WAS BORN on July 4, 1776, and the Declaration of Independence is my birth cortificate. The bloodlines of the world run in my voins, because I offered freedom to the oppressed. I am many things, and many people. I am the nation I am 200 million living souls — and the ghost of millions who have lived and

I am Nathan Hale and Paul Revere. I stood at Lexington and fired the shot heard around the world. I am Washington, Jefferson and Patrick Henry. I am John Paul Jones, the Green Mountain Boys and Davy Crocket. I am Lee.and Grant and

I remember the Alamo, the Maine and Pearl Harbor. When Freedom called I answored and stayed until it was over, over there. I left my heroic dead in Flanders Fields, on the rock Corregider, on the bleak slopes of Korea and in the steaming jungle of Vietnam.

I am the Brooklyn Bridge, the what lands of Kansas and the granite hills of Vormont. I am the coalfields of the Virginias and Pennsylvania, the fertile lands of the West, the Golden Gate and the Grand Canyon. I am Independence Hall, the

Monitor and the Merrimac.

I am big. I sprawl from the Atlantic to the Pacific ... my arms reach out to embrace Alaska and Hawaii ... 3 million square miles throbbing with industry. I am more than 5 million farms. I am forest, field, mountain and desert. I am quiet

willages — and cities that nover sleep.

You can look at me-and see Ben Franklin walking down the street of Philadelphia with his breadloaf under his arm. You can see Belsy Ross with her needle. You can see the light of Christmas, and hear the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" as the calendar turns.

I am Babe Ruth and the World Series. I am 130,000 schools and colleges, and

320,000 churches where my people worship God as they think best.

I am a ballot dropped in a box, the roar of a crowd in a stadium and the voice of a choir in a cathedral. I am an editorial in a newspaper and a letter to a

I am Eli Whitney and Stephen Foster. I am Tom Edison, Albert Einstein and Bill Graham ... I am Horacy Greeley, Will Rogers and the Wright brothers. I am George Washington Carver, Daniel Wobster and Jonas Salk. I am Longfellow, Harriet Beecher, Stowe, Walt Whitman and Thomas Paine.

Yes, I am the nation, and these are the things that I am. I was conceived in freedom and, God willing, in freedom I will spend the rest of my days.

May I possess always the integrity, the courage and the strength to keep myself unshackled. To remain a citadel of freedom and a beacon of hope to the world.

This is my wish, my goal, my prayer in this year of 1973 – one hundred and ninety seven years (

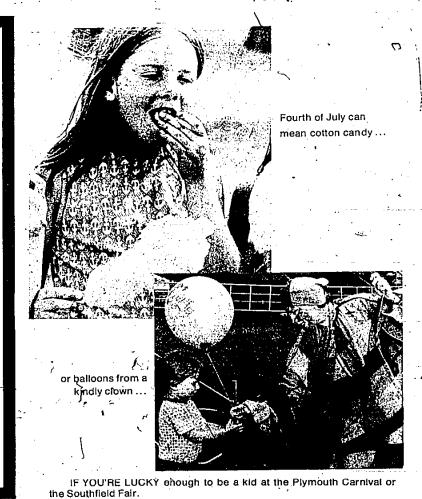
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