

In doing research for this book, it became quickly apparent that comparing Steinbeck's travels and associations with government documentation might help me decipher Steinbeck's dual life. I did not know what tidbits would be pertinent as I came across events in John's life, so I compiled as detailed a timeline as possible. The majority of entries have a corresponding reference to aid in returning to material that seemed promising. Unreferenced events are sourced via major biographies and are generally accepted as accurate.

The main source for referenced events in this timeline is *Steinbeck: A Life in Letters*. One has to assume that Steinbeck's own record is the most accurate available. Where an exact date for an event is in question, I have attempted to note the estimation and why the estimation was made. I've also taken the liberty of including major world events into this timeline to place Steinbeck's life in proper historical context. For convenience's sake, references and citations for the timeline have been included at the end of the section.

1902

February 27: John Ernst Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California.

He was the third of four children and the only son of John Ernst II and Olive Hamilton Steinbeck.

1915–19

Steinbeck attends Salinas High School.

1919

Summer: Steinbeck works at the Post Ranch and tracks the Big Sur Bear.¹

1919–25: Attends classes at Stanford University, leaving without a degree. During these years, Steinbeck drops out for several months, and is employed intermittently as a sales clerk, farm laborer, ranch hand, and factory worker.

1921

Steinbeck joins the Order of DeMolay.

1925

November: Steinbeck travels by freighter from Los Angeles to New York City.

December: Steinbeck arrives in New York and gets a job on a Madison Square Garden construction crew. The job lasts six weeks and he quits after a nearby worker is killed falling off a scaffolding.

1926

January: Steinbeck gets a job as a reporter for the *New York American*.²

Summer to Winter: Lives in Lake Tahoe, California, and works as a caretaker for a summer home.

1929

January 18: Steinbeck applies for admission to Salinas Masonic Lodge #204.³

May 24: Steinbeck achieves the degree of Master Mason at Salinas Lodge.⁴

August: John's first novel, *Cup of Gold*, is published.⁵

October 29: Wall Street's "Black Tuesday" crash signals the beginning of the Great Depression.

1930

January 14: John marries Carol Henning.

October: Steinbeck meets Edward F. Ricketts.

1931

Mythologist and author Joseph Campbell comes to Monterey and meets Steinbeck and Ed Ricketts.

1932

March: Carol gets a job working at Ed Ricketts' lab.

June: Carol Steinbeck and Joseph Campbell have an affair that is broken off by mutual consent. Campbell and Ed Ricketts also go to Alaska for a specimen-hunting trip.⁶

October: *The Pastures of Heaven* is published.⁷

1933

February 11: Steinbeck sends *To a God Unknown* to his literary agents.

September: *To a God Unknown* is published.⁸

1934

February 19: Steinbeck's mother dies.

March: Steinbeck accompanies Ed Ricketts on a specimen-hunting trip at Laguna Beach.

May: Steinbeck starts gathering information on farm labor unions in the Salinas area.

1935

February 5: Steinbeck completes the manuscript for *In Dubious Battle*.

May: Steinbeck's father dies.

May 28: *Tortilla Flat* is published.⁹

September: John and Carol travel to Mexico for a vacation and to escape the media attention *Tortilla Flat* has generated.

October: Still in Mexico, John receives a telegram that Paramount Pictures has purchased the film rights to *Tortilla Flat*.

1936

January (Early): John and Carol travel from Mexico to New York to sign the *Tortilla Flat* film deal and then return to California.

April (Mid): Steinbeck begins work on *Of Mice and Men* (originally titled *Something That Happened*).

May 11: Steinbeck purchases land in Los Gatos, California.

June 11: The California Literature Gold Medal is awarded to Steinbeck for *Tortilla Flat*.

October: *In Dubious Battle* is published.¹⁰

October 5–12: John's series of articles about the migrant worker problem are published in the *San Francisco News*.

November 13: John attends the Western Writer's Conference in San Francisco.¹¹

November 25: Ed Rickett's lab in Cannery Row burns to the ground.

December: *Saint Katy the Virgin* is published.

1937

February 6: *Of Mice and Men* is published.

March 23: Steinbeck and Carol set sail for Philadelphia from California.¹²

April 15: Steinbeck and Carol arrive in Philadelphia and later take a train to New York. There they attend a dinner honoring Thomas Mann.¹³

May (Late): The Steinbecks sail from New York to Sweden.

July: John and Carol travel from Sweden to Finland and then to the Russia.

August 13: The Steinbecks arrive in New York from Sandviken on the *Toledo*.¹⁴

September: *The Red Pony* is published.

October: "The Chrysanthemums" is published in *Harper's Magazine*.

October (Mid): Steinbeck visits the migrant worker camps in Los Gatos.

November 23: The stage version of *Of Mice and Men* opens in New York's Music Box Theater. The play runs through May 1938 (207 performances).¹⁵

1938

January 12: The stage version of *Tortilla Flat* opens at New York's Henry Miller's Theatre for five performances.¹⁶

February (Mid): Steinbeck spends ten days at migrant worker camps in Visalia with Tom Collins.

April: “Their Blood Is Strong,” a nonfiction account of the migrant labor problem in California, is published by the Simon J. Lubin Society.¹⁷

April 15: “Starvation under the Orange Trees,” is published by the *Monterey Trader*.

May: Steinbeck receives the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for the play *Of Mice and Men*.¹⁸

June 14: Steinbeck telegrams Eleanor Roosevelt that the Congressional Appropriations Committee failed to provide funds for the US Film Service. The lack of funding halted the efforts of Pare Lorentz and other filmmakers.¹⁹

September: The short-story collection, *The Long Valley*, is published. This edition includes the story “The Red Pony.”²⁰

October (Late): Steinbeck finishes *The Grapes of Wrath* manuscript.

October 25: American Legion investigator Harper Knowles testifies before the Dies Commission that Steinbeck has Communist ties.²¹

November 8: John’s wife Carol registers with the Communist Party in Santa Clara County.²²

1939

February 2: Steinbeck telegrams the Committee to Aid Agricultural Organizations to “portest (sic) any curtailment of the FSA Camp and relief program.”²³

February 9: Steinbeck sends a telegram to President Roosevelt urging the passage of a bill to extend the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee.²⁴

April 5: Steinbeck’s editor, Pat Covici, sends a copy of *The Grapes of Wrath* to President Roosevelt.²⁵

April 14: *The Grapes of Wrath* is published.²⁶

Summer: John and Carol tour the Pacific Northwest.²⁷

September (Mid): John and Carol travel to Chicago to visit Joe Hamilton, Pare Lorentz, and Paul de Kruief.²⁸

December 15: Steinbeck travels to Los Angeles to view the screener copies of *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Of Mice and Men*.

December (Late): John urges Carol to get an abortion after finding out she is pregnant. Carol does and develops an infection that leads to a hysterectomy.

December 30: Film *Of Mice and Men* is released in the United States.²⁹

1940

January 24: Film version of *The Grapes of Wrath* premieres in New York.³⁰

March 11–April 20: John conducts a marine expedition in the Gulf of California with Ed Ricketts.³¹

March 15: Film version of *The Grapes of Wrath* opens in the United States.³²

March 22: Steinbeck is in La Paz, Mexico.³³

March 27: Steinbeck is in Loreto, Mexico.³⁴

April 5: Steinbeck is in Guaymas, Mexico.³⁵

April 22: Steinbeck returns home to Los Gatos. (Date estimated by Steinbeck in an April 6th letter to the staff at McIntosh-Otis).³⁶

May: *The Grapes of Wrath* receives the National Book Award.

May 6: *The Grapes of Wrath* wins the Pulitzer Prize.

May 22: John and Carol attend a party in Hollywood thrown by Lewis Milestone. Known to have attended the party are Gwyndolyn Conger, Charlie Chaplin, Vladimir Horowitz, and Max Wagner.³⁷

May 23: Steinbeck travels to Mexico City to work on the film script for *The Forgotten Village*.³⁸

May 24: An assassination attempt is made on Leon Trotsky in Mexico City.

June (Early): Ed Ricketts joins Steinbeck in Mexico City.³⁹

June 14 or June 22: Steinbeck sends a report of his findings in Mexico to his uncle Joe Hamilton. (See chapter 4 for explanation of date discrepancy.)⁴⁰

June 22: Steinbeck travels to Washington, D.C.⁴¹

June 24: Steinbeck's letter about an Axis threat in Mexico is received by President Roosevelt.⁴² Also the same day, an FBI memo was issued to create the FBI's Special Intelligence Service to operate in Latin America.

June 26: Steinbeck meets with FDR and presents a plan of print and radio propaganda in Latin America.⁴³

July–August: John takes sporadic flying lessons at the Palo Alto airport.⁴⁴

August 13: John writes to FDR about flooding Germany with counterfeit Deutsche Marks in an effort to collapse the Nazis' economy.⁴⁵

August 16: The Office for Coordination of Commercial and Cultural Relations between the American Republics was started by FDR with Nelson Rockefeller at the helm. The Agency would formally be chartered and renamed as the Office of Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs in July 1941.⁴⁶

September 12: Steinbeck meets once again with FDR to discuss Steinbeck's plan to sabotage the German economy.⁴⁷

September 14–27: John leaves Washington for New York and returns to California on the 27th.⁴⁸

October (Mid): Steinbeck returns to Mexico to continue work on *The Forgotten Village*.⁴⁹

November (Third week): John returns to the USA and meets Gwyn Conger in Hollywood.⁵⁰

December 13: Steinbeck writes a letter to the Mexican Ambassador, Josephus Daniels, giving Daniels praise. The letter is forwarded to Archibald MacLeish of the Library of Congress and then to FDR.⁵¹

1941

January 1: Steinbeck and Carol have the flu at the Los Gatos ranch house.⁵²

February 7: Carol leaves for a vacation to Hawaii.

March: Mavis McIntosh visits Steinbeck in California.

April (Late): Steinbeck separates from Carol.

May: The book version of *The Forgotten Village* is published.

July 11: Colonel William Donovan's "Memorandum of Establishment of Service of Strategic Information" results in President Roosevelt establishing the Office of the Coordinator of Information. Donovan is assigned as the "Coordinator of Information" of the intelligence agency.

July 30: Office of Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs is officially sanctioned by Executive Order 8840.⁵³

September (Early): Steinbeck works on the script for the film version of *The Red Pony* in California.⁵⁴

September (Late): John moves to New York City with singer Gwyn Conger.

October 7–8: Steinbeck goes to Washington, D.C., to attend a conference with the Foreign Information Service (FIS), after which, John begins writing material for the FIS.

November: Steinbeck begins work on *The Moon Is Down*.

November (Mid): John rents a two-bedroom apartment in a residential hotel in Manhattan.⁵⁵

November 18: *The Forgotten Village* documentary is released in the USA.⁵⁶

November 25: Steinbeck mentions in a letter to Toby Street that he “may have to go to Washington to do some work in about a week.” (A citation with this letter in *Steinbeck: A Life in Letters* mentions John was already writing broadcasts for what would become the War Information Office.)⁵⁷

December 5: *Sea of Cortez*, written with Edward Ricketts, is published.

December 7: Pearl Harbor is bombed by a surprise Japanese raid. The United States responds by declaring war on the Japanese on December 8, 1941. A war declaration is issued for Germany on December 11, 1941.

December (Mid): John submits the manuscript for *The Moon Is Down* to Viking Press for publication.⁵⁸

December 15: Steinbeck makes suggestions to COI William Donovan about cooperation with Japanese-American organizations.⁵⁹

December (Late): John and Gwyn spend Christmas and New Year’s holidays in New Orleans at Roark Bradford.

1942

January 7: John returns to New York to work on a stage version of *The Moon Is Down*.

February 24: Voice of America (VOA) conducts its first broadcast.⁶⁰

February 27: Steinbeck’s 40th birthday.

March: John is sued for divorce by first wife Carol.

March 6: *The Moon Is Down* is published.⁶¹

April (Early): John is offered a full-time position at the OWI.⁶²

April 7: The stage version of *The Moon Is Down* opens in New York’s Martin Beck Theater. The production runs through May 6, 1942 (71 performances).⁶³

May (Mid): Steinbeck is offered a temporary assignment to write two books for the Army Air Corps.

May 5: Steinbeck writes the Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox, about using Japanese oceanographic studies for intelligence purposes. Two months later, a Naval Intelligence Officer visits Ed Ricketts for a follow-up to Steinbeck's suggestion.⁶⁴

May 11: Attorney General Francis Biddle forwards Steinbeck's "ask Edgar's boys to stop stepping on my heels" letter to J. Edgar Hoover.⁶⁵

May 12: Steinbeck applies for a pistol permit in Rockland County, NY.⁶⁶

May 21: Film version of *Tortilla Flat* released.⁶⁷ Also the FBI sends a letter to Attorney General Francis Biddle reporting that the FBI has never investigated Steinbeck.⁶⁸

May (Late)–June: Steinbeck travels with photographer John Swope on board Army Air Corps flights gathering material for *Bombs Away*.

June 13: The Office of Strategic Services is officially established along with the Office of War Information.⁶⁹

July 23: Steinbeck writes Toby Street that his official job title is now Special Consultant to the Secretary of War attached to the Army Air Corps and is also performing the job duties as the foreign news editor for the Office of War Information. John is also convinced that he will receive an Army commission as an intelligence officer "in the fall."⁷⁰

September: John and Gwyn return to California ostensibly so John can work on a film for the Army Air Corps.⁷¹

October 27: Attorney General's office calls the FBI with a request to see the FBI's file on Steinbeck.⁷²

November 27: *Bombs Away: The Story of a Bomber Team* is published.⁷³

December: John begins a script for an Army Air Corps training film.

December 3: An unknown person reports to the FBI that Steinbeck is at Japanese internment camps dressed in an Army uniform agitating internees.⁷⁴

1943

January: Steinbeck writes the screenplay for Hitchcock's movie *Lifeboat*.

January (Mid): John and Gwyn move into a New York City apartment.

February 23: US Army Counter Intelligence does a background check on Steinbeck with the Office of Naval Intelligence, San Francisco Police Department, San Francisco FBI Field Office, and the American Legion Radical Research Bureau.⁷⁵

March: John applies to be a war correspondent with *The New York Herald Tribune*.

March 14: Film of *The Moon Is Down* released in the United States.⁷⁶

March 27: Steinbeck flies to New Orleans to get married to Gwyn.

March 29: Steinbeck marries Gwyn Conger in New Orleans at the home of Lyle Saxon.⁷⁷

April 5: The War Department approves John's credentials as a war correspondent and Steinbeck notifies Toby Street by telegram.⁷⁸

May: Steinbeck spends the month preparing to go overseas.

May (Late) to June (Mid): US Army Counter Intelligence agents conduct acquaintance check on Steinbeck in California.⁷⁹

June 3: John leaves New York aboard a troop ship for London.

June 8: Steinbeck arrives in London.

July 25–31: Steinbeck spends four days with staff officers from General Lee's SOS.⁸⁰

July 26: General Weaver is briefed that Steinbeck has "started his movie."⁸¹

- July 27:** Army Counter Intelligence Chief Boris Pash generates a report consolidating the military's investigation into Steinbeck's character. Pash does not agree with the reporting officer's recommendation that Steinbeck is loyal and declines John's commission in the US Army.⁸²
- August 13:** John writes Gwyn that he is in Northern Africa (probably Algiers).⁸³
- August 19:** Steinbeck writes to Gwyn that he has been traveling throughout the countryside with a cameraman and an enlisted man "taking some pictures."⁸⁴
- August 25:** In another letter to Gwyn, Steinbeck says that he is with a group of naval officers at a Gregorian monastery that is an *ad hoc* hospital. All indications in the letter are that Steinbeck is still in Algeria.⁸⁵
- September 8–9:** Steinbeck participates in the capture of Ventotene with Douglas Fairbanks Jr.'s unit of Beach Jumpers and OSS operatives.⁸⁶
- September 9:** The Allies begin Operation AVALANCHE to take Salerno.
- September 10:** John accompanies Beach Jumper Lt. John Kramer on a diversion mission in the Gulf of Gaeta.⁸⁷
- September 12:** Still attached to the Beach Jumpers, Steinbeck participates in the liberation of the Isle of Capri.⁸⁸
- September 13 or 14:** John reaches the Italian mainland to cover Salerno invasion.
- September 14:** Steinbeck mentions in a letter to Gwyn (dated September 23, 1943) that he had a particularly "rough night" referring to Salerno.⁸⁹
- September 20:** Steinbeck is aboard a transport ship after Salerno.⁹⁰
- September 22:** Steinbeck reaches an undisclosed military base in the Mediterranean.⁹¹

September 24: Steinbeck returns to London.⁹²

October 15: Steinbeck returns to the USA from London.⁹³

November: Steinbeck begins work on *Cannery Row*.

1944

January (Mid): Steinbeck travels to Mexico with Gwyn.

January 10: Steinbeck has seen an advance copy of *Lifeboat* and writes to 20th Century Fox. John is disappointed with script changes that depict the African-American seaman as “half-comic and half-pathetic.”⁹⁴

January 28: *Lifeboat* opens to film audiences in the United States.⁹⁵

February 21: *The New York Times* reports that Steinbeck is an owner/contributor of Associated Magazine Contributors INC.⁹⁶

February 22: An unknown associate of Jacob Epstein enters the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City.⁹⁷

February 23: Steinbeck attends a reception at the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City.⁹⁸

March 15: Steinbeck returns to the United States via Brownsville, TX.⁹⁹

March 22: The United States Ambassador to Mexico sends a secret memo to J. Edgar Hoover related to Steinbeck and Ernest Hemingway in affairs in Mexico.¹⁰⁰

Spring: Steinbeck meets Ernest Hemingway for the first, and only time, at Tim Costello’s bar in Manhattan.¹⁰¹

April 8: The San Antonio FBI field office sends a report to J. Edgar Hoover regarding Steinbeck’s entry into Mexico on March 15th.¹⁰²

April 12: Steinbeck writes to Carlton Sheffield about the injuries he sustained during the Salerno invasion. John also speaks of his feelings about being blacklisted from the Army.¹⁰³

June 24 and 29: Steinbeck's suggestions for a statement and a platform for the Democratic National Convention are forwarded to President Roosevelt on these dates.¹⁰⁴

July 7: Steinbeck attends author Lion Feuchtwanger's 60th birthday party in New York. Steinbeck has planned the event with publisher B. W. Huebsch and screenwriter/director Berthold Viertel.¹⁰⁵

August 2: Steinbeck's first son, Thomas, is born.¹⁰⁶

August 8: President Roosevelt sends a letter to John congratulating him on the birth of Thom.¹⁰⁷

October (Early): Steinbeck moves back to California with his family.¹⁰⁸

November 23: A film version of *The Moon Is Down* opens in Sweden.¹⁰⁹

October 15–January (late) 1945: Steinbeck works on *The Pearl*.¹¹⁰

1945

January 2: *Cannery Row* is published.¹¹¹

February 9: John and Gwyn travel to Mexico City to assist in the filming of *The Pearl*.

February 4–11: President Roosevelt, Joseph Stalin, and Winston Churchill attend the Yalta conference to discuss the world's reorganization after the end of World War II.

April 5: Steinbeck and Jack Wagner take a train from Los Angeles to Mexico City.

April 12: President Roosevelt dies from a stroke.

April 16: *A Medal for Benny* is released in the USA.¹¹²

May 3–July 12: Steinbeck is in Cuernavaca, Mexico. (Dates of travel are unknown, but letters denote Steinbeck was here during this period.)¹¹³

May 8: Germany surrenders, effectively ending hostilities in Europe.

August: John works on the screenplay for *The Pearl*.

August 14: Japan surrenders to Allied forces, effectively ending the Second World War.

September 5: Igor Gouzenko, a clerk working in the Soviet embassy in Ottawa, defects and provides proof to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police of a Soviet spy ring operating in Canada and other western countries.

October 1: The OSS is officially dissolved by Executive Order 9162.¹¹⁴

November: John travels from New York to Mexico for filming of *The Pearl*.

December 15: Steinbeck returns to New York from Mexico.¹¹⁵

1946

January–May: Steinbeck works on *The Wayward Bus*.

March 5: Winston Churchill gives the “Iron Curtain” speech at Westminster College.

March 12: President Truman announces the “Truman Doctrine” and proposes giving aid to Greece and Turkey to fend off Communist aggression.

June 12: Steinbeck’s second son, John IV, is born.¹¹⁶

July: Steinbeck returns to Mexico for post-production work on *The Pearl*.

October 18: John and Gwyn sail for Sweden aboard the SS *Drottningholm*.¹¹⁷

October 30: Steinbeck attends a legation luncheon in Copenhagen.¹¹⁸

November 15: John receives the Norwegian King Haakon Liberty Cross.

November 18–19: John and Gwyn fly from Stockholm to New York on Swedish Airlines flight 1039.¹¹⁹

1947

January 18: An undisclosed source in San Simeon, California, writes J. Edgar Hoover to tell him of Steinbeck's Communist tendencies. The source possibly works with or is related to the Hearst Media Empire.¹²⁰

February: *The Wayward Bus* is published.¹²¹

March (Late): Steinbeck discusses a trip to Russia with Robert Capa at the Bedford Hotel bar.¹²² *The New York Herald Tribune* is interested in publishing articles from Steinbeck and pictures by Capa of the trip.

May 14: John injures his knee after a fall from a second-story window. The trip to Russia with Capa is postponed.

June (Early): John, Gwyn, and Robert Capa travel to Paris.

June 5: Secretary of State George Marshall outlines a plan for reconstructing a war-ravaged Europe, that will become known as the "Marshall Plan."

July 18: Gwyn returns to New York from Paris.

July 21: Steinbeck and Capa fly from Paris to Stockholm.¹²³

July 31–August 1: Steinbeck and Capa land in Moscow.¹²⁴

August 4–19: Steinbeck is in Kiev. (Dates estimated from a letter to Pat Covici.)¹²⁵

August 20: Steinbeck arrives in Stalingrad.¹²⁶

October: House Committee on Un-American Activities begins hearings in Washington.

October 4–5: Steinbeck and Capa fly from Paris to New York on an Air France.¹²⁷

November: *The Pearl* is published.¹²⁸

November 24: The Hollywood Ten are cited with contempt of Congress and are "blacklisted" from working in Hollywood the next day.

December 18: Steinbeck incorporates World Video Inc. as president with Robert Capa and Phil Reisman as vice presidents.¹²⁹

1948

January (Early): Steinbeck flies to California for research and to spend time with Ed Ricketts.

April: *A Russian Journal* is published by Viking Press.

April 20–27: John has a procedure to remove varicose veins in his legs and is hospitalized for a week. (Hospital indate is estimated from a previous letter to Ed Ricketts. Steinbeck's outdate is confirmed by a letter to Bo Beskow.)¹³⁰

May 8: Ed Ricketts crosses a railroad track when his truck was hit by the Del Monte Express train at the Drake Avenue crossing off Cannery Row.¹³¹

May 11: Ed Ricketts dies in injuries sustained in the May 8th automobile accident; Steinbeck cannot get to California in time to see his friend before he passes.¹³²

May (Mid): After Ed Ricketts' funeral, Steinbeck and George Robinson visit Rickett's lab on Cannery Row. The pair burns many of Ricketts' journals and Steinbeck's letters to Ed.¹³³

May 20: Steinbeck returns to New York by this date.¹³⁴

June (Early): Steinbeck returns to Mexico and is back in New York by June 19th.¹³⁵

June 11: *The Los Angeles Examiner* announces that Ring Lardner Jr., a member of the "Hollywood Ten," would write the screenplay for Steinbeck's *Pastures of Heaven*. This was the first time employment of a member of the Hollywood Ten had ever been considered. The movie was never made.¹³⁶

June 24: Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin blocks all land routes into West Berlin through East Germany. The action will result in Western

powers beginning the use of the Berlin Airlift to send supplies into West Berlin.

June–August: Steinbeck spends much of these months in Mexico working on the film *Viva Zapata!*

August (Mid): Gwyn tells Steinbeck she wishes to divorce him.¹³⁷

September (Early): Steinbeck moves to Pacific Grove. John takes along former Navy steward James Neale as a domestic servant.

September 18: Ritch and Tal Lovejoy join John for coffee this morning.¹³⁸

November 2: Steinbeck rendezvouses with Elia Kazan in Los Angeles.¹³⁹

November 5: Steinbeck and Kazan fly to Mexico City to assist in the filming of *Viva Zapata!*¹⁴⁰

November 14: John returns to California from Mexico.¹⁴¹

November 23: Steinbeck is elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

December 25: “The Miracle of Tepayac” is published by *Collier’s Weekly*.¹⁴²

December (Late): Steinbeck spends New Year’s in Los Angeles.¹⁴³

1949

March 28: The film version of *The Red Pony* is released in the United States after a seven-year delay.¹⁴⁴

March: Writers meeting at New York’s Waldorf Astoria calls for the end of hostilities between the Soviets and Americans.

April 4: NATO is founded.

May: Steinbeck goes to Monterey’s Del Monte Aviation to discuss flight lessons for his domestic servant John Neale and the possibility of purchasing an aircraft.¹⁴⁵

May 27–30: John spends the weekend in Pacific Grove with Ann Southern and Elaine Scott. This is the first time he meets his future wife Elaine.¹⁴⁶

June (Late)–August (Late): John spends the summer with his sons in Pacific Grove.¹⁴⁷

August 29: The Soviet Union tests their first atomic bomb.

October 14: Toby Street visits John in Pacific Grove.¹⁴⁸

November 1: Jules Buck works with Steinbeck in Pacific Grove for early script work on *Viva Zapata!*

November (Early)–November 14: Jack Wagner is a houseguest of John in Pacific Grove.¹⁴⁹

December (Late): John is back in New York in time for the holidays.¹⁵⁰

1950

January 28: John attends a party for Ethyl Barrymore. In attendance are Margo Albert, Bernard Mannes Baruch, Leonard Bernstein, Ray Bolger, Abe Burrows, Lillian Gish, Frank Loesser, John Ringling North, and William Saroyan.¹⁵¹

February 4: John sees *Caesar and Cleo* at New York's National Theater.¹⁵²

June (Late)–September (Early): John and Elaine spend the summer with John's sons in Rockland County. The budding family rents a house that belonged to artist Henry Varnum Poor.¹⁵³

June 22: *Red Channels* is published, effectively blacklisting over 150 actors, authors, composers, musicians, and broadcasters.

June 25: North Korea invades South Korea, beginning the Korean War.

October: Novella *Burning Bright* is published.

October 5: John is in Boston for rehearsals and last-minute rewrites of *Burning Bright*.¹⁵⁴

October 18: The stage version of *Burning Bright* opens at New York's Broadhurst Theater. The play runs until October 28, 1950 (13 performances).¹⁵⁵

November 2: Steinbeck's interview with Eleanor Roosevelt on *The Eleanor Roosevelt Show* (NBC Radio) is broadcast. During the interview, the former First Lady asks John about his new play, *Burning Bright*.¹⁵⁶

December 7: John and Elaine attend a performance of Clifford Odets' *The Country Girl* at the Lyceum Theatre.¹⁵⁷

December 28: Steinbeck marries third wife, Elaine Anderson Scott.

1951

January (Early)–January 8: John and Elaine travel to Somerset, Bahamas, and leave for New York on the 8th, aboard Pan American flight 133.¹⁵⁸

January 31: John and Elaine move into a house on New York's 72nd St.¹⁵⁹

February 12: Steinbeck begins work on *East of Eden*.¹⁶⁰

February 21: Steinbeck tapes an interview for VOA on art under dictatorship.¹⁶¹

February 24: Steinbeck attends a party; no other details are available.¹⁶²

February 28: Steinbeck attends a World Video stockholder's meeting.¹⁶³

March 9–11: Steinbeck and Elaine spend the weekend at Burgess Meredith's house.¹⁶⁴

March 16: Steinbeck and Elaine see *The Rose Tattoo*.¹⁶⁵

March 21: In his journal, Steinbeck predicts that the Soviet Union will break up under its own weight. He also believes the United States should reach out to dissidents to hasten Communism's end. John also prognosticates that a one-world government is in the works.¹⁶⁶

March 24: During the Easter weekend, Steinbeck spends the night in Long Island for an unknown reason.¹⁶⁷

March 29: Julius and Ethyl Rosenberg are convicted of espionage for passing nuclear secrets to the Soviet Union. Steinbeck and Elaine attend the opening of *The King and I* and have dinner afterward with John O'Hara at Sardi's.¹⁶⁸

April 7: Steinbeck and Elaine attend a party for the musical *South Pacific* in New York.¹⁶⁹

April 13: Steinbeck writes in his journal that *Collier's* wants him to "make the big trip" in January of 1952.¹⁷⁰

April 17: Steinbeck spends the evening with Clifford Odets and Juan Negrin.¹⁷¹

April 29: Steinbeck and Elaine attend two separate parties. One party is at Faye Emerson's and another is for Joan Crawford at the Stork Club.¹⁷²

May 1: The Steinbecks host a dinner party for Frank and Lynn Looser and Fred and Portland Allen.¹⁷³

May 10: The Steinbecks have dinner with a distant relative of Elaine's, oil baron Lawrence Hagy.¹⁷⁴

May 25: John is scheduled to attend the National Book Award (Poetry) nomination of Archie MacLeish.¹⁷⁵

May 29: John and Elaine attend the second opening of *Oklahoma*.¹⁷⁶

June (Mid) to September (Mid): John and Elaine spend the summer with John's sons in Nantucket. John continues to work on *East of Eden*.¹⁷⁷

July 19: Elizabeth Otis visits Steinbeck and Elaine for several days.¹⁷⁸

July 4: American journalist William N. Oatis receives a ten-year sentence in Czechoslovakia on an espionage charge.

August 8: Ballerina Tamera Geva visits John and Elaine.¹⁷⁹

August 10: Geva and Kent Smith visit the Steinbecks. Kent appeared in Steinbeck's play *Burning Bright*.¹⁸⁰

September: *The Log from the Sea of Cortez*, the narrative part of the *Sea of Cortez* (1941), is published by Viking Press. This edition includes an original essay *About Ed Ricketts*.¹⁸¹

September 26: Steinbeck attends a production of *Burning Bright*.¹⁸²

October 16: John and Elaine go to a production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Elia Kazan.¹⁸³

October 23: Steinbeck buys a raincoat for the 1952 European trip.¹⁸⁴

October 24: Steinbeck tapes an interview for VOA.¹⁸⁵

November (Early): John finishes the manuscript for *East of Eden*.¹⁸⁶

1952

January 14: Steinbeck's friend and co-writer of *Viva Zapata!* Elia Kazan testifies before an executive committee meeting of HUAC. Kazan admits he was a member of the Communist Party in 1936, but is hesitant to name other members.¹⁸⁷

January 28: Steinbeck writes CIA Director Walter Bedell "Beetle" Smith offering his assistance to the CIA during John's upcoming trip to Europe.¹⁸⁸

January 31: A USIA interview with Steinbeck is broadcast on VOA.¹⁸⁹

February 6: Walter Bedell Smith replies to Steinbeck's letter that the Agency would be interested in his help and instructs Steinbeck to visit him before leaving for Europe.¹⁹⁰

February 7: *Viva Zapata!* is released in the United States.¹⁹¹

February 11: A USIA interview with Steinbeck is broadcast on VOA.¹⁹²

February 26: A USIA interview with Steinbeck is broadcast on VOA.¹⁹³

February 27: Steinbeck celebrates his 50th birthday.

March 11: Dwight Eisenhower wins New Hampshire's Republican primary.

March 18: The State Department is sent a report by the FBI fulfilling a request on any information the FBI holds on Steinbeck after February 13, 1948.¹⁹⁴

March (Late): Steinbeck and Elaine leave New York bound for Genoa, Italy. The ship changes course and lands in Casablanca and then Algiers. While in Algiers, the Steinbecks attend a party thrown by a French Air Force General.¹⁹⁵ The couple takes a ship from Algiers to Marcelles and then drives to Spain.¹⁹⁶

April 10: Elia Kazan testifies before HUAC for a second time. Kazan amends his January testimony and names persons he knew were in the Communist Party in the 1930s.¹⁹⁷

April 11: Steinbeck and Elaine arrive in Madrid. (Date is estimated based on the source letter.)¹⁹⁸

April 21: Steinbeck and Elaine travel to Seville.¹⁹⁹

April 28: General Matthew Ridgway is named as NATO commander.²⁰⁰

May 11: Steinbeck and Elaine arrive in Paris via a train from Madrid.²⁰¹

May 27: Steinbeck writes to Elizabeth Otis that he has been interviewed by the Communist publication *Combat*.²⁰²

May (Late)–July (Mid): Steinbeck and Elaine take a driving tour from Paris to Milan, Venice, Florence, and Rome.

May 28 or 29: Steinbeck and Elaine leave Paris and travel by car to Dijon.²⁰³

May 29 or 30: Steinbeck and Elaine travel by car from Dijon to Poligny.²⁰⁴

June 1: Steinbeck and Elaine travel from Poligny to Geneva.²⁰⁵

June 16: Steinbeck and Elaine arrive in Rome.²⁰⁶

June 23: Steinbeck's Italian literary agent throws a reception in John's honor.²⁰⁷

June 25: John and Elaine have reservations to depart South Hampton, UK, on the *Queen Elizabeth* bound for New York but do not board.²⁰⁸

July 13: John and Elaine arrive back in Paris.²⁰⁹

July 14: Steinbeck and Elaine have dinner with John Houston, José Ferrer, Robert Capa, Suzanne Flon, and the cast of *Moulin Rouge* at the Eifel Tower Restaurant.²¹⁰

July 24: Steinbeck and Elaine leave Paris for London.²¹¹

July 25–August 16: Steinbeck and Elaine travel throughout England and Scotland.²¹²

August 17: John and Elaine arrive in Londonderry, Ireland.²¹³

August 23: "A Duel without Pistols" is published in *Collier's Weekly*.²¹⁴

August 30: "The Soul and Guts of France" is published by *Collier's Weekly*.²¹⁵

August 31: John and Elaine fly from Orly Airport in Paris to New York on Air France flight 037.²¹⁶

September: *East of Eden* is published.

September 10: Steinbeck finishes reading Hemingway's *Old Man and the Sea*.²¹⁷

September 25: Rita Reil of the International Press Alliance Corporation writes Elizabeth Otis about the French newspaper *France Dimanche* refuting facts in "The Soul and Guts of France."²¹⁸

Fall: Steinbeck becomes involved with Adali Stevenson's campaign for president and writes speeches for Stevenson rallies throughout the East Coast. At this point, Steinbeck and Stevenson have never met.²¹⁹

1953

January: Steinbeck and Elaine go to the Virgin Islands for a vacation.

January 10: *Collier's Weekly* publishes "The Secret Weapon We Were Afraid to Use."²²⁰

January 20: Dwight D. Eisenhower becomes President of the United States.

January 31: "I Go Back to Ireland" is published in *Collier's Weekly*.²²¹

March 24–27: Steinbeck takes his sons to Nantucket for a brief vacation while Elaine visits family in Texas.²²²

April 23: Roy Cohn and G. David Schine, chief aides to Senator Joseph McCarthy, return from an investigatory trip to USIS posts in Europe. The pair removed 30,000 books from USIS libraries that included works from Steinbeck, Herman Melville, and Henry David Thoreau.

June 2: Roland William Kibbee testifies to HUAC that while Steinbeck's novels did more for agricultural workers than "anyone else in the Communist Party," Steinbeck was at odds with the Communists. The sources could not present any proof of the claim.²²³

July 27: An armistice is signed, effectively ending the Korean War.

September: Steinbeck rents a cottage in Sag Harbor to be closer to the producers of the musical version of *Cannery Row*.²²⁴

1954

January: John and Elaine vacation in Saint John and meet John Kenneth Galbraith and his wife.²²⁵

March 1: FBI sends a summary file check report on Steinbeck to the USIA.²²⁶

March 10: FBI generates a summary of findings on Steinbeck for an unknown reason, but could possibly be related to the USIA request.²²⁷

- March 19:** John and Elaine board the Italian Lines ship *Saturina* bound for Lisbon.²²⁸
- March 26:** Steinbeck and Elaine land in Lisbon for an extended tour of Europe.
- April 21:** Steinbeck and Elaine are in Seville.²²⁹
- April 22:** Steinbeck visits the Seville's Archives of the Indies to view original documents from Christopher Columbus.²³⁰
- May 7:** French forces fall to the Viet Minh at Dien Bien Phu.
- May 14:** Steinbeck and Elaine arrive in Paris after a six-day road trip. One of the stops along the way was an overnight at Blois.²³¹
- May 21:** Steinbeck's French literary agent holds a reception in John's honor.²³²
- May 25:** Steinbeck moves into their rented house at Number 1 Avenue de Marginy.²³³
- May 27:** Steinbeck receives word that Robert Capa has been killed by a landmine in French-Indochina.²³⁴
- June:** *Sweet Thursday* is published.²³⁵
- June 13:** Steinbeck agrees to be part of a charity event for the children of soldiers who died under General Leclerc's liberation army. The event is held at the Tuileries Garden.²³⁶
- July:** "Jalopies I Cursed and Loved" is published in *Holiday Magazine's* July issue.²³⁷
- July (Early):** Steinbeck travels to Munich at the request of the USIA to record personal statements about the situation in East Germany. These comments will be broadcast on Radio Free Europe.²³⁸
- August 14:** John holds a birthday party for Elaine at a chateau outside of Paris. The party and its trappings are said to have been the genesis for *The Short Reign of Pippin IV*.²³⁹

- August 25:** “Fishing in Paris” is published by *Punch Magazine*.²⁴⁰
- September 8:** Elaine and Steinbeck leave Paris for London.²⁴¹
- September 29:** Steinbeck is in Saint Paul de Venice, France, and notes in a letter to Elizabeth Otis that he has shaved his thirty-year-old moustache off.²⁴²
- October 28 or 29:** The United States Embassy in Rome holds a reception for Steinbeck. Steinbeck also mentions in an October 29th letter to Elizabeth Otis that “Italy is full of flying saucers” and that “Clare Luce says she saw something [UFO].”²⁴³
- October (Late):** Steinbeck leaves Rome with Elaine to take a tour with the Greek Islands with John McKnight (head of USIS in Rome) and his wife.
- November 29:** John and Elaine are in Sicily.
- December 2:** Steinbeck and Elaine travel from Positano, Italy, to Naples.²⁴⁴
- December (Late):** Steinbeck and Elaine return to New York aboard the *Andrea Doria* and land just in time to celebrate Christmas. During the trip, John meets Mark Ethridge of the *Louisville Courier-Journal*.²⁴⁵

1955

- January:** William Faulkner and Steinbeck meet for the first time.²⁴⁶ The January edition of *Reader's Digest* runs “How to Fish in French.”²⁴⁷
- March:** John purchases a summer home in Sag Harbor, New York.
- March 9:** John attends the premier of the stage version of *East of Eden* at the Astor Theater. In attendance are Raymond Massey, Elia Kazan, and Jack Warner.²⁴⁸
- April 2:** John begins writing editorials and articles for *The Saturday Review*. His first piece, “Death of a Racket,” is published in the April 2nd edition.²⁴⁹

April 4: Steinbeck has lunch with Dag Hammarskjöld.²⁵⁰

April 10: The film version of *East of Eden* opens in the United States.²⁵¹

May 28: “Some Thoughts on Juvenile Delinquency” is published by the *Saturday Review*.²⁵²

June: “Always Something to Do in Salinas” is published in the June edition of *Holiday Magazine*.²⁵³

July 5: Steinbeck takes his boat from Sag Harbor to fish off Montauk Point.²⁵⁴

September 26: John has lunch with *Pipe Dream* star Helen Traumbel.²⁵⁵

October (unknown date): Steinbeck travels to Boston for performances of *Pipe Dream*.²⁵⁶

November 30: New York City opening of *Pipe Dream* at the Schubert Theater. The production is a Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein musical based on *Sweet Thursday* and runs for 256 performances ending on June 30, 1956.²⁵⁷

December: “What Is the Real Paris?” is published by *Holiday Magazine*’s December issue.²⁵⁸

December (Late): John and Elaine travel to Trinidad for the New Year’s holiday with Rogers and Hammerstein staffer John Fearnley. After New Year’s, the trio sails around the Windward and Leeward Islands.²⁵⁹

1956

January: “The Yank in Europe” is published in *Holiday Magazine*’s January issue.²⁶⁰

February: “Miracle Island of Paris” is published in *Holiday Magazine*’s February issue.²⁶¹

April 13: Steinbeck goes to Washington for an unknown purpose. He mentions in a letter to Pat Covici that he “haven’t (sic) been there since the war. I hope they’ve cleared the rubble.”²⁶²

May 5: Steinbeck covers the Kentucky Derby for the *Louisville Courier-Journal* and meets Harry Guggenheim and wife Alicia Patterson. The meeting will lead to John writing for the Guggenheim-owned *Newsday*.

July 1: Chase Horton talks to J.M.S. Blakiston at Winchester College at 9:25 a.m. and has lunch with Robert Payne at Winchester later that day. Horton takes a taxi to the Duke of Norfolk's Castle in Asundel.²⁶³

July 2: Chase Horton notes Steinbeck leaves London on this day.²⁶⁴

August: "Discovering the People of Paris" is published in *Holiday Magazine's* August edition.²⁶⁵

August 10–17: Steinbeck is in Chicago to attend the Democratic National Convention and covers the event for the *Louisville Courier-Journal*.

August 20–23: Steinbeck attends the Republican National Convention in San Francisco.²⁶⁶

September: Steinbeck performs services as a speechwriter for Adlai Stevenson and the USIA. Steinbeck also records a number of pieces for Radio Free Europe.

November 19: John finishes the manuscript for *The Short Reign of Pippin IV*.²⁶⁷

December or January (Early) 1957: President Eisenhower asks William Faulkner to head his "People to People" program. (Date is estimated from source letter.)²⁶⁸

1957

January (Early): Steinbeck prepares for another trip to the UK, funded by articles he will write for the *Louisville Courier-Journal*.

January 7: Steinbeck visits the Morgan Library in New York City.²⁶⁹

January 17: Steinbeck writes Arthur Larson, Director of the USIA, regarding sending books to Eastern Europe and admonishing the denial of a passport to signer and civil rights activist Paul Robeson.²⁷⁰

January 19: Steinbeck has lunch with Chase Horton.²⁷¹

March: “My War with the Ospreys” is published in *Holiday Magazine’s* March edition.²⁷²

March 25: Steinbeck and Elaine set sail for Naples on the *Saturnia*.²⁷³

April: *The Short Reign of Pippin IV* is published.

April 12: The CIA is sent information about Steinbeck from the FBI. This report is also sent to the CIA’s Office of Security to a redacted source on April 15th.²⁷⁴

April 26: Steinbeck is in Rome and writes Elizabeth Otis and Chase Horton regarding his Malory research.²⁷⁵

May 9: Steinbeck is in Florence.²⁷⁶

May 17: Steinbeck spends the evening with Professor Armando Sapori.²⁷⁷

May 27: The film version of *The Wayward Bus* is released in America.²⁷⁸

June: *Esquire* publishes Steinbeck’s “The Trial of Arthur Miller.”²⁷⁹

July 4: Steinbeck is in Stockholm.²⁸⁰

July 13: Steinbeck is in London.²⁸¹

July 17: “Red Novelist’s Visit Produces Uneasy Talk” is published by the *Louisville Courier-Journal*.²⁸²

July 18: Steinbeck meets Eugene Vinaver in Manchester for the first time.²⁸³

July 19: Steinbeck spends the night at the Royal Crewe Arms in Blanchland.²⁸⁴

July 20: Steinbeck writes Eugene Vinaver about their first meeting.²⁸⁵ The postscript of this letter has been removed from *Steinbeck: A Life in Letters*. John also visits Rothbury and Hadrian’s Wall.²⁸⁶

July 21: Steinbeck travels along Hadrian's Wall and down into Wales.²⁸⁷

July 22: Steinbeck travels to Tresanton Saint Mawes near Falmouth.²⁸⁸

July 23: Steinbeck returns to Manchester.²⁸⁹

July 25: John and Elaine return to New York on the *Queen Elizabeth*.²⁹⁰

August 30: Steinbeck boards Pan American flight 857 from San Francisco to Tokyo.²⁹¹

September 1–10: Steinbeck attends a meeting of the International Association of Poets, Playwrights, Editors, Essayists and Novelists in Tokyo. John leaves Tokyo on the 10th on Pan American flight 856.²⁹²

September (Late): Steinbeck returns to his Sag Harbor home to continue work on the Malory project.

October 4: The Soviets launch the first artificial Earth satellite, *Sputnik 1*, into low Earth orbit.

1958

February 12: The United Nations contacts Steinbeck to ask if he will travel to the "Near-East to do some kind of definitive work on a film about the refugee situation there." Steinbeck declines the offer to continue work on the Malory project.²⁹³

May: Steinbeck is in London.²⁹⁴

June 4: Chase Horton speaks to Joseph Campbell.²⁹⁵

June (Early): Steinbeck and Elaine travel to England for research on the Malory project.

June 10–13: Steinbeck travels by train from London to Glastonbury. While in Glastonbury, he stays in the George and Pilgrim and meets Robert Bolt. John returns to London on the afternoon of the 13th.²⁹⁶

July (Early): Steinbeck and Elaine return to New York from the UK.

September: *Once There Was a War* is published.

September (Late): Steinbeck sends a finished draft of the Malory project to Chase Horton and Elizabeth Otis for review.

November 6: John replies to a letter by Stuart L. Hannon, assistant to the director of Radio Free Europe. Steinbeck grants Radio Free Europe the right to air/publish his comments on Boris Pasternak's (author of *Dr. Zhivago*) Nobel Prize for Literature award.²⁹⁷

1959

January 31: Steinbeck has a phone conversation with Chase Horton.²⁹⁸

March–October: John travels in England and Wales, researching background for a modern English version of Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur*.²⁹⁹

March 5–11: Steinbeck sails from New York to Plymouth, UK, aboard the *Liberte*.

April 30: Steinbeck is in Cadbury.³⁰⁰

May 2: Steinbeck visits Glastonbury and the ruins of the Abbey.³⁰¹

May 13: Steinbeck is disheartened by an initial review of his *Le Morte d'Arthur* rewrite by Chase Horton and Elizabeth Otis.³⁰²

June 24: Steinbeck is in Cadbury for Mid-Summer's Eve and believes he saw the ghost of King Arthur.³⁰³

July: An FBI informant relays that Steinbeck has received a check in the amount of \$188.70 from the New York account of the National Bank of Bulgaria. The check is supposedly forwarded to Steinbeck via his literary agent at McIntosh and Otis.³⁰⁴

July 2: John and Elaine visit Plush Folly in Dorset.³⁰⁵

August 26: Steinbeck spends the day at Amesbury with Sir Philip Antrobus.³⁰⁶

October 1–14: Steinbeck is in London.³⁰⁷

October 22: Steinbeck returns to New York from the UK aboard the *Flandre*.

December 3: A minor stroke hospitalizes John for two weeks.³⁰⁸

1960

January 11–25: John and Elaine vacation in Caneel Bay.³⁰⁹

March–July: Steinbeck drafts the final versions of *The Winter of Our Discontent*.³¹⁰

May 1: While conducting a reconnaissance mission for the CIA, Francis Gary Powers' U-2 is shot down over the Soviet Union.

September 23–November: Steinbeck tours the United States with his poodle, Charley.³¹¹

1961

January 20: Steinbeck and Elaine attend President Kennedy's inaugural address with John Kenneth Galbraith and his wife.³¹²

February 20: Steinbeck is in the British West Indies. (Dates of travel are unknown, but the source notes Steinbeck was here during this period.)³¹³

February 28: Steinbeck is in Barbados. (Dates of actual travel are unknown, but the source denotes Steinbeck was here during this period.)³¹⁴

March: "Conversation at Sag Harbor" is published in *Holiday Magazine's* March edition.³¹⁵

March–April: John travels to San Diego to perform duties for the Mohole Expedition. The team plans to drill a 12,000-foot hole off the coast of Mexico. John has to return from the expedition due to a torn hernia.³¹⁶

April: *The Winter of Our Discontent* is published.³¹⁷

April 17–19: The Bay of Pigs Invasion occurs.

May 24: John and Elaine have dinner with Dag Hammarskjöld.³¹⁸

July: "In Quest of America Part One" is published in *Holiday Magazine's* July edition.³¹⁹

August 13: East Germany closes the border between East and West Berlin and begins construction of the Berlin Wall four days later.

September (Early): Prior to the 5th, Dag Hammarskjöld meets with John. Hammarskjöld wrote letters of introduction to Heads of State whom he thought Steinbeck might wish to call on during his time abroad. These included the president of the United Arab Republic, Gamal Abdel Nasser; Prime Minister of Israel, David Ben Gurion; vice president of India, Dr. S. Radakrishnan; and Prime Minister of Burma, U. Nu. Hammarskjöld also sent a letter of introduction to Professor Martin Buber in Jerusalem.³²⁰

September 8: John, Elaine, and John's sons set sail for England aboard the *Rotterdam*.³²¹

September–June 1962: Steinbeck spends ten months in Europe.

November: Steinbeck suffers a minor stroke/heart attack in Milan.³²²

December: “In Quest of America Part Two” is published in *Holiday Magazine's* December edition.³²³

December 24: John and Elaine have an audience with Pope John XXIII at the Vatican.³²⁴

1962

February: “In Quest of America Part Three” is published in *Holiday Magazine's* February edition.³²⁵

February 27: John celebrates his 60th birthday on the Isle of Capri.³²⁶

July: *Travels with Charley* is published.

June (Late): Steinbeck writes journalist Max Freedman regarding John's ideas about subversive activities to undermine Communist control of the Berlin Wall.³²⁷

July 21: Journalist Max Freedman contacts President Kennedy's assistant Evelyn Lincoln about Steinbeck's Berlin War proposals.³²⁸

August 21: President Kennedy writes to journalist Max Freedman regarding Steinbeck's proposals on the Berlin Wall.³²⁹

October 14–28: Tensions between the Soviets and Americans result in the two-week Cuban Missile Crisis.

October 25: Steinbeck is awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature and holds a press conference.³³⁰

November 5: John takes publicity photos at his home in Sag Harbor.³³¹

November 17: John takes more publicity photos in Sag Harbor.³³²

December 10: Steinbeck delivers Nobel Prize acceptance speech in Stockholm.³³³

1963

May: Steinbeck and Edward Albee are in Washington for briefings on their upcoming Soviet Union trip.

October 6: The *New York Herald Tribune* publishes “Reflections of a Lunar Eclipse.”

October–December: Steinbeck travels to Scandinavia, Eastern Europe, and Russia on United States Information Agency cultural tour, with playwright Edward Albee.

November 15: Steinbeck poses for Martiros Saryan, Lenin Prize laureate painter of Russia in Moscow.³³⁴

November 22: President Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas, and Lyndon Johnson is sworn in as President of the United States. Steinbeck and Albee are still behind the Iron Curtain. Steinbeck decides that the pair should finish the mission President Kennedy had sent them on to honor the memory of the fallen president.

December 17: Steinbeck is debriefed by the State Department for three days after his return to the States. Albee and Steinbeck are known to have met with Lucius Battle after returning to Washington.³³⁵ After

the debriefing, Steinbeck and Elaine meet President Johnson at a White House dinner.³³⁶

1964

January 3: USIA interview with Steinbeck and Edward Albee is broadcast on VOA.³³⁷

February: Steinbeck meets with Jacqueline Kennedy regarding a biography of John F. Kennedy. The project never came to fruition.³³⁸

February 27: CIA requests information about Steinbeck from the FBI.³³⁹

April 23: Steinbeck is in New York with presidential advisor Jack Valenti.³⁴⁰

August 21: Steinbeck has an eight-minute telephone conversation with President Johnson about attending the Democratic National Convention and speechwriting.³⁴¹

September 14: John is presented with the United States Medal of Freedom by President Johnson.³⁴²

October 14: Longtime friend and Steinbeck's publisher Pat Covici dies.

1965

January (Early): Steinbeck and Elaine travel from Ireland to London and then go on to Paris.

January 23: Steinbeck's sister Mary Steinbeck Dekker dies in California.³⁴³

April (Late): LBJ invites John and Elaine for a weekend at the White House.

June 20: Steinbeck writes Douglas Fairbanks Jr. to arrange a visit to the Duchess of Buccleuch's family library with Eugene Vinevar.³⁴⁴ Also a report is sent to FBI Associate Director Clyde Tolson and Deputy Director Cartha DeLoach on Steinbeck's background.³⁴⁵

October 5: Steinbeck attends “Businessman’s Dinner” at the White House with President Johnson.³⁴⁶

November: Steinbeck was back in Northumberland, with Eugene Vinaver of Manchester, examining manuscripts in the Alnwick Castle library.

December (Late): Steinbeck spends Christmas with John Houston at his house in St. Clearan’s, Ireland.³⁴⁷

December 31: Steinbeck’s “Letters to Alicia” article published in *Newsday* tells of a possible new Malory manuscript at Alnwick Castle.

1966

March 9: An invitation to the Bohemian Club’s summer retreat, known as Bohemian Grove, is sent to John.³⁴⁸

March 18: John declines invitation to Bohemian Grove.³⁴⁹

April: President Johnson appoints Steinbeck to the Council of the National Endowment for the Arts.³⁵⁰

May 16: Steinbeck and son John IV visit President Johnson at the White House.

July 1: John attends a whale boat race between the US Coast Guard and Norway at Sag Harbor.³⁵¹

October: Steinbeck and Elaine receive status as war correspondents for *Newsday* to cover the Vietnam conflict.

October 12: *America and Americans* is published by Viking Press.³⁵²

December to April 1967: Steinbeck’s extensive visit to South Vietnam for fact-finding and to visit John IV.

1967

April (Late): Steinbeck and Elaine leave Vietnam and visit Thailand and Laos.

May: Steinbeck and Elaine report to President Johnson about their experience in Vietnam at a White House meeting.³⁵³

October 23: Steinbeck has back surgery.

December: Steinbeck vacations with Elaine to the Virgin Islands.

1968

March 18: The FBI sends a name check on Steinbeck to Mildred Stegall, President Johnson's White House aide.³⁵⁴

August 21: Steinbeck returns to his Sag Harbor home.

December 20: Steinbeck dies in New York of arteriosclerosis.

1969

Journal of a Novel: The "East of Eden" Letters is published.

1975

Steinbeck: A Life in Letters is published by Viking Press.

1976

The Acts of King Arthur and His Noble Knights is published by Viking Press.³⁵⁵

Timeline Sources

¹Steinbeck T., Phone Interview with Thom Steinbeck, 2008.

²Harmon, 2011.

³Blankenship, 2008.

⁴Blankenship, 2008.

⁵Harmon, 2011.

⁶Schultz & Li, 2005.

⁷Harmon, 2011.

⁸Harmon, 2011.

⁹Harmon, 2011.

¹⁰Harmon, 2011.

¹¹House Special Committee on Un-American Activities, 1938, p. 1996.

¹²Schultz & Li, 2005.

- ¹³Schultz & Li, 2005.
- ¹⁴United States Department of Labor, 1937.
- ¹⁵The Broadway League, 2012.
- ¹⁶The Broadway League, 2012.
- ¹⁷Harmon, 2011.
- ¹⁸Harmon, 2011.
- ¹⁹Roosevelt, Memorandum for the Director of the Budget, 1939.
- ²⁰Harmon, 2011.
- ²¹Wartzman, 2009, p. 32 and United Press, 1938.
- ²²FBI, John Steinbeck File #9-4583 and #100-106224 Part 1, 2012, p. 39.
- ²³Steinbeck J., Telegram to the Committee to Aid Agricultural Organizations, 1939.
- ²⁴Office of the President of the United States, 1939.
- ²⁵Office of the President of the United States, 1939.
- ²⁶Harmon, 2011.
- ²⁷Benson, *The True Adventures of John Steinbeck, Writer*, 1990, p. 415.
- ²⁸Benson, *The True Adventures of John Steinbeck, Writer*, 1990, p. 415.
- ²⁹IMDB.com INC, 2012.
- ³⁰IMDB.com INC, 2012.
- ³¹Benson, *The True Adventures of John Steinbeck, Writer*, 1990, pp. 441, 449.
- ³²IMDB.com INC, 2012.
- ³³Steinbeck J., *Steinbeck: A Life in Letters*, 1975, p. 200.
- ³⁴Steinbeck J., *Steinbeck: A Life in Letters*, 1975, p. 200.
- ³⁵Steinbeck J., *Steinbeck: A Life in Letters*, 1975, p. 201.
- ³⁶Steinbeck J., *Steinbeck: A Life in Letters*, 1975, p. 201.
- ³⁷Benson, *The True Adventures of John Steinbeck, Writer*, 1990, p. 453.
- ³⁸Benson, *The True Adventures of John Steinbeck, Writer*, 1990, p. 453.
- ³⁹Benson, *The True Adventures of John Steinbeck, Writer*, 1990, p. 455.
- ⁴⁰Steinbeck J., Letter to Joe Hamilton, 1940.
- ⁴¹Schultz & Li, 2005, p. 345.
- ⁴²Steinbeck J., June 24, 1940, Letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt,

1940.

⁴³Roosevelt, June 25, 1940, Memorandum from FDR to General Watson, 1940.

⁴⁴Benson, *The True Adventures of John Steinbeck, Writer*, 1990, p. 461.

⁴⁵Steinbeck J., August 13, 1940, Letter to FDR, 1940.

⁴⁶Manning, Winter 2001.

⁴⁷Roosevelt, September 3, 1940, Memorandum to General Watson, 1940.

Benson's biography claims this meeting took place on 12 Sept 1939. This must represent a typo within the text.

⁴⁸Benson, *The True Adventures of John Steinbeck, Writer*, 1990, p. 465.

⁴⁹Benson, *The True Adventures of John Steinbeck, Writer*, 1990, p. 471.

⁵⁰Benson, *The True Adventures of John Steinbeck, Writer*, 1990, p. 471.

⁵¹Office of the President of the United States, 1941.

⁵²Steinbeck J., *Steinbeck: A Life in Letters*, 1975, pp. 220–221.

⁵³United States National Archives and Records Administration, 2012.

⁵⁴Benson, *The True Adventures of John Steinbeck, Writer*, 1990, p. 483.

⁵⁵Benson, *The True Adventures of John Steinbeck, Writer*, 1990, p. 489.

⁵⁶IMDB.com INC, 2012.

⁵⁷Steinbeck J., *Steinbeck: A Life in Letters*, 1975, p. 237.

⁵⁸Benson, *The True Adventures of John Steinbeck, Writer*, 1990, p. 491.

⁵⁹Office of the President of the United States, 1941.

⁶⁰Manning, Winter 2001.

⁶¹Harmon, 2011.

⁶²Steinbeck J., *The Moon Is Down*, 1995, pp. vii–viii.

⁶³The Broadway League, 2012.

⁶⁴Steinbeck J., *Steinbeck: A Life in Letters*, 1975, p. 246.

⁶⁵FBI, John Steinbeck File #9-4583 and #100-106224 Part 1, 2012.

⁶⁶Gerard, 2010.

⁶⁷IMDB.com INC, 2012.

⁶⁸FBI, John Steinbeck File #9-4583 and #100-106224 Part 1, 2012.

⁶⁹Larson, Summer 1948.

- ⁷⁰Steinbeck J., *Steinbeck: A Life in Letters*, 1975, p. 246.
- ⁷¹Steinbeck J., *Steinbeck: A Life in Letters*, 1975, p. 248.
- ⁷²FBI, John Steinbeck File #9-4583 and #100-106224 Part 1, 2012.
- ⁷³Harmon, 2011.
- ⁷⁴FBI, John Steinbeck File #9-4583 and #100-106224 Part 1, 2012, p. 21.
- ⁷⁵FBI, John Steinbeck File #9-4583 and #100-106224 Part 1, 2012.
- ⁷⁶IMDB.com INC, 2012.
- ⁷⁷Steinbeck J., *Steinbeck: A Life in Letters*, 1975, p. 250. Source for both March 27th and 29th.
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