

Box 744 Chapel Hill NC 27514
Oct 22 1979

Dear Tom Averill--

Yours of the 19th came this morning, asking for memories of my beloved brother Paul; and this is nothing to be answered ~~agxxx~~ off the cuff. I'll try to write something for you later, but it will be selective--no possibility of telling everything. Too, it just so happens that I'm in the frantic midst of writing my new novel which, when Doubleday publishes it, will be my 72nd published book.

Laura, Paul's wife, lives at Apt # 501, Park Westwood Towers, 969 Hilgard Ave., Los Angeles 90024. The address of my nephew, Paul, Jr., does not come to hand, but Laura can fill you in. Though she is in her eighties, she is a lady of vigorous mind.

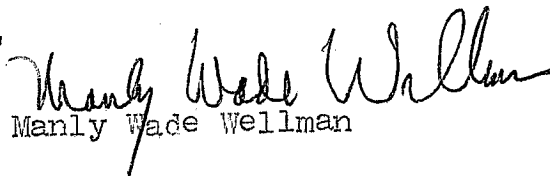
Paul and I were tremendously close, from boyhood up. He was not only my exciting big brother but, through the years, the dearest friend I ever had. I still miss him, miss sharing thoughts and experiences with him.

It is true that Paul has an identify with Kansas, as I do not. I left there when fairly young, and today I reckon I am very much a North Carolinian, and what literary reputation I have is more or less for Southern regionalism.

As to pictures, I fear that I have no early ones. It's hard to decide how ~~no~~ many things of that sort were lost, in a number of moves. Laura should have kept scrapbooks and photo albums-- Paul was good at that sort of thing. I remember that he was able to send me photos of myself as a little boy, things he'd kept as I haven't.

I have to get up over the hump with my book, and I'll try to think and to organize something about Paul as a boy and young man in Kansas.

Sincerely,


Manly Wade Wellman

It's intriguing to think of this project as culminating in Dodge City. That was and is a colorful town--but when I was there, more than 50 years ago, a reference to any writer whatever except, perhaps, Shakespeare or Mark Twain would have astounded, perhaps frightened, the citizenry.