

APPENDIX

SYNOPSIS OF THE NOVEL "OF MICE AND MEN"

George and Lennie have heard that harvesting jobs are available on a nearby farm and they are on their way there. They stop by the stream and make a camp in the open so they will arrive at the farm for work in the next morning. During the evening, George must take a dead mouse away from Lennie, who loves to pet soft things. George then explain to his simple minded friend that one can not pet dead things because they are not clean. He also reminds Lennie the trouble he caused when he tried to pet little girl's dress in the last town.

The next morning, during the job interview, the boss of the ranch becomes suspicious when George answers all the questions asked Lennie. Finally, George confess that Lennie is not bright but able to work hard if one only shows him what to do. The boss's son Curley comes into the bunkhouse looking for his wife and asks Lennie some questions. Curley, a small bantam-tempered fellow likes to pick on people bigger than he is and goads and teases Lennie. After he leaves, Lennie is frightened that something is going to happen and wants to leave the place immediately. George reminds him that the bushes and the stream are safe place to run to in case anything happens.

That night in the bunkhouse, Carlson, one of the farmhands, tells Candy, an old crippled helper, that his dog stinks so badly that they ought to kill it. Candy refuse because he has had the dog since it was a pup and doesn't feel right about killing it. After more discussion, Candy is finally coerced into allowing his dog to be killed.

Curley comes into the bunkhouse looking for his wife and leaves immediately when he hears that Slim, the wagon driver, is down at the barn. The other hands go to the barn to see if there is going to be a fight. After they leave, Lennie wants to hear about the place that he and George going to own someday and about the rabbits he will tend. George begins the old narrative again.

Curley and the other farmhands return from the barn and when Curley notices that Lennie is grinning, he belligerently begins hitting the bigger man. George finally has to tell Lennie to defend himself; at George words, Lennie mechanically reaches out and crushes Curley's hand.

The next day, Lennie accidentally kills a puppy by playing too hard with it. Curley's wife comes in and tries to talk with him, and after discovering that Lennie likes to feel and pet soft things, she tells him that he can rub her hair. Lennie, however, strokes it too hard, and when Curley's wife becomes frightened, he holds her so tightly, to keep her from screaming, that he breaks her neck. He now knows that he has done something bad, and knows that he must go back to the hiding place by the stream.

When the body is found, it is obvious to every body that Lennie is the murder, and a hunt is started for him. George goes straightly to the river side, where he finds Lennie talking to him self. George then asked Lennie to look across the river and imagine the place they will get. Then he raises the pistol and shoots Lennie through the back of the head.

BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN STEINBECK

John Steinbeck (1902-1968), born in Salinas, California, came from a family of moderate means. He worked his way through college at Stanford University but never graduated. In 1925 he went to New York, where he tried for a few years to establish himself as a free-lance writer, but he failed and returned to California. After publishing some novels and short stories, Steinbeck first became widely known with "Tortilla Flat" (1935), a series of humorous stories.

Steinbeck's novels can all be classified as social novels dealing with the economic problems of rural labor, but there is also a streak of worship of the soil in his books, which does not always agree with his matter-of-fact sociological approach.

After the rough and earthy humor of "Tortilla Flat", he moved on to more serious fiction, often aggressive in its social criticism, to "In Dubious Battle" (1936), which deals with the strikes of the migratory fruit pickers on California plantations. This was followed by "Of Mice and Men" (1937), the story of the imbecile giant Lennie, and a series of admirable short stories collected in the volume "The Long Valley" (1938).

In 1939 he published what is considered his best work, "The Grapes of Wrath", the story of Oklahoma tenant farmers whom unable to earn a living from the land, moved to California where they became migratory workers. Among his later works should be mentioned "East of Eden" (1952), "The Winter of Our Discontent" (1961), and "Travels with Charley" (1962), a travelogue in which Steinbeck wrote about his impressions during a three-month tour in a truck that led him through forty American states. In 1962 he was rewarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

On December 20, 1968, Steinbeck died in Sag Harbor, N.Y. his ashes were returned to California by his family. The ashes rested for two nights in the P.G Cottage Garden before being buried in the family plot in Salinas.

