



FRIENDS OF D. H. LAWRENCE

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NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Steve Fox

In the middle of this cold winter, with more combinations of ice, snow, sleet, and frozen mud than most long-time Taoseños have seen in many years, there is a big reason to feel warm and optimistic about D.H. Lawrence studies. A comprehensive plan to renovate the D.H. Lawrence Ranch in San Cristobal has been presented to new University of New Mexico President David Schmidly, who seems likely to approve it and make it part of UNM's 2008 Capital Fundraising Campaign.

You may recall the news media reporting last Fall that President Schmidly visited the Ranch. He was clearly moved by the natural beauty there, saying, with the conviction of a naturalist who's published eight books on natural history and ecology, "What a magnificent habitat." The Friends of DHL let the president know how important the Ranch was to Lawrence fans all over the world, and especially to us in Taos, where there are people who remember knowing Frieda and Mabel Dodge Luhan. Pres. Schmidly met with the Ranch Committee in November to respond to many faculty requests that he do something to stop the ranch's deterioration. Schmidly surprised the assembled committee—most of whom had spent years using the ranch for classes or trying to raise money to do repairs—by saying, "It would be a travesty for us to lose the ranch or allow it to deteriorate further. Get a sound business plan that shows costs of repair, new construction, and annual operating costs to me and I'll see if we can put the ranch on the Capital Campaign."

Mary Vosevich of Physical Plant—Main Campus (who has responsibility for the Ranch) guided the drafting of the report with input from many departments at UNM—Albuquerque and from UNM—Taos. She had her department's real estate and building experts compute costs for renovation and replacement of buildings and for the crucial necessity of water to serve the Ranch's visitors and staff. Vosevich had her graphics people prepare a professional proposal package, complete with historic photos and brochures from the Ranch's heyday. It went to the President in late January. The Creative Writing program at main campus, directed by Sharon Oard Warner, says they have a donor ready to give \$2 million toward construction of cabins for a Writers' Colony at the Ranch as soon as a plan is ready.

Cross your fingers, light a candle, set out prayer flags, and carry your lucky charms. Then get ready to chip in! We'll inform you of the fundraising plan's official start as soon as we hear. The D.H. Lawrence Ranch will ride again!

MY FRIEND LORENZO

by Bill Haller

D.H. Lawrence arrived in Taos on his birthday Sept. 11, 1922. He was 37 years old. In an essay entitled 'New Mexico' he was prompted to write of that first day and his experience in Taos using some of the most exacting words ever to describe the New Mexico mystique.

"I think New Mexico was the greatest experience from the outside world that I have ever had. It certainly changed me forever...

But the moment I saw the brilliant, proud morning shine high up over the deserts of Santa Fe, something stood still in my soul, and I started to attend...

In the magnificent fierce morning of New Mexico one sprang awake, a new part of the soul woke up suddenly, and the old world gave way to a new...

But for a greatness of beauty I never experienced anything like New Mexico."

These words are from a man who had traveled the world over, through Europe, the Suez Canal, and parts of Asia, Australia, and the South Pacific.

Lawrence's words strike a resonating chord. I, too, have traveled and lived in other parts of the world, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, North America, and South America. I recall my first visit to Taos over 30 years ago driving over the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and experiencing the *greatness* of their beauty. Having been moved by Lawrence's writing and life story, I came to visit the D. H. Lawrence Ranch. As fate would have it, I met Jan, my lovely wife-to-be, in San Cristobal. Like Lawrence, I too swept her off her feet from her oppressive spouse and we later married in San Francisco, Frieda and Lawrence's first stop ever in the States. Also, like Lawrence and Frieda, we knew in our hearts that New Mexico is where we wanted to spend the rest of our lives. Thanks Lorenzo and Frieda.

Look Bill up at Cid's Food Market
if you want to know more about D.H.L.

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TAOS AMBASSADOR

By Hugh Witemeyer

Taos High School graduate, Holly J. Mell recently attended the 11th International D. H. Lawrence Conference in Eastwood. Her visit was arranged by the Friends of D. H. Lawrence and Conference Director Sean Matthews as a way of encouraging an interest in Lawrence among young people today.

Ms. Mell presented a paper on Lawrence's poem, "Pomegranate," along with photographs of the Lawrence Ranch and other Taos settings associated with the author. She participated in conference activities, made many new acquaintances, and enjoyed sharing the social life of Nottingham students.

Ms. Mell was an excellent ambassador. It is hoped that her visit will lead to future collaborations between Lawrence groups in Taos and Nottingham. The involvement of younger readers in events and projects of this sort is vital to the preservation and continuance of the Lawrence heritage.

Funds for the trip were raised at a benefit dinner organized by the Friends at the Mabel Dodge Luhan House and at a piano recital given by Ms. Mell at the Nikolai Fechin House.

FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN

Residents near the Lawrence Ranch were shocked to see an intense fire in the forest late the night of January 18th. Many feared the fire was at one of the Lawrence properties. The fire consumed a trailer home owned by the Hawk family. A few months after arriving in Taos the Lawrence's lived in Alfred Hawk's cabin, still occupied by Walton Hawk, before acquiring Mabel Dodge Luhan's ranch and acreage just down the road. Damage was limited to the trailer but had the fire occurred during the summer months, the result could have been catastrophic. Fortunately, no one was injured.

A BRIEF REPORT

by Holly Mell

It is difficult to describe my trip to Eastwood because it was such an incredible experience. I can say with certainty that the best part of the trip was meeting all the wonderful people at the D.H. Lawrence conference. I spent almost all of my time at the conference because I ended up staying with the conference director, Sean Matthews. I was by far the youngest person at the conference and felt a little out of my league as far as Lawrence-based knowledge. Still, I made an effort to meet as many of the people as possible before I had to come home.

I am still amazed at the impact Lawrence made all over the world. In a remarkably short life, he gained the attention of the entire world through his works. I met fans from India, Germany, Italy, Canada, The Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, China, Japan, and Taiwan. Interestingly, Lawrence is really big in some of the Asian countries.

I am grateful that I was gifted with this wonderful opportunity, and I hope to maintain some of the friendships I made through my trip.

FRIENDS TO PARTICIPATE IN HERITAGE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

The Friends will sponsor a session entitled "The D. H. Lawrence Ranch: A Preservation Challenge" at the annual conference of the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance. The session will take place from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Friday, March 14, 2008, at the Taos Convention Center, 120 Civic Plaza Drive.

Friends' Vice-President Hugh Witemeyer will present an illustrated talk on the history, legacy, and current condition of the Ranch. The audience will then be invited to discuss preservation strategies for this important historic property. The aim of the session is to enable participants to visit the Ranch with a greater understanding of its heritage and the challenges it faces. The Friends also hope to receive useful perspectives and strategic suggestions from preservation veterans attending the conference. For further information contact Hugh at hughwit@unm.edu or visit the NMHPA website at www.nmheritage.org.

RANCH REPORT

by Jim Levy

The Ranch Affairs Committee was formed by the Friends to handle a variety of tasks involving the D. H. Lawrence Ranch, which lies about 20 miles north of Taos in the mountains southeast of San Cristobal. The Lawrences lived there a relatively short time from 1922 to 1925, but its importance is due not to the length of their stay but to the intensity of their response to the land and the animals. The ranch was a life-changing experience, especially for Lawrence.

The Ranch Committee has created the Community Network for the D. H. Lawrence Ranch, a project which intends to keep people who have an interest in the area informed about plans for the ranch and to get their feedback about those plans. They have been in touch with *acequia* organizations, the Neighborhood Association of San Cristobal, Taos Pueblo, the Forest Service, County Commissioners, and others. If you are interested in being part of this Network, please call or email Jim Levy at 776-5763, jimlevy4@yahoo.com. (note: if you are interested in general information about Lawrence and the Friends, you may be placed on the mailing list by calling or emailing Pam Brody, 751-3257, dhlfriends@msn.com.)

Another goal of the Committee is to compile documents about the Ranch. If anyone has any surveys, inventories, old maps of the area, old photos, or other material that relates to the Ranch, we would like to have a copy of it. Please contact Jim Levy at 776-5763.

TRIVIA

- D.H.Lawrence spoke 5 languages: English, Spanish, German, French, and Italian
- D.H.Lawrence arrived in Taos,N.M. on Sept.11, 1922, his 37th birthday.
- Frieda von Richthofen Lawrence's famous cousin, Manfred von Richthofen, was "The Red Baron," renown German military aviator during World War I.

PLEASE JOIN TODAY! • Cut out and return form below with check for your membership level. • THANK YOU!

DHL FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP

Sponsorship Levels

Phoenix Gold	\$1,000	_____
Phoenix Silver	\$ 500	_____
Phoenix Bronze	\$ 200	_____

Regular Membership Annual Dues

Family	\$30	_____
Individual	\$20	_____
Youth	\$10	_____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please mail checks to: Friends of DH Lawrence
P.O. Box 796
Taos, NM 87571

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

• **March 14, 2008** – NM Heritage Preservation Alliance Annual Conference • 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Taos Convention Center, 120 Civic Plaza Dr.

Topic: "The D. H. Lawrence Ranch: A Preservation Challenge"

• **March 29, 2008** – **General Meeting**

Hotel La Fonda on Taos Plaza • 10am - Noon

D. H. Lawrence Room

Topic: "Cash in the Box and Censors in the Closet: How UT-Austin Built Manuscript Collections for New Editions of D. H. Lawrence's Books and Opened the Doors on his Censors."

David Farmer will cover the times he worked with D.H. Lawrence manuscripts while earning a Ph.D at UT-Austin in the late 60s, during the era when the budget for acquisitions was massive even by today's standards. Manuscripts poured in from all over the writing world, filling the halls with boxes upon boxes. In the process of editing the new edition of *Women in Love* for Cambridge University Press, Farmer depended on the rare books, manuscripts and correspondence of D.H. Lawrence, and discovered how his work was censored during his life.

Topic: "From Nottingham to New Mexico with D. H. Lawrence."

Daniel Cooper, like Lawrence, grew up in Nottinghamshire and attended Nottingham Boys High School. By following Lawrence's 'savage pilgrimage' through the stark terrain of old and New Mexico, he has explored how a master story teller can reveal the underlying narrative of our own lives. He holds a social history degree from Edinburgh and has worked for Amazon.com in Seattle.

Friends of DH Lawrence

Respectfully request your presence at

GENERAL MEETING

March 29, 2008 • 10am - Noon

Hotel La Fonda - Taos Plaza

DH Lawrence Room

Two Guest Speakers: David Farmer
Daniel Cooper

Complimentary Refreshments