

Box 744 Chapel Hill NC 27514  
Oct 27 1979

Dear Tom Averill--

After I wrote what is here enclosed, I wondered if I might not speak about my brother Paul's personality more fully. After all, I did know him better than most.

He was a happy, hearty man, ~~happy~~ in spite of (maybe because of) his considerable knowledge of pain, strife, hard work. In society, he was a vivid figure. He had a laugh that could ring through a great big hall. Though he was not a womanizer per se, he liked women and they liked him. They'd cluster around him at a party. I remember once how one lady, taking personally a rather dim view of a female character expressed in one of his novels, said to him, "You don't seem to like women."

Paul exploded into laughter. "Nonsense!" he rang out. "They're my favorite sex!"

Not that he didn't have good, close men friends, too. I wonder how many men thought of him as a brother.

Full of laughter he was, but a deep, sane thinker. I saw him for the last time not long before he died. He was well aware that he was dying, and didn't particularly welcome the idea, but he said, "Manly, you know I was never afraid to die," and I reflected how true that was. For he never was afraid of anything.

Good luck on your project.

Sincerely,

  
Manly Wade Wellman

One final word. He did have enemies. Any good man has those. But I'd suggest that most of his enemies were chewed up with jealousy.