



FRIENDS OF D.H. LAWRENCE

Newsletter

P.O. Box 796 • Taos, New Mexico
87571 • 575.751.3257
dhlfriends@msn.com
friendsofdhlawrence.org
SEPT. 2008 • Vol. 1, no. 2

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Steve Fox

D. H. would have loved this late summer and coming Fall. How his heart and language would have tried to wrap around these titanic cloudbanks, veils of downpours, roaring river channels, and bright warm days in between. Let's lift a glass to the restless writer. He continues to intrigue and satisfy people all across the spectrum. Despite his "adult" label, Lawrence is inspiring high school teens in Taos again this year, because he wrote so honestly about love and beauty.

Two years ago, Taos High kids amazed and thrilled our DHL Festival audience at the TCA with their linked cycles of spoken word and modern dance based on Lawrence's poems. Nancy Jenkins's and Olga Biagas's direction made us adults hear D.H.'s words about nature, freedom, coming of age, and school anew and fresh.

The THS students, on the cusp of adulthood and wielding the energy of youth, are joining us again for this Fall's DHL Festival. This time, it's at the Taos High Black Box Theater, a fine intimate space that seats nearly a hundred and gives the performers room for entrances and exits and all kinds of movement. Nancy and Olga chose Lawrence's "The Rainbow" for the students to interpret. Reviled by prudish reviewers in Lawrence's day as too sexual for public contemplation, the story and characters fit nicely into our more honest and sophisticated era. "The Rainbow" is all about the longings and fears of young love in a time when nobody talked honestly to them about love and sex. The corseted, starched-collar costumes stand perfectly for the mental and emotional Edwardian straightjackets that frustrated and angered Lawrence.

We're lucky, this year, to be able to look into another of Lawrence's enduring psychological studies in our Festival with "Sons and Lovers". This story is such a forthright telling of the "Female Trinity," or triangle,

he himself faced in pulling away from his beloved and smothering mother, and into the arms (or not) of an older experienced widow and a young girlfriend. We have found a DVD of the 1960 film version of Sons and Lovers on eBay, from Australia. We have a CD player that will play its format, and we are lucky to have the star living here in Taos, Robert Dean Stockwell, who played Paul Morel, the DH character. The film won the Academy Award for its black and white wide-screen cinematography. However, we will present it only in a "scoped" version, since wide-screen projection isn't available to us yet in Taos.

The order changes at the Ranch. We'd like to honor the half-century of yeoman work done by New Mexican unforgettable character Al Bearce up at the DHL Ranch in San Cristobal. Al passed away last month, over ninety years old, and we owe to him the traditions of UNM classes and individuals being able to use the Ranch for literature, art, and humanities workshops, retreats, and classes, as well as short stays in the Los Alamos surplus cabinets he brought to the mountain-side on a flatbed truck in the 1950s and 60s.

There is steady movement toward plans to renovate those facilities so that local, state, national, and international visitors may once again spend some time at the Ranch. New UNM President David Schmidly and his Physical Plant and Creative Writing staffs have written a plan, not yet approved, that will need energetic fundraising to bring to fruition sometime in the coming months or years. The Friends of D.H. Lawrence, based in Taos, will work hard and passionately with UNM-Main Campus, the people of San Cristóbal, UNM-Taos, and fans of the Lawrences' legacy from everywhere to see that the Ranch does not lapse into oblivion.

BARRETT AND BEARCE AT THE RANCH

In Memory of Al Bearce who passed away at the age of 92 on July 8, 2008

by Kathleen Knoth

Mary Barrett, whose current title is Facilities Coordinator, has had several titles over the 30 years she has helped manage the DH Lawrence Ranch in San Cristobal.

Barrett and Al Bearce have worked as a team over the years to bring in cabins for guests, supply water to the dwellings from a nearby spring, maintain the grounds and roads, and greet and feed guests.

Bearce worked for the University of New Mexico, maintaining the facilities at the main campus in Albuquerque, when in 1956 he started going up to the Ranch after Frieda Lawrence bequeathed it to UNM. With his ingenuity, and assistance from local friends and contractors, Bearce was able to bring in cabins for guests to stay in and figured out a way to feed the spring into 10,000 gallon water tanks and pump it to the homes.

Barrett met Bearce when he answered a CB radio call to assist her mother with her father's oxygen tanks. The Barretts lived in the Velarde area and had trouble with the large tanks they had "back then."

Working for the County at the time, Barrett befriended Bearce and eventually started working at the Ranch with him. When asked if she had a particular interest in DH Lawrence or in the property Barrett said, "Basically it was just a job. Growing up around here no one hears about the Ranch." But over the years it became more than just a job. A typical day includes checking all of the property – the cabins, restrooms, the memorial, cleaning, talking with tourists, and watching the wildlife. She misses some of the groups that would come when the Fellowship cabin was open. A couple of her favorites were the Model A Car Club and the Nuclear Safety And Criticality Scientists.

"I was talking to one guy for a while and found out later he was the head of Three Mile Island," Barrett exclaimed. Even after the lodge closed, Bearce and Barrett would continue to host the groups and feed them from their house.

The wildlife are as important as the tourists to the Ranch. Barrett has seen raccoons, elk, bear, deer, and turkeys. She and Bearce even made friends with a baby elk they named Stormy.

The biggest difficulty in maintaining the Lawrence Ranch has been "getting enough funding," Barrett said. She explained that most of the time they

were given about \$1,000 per year for maintenance so some of the disrepair is due to lack of funds. Barrett said she would like to see more cooperation in maintaining the Ranch in the future and felt strongly about using local, established contractors. Referring to the recent passing of Al Bearce, Barrett said "the place is rich in history and it's not going to be the same without him. Grouch or not, Al made the Ranch."

Just as Barrett believes Bearce made the Ranch what it is today she is also concerned about what will happen with the equipment and tools he used. While the University would like to see some of this equipment removed, Barrett sees the historical value. "The old tanker is part of what made the Ranch," Barrett explains with a hint of an emotional tie.

Barrett said most people who drive all the way up to the Ranch are coming to see the Georgia O'Keefe tree, the mountains, or have just come out of curiosity. For the future, Barrett said she just wants to see the Ranch maintained and "used like it used to be."

MABEL DODGE LUHAN HOUSE



Photo by Sam Richardson .

D.H. Lawrence painted these windows for Mabel Dodge Luhan while visiting here in 1929

The Mabel Dodge Luhan House is now an historic inn but it is also open to the public and provides a variety of workshops. For more information, you can go to their website at mabeldodgeluhan.com or call 575-751-9686.

DHL FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Fox, President
Bill Haller, Vice President
Rick Eckhardt, Treasurer
Pam Brody, Secretary

Art Bachrach
Kathleen Knoth
Mark Luhan
Mary Lutz
Nita Murphy
Sam Richardson

SUCCESSFUL SPRING GENERAL MEETING

Daniel Cooper and David Farmer enlightened an audience of approximately 30 people at the Friends of DH Lawrence Spring General Meeting on March 29, 2008. The meeting was held at the La Fonda Hotel on Taos Plaza which houses DH Lawrence's "forbidden" paintings. According to their website www.lafondataos.com, La Fonda de Taos is the only place world-wide to view nine of the thirteen paintings that were confiscated by the police in 1929 from the Dorothy Warren Gallery in London.

Daniel Cooper, like Lawrence, grew up in Nottinghamshire and attended Nottingham Boys High School. Cooper spent several months in the Taos area doing research for his upcoming book on Lawrence. It was a privilege to see Daniel's slide show of places and people that showed the settings of Lawrence's stories. We will keep you apprised of the status of his upcoming book.

Fascinating the audience with stories of his time working with manuscripts and correspondence of Lawrence's while at UT-Austin in the late 60s, David Farmer spoke about the University's process of acquiring these manuscripts and his experiences working with them while editing a new edition of *Women in Love* for Cambridge University Press. Farmer, whose work is cited several times in "D.H. Lawrence: a Reference Companion" by Paul Poplawski, kept the audience's attention with his anecdotal accounts.

TRIVIA

- Mabel Dodge Luhan gave the Lawrence's the current day Ranch along with 160 acres in San Cristobal in exchange for the original manuscript of "Sons and Lovers."
- Mabel Dodge Luhan gave the manuscript to her Manhattan psychoanalyst, A.A. Brill, for payment for his services.
- Today the original manuscript is at the University of California/Berkeley, purchased from Dr. Brill's son in 1963 for \$17,000.

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
PO Box 796
Taos, NM 87571

D.H. Lawrence Festival

Celebrating the legacy of
creativity left to Taos
by writer D.H. Lawrence



Sunday, October 12, 2008, Black Box Theatre, Taos High School

Events:

2:30 p.m.: A showing of the Oscar-winning film "Sons and Lovers," starring Taos resident Dean Stockwell as the young artist Paul Morel. Mr. Stockwell will be present at the showing to discuss his role and answer questions from the audience.

7:00 p.m.: A performance of Lawrence's novel about the tensions of young love, "The Rainbow," by THS literature, drama, and dance students under the direction of Nancy Jenkins and Olga Biagas

Auction of an original full size "Sons and Lovers" movie poster (1960) at the showing

Tickets: Moby Dickens, FX-18, and at the performances

The Friends of D.H. Lawrence is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization www.friendsofdhlawrence.org

For more information: 575/737-6237 or dhlfriends@msn.com

www.friendsofdhlawrence.org



**FRIENDS OF
D.H. LAWRENCE**

PO Box 796 • Taos, New Mexico 87571

US
Postage