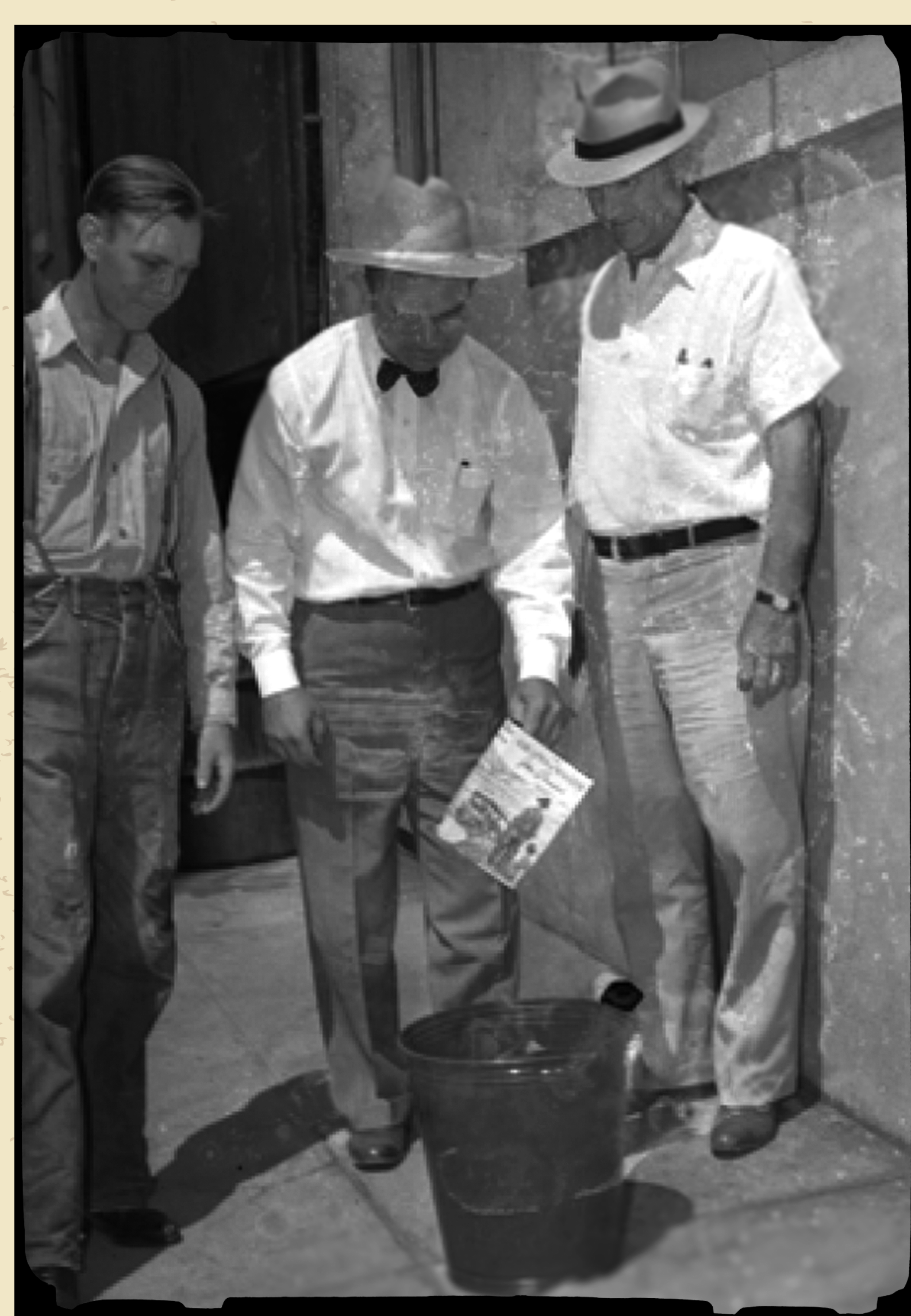


WHOSE VOICES ARE CENSORED?

THE PEN AND THE PAINTBRUSH CAN BE MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD

The Grapes of Wrath, **John Steinbeck's** poignant novel about the plight of Dust Bowl refugees who sought work in California's rich San Joaquin Valley during the Depression, became an instant best-seller in 1939 - but it was banned by the Kern County Board of Supervisors. They instructed the chief librarian not to distribute the book, even though 600 readers had put it on reserve.



THE HEAD OF THE ASSOCIATED FARMERS PUBLICLY BURNED A COPY OF STEINBECK'S *THE GRAPES OF WRATH*.



BANNING BOOKS IS SO UTTERLY
HOPELESS AND FUTILE.
IDEAS DON'T DIE BECAUSE A
BOOK IS FORBIDDEN READING.

- GRETCHEN KNIEF, KERN
COUNTY LIBRARIAN, 1939



ANTON REFREGIER'S SAN FRANCISCO RINCON ANNEX POST OFFICE MURALS, LIKE THIS ONE, WERE ALMOST DESTROYED BECAUSE SOME POLITICIANS DID NOT LIKE HOW HE DEPICTED CALIFORNIA HISTORY.

Burning *The Grapes of Wrath*: Courtesy of Kern County Museum
Anton Refregier Mural: Photo by Elaine Elinson