



Editor's Note:

According to record, John Steinbeck burned many of his early writings, showing his juvenilia no mercy. But he was not able to torch the writings in his high school yearbook, El Gabilan.

In "The How, When and Where of the High School," the young Steinbeck tours various departments within the school, noting, "English is a kind of highbrow idea of the American language. A hard job is made of nothing at all, and nothing at all is made of a hard job." Could he have said this any better, with twenty-seven books behind him? The writer's early work, spared from the bonfire, flares with coltish ingenuity.

Catamaran would like to thank Julie Minnis for her guidance and resourcefulness in obtaining these materials, the Salinas Public Library and the National Steinbeck Center.

JOHN STEINBECK

The How,
When and
Where of the
High School

These directions may be of use to visitors, visiting; friends, friending; and most important, parents, parenting.

We will begin with the room which draws the most vivid descriptions from the lips of the students. This is the math room. Math is not a Spanish swear word, although allusions to it are often accompanied by Spanish and otherwise. Math is the science of getting the best mark from the least work. There is always a large class in Freshman algebra, the only conceivable reason being that the Freshmen are not given very much choice in the matter. After the first year, some are still fired with the zeal of an Archimedes (we don't know what that means but doesn't it sound grand?) but most of the students exhibit real intelligence and avoid math.

The math room is noted for its flunks, its pencil sharpener, its pictures, which are the objects of long and studious contemplation by the students, and its teacher who is a fine scout when she gets away from zero exponents.

Across the hall from the math room is the office and record room. It is here that we are shown the way to right living and are gently slammed back into the straight and narrow. It is in this room that the red splotched messengers of flunks are stored.

The secretary is very popular; she can issue entrances and excuses, and she can tell the trembling Senior wheth-

er he is going to continue his acquaintance with her for another year or not. But all in all the office is not to be compared with the English room.

The English room, which is just down the hall from the office, is the sanctuary of Shakespeare, the temple of Milton and Byron, and the terror of Freshmen. English is a kind of high brow idea of the American language. A hard job is made of nothing at all, and nothing at all is made of a hard job. It is in this room and this room alone, that the English language is spoken. After taking English for four years we wish to advise Freshmen to use nothing but second hand books; they make the course much easier.

The study hall is a combination of all the trials described above. When we don't want to work, in fact have nothing to work on except some math, and English and maybe a little Spanish or Physics, we are compelled to keep our eyes on our books while our minds are busy with a fate for the teacher which would make the Kaiser's look like a vacation at Palm Beach. Then when we are cramming for an exam. in wood-work, it is announced that we will sing. We get up, but the words which come to our lips are not those contained in the song.

Other schools besides Salinas are those of fish, of life and of the squad. With all due apologies to Voltaire, Henry VIII, K. C. B., King Cole and any others who may have thought along this same line, "I thank you."

—John Steinbeck, '19.

Woodwork

Today is a day of specialists, and especially for specialists who specialize in one special thing. Woodwork is a trade in which specialists are working more and more. The great woodworking shops, some of which turn out eaves, others doors and so on are increasing rapidly. For awhile woodworking was near the end of the line of professions but most post-bellum conditions are bringing it more and more to the front.

For a progressive, useful and practical shop, ours is equal to any in the state. While very few of the woodworking students may become carpenters, many of them in the future will build their own chicken houses and fix that kitchen door because of their high school training. Neatness, efficiency and accuracy are among the lessons which will be the most useful in later life and these are only a few of the assets of the woodworking course.

Forge is a new thing in this school but like free textbooks it is welcome. More and more, the manual arts are appearing in the schools. People are coming to realize that neither the work of the head alone or the hands alone is successful, but that a careful blending of them is the true way to the top of the hill and so forge is the addition. So far we don't know what the benefits will be or what the classes will achieve and we can only say that there is some mighty fine work turned out. We hope that this addition will only be a starter and that more of the combination of brains and hands will be taught.

—J.S., '19

After graduating from Salinas High School in 1919, **John Steinbeck** went on to write twenty-seven books, including *The Grapes of Wrath* and fifteen other novels. He won every major literary award, including the Nobel Prize in Literature, the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the National Book Award for Fiction. Fans of his work continue to leave small treasures at his humble gravesite in Salinas near his high school.



TRACK TEAM
 [Top row] J. Steinbeck, Wm. Plack, A. Holm, H. Thorup, Wm. Christensen, B. Peasley; [Second row] L. Kellogg, L. Green, M. Wagner, W. Garrison, R. Bairos
 (Lower Row) J. Lynn, N. Best (Coach), M. Austin (Captain), R. Muller (Manager), L. Tavernetti



EL GABILAN

STAFF

IRENE HUGHES - - - - Editor-in-Chief
 MILDRED TUTTLE - - - - Assistant Editor
 WILLIAM BLACK - - - - - Manager
 HELEN TILLOTSEN - - - - - Censor

Associate Editors

DOVIE WAYMAN - - - - - Literary Editor
 HAZEL CARPENTER - - - - - Society
 JOHN STEINBECK } - Departments & Organizations
 NIMA DILL }
 LILLIAN WINHAM - - - - - Girls' Athletics
 MILTON AUSTIN - - - - - Boys' Athletics
 YNEZ SARGENT - - - - - Alumni
 DOROTHY DONAHUE - - - - - Exchange
 RALPH STORM - - - - - Josh
 NINA CHRISTIANSON - - - - - Art

All of the typing has been supervised by Miss Westerman and the whole staff express its gratitude to her.