

# Harry Chapin, What Made America Famous?

It was the town that made America famous.  
The churches full and the kids all gone to hell.  
Six traffic lights and seven cops and all the streets kept clean.  
The supermarket and the drug store and the bars all doing well.

They were the folks that made America famous.  
The local fire department stocked with shorthaired volunteers.  
And on Saturday night while America boozes  
The fire department showed dirty movies,  
The lawyer and the grocer seeing their dreams  
Come to life on the movie screens  
While the plumber hopes that he won't be seen  
As he tries to hide his fears and he wipes away his tears.  
But something's burning somewhere. Does anybody care?

We were the kids that made America famous.  
The kind of kids that long since drove our parents to despair.  
We were lazy long hairs dropping our, lost confused, and copping out.  
Convinced our futures were in doubt and trying not to care.

We lived in the house that made America famous.  
It was a rundown slum, the shame of all the decent folks in town.  
We hippies and some welfare cases,  
Crowded families of coal black faces,  
Cramped inside some cracked old boards,  
The best that we all could afford  
But still too nice for the rich landlord  
To tear it down and we could hear the sound  
Of something burning somewhere. Is anybody there?

We all lived the life that made America famous.  
Our cops would make a point to shadow us around our town.  
And we love children put a swastika on the bright red firehouse door.  
America, the beautiful, it makes a body proud.

And then came the night that made America famous.  
Was it carelessness or someone's sick idea of a joke.  
In the tinder box trap that we hippies lived in someone struck a spark.  
At first I thought I was dreaming,  
Then I saw the first flames gleaming  
And heard the sound of children screaming  
Coming through the smoke. That's when the horror broke.

Something's burning somewhere. Does anybody care?

It was the fire that made America famous.  
The sirens wailed and the firemen stumbled sleepy from their homes.  
And the plumber yelled: "Come on let's go!"  
But they saw what was burning and said: "Take it slow,  
Let'em sweat a little, they'll never know  
And besides, we just cleaned the chrome." Said the plumber: "I'm g

He rolled on up in the fire truck  
And raised the ladder to the ledge  
Where me and my girl and a couple of kids  
Were clinging like bats to the edge.  
We staggered to salvation,  
Collapsed on the street.  
And I never thought that a fat man's face  
Would ever look so sweet.

I shook his hand in the scene that made America famous  
And a smile from the heart that made America great  
You see we spent the rest of that night in the home of a man I'd never known

before.

It's funny when you get that close it's kind of hard to hate.

I went to sleep with the hope that made America famous.  
I had the kind of a dream that maybe they're still trying to teach in school.  
Of the America that made America famous...and  
Of the people who just might understand  
That how together yes we can  
Create a country better than  
The one we have made of this land,  
We have a choice to make each man  
who dares to dream, reaching out his hand  
A prophet or just a crazy God damn  
Dreamer of a fool - yes a crazy fool

There's something burning somewhere.  
Does anybody care?  
Is anybody there?