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We met everybody in vaudeville, and we played before everybody too. Once we played for President Coolidge in Washington. He was a tough nut to crack. In fact, he only laughed once. I looked out into the audience and asked, "Where's Senator Borah?"

In Chicago, I even got to know Carl Sandburg, who was then the critic for the *Daily News*. I went to the movies with him. He instructed me to wake him up ten minutes before the movie was over, but I was asleep too. That's how the term "sleeper" was coined to describe some pictures.

⁴¹ When the United States entered World War One, we decided to save the country by raising vegetables. We bought a farm in La Grange, twenty miles outside of Chicago. If there was any connection between the war effort and the feeding of crows, we surely did our part. We bought some chickens, but their eggs were eaten by rats. Next door to the farm was a golf course, and the only money we made was for retrieving stray golf balls that landed on our not-so-green acres. We'd sell them back for twenty-five cents. The first morning on the farm, we got up at five. The following morning, we dawdled

in bed until six. By the end of the week we were getting up at noon, which was just enough time for us to get dressed to catch the 1:07 to Wrigley Field, where the Chicago Cubs played. Those carefree times would soon change for Gummo, however: he got drafted. He entered the army and left the act—never to return—to be replaced by Zeppo, who had just finished high school.

⁴² Frenchy and Minnie, seen here around 1920, had seen their sons develop into the most prominent of vaudevillians. We were a good draw on whatever circuit we appeared on. Performing wasn't as arduous. In Big Time Vaudeville you only played two shows a day. For the first time in our careers, we knew what the good life meant. In an Oklahoma City hotel, we entered the dining room. When the waiter came, Harpo ran his finger down the menu, then said, "And coffee."

We were also doing well backstage. A pretty eighteen-year-old girl named Ruth Johnson was hired as Zeppo's dancing partner. She was blonde and blue-eyed and weighed 118 well-distributed pounds. We were married at Chicago City Hall, and had an overnight honeymoon on the pullman to Des Moines and points West. I was a blushing thirty.