

## Banned Books Week

Did you know that the earliest record of a book challenge in Oregon was in 1946? John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* and Lillian Smith's *Strange Fruit* were removed from the Nehalem Valley High School Library by the school board. There were people in schools then who supported the freedom to read in Oregon like today.

"Mr. McEwan, the principal at Nehalem Valley Union High School, resigned due to the school board's demand that "The Grapes of Wrath" and "Strange Fruit" be removed from the library. The head of the school board, Mrs. Pearl Vincent, questioned his motives for resigning because he did not quit immediately after the ban took place. The American Civil Liberties Union backed the principal but would not take legal action because he was not fired." *Herald and News* (Klamath Falls) May 5, 1946.