

Notes and Sources

Chapter 1

1. Carol Steinbeck - see Dramatis Personae.
2. Little Bit of Sweden on Sunset Boulevard - the restaurant where Gwyn and John went on their first date.
3. *Black Marigolds* - a thousand year's old love poem (in translation) written by Kashmiri poet Bilhana Kavi.
4. Robert Louis Stevenson - Scottish novelist, most famous for *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped* and *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. Stevenson met with one of the Wagner family on his travels. He died aged 44 in Samoa.
5. Synge – probably the Irish poet and playwright.
6. Matt Dennis - band leader, pianist and musical arranger, who wrote the music for *Let's Get Away From It All*, recorded by Frank Sinatra, and others.
7. Dr Paul de Kruif - an American micro-biologist and author who helped American writer Sinclair Lewis with the novel *Arrowsmith*, which won a Pulitzer Prize.
8. Ed Ricketts - see Dramatis Personae.
9. The San Francisco State Fair - this was the Golden Gate International Exposition of 1939 and 1940, held to celebrate the city's two newly built bridges – The San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and The Golden Gate Bridge. It ran from February to October 1939, and part of 1940. At the State Fair, early experiments were being made with television and radio; Steinbeck heard Gwyn singing on the radio and called her, some months after their initial meeting.

Chapter 2

1. *Forgotten Village* - a screenplay written by John Steinbeck and released in 1941. Narrated by Burgess Meredith - see Dramatis Personae. The New York authorities banned it, due to the portrayal of childbirth and breast feeding. The film was restored and re-released in 2011.
2. *The Log From The Sea of Cortez* - a joint effort by Steinbeck and Ed Ricketts – a mixture of travelogue and data – which was not well received due to war time conditions and its style being so different to anything Steinbeck had produced before. It was based on an expedition made in early 1940, on which Carol accompanied them. She is never mentioned once in the narrative, although all other crew members are. The first separate printing was published by Viking in the USA in 1951. A reworked narrative only was published in 1959 under Steinbeck's sole name and was interesting to Steinbeck's enormous following then, because of its description of his relationship with Ed Ricketts, and how he contributed to Steinbeck's thoughts and writing. The Sea of Cortez is, the Gulf of California.
3. Helen Morgan - an American singer of sentimental ballads who died in 1941. Gwyn took some of her singing style from her.
4. Pacific Grove - the Steinbeck family had a holiday home for many years at Pacific Grove. John and Carol bought a house at 425 Eardley Street – which he kept after they split.

5. Boris Karloff - the stage name of an English actor, William Henry Pratt. Karloff specialised in roles in horror films, notably his portrayal of *Frankenstein* in three major films in the 1930s based on the novel by Mary Shelley. He chose his stage name to avoid embarrassment to several of his family, who held high ranking posts in the British diplomatic service.

6. Carol was presumably referring to the decisions she had made about having children, saying she would “rather have rabies and babies.” She had told one friend that she wanted children, but John did not-insisting his books were his children.

7. *The Wayward Bus* - published in 1947. The book describes an eventful bus journey in the Californian mountains where an assorted bunch of disparate passengers are travelling. It was dedicated to Gwyn Conger Steinbeck. Later it became a film in 1957 starring English actress Joan Collins and blonde bombshell American, Jayne Mansfield.

Chapter 3

1. Lewis Milestone - a Moldavian born American film director who directed *All Quiet on the Western Front* and Steinbeck’s own *Of Mice and Men* (1959). He also directed with Marlon Brando on the film *Mutiny on the Bounty*.

2. *The Red Pony* - this was written in 1933. Early chapters were published in magazines and the full book in 1937. It was later filmed – directed by Lewis Milestone and starring Robert Mitchum and Myrna Loy, with music by American composer Aaron Copeland.

3. Ellwood Graham - painter/artist who knew Steinbeck who sponsored some of his early work.

4. Burgess Meredith – See Dramatis Personae

5. Elia Kazan - a Greek/American writer, actor and director, best known for directing Steinbeck’s *East of Eden* starring James Dean, Burl Ives and Raymond Massey. The film won two Oscars. He also directed *A Street Car named Desire*, starring Brando and Vivien Leigh, and *On the Water Front*, again starring Brando, together with Rod Steiger.

6. Ed Ricketts – see Dramatis Personae.

7. *The Moon is Down* - For this film Steinbeck received from the King of Norway the country’s Freedom Cross. The story told of the occupation of an unnamed country by unnamed invaders. It was never implied that they were German, but the book inspired Resistance fighters in Occupied Europe. It became the best known book of U.S literature in the Soviet Union during the war. The title comes from Macbeth. Banquos’ son, when asked the time, replies “The moon is down: I have not heard the clock”.

7. Mickey Finn - knock-out drops used to incapacitate and rob drunken customers. The name probably originated in a Chicago bar, owned by one Mickey Finn, which closed in December 1903. Incapacitated patrons would be carried into a back room, robbed and then dumped in an alley, waking up the next day with no memory of what had happened.

8. Snedens’ Landing - sometimes known as “Hollywood on the Hudson”. It has been home at various times to Bill Murray, Uma Thurman and Angelina Jolie.

9. Maxwell Anderson - an American playwright, author, journalist and lyricist who wrote the words to *September Song*. A prolific writer, one of his plays was named, and may have coined the phrase *Candle in the Wind*.
10. Paulette Goddard - an American actress and Ziegfeld girl. One time girlfriend of Charlie Chaplin, and if they were ever married, she was granted a divorce from him in 1942, and married Burgess Meredith. Later, she had a brief relationship with Steinbeck.
11. Kurt Weill - a German composer who moved to the United States and wrote *The Threepenny Opera* which included the classic standard *Mac the Knife*.
12. Henry Varnum Poor - an American architect, painter, sculptor and muralist. As an architect, he did house renovations for Burgess Meredith and Maxwell Anderson. He painted a portrait of Gwyn together with John and son Thom.
13. Pare Lorentz - an American film maker who made documentaries. Steinbeck would have been influenced by his film *The Plow Who Broke the Plains* (1936), about the creation of a dust bowl which led to Okies moving to California. Lorentz made state-funded films about aviation and one about the Nuremberg Trials.
14. Helen Hayes - American actress nicknamed "The First Lady of American Theatre". Winner of an Emmy, a Grammy and an Oscar, she was a lifelong philanthropist.

Chapter 4

1. Cannery Row – the first major cannery opened in 1908 and by 1918, 'The Row' became a boomtown of corrugated canneries producing 1.4 million cases of sardines. After World War II, the sardines disappeared from Monterey Bay and the fishing industry collapsed, as predicted by Ed.Ricketts.
2. Jacques Cousteau - a French undersea explorer and film maker, who co-invented the aqualung – the breathing device for scuba diving. He became a world famous advocate of environment protection.
3. The proposed trip to the remote hostile Queen Charlotte and Aleutian Islands was abandoned after Steinbeck's fall , fourteen feet , from an upstairs window in New York, when a balcony gave way. He heeded medical advice that such a trip on the lines of the Sea of Cortez mission would be very unwise. He was told, that with the viscosities in his legs, a slip while gathering specimens could cause a serious embolism in his legs. So instead, he hobbled to Russia with Robert Capa.