

Sundown Farm, Tyler Lane
Frankfort, Maine 04438

6 June 1976

Dearest Jeanne:

So glad to get your letter forwarded from Turson! Am leaving here soon to attend a reunion of my class of 1914 at Andover (11th to 13th June). An old friend (Amy McKay) is driving me to Andover in her automobile and how about our motoring from Andover to see you and Fritz in Provincetown?

I'll telephone you from Andover. Hope to see you and Fritz somewhere soon! Love and best wishes to

you both,
Woody

To life!

Writer-philosopher lives and loves every moment

By PAT McELFRESH

He was "Woody" to Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, Dr. Albert Schweitzer, Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco. He tells marvelous stories of life in Paris in the Roaring '20s, of castles in Spain and his "escape" from Wall Street to become an author and traveling cosmopolitan.

But at 81, Woodland Kahler isn't just an old man reliving his colorful past. He is very much a vibrant part of the present, and the future as well, already planning now his own birthday party on Feb. 6 in the year 2000.

"That's the day I will become a citizen of three centuries," says this serene-with-a-sparkle novelist-philosopher. "I suspect I will still be around then, for I'll only be 104!" he exclaims with a sure nod of his head.

Those who have known Woody would agree. His interests provide fast-paced conversations on philosophy, ecology, literature, health and spirituality. His involvement in life is widespread and enthusiastic, as it always has been, both in the U.S. and Europe. Now a resident of Tucson, he was here recently visiting friends.

He has written seven novels. Five, he says, are

It was then that he met his future wife, who left a first impression of "this smashing beautiful woman." Returning to New York in 1928, he wrote his first book, "Early to Bed."

"It was a best-seller and made me loads of money, and that gave me courage, so I went back and found Olga and married her." Woody and Baroness Olga Cleweshal-Steinheil were married 40 years when she died in 1972.

Their lives crossed multiple continents. Among their homes was a pre-Columbus castle in Barcelona, Spain, "La Budallera." Here is where they raised their unusual assortment of animals, Olga's passionate love. They owned a chimpanzee, King vulture, many snakes including a 6-foot boa constrictor, a baby elephant and a leopard, "Piccolino," who rode with them in their traffic-stopping chauffeured Bentley. Its exterior was Chinese Chippendale — black laquer finish with gold leaf, like Oriental screens.

While living in Paris, the Kahlers entertained in their "miniature Versailles" with fancy-dress masked balls.

Throughout a life of many successes and honors, Woody recalls one vivid instance of a "goof."

"Prince Rainier once asked me what I thought of Grace Kelly. I said she was beautiful but too cold and that I preferred Marilyn Monroe. Well, Rainier married Grace, but still invited me to the wedding in Monaco."

While they enjoyed the luxuries of life, the pair adapted to simpler ways when necessary. It was during World War II, when they returned to the refuge of the United States, that they cultivated an organic garden in New Hampshire, living off the produce.

Because Olga loved animals so much, she was a vegetarian and Woody became one after their marriage. "When I was young, I had hay fever, asthma and arthritis. Now I'm over 80 years old and in perfect health," he says.

He never tries to force his ways on anyone, but is convincingly persuasive in comments such as "We get back only three per cent of what the land gives when we use it for animal grazing. When we raise and eat soybeans, we get 100 per cent back," or "I think one of the greatest arguments in favor of being vegetarian is that it's a means of world peace. Men from all over the world meet and become friends in this cause."

Woody notes that there are several types of vegetarians: vegans eat only vegetables and fruits; others eat dairy products, too. "I consider eggs as a gift from the hen," he grins.

He believes vegetarianism the proven path to longevity as well as health. Never a smoker, he takes only an occasional alcoholic beverage. He believes in fasting, and helped the memory lapse caused by his wife's death by going without food for 21 days under medical supervision. "It purifies the body and mind."

Woody was for 10 years president of the International Vegetarian Union. He also belongs to "The Men of the Trees," who go around the world for conservation. "When trees are cut, and animals graze, topsoil is washed away in rains. More and more land is becoming desert and in several

Women

8 Scottsdale (Az.) Daily Progress

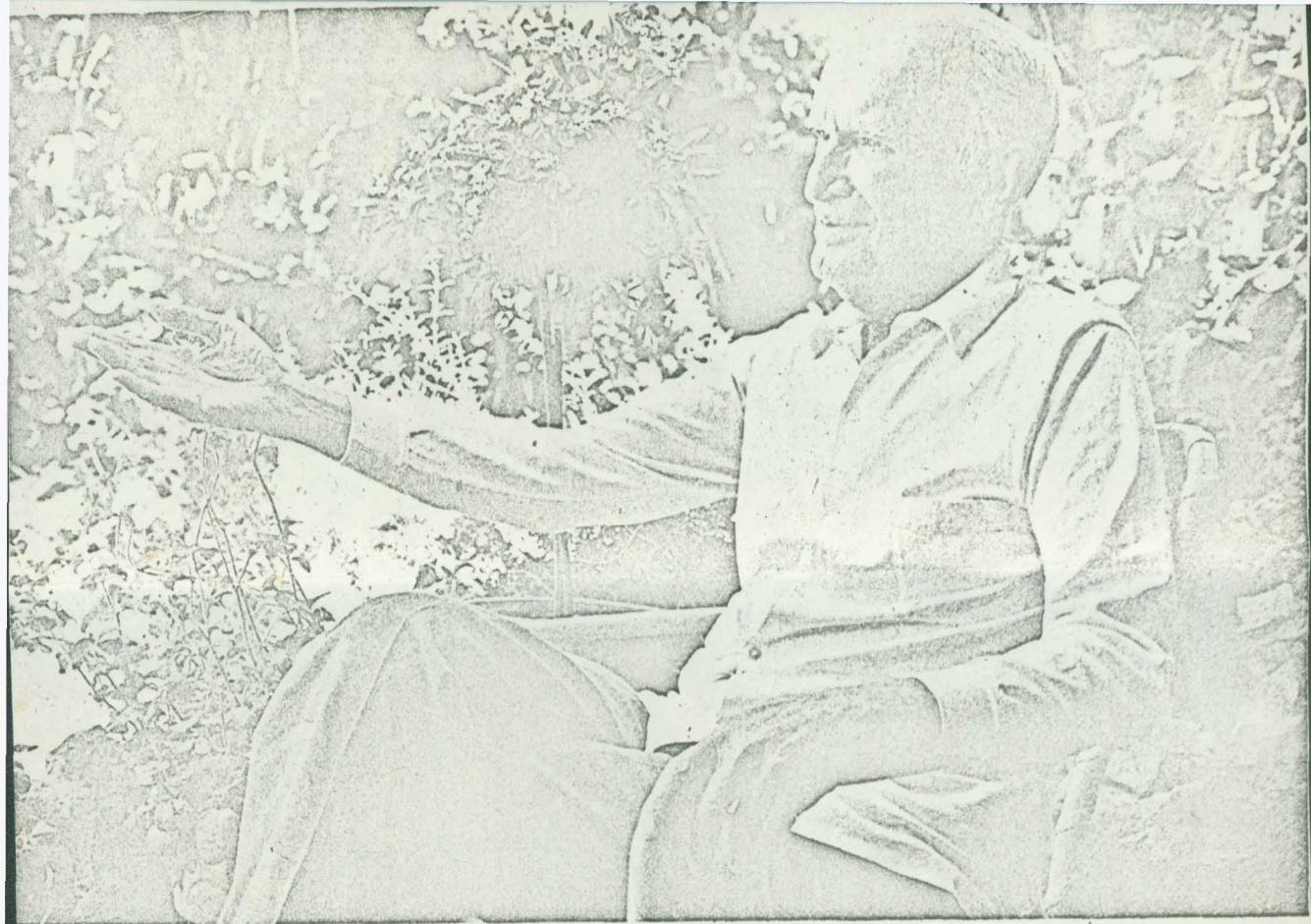
Tues., May 18, 1976

autobiographical. "I just changed the names, but so many fascinating things have happened to me that I didn't need to invent or imagine anything.")

Now he is writing his memoirs, promised to be filled with recollections of the Fitzgeralds, Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, Isadora Duncan and her brother Raymond, Gandhi and Nehru. These were Woody's friends and confidants after he left Wall Street.

If anyone understands this generation's youth and their need to "do their own thing," Woody Kahler does. Born into a Dallas, Tex. banking family, he graduated from Yale in 1918, dutifully joining his father in the America Trust Co. (later absorbed by Chase-Manhattan) for four years.

"But I was stage-struck, so I'd work on Wall Street all day to please Father, then go with the theater people on Broadway at night. I loved my parents, but it felt like being in prison. Finally I escaped and went to Paris, to study at the Sorbonne and write.



Progress photos by Bob Johnstone

NOT CONTENT to live in the past, Woodland Kahler, a man with a story about everything, is already planning his birthday party in the year

2000. On that day, he explains, he will become a citizen of three centuries.

hundred years, everyone may be forced to become vegetarian," he warns. "Everyone eats too much and should skip a meal now and then."

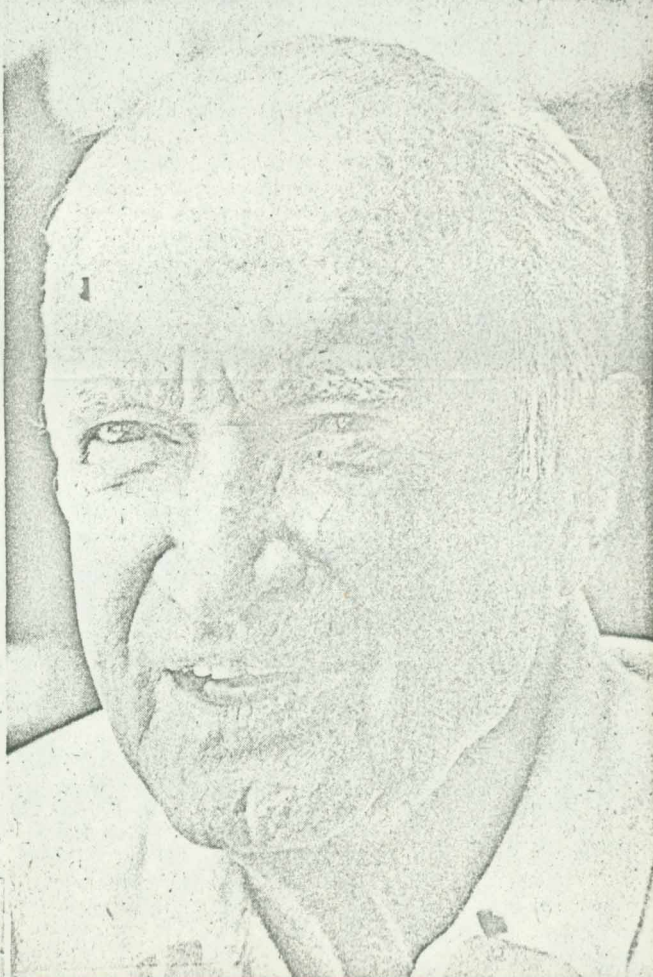
Switching to the subject of life forces, Woody says he believes in one more fundamental and stronger than sex. "That force is the need to attract attention and feel important. It is with us every minute of the day and night and never stops."

Looking to the future, Woody believes the world's problems cannot be solved through politics or economics. "My hope is in the education of the young — old fogies never change.

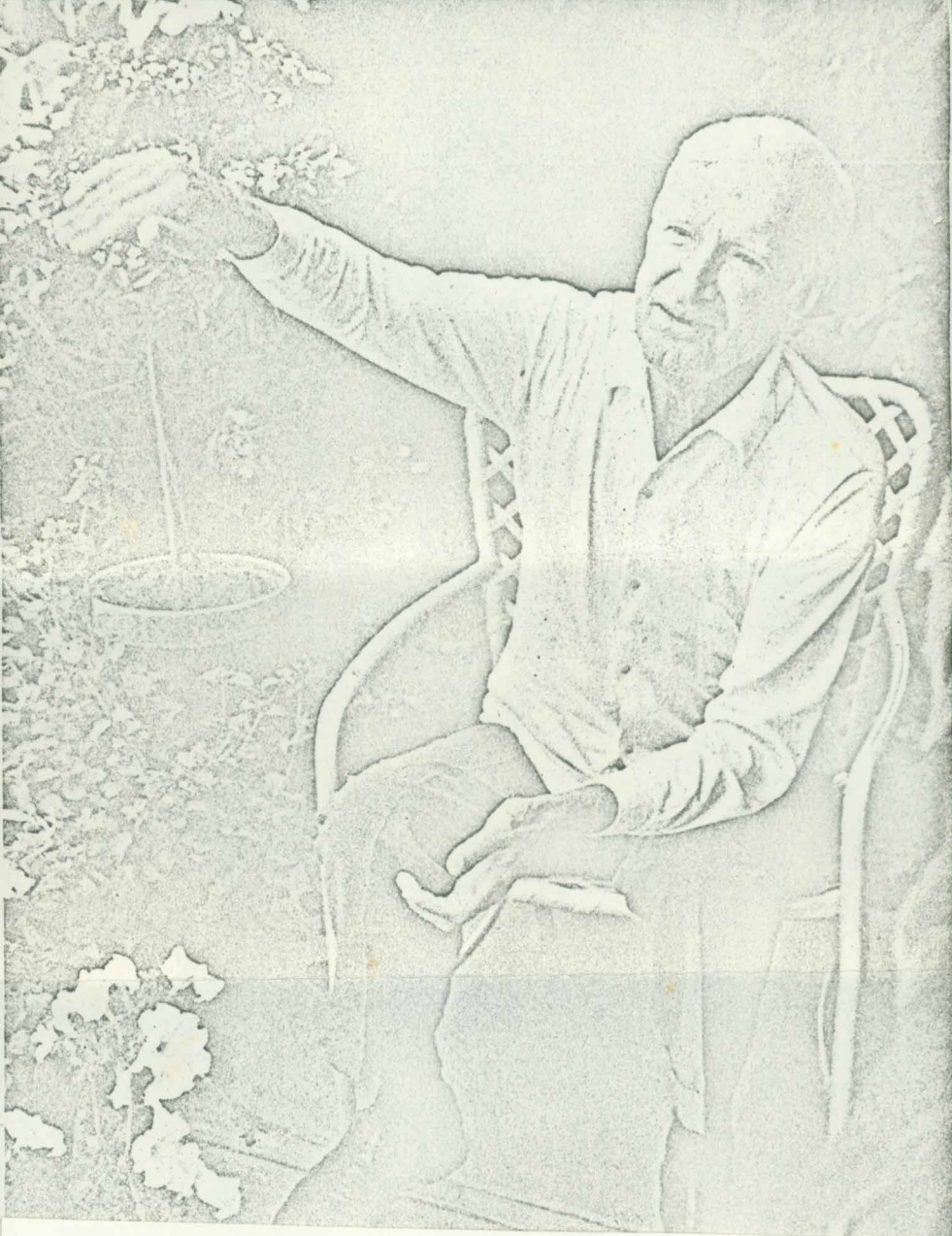
"But we ram our children's minds with facts and figures. We need to teach them more about their mind and body functions; we know more about the mechanics of automobiles than our own bodies." Speaking at universities, he finds youth responsive to his ideas.

Woody believes in meditation, but not necessarily separate from on-going life. "This whole thing — life — is a hidden mystery to our peanut minds. I believe in God and stopped praying to Him to do things. He knows more, so I thank him and I'm grateful for his blessings. The kingdom of heaven is within our state of consciousness, anywhere we can say 'I am.'"

"I have this belief — whatever we send out into God's world always comes back to us sooner or later, so consequently we should be kind and helpful to all living things — animals as well as people. This is the wisest and best way to work for a better tomorrow."



NOVELIST-PHILOSOPHER Kahler provides fast-paced conversations on any topic that's thrown at him from philosophy to diet.



Mr. [Name] is shown here in his garden, which he has cultivated for many years. He is a member of the [Organization] and has been active in its affairs for many years. He is a well-known figure in the community and is highly respected for his contributions to the [Field].