

STEINBECK FACT SHEET

John Steinbeck

Born February 27, 1902, 132 Central Avenue, Salinas California, in the front bedroom of the home

Graduated from Salinas High School in June of 1919

Attended Stanford University, 1919-1925

Died of a heart attack in New York, December 20, 1968

Buried in the Garden of Memories Cemetery family plot in Salinas

Steinbeck Family

Father: John Ernst Steinbeck, 1863-1935, Monterey County Treasurer

Mother: Olive Hamilton Steinbeck, 1867-1934, teacher

Sisters: Esther Steinbeck Rodgers, April 14, 1892-May 9, 1986, lived in Watsonville

Elizabeth Steinbeck Ainsworth: May 25, 1894-October 20, 1992, lived in Pacific Grove

Mary Steinbeck Dekker, January 9, 1905-January 23, 1965, buried in family plot

Wives: Carol Henning Steinbeck Brown, married 1930, divorced from Steinbeck 1942, lived in Carmel Valley, died February 8, 1983 at the Community Hospital in Monterey

Gwyndolyn Conger Steinbeck, married 1943, divorced 1948, died December 30, 1975 in Colorado

Elaine Anderson Scott Steinbeck, married 1950, widowed 1968, died 2003, buried in the Garden of Memories in Salinas

Sons: Thom Steinbeck, born August 2, 1944, author

John Steinbeck IV, June 12, 1946, died February 7, 1991

(mother of Thom and John IV is Gwyndolyn)

Awards and Honors

1935 Commonwealth Club of California Gold Medal for Best Book by a Californian (*Tortilla Flat*)

1936 The California Novel of 1936 Prize (*In Dubious Battle*)

1938 New York Drama Critics' Circle Award (*Of Mice and Men*)

1939 Member of National Institute of Arts and Letters – American Booksellers' Award

1940 Pulitzer Prize Fiction Award (*The Grapes of Wrath*)-*New York Times* 5-7-1940, 1:2

1946 King Haakon Liberty Cross (*The Moon Is Down*)

1948 Member of American Academy of Arts and Letters

1962 Nobel Prize for Literature

1963 Honorary Consultant in American Literature to the Library of Congress

1964 United States Medal of Freedom

Trustee of John F. Kennedy Memorial Library

Annual Paperback of the Year Award

Press Medal of Freedom

1966 Member of National Arts Council

1979 U.S. Postal Service issued a John Steinbeck Commemorative Stamp

1984 American Arts Gold Medallion of Steinbeck issued by the U.S. Mint