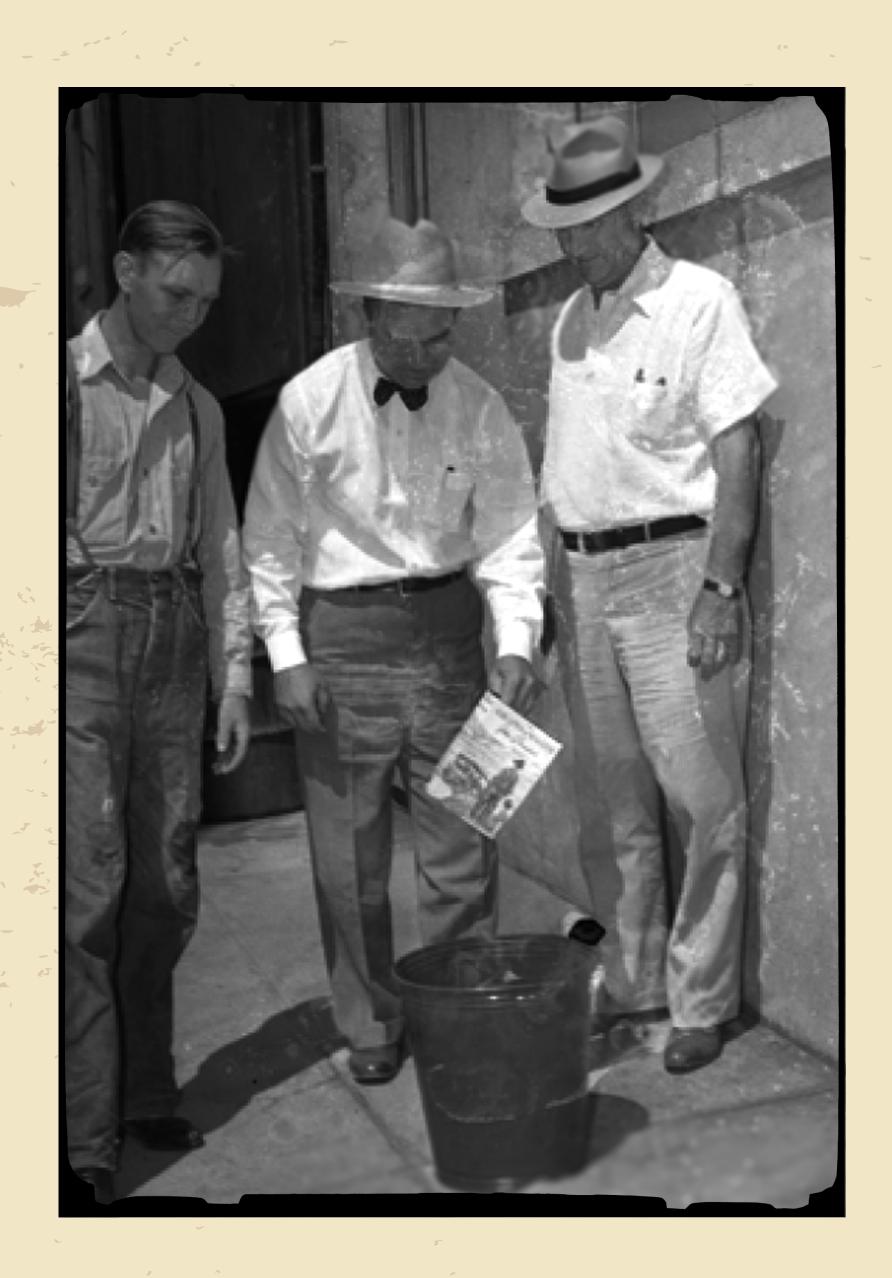
WHOSE VOICES ARE CENSORSORED?

THE PEN AND THE PAINTBRUSH CAN BE MIGHTLER 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.

historic site.



THE HEAD OF THE ASSOCIATED

FARMERS PUBLICLY BURNED A COPY OF

STEINBECK'S THE GRAPES OF WRATH.



HOPELESS AND FUTILE.

IDEAS DON'T DIE BECAUSE A

BOOK IS FORBIDDEN READING.

- GRETCHEN KNIEF, KERN COUNTY LIBRARIAN, 1939 Anton Refregier's colorful murals on the walls of San Francisco's Rincon Annex post office depict the history of California. But because he painted Indians forced to work at the missions, anti-Chinese riots, labor strikes and President Franklin Roosevelt, the murals were targeted by a Congressional inquisition led by Vice President Richard Nixon in 1953 and almost destroyed. Thanks to the support of prominent artists and arts organizations, the murals survived and today are a protected



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