

Youngest UC Graduate, 19, Expects to Begin Novel

Literary and music critics of the future will undoubtedly have to reckon seriously with Stephen P. Kresge who, at 19, is the youngest member of the University of California's graduating class.

Kresge, a native of San Francisco, treated the press yesterday to preview of an upcoming novel which he hopes to begin writing this summer.

FOUNDATION PROGRAM.

He went through his academic career with the aid of a Ford Foundation program begun in 1951, enabling high school students of unusual attainments to enter college after a year of high school.

At 15, Steve Kresge entered the University of Wisconsin from El Cerrito High School, one of 200 young students in the country to participate in the program.

DEFINITE VIEWS.

He returned to Berkeley two years ago, studying modern literature and music and maintaining a B plus average. His opinions are definite:

"Shakespeare is the only playwright." The rest, including Shaw and Ibsen, seem to have a certain "experimentation, but no arrival." Virginia Woolf is another light in his literary firmament, as are Bach and Bartok in the music world.

As for his novel, it is a fantasy about an angel named Jeremy who watches over an engaged young man who hasn't enough money to marry but does own Daphne, an ouzel (thrush) who is "sort of alcoholic."

Part of the plot consists, he says, of a lovely blonde who is pursued by "three men who don't believe in love, or any-



STEPHEN P. KRESGE
Studied Literature, Music

thing irrational like that." They are a chemist, a playboy and an eighteenth century literary scholar.

NO END YET.

Steve hasn't figured how it ends, but does admit to "never quite getting out from under the influence of Thorne Smith. In fantasy you can say a lot more without people taking offense."

This summer the personable, brown eyed six footer will begin his writing. He hopes to include the composing of serious music as well as novel and play writing in his life work.

His brother, Karl, 22, has just finished a tour of duty with the Army. Steve, the son of retired Army Col. and Mrs. Miles W. Kresge, of 608 Beloit Avenue, Berkeley, is interested in a young lady, a brunette, now attending Reed College.