

exploiting and starving the people around him and his family.

Tom and Casy embody the spirit of rebellion that has been instilled in the migrant workers by the conditions that they are forced to live under, significant inasmuch as they demonstrate in two definable human experiences and consciousnesses the hostility the Okies feel for their plight. Casy's initials have been pointed to as a Crist analogue, and his attempts to organize the migrants in a constructive way more than bears this out. But Casy is more than Christ-like in his attempt to promote a material cause that could result in a significant manifest social change, and Stein^{be}ck would have us recognize this in his depiction of Casy as the ex-preacher, a man who has rejected religion and its false promises. Salvation is nothing to Casy, but a better life for those around him is. We see him dying at the hands of the Pharisee's men from the the corporate farms, dying Crist-like, but more than that, for an actual betterment of living conditions, trying to put food in the bellies of starving children. sp/

The Joads reach a type of "promised land" in the government camp, and the bouts they have with the plumbing are cute, and shows us the absolute deprivation they accept as a fact of life. These scenes are also in keeping with the extreme naturalism Steinbeck promotes in depictions of urination, open flies on Grampa's part, uncle John's manic-depressive existence and drunks, and Rosasharon's still-birth. The "promised land" is not milk and honey, but turns out to be a slight respite from starvation only. At least in the camp they have a pleasant social existence that revolves in a world of Saturday night dances and committees that can rectify camp problems. They are pushed out of camp for want of work, and in their next location wind up becoming strike-breakers, proving that idealism has very real bounds. Looking at the Joads objectively, they are not in any way against the goals Casy and his group promote, but are driven on by purely naturalistic imperatives