

(ANNIE and SANDY walk behind a tenement and disappear from sight)

Scene 3

(Hooverville. A Depression-style shanty town of Jerry-built shacks at the edge of the East River, underneath the 59th Street Bridge. An American flag flies from each of the shacks. Dusk, the same day. One of the Hooverville-ites, MAN 1, is standing on a box in front of his shack, hammering away. An Apple Annie sort of woman, SOPHIE, is stirring a pot of stew that is hanging on a spit over a fire burning in an ash can)

MAN 1

(Sarcastically)

I need some more wood, for the penthouse.

WOMAN 1

Hey, Eddie, give me a hand.

EDDIE

Sure thing, Beautiful.

(A Siren sounds and a red light flashes as a police car passes.)

WOMAN 2

Cops! Cops!

WOMAN 1

Eddie, Eddie.

MAN 3

(The cops disappear)

Ah, leave us alone, ya lousy...

MAN 4

(goes to the stew-pot)

Sophie, this junk ready yet?

SOPHIE

Patience, patience.

APPLESELLER

Make way for John D Rockefeller

MAN 2

How'd it go today Al?

APPLESELLER

Seven million people in this city and you can't sell one lousy apple.

ANNIE

(ANNIE enters with Sandy)

Excuse me, folks, excuse me, did anybody here leave a red-headed kid at an orphanage eleven years ago?

(ALL say "No's" or "Uh-Uh's")

MAN 2

Not me kid.

SOPHIE

Ladies and Gents, dinner is served.

ALL

(Lots of chatter)

The soup is on.

WOMAN 3

Hey, kid, you hungry?

ANNIE

Nah.

WOMAN 3

Okay.

ANNIE

...but my dog is.

SOPHIE

Here kid, eat your fill.

(She gets food for SANDY and HERSELF)

ANNIE

Thanks, lady.

MAN 2

Hey kid, what're ya doing out alone this time of night?

ANNIE

I'm looking for my Mom and Dad. They're lost.

MAN 2

Lost? How long have you been looking for them?

ANNIE

Eleven years.

MAN 2

Now, *THAT'S* lost.

SOPHIE

Hey kid, it's time to give up.

ANNIE

No, I'm gonna find them.

MAN 2

Hey, there's something I haven't heard since 1928.

WOMAN 3

What?

MAN 2

Optimism.

SOPHIE

Optimism? Whatta we got to be optimistic about? Look at us. Life's a nightmare.

ANNIE

(Always the optimist. All of her following answers are delivered matter-of-factly)

Well, you gotta have a dream.

WOMAN 4

Traffic rattlin' overhead all night.

ANNIE

To wake you up from your nightmare.

WOMAN 3

Empty pockets.

ANNIE

At least you got pockets.

WOMAN 2

Freezing fingers.

ANNIE

Lucky you got them empty pockets.

SOPHIE

Newspapers for blankets?

ANNIE

(SHE pauses to think)

You can read in bed!

SOPHIE

Kid, you should been a politician.

APPLESELLER

Yeah, you shoulda run against Roosevelt

MAN 2

(Reading from newspaper)

Hey, listen to this...

(General crowd noise)

STOP

7 - Hooverville

(Company)

~~"Former President Herbert Hoover said today in an interview 'Though I was in no way personally responsible for the 1929 stock-market crash...~~

~~*(Crowd groan)*~~

~~I have the deepest sympathy for the millions who are now ragged, hungry and homeless."~~