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GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS CO INC

Form 13F-HR August 10, 2004

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

Form 13F

FORM 13F COVER PAGE

Report for the Calendar Year or Quarter Ended: June 30, 2004

Institutional Investment Manager Filing this Report: Name: General American Investors Company, Inc. Address: 450 Lexington Avenue, Suite 3300

New York, NY 10017

13F File Number: 28-461

The institutional investment manager filing this report and the person by whom it is signed hereby represent that the person signing the report is authorized to submit it, that all information contained herein is true, correct and complete, and that it is understood that all required items, statements, schedules, lists, and tables, are considered integral parts of this form.

Person Signing this Report: Name: Eugene L. DeStaebler, Jr.

Title: Vice-President, Administration

Phone: 212-916-8400

Signature, Place and Date of Signing:

Eugene L. DeStaebler, Jr. New York, NY August 10, 2004

Report Type (Check only one.):

13F HOLDINGS REPORT [x]

13F NOTICE []

13F COMBINATION REPORT []

List of Other Managers Reporting for this Manager: NONE

I am signing this report as required by the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

FORM 13F SUMMARY PAGE

Report Summary:

Number of Other Included Managers: Form 13F Information Table Entry Total: 60

Form 13F Information Table Value Total: \$1,049,228,390

NAME OF ISSUER TITLE CUSIP FAIR SHARES OR FAIR SHARES OR MARKET PRINCIPAL SH/ VALUE AMOUNT PRN OF NUMBER AMOUNT PRN CLASS

INVEST. DISC. SHARE SOLE SHARED OTHE (A) (B) (C)

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