

## **Tom T. Hall**

### **"America The Ugly"**

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There was a man, came to see the USA from a foreign  
land

To photograph the progress of dear old Uncle Sam  
He got off the boat in New York, went down to the  
Bowery

I know what the man went to photograph and to see

There were hopeless, hungry living dead  
Winos who sell their souls for a bottle of a cheapest red  
That's the picture that he wanted  
And that's what he got they say, America the ugly  
today

He went to the Appalachians and he saw what we all  
have seen

Where people live on bread and soup, fat back and  
pinto beans

He saw the hungry children and he photographed the  
ragged clothes

I guess we're gonna try to tell him that it ain't so

There were good men standin' around with nothing to  
do

Pregnant young women who didn't even have a pair of  
shoes

The man got his pictures

And what are we going to say, "America the ugly  
today"

Then he went to the medicare centers and he saw the  
old people there

It seems that the young generation just didn't want 'em  
in their hair

He saw the poor man workin' it out while the mighty rich  
lives high

And my friend that brings a gleam to the enemy's eyes

There were some folks, had plenty and some had none  
at all

The enemy knows when a heart gets hard, the country  
is bound to fall

If we get heads and hearts together we won't have to

hear them say

"America the ugly today, America the ugly today"

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