the graph are three lines. The first line represents GAM Stockholder Return. The second line represents GAM Net Asset Value, and the third line represents the S&P 500 Stock Index. The data points for the lines are derived from the columns labeled "Cumulative Investment" from the table on the preceding page. Also, embedded in upper left portion of the graph is a table which appears as follows:]

COMPARATIVE ANNUALIZED INVESTMENT RESULTS

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001	STOCKHOLDER RETURN	GAM NET ASSET VALUE	S&P 500 STOCK INDEX
1 year	4.3 %	-1.2 %	-11.9 %
5 years	26.5	23.1	10.7
10 years	15.4	15.3	12.9
15 years	18.1	17.9	13.7
20 years	16.6	17.2	15.2

6 MAJOR STOCK CHANGES*: THREE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001 (UNAUDITED)

----- General American Investors

INCREASES	SHARES	SHARES HELD DECEMBER 31, 2001

NEW POSITIONS		
AXT, Inc.	30,000	213,500 (a)
Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	-	120,000 (b)
Newell Rubbermaid Inc.	-	150,000 (b)
ADDITIONS		
Annuity and Life Re (Holdings), Ltd.	10,000	560,000
Brooks Automation, Inc.	100,000	275,000
Golden West Financial Corporation	40,000	525,000
Health Net, Inc.	100,000	400,000
IQE plc	196,000	2,646,000
MedImmune, Inc.	25,000	264,000
MetLife, Inc.	50,000	300,000
Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated	50,000	600,000
Wind River Systems, Inc.	189,500	339,500

DECREASES

----- ELIMINATIONS

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AMR Corporation	500,000	-
Brooktrout, Inc.	225,000	-
REDUCTIONS		
AmerUs Group Co.	20,000	300,000
Annaly Mortgage Management, Inc.	50,000	525,000
BioReliance Corporation	98,200	100,000
The Boeing Company	25,000	475,000
Cisco Systems, Inc.	25,000	535,000
Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.	250,000	500,000
Everest Re Group, Ltd.	35,000	575,000
First Midwest Bancorp, Inc.	58,750	200,000 (c)
The Home Depot, Inc.	100,000	2,045,000
IDEC Pharmaceuticals Corporation	80,000	520,000
John Hancock Financial Services, Inc.	20,000	440,000
OSI Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	30,000	150,000
PartnerRe Ltd.	25,000	550,000
PRI Automation, Inc.	200,000	120,000
Transatlantic Holdings, Inc.	5,000	225,000
Uniroyal Technology Corporation	148,000	250,000

[CAPTION]

The following table shows aggregate dividends paid per share on the Company's Common Stock for each year during the 20-year period 1982-2001. Amounts shown include payments made after year-end attributable to income and gain in each respective year.

DIVIDENDS PER COMMON SHARE (1982-2001)

YEAR	DIVIDEND FROM	
	INCOME#	LONG-TERM CAPITAL GAINS
1982	\$.36	\$1.15
1983	.67	2.38
1984	.28	1.35
1985	.47	1.07
1986	.36	2.15
1987	.35	1.54
1988	.29	1.69
1989	.23	1.56
1990	.21	1.65
1991	.09	3.07
1992	.03	2.93
1993	.06	2.34
1994	.06	1.59
1995	.13	2.77
1996	.25	2.71
1997	.21	2.95
1998	.47	4.40
1999	1.04	4.05
2000	2.03	6.16
2001	1.01	1.37

7 TEN LARGEST INVESTMENT HOLDINGS (UNAUDITED)

 General American Investors

[CAPTION]

The statement of investments as of December 31, 2001, shown on pages 10 and 11 includes 59 stock issues. Listed here are the ten largest stock holdings on that date.

	SHARES	VALUE	N
THE HOME DEPOT, INC. The dominant company in home center retailing, Home Depot's innovative merchandising, strong balance sheet and excellent management has enabled the Company to continue to gain share in a fragmented industry.	2,045,000	\$104,315,450	
THE TJX COMPANIES, INC. The leading off-price retailer, through divisions such as T.J. Maxx and Marshalls, of apparel and home fashions in the U.S. and worldwide. TJX has expanded through acquisitions and internal growth, has achieved financial strength and is positioned for sustainable growth.	1,325,000	52,814,500	
EVEREST RE GROUP, LTD. The largest independent U.S. property/casualty reinsurer which generates annual premiums of \$1.5 billion and has a high quality, well-reserved AA balance sheet. This Bermuda domiciled company has a strong management team that exercises prudent underwriting discipline and efficient expense control, resulting in above-average earnings growth.	575,000	40,652,500	
IDEC PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION A biopharmaceutical company which is committed to developing and commercializing effective treatments of selected cancers and autoimmune diseases. With proven products such as Rituxan and a broad pipeline of product opportunities, IDEC is positioned for continued success.	520,000	35,843,600	
PFIZER INC. Well established as a leader in the pharmaceutical industry, Pfizer continues to reap the benefits of its commitment to research and development and its ability to effectively market products. The recent launch of several new products serving large markets and development of a pipeline rich with many promising drug candidates position Pfizer for strong long-term growth.	890,000	35,466,500	

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WAL-MART STORES, INC. A policy of serving the mass market with everyday low prices, supported by the lowest cost structure has made Wal-Mart the world's largest retailer with ongoing growth opportunities in the U.S. and overseas.	570,000	32,803,500

GOLDEN WEST FINANCIAL CORPORATION A savings and loan holding company with \$59 billion in assets headquartered in Oakland, CA. It has a strong, conservative management with a high level of insider ownership. Excellent asset quality, tight expense control and efficient capital management help produce above-average earnings increases.	525,000	30,896,250

COSTCO WHOLESALE CORPORATION A growing chain of membership warehouses, located principally in the U.S., that sell high quality merchandise at competitive prices. Earnings are generated from high sales volume, low operating costs and rapid inventory turnover.	675,000	29,956,500

PARTNERRE LTD. A leading global Bermuda-based multi-line reinsurer that generates annual premiums of \$1.7 billion and has a well-capitalized and conservatively reserved AA balance sheet. PartnerRe has a deep and talented staff and is well positioned to benefit from the strong industry pricing cycle.	550,000	29,700,000

FORD MOTOR COMPANY A global manufacturer of automobiles, trucks and related parts. The company provides financial services through its Ford Motor Credit subsidiary and owns 81% of Hertz, the top car rental firm in the U.S.	1,700,500	26,731,860

\$419,180,660
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8 STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

General American Investors

	DECEMBER 31,	
	2001	2000

ASSETS		

INVESTMENTS, AT VALUE (note 1a)		
Common Stocks (cost \$461,130,422 and \$457,376,112, respectively)	\$ 931,026,318	\$ 1,005,549,3
Corporate discount notes (cost \$310,348,410 and \$285,169,722, respectively)	310,348,410	285,169,7
	-----	-----
	1,241,374,728	1,290,719,0
CASH, RECEIVABLES AND OTHER ASSETS		
Cash (including margin account balance of \$20,966 and \$2,899,267, respectively)	40,931	3,112,5

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Receivable for securities sold	2,827,707	434,7
Receivable from broker for proceeds on securities sold short	23,334,454	67,808,1
Dividends, interest and other receivables	1,261,862	2,754,1
Prepaid Expenses	5,804,035	5,078,2
Other	513,446	557,4
TOTAL ASSETS	1,275,157,163	1,370,464,3

LIABILITIES		

Payable for securities purchased	1,318,500	3,921,1
Preferred dividend accrued but not yet declared	240,000	240,0
Securities sold short, at value (proceeds \$23,334,454 and \$67,808,111, respectively) (note 1a)	15,758,350	50,811,9
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	10,310,593	10,451,8
TOTAL LIABILITIES	27,627,443	65,424,8

NET ASSETS	\$1,247,529,720	\$1,305,039,4
=====		
NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO PREFERRED STOCK AT A LIQUIDATION VALUE OF \$25 PER SHARE	\$150,000,000	\$150,000,0
=====		
NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK	\$1,097,529,720	\$1,155,039,4
=====		
NET ASSET VALUE PER COMMON SHARE	\$35.14	\$39.
=====		
NET ASSETS		

7.20% Tax-Advantaged Cumulative Preferred Stock, \$1 par value (note 2) Authorized 10,000,000 shares; outstanding 6,000,000 shares	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,0
Common Stock, \$1 par value (note 2) Authorized 50,000,000 shares; outstanding 31,231,563 and 28,940,544 shares, respectively (exclusive of 9,400 shares held in Treasury in 2000)	31,231,563	28,940,5
Additional paid-in capital (note 2)	723,414,981	645,307,4
Undistributed realized gain on securities sold (note 2)	9,598,439	60,229,3
Undistributed net income and distributions in excess of net income, respectively (note 2)	52,737	(367,34
Unallocated distributions on Preferred Stock	(240,000)	(240,00
Unrealized appreciation on investments (including aggregate gross unrealized appreciation of \$520,141,071 and \$604,311,705, respectively)	477,472,000	565,169,4
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$1,247,529,720	\$1,305,039,4
=====		

9 STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

General American Investors

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,

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DISTRIBUTIONS TO PREFERRED STOCKHOLDERS

From net income, including short-term capital gain	(2,311,200)	(3,074,400)
From long-term capital gain	(8,488,800)	(7,725,600)

DECREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM PREFERRED DISTRIBUTIONS	(10,800,000)	(10,800,000)
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DISTRIBUTIONS TO COMMON STOCKHOLDERS

From net income, including short-term capital gain	(26,369,696)	(60,132,210)
From long-term capital gain	(96,274,382)	(151,138,650)

DECREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM COMMON DISTRIBUTIONS	(122,644,078)	(211,270,860)
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CAPITAL SHARE TRANSACTIONS

Value of Common Shares issued in payment of dividends (note 2)	81,091,222	136,477,200
Cost of Common Shares purchased (note 2)	(692,675)	(40,015,550)

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS - CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS	80,398,547	96,461,650
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NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(57,509,743)	60,520,330
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NET ASSETS

BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,305,039,463	1,244,519,120
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END OF YEAR (including undistributed net income of \$52,737 and distributions in excess of net income of \$367,345, respectively)	\$1,247,529,720	\$1,305,039,463
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10 STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS: DECEMBER 31, 2001

General American Investors

COMMON STOCKS

SHARES

AEROSPACE/DEFENSE (1.5%)	475,000 The Boeing Company	(COST \$14,344,668)
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COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SERVICES (2.8%)	535,000 Cisco Systems, Inc. (a) 520,000 Cox Communications, Inc. Class A (a) 180,000 NTL Incorporated (a) 144,500 Wolters Kluwer NV-ADR	(COST \$9,681,525)
--	--	--------------------

COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND SYSTEMS (0.9%)	484,500 Oberthur Card Systems S.A. (a) 230,000 Viewpoint Corporation (a)
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339,500 Wind River Systems, Inc. (a)

(COST \$15,966,968)

 CONSUMER PRODUCTS 500,000 Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.
 AND SERVICES (4.8%) 275,000 Ethan Allen Interiors, Inc.
 1,700,500 Ford Motor Company
 150,000 Newell Rubbermaid Inc.
 175,000 PepsiCo, Inc.

(COST \$53,064,273)

 ELECTRONICS (1.5%) 692,500 Molex Incorporated Class A

(COST \$14,877,393)

 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
 (INCLUDING SERVICES)

(0.7%)

280,000 Waste Management, Inc.

(COST \$3,690,021)

 FINANCE AND INSURANCE
 (23.4%)

195,000 American International Group, Inc.
 300,000 AmerUs Group Co.
 525,000 Annaly Mortgage Management, Inc.
 560,000 Annuity and Life Re (Holdings), Ltd.
 315 Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Class A (a)
 78,912 Central Securities Corporation
 575,000 Everest Re Group, Ltd.
 200,000 First Midwest Bancorp, Inc.
 525,000 Golden West Financial Corporation
 440,000 John Hancock Financial Services, Inc.
 360,000 M&T Bank Corporation
 300,000 MetLife, Inc.
 550,000 PartnerRe Ltd.
 600,000 Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated
 260,000 SunTrust Banks, Inc.
 225,000 Transatlantic Holdings, Inc.

(COST \$113,945,775)

 HEALTH CARE (14.0%)

PHARMACEUTICALS (11.9%)

 220,000 Alkermes, Inc. (a)
 425,000 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
 270,000 Genaera Corporation (a)
 325,000 Genentech, Inc. (a)
 520,000 IDEC Pharmaceuticals Corporation (a)
 155,000 Johnson & Johnson
 264,000 MedImmune, Inc. (a)
 120,000 Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (a)
 150,000 OSI Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (a)
 890,000 Pfizer Inc.

(COST \$66,166,567)

 MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS AND DEVICES (1.2%)

 290,000 Medtronic, Inc.

(COST \$862,614)

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HEALTH CARE SERVICES (0.9%)

100,000 BioReliance Corporation (a)
400,000 Health Net, Inc. (a)

(COST \$7,734,076)

(COST \$74,763,257)

11 STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS: DECEMBER 31, 2001 - continued

General American Investors

COMMON STOCKS (Continued)

SHARES

MISCELLANEOUS (3.7%) Other (COST \$56,000,845)

OIL AND NATURAL GAS
(INCLUDING SERVICES)
(0.8%)

700,000 Repsol, S.A.-ADR

(COST \$8,236,884)

RETAIL TRADE (17.7%)

675,000 Costco Wholesale Corporation (a)
2,045,000 The Home Depot, Inc. (b)
1,325,000 The TJX Companies, Inc.
570,000 Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

(COST \$49,514,414)

SEMICONDUCTORS (2.5%)

213,500 AXT, Inc. (a)
275,000 Brooks Automation, Inc. (a)
197,000 EMCORE Corporation (a)
2,646,000 IQE plc (a)
120,000 PRI Automation, Inc. (a)
250,000 Uniroyal Technology Corporation (a)
380,000 Zarlink Semiconductor Inc. (a)

(COST \$40,148,272)

SPECIAL HOLDINGS

(a) (c)
(NOTE 5) (0.3%)

(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 (74.6%)

(COST \$461,130,422)

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SHORT-TERM SECURITIES AND OTHER ASSETS

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT

\$75,900,000	American Express Credit Corporation notes due 1/7-1/17/02; 1.78%-2.04%
63,900,000	Ford Motor Credit Company notes due 1/3-2/7/02; 2.54%-2.95%
75,600,000	General Electric Capital Corp. notes due 1/8-1/29/02; 1.75%-1.93%
66,400,000	General Motors Acceptance Corp. notes due 1/2-2/4/02; 2.40%-2.93%
29,500,000	Sears Roebuck Acceptance Corp. notes due 1/22-1/31/02; 2.25%-2.90%

(COST \$310,348,410)

Cash, receivables and other assets, less liabilities

TOTAL SHORT-TERM SECURITIES AND OTHER ASSETS, NET (25.4%) (COST \$316,503,402)

NET ASSETS (COST \$777,633,824)

STATEMENT OF SECURITIES SOLD SHORT: DECEMBER 31, 2001

General American Investors

COMMON STOCKS

SHARES

338,000	Molex Incorporated
175,000	Southwest Bancorporation of Texas, Inc.

TOTAL SECURITIES SOLD SHORT (PROCEEDS \$23,334,454)

12 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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 generally accepted accounting principles 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.

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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 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 sale and the date on which the Company replaces the borrowed securities.

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

On June 19, 1998, the Company issued and sold 6,000,000 shares of its 7.20% Tax-Advantaged Cumulative Preferred Stock. The stock has 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

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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.

Transactions in Common Stock during 2001 and 2000 were as follows:

	SHARES		AMOUNT
	2001	2000	2001
Shares issued in payment of dividends (includes 28,400 and 1,113,200 shares issued from Treasury, respectively)	2,310,019	3,738,367	\$ 2,310,019
Increase in paid-in capital			78,781,203
Total increase			81,091,222
Shares purchased (at an average discount from net asset value of 9.0% and 8.6%, respectively)	19,000	1,017,200	(19,000)
Decrease in paid-in capital			(673,675)
Total decrease			(692,675)
Net increase			\$80,398,547

13 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

General American Investors

2. CAPITAL STOCK AND DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTIONS (Continued from bottom of previous page)

Distributions in excess of net income for financial statement purposes result primarily from transactions where tax treatment differs from book treatment.

As of December 31, 2001, the components of distributable earnings on a tax basis were as follows:

Undistributed ordinary income	\$5,926,412
Undistributed long-term gain	3,342,802
Unrealized appreciation	477,472,000
	\$486,741,214
	=====

3. OFFICERS' COMPENSATION AND RETIREMENT AND THRIFT PLANS

The aggregate compensation paid by the Company during 2001 and 2000 to its officers amounted to \$5,334,000 and \$5,254,000, respectively.

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

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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 securities and securities sold short (other than short-term securities) during 2001 were as follows:

	PURCHASES	SALES
	-----	-----
Long transactions	\$217,712,654	\$266,598,113
Short sale transactions	28,442,689	2,050,085
	-----	-----
Total	\$246,155,343	\$268,648,198
	=====	=====

December 31, 2001, 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	VALU (NOTE)
	-----	-----	-----
Sequoia Capital IV*	1/31/84	\$886,407	\$2,5
Silicon Genesis Corporation Series C Preferred	2/16/01	3,006,720	3,006,7
Standard MEMS, Inc. Series A Convertible Preferred	12/17/99	3,003,000	546,0
		-----	-----
Total		\$6,896,127	\$3,555,2
		=====	=====

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 \$322,000 for 2001. 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.

7. SUBSEQUENT EVENT

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On January 16, 2002, the Board of Directors declared on the Common Stock a dividend of \$9,369,469 from realized gains, including \$3,435,472 from long-term capital gains and the balance from short-term gains (ordinary income). This dividend is payable in cash on February 11, 2002.

Unaudited

In addition to purchases of the Company's Common Stock as set forth in Note 2 on page 12, 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.

14 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

General American Investors

The following table shows per share operating performance data, total investment return, ratios and supplemental data 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.

	2001	2000	1999	1998	
PER SHARE OPERATING PERFORMANCE					
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 39.91	\$ 41.74	\$ 34.87	\$ 29.15	\$ 2
Net investment income	.41	.53	.45	.47	
Net gain on securities - realized and unrealized	(.66)	6.12	11.32	9.44	
Total from investment operations	(.25)	6.65	11.77	9.91	
Less distributions on:					
Common Stock:					
Dividends from investment income	(.88) (a)	(2.30) (b)	(.71) (c)	(.48)	
Distributions from capital gains	(3.28)	(5.78)	(3.77)	(3.24)	
	(4.16)	(8.08)	(4.48)	(3.72)	
Preferred Stock:					
Dividends from investment income	(.07) (e)	(.11) (f)	(.07) (g)	(.03)	
Distributions from capital gains	(.29)	(.29)	(.35)	(.20)	
Unallocated	-	-	-	(.01)	
	(.36)	(.40)	(.42)	(.24)	
Total distributions	(4.52)	(8.48)	(4.90)	(3.96)	
Capital Stock transaction - effect of Preferred Stock offering	-	-	-	(.23)	

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Net asset value, end of year	\$35.14	\$ 39.91	\$ 41.74	\$ 34.87	\$ 2
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Per share market value, end of year	\$33.47	\$ 36.00	\$ 37.19	\$ 30.44	\$ 2
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

TOTAL INVESTMENT RETURN - Stockholder Return, based on market price per share	4.33%	19.10%	39.22%	31.31%	4
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RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

Total net assets, end of year (000's omitted)	\$1,247,530	\$1,305,039	\$1,244,519	\$1,018,933	\$702
Net assets attributable to Common Stock, end of year (000's omitted)	\$1,097,530	\$1,155,039	\$1,094,519	\$868,933	\$702
Ratio of expenses to average net assets applicable to Common Stock	1.02%	1.09%	1.01%	0.95%	
Ratio of net income to average net assets applicable to Common Stock	1.15%	1.24%	1.23%	1.50%	
Portfolio turnover rate	23.81%	40.61%	33.68%	34.42%	3

PREFERRED STOCK

Liquidation value, end of year (000's omitted)	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Asset coverage	832%	870%	830%	679%
Liquidation preference per share	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Market value per share	\$25.90	\$24.25	\$21.75	\$25.88

15 REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

General American Investors

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STOCKHOLDERS OF GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS COMPANY, INC.

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities, including the statements of investments and securities sold short, of General American Investors Company, Inc. as of December 31, 2001, and the related statements of operations and changes in net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, and financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended. These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and financial highlights based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and financial highlights are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of December 31, 2001, by correspondence with the custodian and brokers. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements and financial highlights referred to

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above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of General American Investors Company, Inc. at December 31, 2001, the results of its operations and the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

Ernst & Young LLP

New York, New York
January 15, 2002

OFFICERS

Name (age) Employee Since	Position with Company Since	Name (age) Employee Since	Position with C Since
Spencer Davidson (59) 1994	President and Chief Executive Officer 1995	Peter P. Donnelly (53) 1974	Vice-President securities
Andrew V. Vindigni (42) 1988	Vice-President 1995 security analyst (financial services industry)	Diane G. Radosti (49) 1980	Treasurer 199 corporate a and financi
Eugene L. DeStaebler, Jr. (63) 1975	Vice-President, Administration 1978 operations and finance	Carole Anne Clementi (55) 1982	Secretary 199 shareholder and office

All officers serve for a term of one year and are elected by the board of directors at the time of its annual organization meeting on the second Wednesday in April. The address for each officer is the Company's office. Other directorships and affiliations for Mr. Davidson are shown in the listing of Directors on page 16.

SERVICE COMPANIES

COUNSEL

Sullivan & Cromwell

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Ernst & Young LLP

CUSTODIAN

Bankers Trust Company

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

16 DIRECTORS

General American Investors

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Name (age) Director Since	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Other Directorships and Affiliations

Independent ("disinterested") Directors		

Lawrence B. Bittenwieser (70) Chairman of the Board of Directors 1967	Partner Rosenman & Colin LLP (lawyers)	
Arthur G. Altschul, Jr. (37) 1995	Managing Member Diaz & Altschul Group, LLC (investments and securities)	Delta Opportunity Fund, Ltd., Director Medicis Pharmaceutical Corporation, Director The Overbrook Foundation, Trustee
Lewis B. Cullman (83) 1961	President Cullman Ventures LLC (catalogs)	Chess-in-the-Schools, Chairman, Board of Trustees Metropolitan Museum of Art, Trustee Neurosciences Research Foundation, Trustee The New York Botanical Garden, Senior Vice Chairman, Board of Managers
Gerald M. Edelman (72) 1976	Member and Chairman of the Department of Neurobiology The Scripps Research Institute	Neurosciences Institute of the Neurosciences Research Foundation, and President
John D. Gordan, III (56) 1986	Partner Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP (lawyers)	
Bill Green (72) 1993	Corporate director and trustee	ClientSoft, Inc., Director Commercial Capital Corp., Director Energy Answers Corporation, Director New York City Housing Development Corporation, Member and Vice Chair
Sidney R. Knafel (71) 1994	Managing Partner SRK Management Company (private investment company)	BioReliance Corporation, Chairman IGENE Biotechnology, Inc., Director Insight Communications Company, Inc., Chairman NTL Incorporated, Director Source Media, Inc., Director
Richard R. Pivirotto (71) 1971	President Richard R. Pivirotto Co., Inc. (self-employed consultant)	General Theological Seminary, Trustee The Gillette Company, Director The Greenwich Bank and Trust Company, Director Greenwich Hospital Corporation, Trustee Immunomedics, Inc., Director New York Life Insurance Company, Director Princeton University, Charter Trustee Emeritus
Joseph T. Stewart, Jr. (72) 1987	Corporate director and trustee	Foundation of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Trustee

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Marine Biological Laboratory, Member,
Advisory Council

Raymond S. Troubh (75) Financial Consultant
1989

Ariad Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Director
Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc., Dire
Enron Corp., Director
Gentiva Health Services, Inc., Direct
Health Net, Inc., Director
Hercules Incorporated, Director
Petrie Stores Liquidating Trust, Trus
Starwood Hotels & Resorts, Trustee
Triarc Companies, Inc., Director
WHX Corporation, Director

Inside ("interested") Director

Spencer Davidson (59) President and Chief Executive Medicis Pharmaceutical Corporation, D
1995 Officer Neurosciences Research Foundation, Tr
General American Investors
Company, Inc. since 1995

All directors serve for a term of one year and are elected by stockholders at the time of the annual meeting on the second Wednesday in April. The address for each director is the Company's office.

Arthur G. Altschul, Chairman Emeritus
William O. Baker, Director Emeritus
William T. Golden, Director Emeritus