

APPENDIXES

APPENDIX I

SYNOPSIS

THE GRAPES OF WRATH

Tom Joad was released from the Oklahoma state penitentiary where he had served four years sentence for killing a man in self-defense. He traveled homeward through a region made barren by drought and dust storms and met Jim Casy, an ex preacher. Both of them went together to the home of Tom's people where they found deserted. While they were wondering what had happened, Muley Graves, a die-hard tenant farmer, came by and told them that all of the families in the neighborhood had gone to California or were going. Tom's folks had also gone to a relative's place in preparation to go west. Muley was the only sharecropper to stay behind.

All over the southern Midwest states, farmers, no longer able to make a living because the banks, weather, and machine farming, had sold or were forced out of the farms they had tenanted. Thousands of families took to the roads leading to California.

Tom and Casy found the Joads at Uncle John's place,

all busy with preparations to leave to California. Joined for the trip were Pa and Ma Joad; Noah, their mentally backward son; Al, the younger brother of Tom and Noah; Rose of Sharon, Tom's sister, and her husband, Connie; the Joad children, Ruthie and Winfield; Uncle John, Pa's brother; and Grampa and Granma Joad. Al had bought an ancient truck to take them to west. The family asked Jim Casy to go along with them.

Spurred by handbills which stated that agricultural workers were badly needed in California, The Joads, along with thousands of others, made their way, in a worn-out vehicle, across the plains towards the mountains. Grampa died of a stroke during their first overnight stop. Later there was a long delay when the truck broke down. Small business people along the way treated the migrants as enemies. And to add to the general misery, returning migrants disclosed that there were no work to be done in California. The conditions were even worse than they were in Oklahoma. But the dream of beautiful California urged The Joads onward.

Close to the California line, where the group stopped to bathe in a river, Noah, feeling he was a burden to the others, wandered away. It was there that the Joads first heard themselves addressed as Okies, another word for bumps.

Granma died during the night trip across the desert. After burying her, the group went into a Hooverville, as the migrants' camp were called. There they learned that work was all but impossible to find. A contractor came to the camp looking for men to pick fruit in another country. When the Okies asked to see his license, the contractor turned the leaders over to a police deputy who had accompanied him to the camp. Next thing that happened was Tom got involved in a fight which drove Casy to give himself up in Tom's place. Connie, husband of the pregnant Rose of Sharon, suddenly disappeared from the group. The family was breaking up in the face of its hardships. Ma Joad did everything in her power to keep the family together.

Fearing the possible consequences after the fight, the Joads left Hooverville and went to a government camp maintained for agricultural workers. The camp had sanitary facilities, and simple organized entertainment. For the first time since they had arrived in California, the Joads found themselves treated as human beings.

Circumstances eventually forced them to leave the camp, however, for there was no work in the district. They drove to a large farm where work was being offered. There they found agitators attempting to keep the migrants from taking the work because of unfair wages

offered. But the Joads, thinking only of food, picked peaches for five cents a box and earned in a day just enough money to buy food for one meal. Meanwhile, Tom met Casy, who was the leader of the agitators and talked about his union. All of sudden, some deputies who had been searching for Casy showed up. The pair tried to run away but they were caught. In the middle of the fight, Casy were killed. Tom was wounded just after he had knocked a deputy down with an axe handle. The family concealed Tom in their shack. Tom's danger and the deteriorated situation drove the Joads on their way. They hid the injured Tom under the mattresses in the back of the truck and finally passed through the camp surveillance.

The family found at last a migrant crowd encamped in abandoned boxcars along a stream. They joined the camp and soon found temporary jobs picking cotton. Tom, meanwhile, hid in a cave near the camp. Ruthie innocently revealed Tom's presence that determined Ma to send Tom away for his own safety. Tom promised to carry on Casy's work in trying to improve the oppression everywhere.

As the rains began, soon the stream running beside the camp overflowed and water entered the boxcars. Under such impossible conditions, Rose of Sharon gave birth to

a dead baby. When the rising water made it impossible for them to stay, the family walked out of the camp. They came to a barn, which they shared with a boy and his starving father. Rose of Sharon willingly breastfed the dying man.

APPENDIX II

Biography of the Author

John Steinbeck

John Ernst Steinbeck was born 27 February 1902 in the inland valley town of Salinas, California to John Ernst Steinbeck, treasurer of Monterey County, California, and Olive Hamilton Steinbeck, a school teacher. The days of his youth in the Salinas Valley, provided him with much of the material--human, social, enviromental--that later appeared in most of his works.

In 1919 Steinbeck was graduated from Salinas High School. He enrolled at Stanford University as a student of English Department from 1920 to 1925. In his spare time, Steinbeck wrote fiction and poetry for college publication and worked as a clerk and manual laborer. Soon Steinbeck found the academic not to his taste and departed without receiving a degree.

Together with other young writers of the 1920s, Steinbeck was attracted to New York City. After some time during 1925 and 1926, he found it unsuitable for his temperament and returned to California. For the next

few years, he lived in various parts of the state doing various kinds of job and wrote several works.

His first novel, Cup of Gold appeared in 1929, however, it was not an artistic success. In 1930, a year after publication of Cup of Gold, Steinbeck married Carol Henning and moved to Pacific Grove. There he began to work on second novel, To a God Unknown, and wrote stories making up Pastures of Heaven published to poor sales in 1932. After a while, he moved for a short time to Los Angeles and returned back to Pacific Grove publishing To a God Unknown.

A year after the death of his mother in 1935, Tortilla Flat came into public. In Dubious Battle published in 1936 while Steinbeck worked on his first play-novella, Of Mice and Men which followed its publication a year later. Upon finishing the draft for The Grapes of Wrath in 1938, Steinbeck's only collection of short fiction, The Long Valley was published.

In 1939, The Grapes of Wrath published and was a best-seller. The novel brought Steinbeck extraordinary publicity and became a wide discussion both praised and condemned throughout the nation. The Grapes of Wrath is actually Steinbeck's personal observation. In the process of writing this novel, he went to see first hand the migrants' situation and conducted a valid research over

the life of migratory farm laborers in California. For his total body of works, John Steinbeck was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1962, the highest honor in the field of literature.

In 1941, Steinbeck and his first wife, Mrs. Carol Steinbeck, separated and a year later she obtained a divorce. In 1942, second play-novella, The Moon is Down, was published. Later, Steinbeck was married for the second time in March 1943 to Miss Gwyndolen Conger of Los Angeles. Two sons, Steinbeck's only children, were born during the course of this marriage. Steinbeck's second marriage ended in divorce in 1948. In December 1950, he married Mrs. Elaine Scott, the former wife of stage and screen actor Zachary Scott.

From 1945 to 1962, Steinbeck published nine novels, namely Cannery Row (1945), The Red Pony (1945), The Wayward Bus (1947), The Pearl (1947), The Log from the Sea of Cortez (1951), East of Eden (1952), Sweet Thursday (1954), The Winter of Our Discontent (1961), and Travels with Charley (1962).

Steinbeck suffered from heart attack twice and died on December, 20th of 1968 in New York City, miles away from the place of his birth and the settings of his greatest fiction.