**“Bust” by the History Channel**

Only 2% percent of Americans own stock in 1930… *NY Times* story about merchant going to Bank of the U.S. and asking to withdraw shares… no regulations… bank advised against it… by mid-afternoon crowd gathered – thousands of people – worry turns to panic… hysteria spreads… 2 million withdrawn from this branch alone… police sent in to control problem… by next morning the Bank of the U.S. has collapsed… banks close in waves – by 1933 28 states have no banks open…

Hoover Dam 1931 begins… a metaphor of America’s fortitude and ingenuity… 42,000 men come to work on dam…. Frank Crowe oversaw the project… diverted river with series of four tunnels… mobile drilling rigs… temps hit 140 degrees in the tunnels…. The crews compete… government fined $3000 per day for getting behind on the schedule… deadly fumes build up in the tunnel… canary in the tunnels… used to detect deadly gases… tunnels finished 11 months early… hundreds killed in explosion… maybe ninety-something… big problem… the fresh concrete generates heat… too much… also, the dam would take over 100 years to dry, or harden…. Five hundred miles of piping cold water through the dam to keep it cool… completed two years ahead of schedule… Frank got a $4 million bonus… powers Nevada, Arizona, and California… engineered bottom-opening buckets to deliver the concrete to a specific spot… “Dust Pneumonia” or the “Brown Plague” – 2/3 of Dust Bowlers stick it out on the Plains

Dust Bowl…. Manhattan street lights come on at mid-day… ships off eastern seaboard 300 miles have dust on them… began in OK, TX, KA, and CO on the High Plains… top soil was six feet deep… used by six generations of farmers… dried by sun… extended drought, high winds, and loss of top soil… static electricity builds between the earth and the dust…. Creates monstrous storms… dust lifted thousands of feet… Lamar, CO in 1935… Louis Bolton, once an actress, moves out to the Plains… 39 dust storms in a few months… respiratory problems due to dust… storm moving 65 miles per hour… produces enough electricity to power NY city…. Two hundred miles wide… don’t see light for days…. Lungs full of “Dust Pneumonia” –

In 1934 unemployment reached 1 in 4… by 1936 – 1 in 6 workers are still out of a job… public works is not working… free enterprise has stagnated… it will take WWII to pull America out of the Great Depression…

Joe Louis fight… Joe is ten to one favorite… broadcast by radio… 57 million tune-in… grandson of slaves… driven out of Alabama by the Klan…. 50% unemployment in black community… symbols of totalitarianism versus democracy… America sees the German as old – 30 years old versus Louis, who is 22 years old… Lewis underestimated his opponent… Hitler calls his boxer an “Aryan superman”… America will get revenge in the most politically charged fight of all time… Lewis had to redeem himself and the country… rematch is arranged… Louis wins second match against Schmeling - Hitler turns his back on his “Super-Aryan” and prepares to attack neighbors…