

Ch 23 Section 4 Culture in the 1930s

The Lure of Motion Pictures and Radio

Movies are a Hit

- About 65% of population goes to movies once a week
- Films offer escape from reality; show wealth, romance, fun
- ***Gone With the Wind***—perhaps most famous film of era
- Musicals—live action or animated—way to forget problems
- Comedies, realistic gangster movies especially popular
- Several films present New Deal policies in positive light

Radio Entertains

- 90% of households have a radio; families listen together every day
- Dramas, variety shows play in evening
- **Orson Welles**—actor, director, producer, writer
- Soap operas for homemakers broadcast in middle of day
- Children's shows after school hours
- Immediate news coverage becomes customary

The Arts in Depression America

Artists Decorate America

- Federal Art Project pays artists to make art, teach in schools
- Aim to promote art appreciation, positive image of America
- Murals typically portray dignity of ordinary people at work
- Many outstanding works painted by artists, including **Grant Wood**
- Federal Theater Project hires actors, artists

Diverse Writers Depict American Life

- Federal Writers' Project supports many who become major writers
- **Richard Wright**, African-American author, writes *Native Son*
- John Steinbeck writes *The Grapes of Wrath* about Dust Bowl migrants