

## Chapter 9 Lesson 2

### The Depression Worsens:

The depression worsened throughout Hoover's presidency. By 1932, 30,000 companies went out of business and by 1933 about 25% of the workforce was unemployed.

### Struggling to Get by:

- 1) The jobless were often hungry and relied on breadlines and soup kitchens to survive
- 2) People who could not pay their rent or mortgages were evicted by bailiffs
- 3) Homeless people built shanty towns on public lands (called Hoovervilles) (newspapers used for warmth were called Hoover blankets)
- 4) There was an increase in the number of hoboes (people who rode the rails from place to place, looking for a better life)
- 5) Immigrants returned to their homelands. Some went voluntarily as jobs became scarce, others were deported by the US government. The government made a strong effort to deport immigrants who had violated the law regardless of their citizenship status.

### The Dust Bowl:

- 1) A terrible drought occurred while farmers were planting even more crops to compensate for low prices. The ground was left bare.
- 2) The Dust Bowl stretched from Texas to the Dakotas.
- 3) Wind storms would pick up the soil and carry it for hundreds of miles.
- 4) The dust buried crops and livestock. The dust could kill both animals and humans caught in the storm.
- 5) Many farmers lost their land when it was foreclosed.
- 6) Many farmers migrated toward the west in hopes of better opportunities.

### Arts and Entertainment:

- 1) The hard times led people to pursue escape. Entertainment was a means of escape.
- 2) Movies became more popular. About 60 million Americans went to the movies each week.
- 3) Walt Disney created the first feature length cartoon in 1937. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
- 4) Other popular movies were: Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (Jimmy Stewart), The Wizard of Oz (Judy Garland) and Gone with the Wind (Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh).
- 5) Hattie McDaniel won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for Gone with the Wind. She was the first African American to win an Oscar.
- 6) Radio grew in popularity. It provided entertainment and information.
  - a. Comedy shows were very popular (Jack Benny).
  - b. Soap operas began (sponsored by makers of laundry soap) (The Guiding Light).
  - c. Literature and the visual arts flourished during the 1930's and focused on realistic views of life
  - d. Photographers grew in influence during the 1930's.
    - i. Dorothea Lange
    - ii. Margaret Bourke-White
    - iii. Photojournalists who showed how the Great Depression affected real people

- iv. Life magazine was introduced in 1936
- e. Painters of the era emphasized traditional values
  - i. Grant Wood—*American Gothic*