



THE AUDIE MURPHY NATIONAL FAN CLUB
AUDIE MURPHY - HONORARY PRESIDENT



HONORARY MEMBERS

BILLIE MURPHY - MARIETTA, TX
NADENE MURPHY - PRINCETON, TX
JUNE MURPHY - FLOYDADA, TX
EUGENE MURPHY - JACKSONVILLE, TX

CLUB OFFICIALS

STAN SMITH - EDITOR
SUE GOSSETT - ASSISTANT EDITOR

July, 1996

SPECIAL BONUS !!!!! No doubt, the first thing that caught your eye with this issue was the handsome Audie Murphy laminated bumper stickers which I designed. Each member has received two; one for the front and one for the rear bumper. They are with the club's compliments and are one of the many benefits of active membership. Those of you who wish to have more may purchase them at 2 for \$10.00. The profit realized from such sales will go toward other special bonuses which I'm planning. (submitted by Stan Smith)

A & E BIOGRAPHY Air date ! I have been advised by Mike Sackett at Greystone Communications that the air date for their Audie Murphy production is July 1, 1996 ! For this reason, this edition of the newsletter was released a few days earlier than scheduled in order that our members may view and / or tape this long over due historical event. The title of this documentary is "Audie Murphy - Great American Hero." Hopefully, this publicity will attract more potential club members. But more importantly, maybe it will be the impetus for convincing our stagnant postal administration that a commemorative stamp for Audie Murphy is a must. (submitted by Stan Smith)

VIDEO TAPE - In the April newsletter, we reported on the induction of Audie Murphy into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. Those members desiring video tapes of this event may order as follows:

National Cowboy Hall of Fame
1700 N.E. 63rd Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111
Attention: Lynda Hallar

The cost of the tape, including shipping, is \$25.00. They will also accept major credit cards at (405) 478-2250 x221. I understand that the portion of the ceremony showing Nadene and Billie Murphy accepting this award is only a few minutes. For additional information or assistance, you may wish to contact Ken Townsend -Director or Bobby Weaver - Assistant Director. (submitted by Stan Smith)

Some of our newer members are not aware of the four major publications about Audie or about the problems with their acquisition. I will attempt to itemize and outline their status for you.

Audie Murphy - American Soldier by Colonel Harold B. Simpson USAF (Ret.) This massive biography (466 pages) was published in 1975 and is now OUT OF PRINT. It was published and distributed by The Confederate Research Center, Post Office Box 619, Hillsboro, Texas 76645. (ISBN: 912172-20-7)

Hero - The Life and Death of Audie Murphy by Charles Whiting. Published in 1990 by Scarborough House, Chelsea, Michigan 48118 (ISBN: 0-8128-3135-7) is now OUT OF PRINT. This biography was reprinted in paperback in May 1991 by Jove Books, the Berkeley Publishing Group, 200 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016. (ISBN: 0-515-10568-6) Unfortunately, I'm advised that this paperback is also OUT OF PRINT.

No Name on the Bullet by Don Graham. Published in 1989 by Viking Penguin, a division of Penguin Books, 40 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010 (ISBN: 0-670-81511-X) is now OUT OF PRINT. This biography was reprinted in paperback in 1990 by Penguin Books, Viking Penguin, a division of Penguin Books USA, 375 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014 (ISBN: 0-14-01.3446-8).

To Hell & Back by Audie Murphy. Published in 1949 by Henry Holt, New York, NY in numerous editions it is considered a collector's item, regardless of which edition. This autobiography, reprinted in 1988 by Tab Books, (now McGraw-Hill) Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17294 (ISBN: 0-8306-4002-9), is now OUT OF PRINT. The HOLT edition has been reprinted in paperback by Bantam Books, Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103 (ISBN: 0-553-24297-0). To the best of my knowledge, this paperback is still available. (submitted by Stan Smith)

E-MAIL ??? While the fan club is not fully computerized, apparently several of our members have Internet capabilities. Club member Penny Dangelo in Phoenix, Arizona would like to hear from other Audie fans. She may be reached at PennyDale7@AOL.com Members who have Internet addresses and who would like to be mentioned in future newsletters, should feel free to drop me a line accordingly.

A VISIT WITH TERRY MURPHY: On March 9th I traveled to Anaheim, California for a medical show where my company had an exhibit at the convention center. Seizing this rare opportunity of travel, I invited Terry Murphy and club member Larryann Willis out to dinner on Sunday, March 10th. Until now they were only voices on the other end of the phone. They met me at the Hilton Hotel where we chatted for a while before dinner. In my opinion Terry doesn't look anything like his dad, especially height wise as Terry is nearly six feet tall. Terry does have long delicate fingers like Audie. He is good looking and slight in build. Larryann advises me that Terry's eyes are smoky-blue with a grayish tinge.

Terry operates a typesetting and graphics company out of his home where he is in partnership with another individual. Terry's wife, Susan, was unable to attend our dinner as she was visiting her parents. Susan is a legal secretary for a very prestigious law firm which is headquartered in Washington, D.C. Terry and Susan have been married for ten years and have no children. Only recently did Terry become aware of our fan club. He was quite surprised and pleased that so many people remember and admire his dad. Modesty prevents me from repeating his complimentary comments about our newsletter.

Common courtesy dictates that I explain something about Larryann Willis. She is an attractive, married, entertainment attorney residing in Santa Clarita, California. Larryann has worked with Terry and Mike Sackett at Greystone Productions in legal matters. In fact, Larryann has assisted Terry in the establishment of the Audie Murphy Research Foundation. This is a tax exempt organization designed to encourage donations and memorabilia to the Greenville Library for example. In this way, people with Audie Murphy artifacts will realize tax benefits when they make donations from which other researchers and fans can view and benefit.

The three of us spent over four hours together. It was immediately obvious just how cordial and gracious Terry is. His only failing was his outright modesty in having his picture taken. None the less, it was a most enjoyable evening. I look forward to seeing them again, perhaps when they travel to Washington to do research at the National Archives. (submitted by Stan Smith)

ID CARDS ! - Our April newsletter contained your new fan club ID card. Two were issued so that you may carry one and place the second in your memorabilia album. New cards will be issued each year, ideally with the January issues. Again, we must thank illustrative artist and club member Don Moore for designing and donating the two silhouettes of Audie which we also use on our letterheads. (submitted by Stan Smith)

MOVIE POSTERS ! Recently I located a new source for movie posters at attractive prices:

**Jim Zicopula
166 Woodridge Lane
Lino Lakes, Minnesota 55014
(651) 483-9809 Home: 4PM - 10PM
(651) 297-4603 Work: 7 AM - 3:30 PM**

Jim has a good selection of individual lobby cards (11" x 14"), most only cost about \$5.00! He also has a few half sheets (22" x 28") and inserts (14" x 36"), but these are very limited. (submitted by Stan Smith)

MOVIE REVIEW OF "THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE"

SYNOPSIS: In the Spring of 1862, Union troops begin their march slowly heading up river. After fording the river, the sounds of gunfire are heard for the first time. The men come upon the body of a Union soldier which causes Henry Fleming to see for the first time the horrors of war. As they get closer to the fighting, they take up their positions. Some of the soldiers start to run while their officers try to make them stay. As the rebels charge the front lines, they are ordered to hold and beat back the initial assault.

Coming down the path, Henry sees the wounded coming from battle and he regards the wounded soldiers in an envious way. He perceived persons with torn bodies to be peculiarly happy. He wished that he too had a wound, a red badge of courage.

Henry sees his friend Jim, who has been mortally wounded, and watches him die. Henry is devastated and visibly shaken. When he hears more gunfire, he goes off by himself. More Union soldiers are running. In an effort to find out what is happening, he is knocked out by a soldier in the confusion. When found later that evening by a sentry, Henry is taken back to camp and tells them that he got separated from his unit and "shot."

There is another skirmish and this time Henry advances to an insecure position consumed only by a passion of hate for the enemy and not one of fear. Henry's unit once again rushes forward into battle. He grabs the colors and leads the men on an aggressive attack that eventually defeats the Confederates. He meets the enemy color bearer who is fatally wounded and, as a sign of respect, holds the Confederate flag to keep it from touching the ground. Henry is recognized by his General as leading the charge. The troops regroup and head back down the road with Henry proudly carrying the flag.

THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE was written by Stephen Crane in 1894. From the moment it was published, it was accepted by critics and public alike as a classic story of war, and of the boys and men who fought. His story is of a frightened boy, Henry Fleming, who went into battle and came out of it a man with courage. More than that, it is a story of many frightened boys who went into a great civil war and came out as a nation of men - united, strong and free.

MGM announced plans for filming in the spring of 1950. A few friends, including Hollywood columnist Hedda Hopper, began to push Audie for the starring role. But they ran into much opposition. John Huston favored Audie, but the studio planned to use one of its contract players. It was argued that Murphy had too little acting experience to handle such a dramatically demanding role. But the pro-Murphy people finally won.

In this movie, Audie gave what many thought was an Academy Award performance. Both he and the picture received high critical praise. One critic wrote: "Audie Murphy behaves with the soldierly competence that might be expected from our most decorated soldier." Another critic said: "Audie Murphy gives a sensitive performance wonderfully conveying, in the end, the dead somnambulistic feel of a man in combat."

The Red Badge of Courage was filmed from August 25, 1950 to October 11, 1950 in Chico, California and at the John Huston Ranch in the San Fernando Valley in Southern California. It ran 69 minutes and was released in September, 1951.

Other cast members included as the "Loud Soldier", Bill Mauldin who was famous for his Willie and Joe cartoons during World War II; John Dierkes as the "Tall Soldier"; Royal Dano as "The Tattered Man" who went on to make POSSE FROM HELL and GUNPOINT; Andy Devine as the "Cherry Soldier"; Robert Easton Burke, who later shortened his name to Robert Easton as "Thompson"; Douglas Dick as The Lieutenant; Tim Durant as The General and Arthur Hunnicutt as Bill Porter. (submitted by Sue Gossett)

Our second newsletter of last year listed various commercial sources for Audie's movies. For those of you with cable service, you might be interested to know the library holdings of Audie titles for The Family Channel, TNT and AMC. The following page itemizes the Audie Murphy titles currently held by them. It may be worth your time to scan the programming schedules of their movies so that you can record a particular title. This decline is due to expiration of their broadcast rights and is a direct result of a lack of public interest. Considering the drastic decline in the number of titles held, it would be beneficial for us all, if each of you took the time to write the various stations and urge them to acquire additional titles. I am advised by TNT that *Arizona Raiders* is now available on retail video.

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Atlanta, Georgia 30318

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(404) 885-0298

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(404) 885-4242

CAST A LONG SHADOW
THE QUIET AMERICAN
THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE

AMERICAN MOVIE CLASSICS

150 Crossways Park West
Woodbury, New York 11797
Judith Francis/ David Schring
(516) 364-2222

BATTLE AT BLOODY BEACH
CIMARRON KID
COLUMN SOUTH
DESTRY
DUEL AT SILVER CREEK
HELL BENT FOR LEATHER
JOE BUTTERFLY
KANSAS RAIDERS
KID FROM TEXAS
NIGHT PASSAGE
RIDE A CROOKED TRAIL
RIDE CLEAR OF DIABLO
SEVEN WAYS FROM SUNDOWN
TO HELL & BACK
TUMBLEWEED

THE FAMILY CHANNEL

2877 Guardian Lane
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452
Janet Mosier
Public Liaison Coordinator
(804) 459-6166

BULLET FOR A BADMAN
GUNPOINT
40 GUNS TO APACHE PASS

NATIONAL COWBOY HALL OF FAME -March 16, 1996 - Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: As you know, Audie's sister, Nadene, accepted his award at the 35th Annual Western Heritage Awards. The following is a copy of the acceptance speech which Nadene gave:

“Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen.

I want you to know I'm nervous. My Ban roll-on has just rolled off. I told Jack Elam I was afraid I would faint up here. He promised to pick me up if I did.

I wanted to hire Robert Urich to make this speech for me, but I see he is hiding out. I'm no good at making speeches so this won't take long.

Sort of like a tourist walking past a blacksmith's shop in Arizona. He stopped, picked up a horseshoe, then dropped it real quickly. ‘Burned your hand didn't you?’, asked the blacksmith. “Nope,” replied the tourist, ‘It don't take me long to look at a horseshoe.’

My sister, Billie, and I arrived in Oklahoma Wednesday. We spent a couple of days with our good friends, Coy and Elaine Prather. Everyone has been so nice to us.

We are happy to be here on this wonderful occasion. On behalf of Audie's family, his wife Pamela, and his sons Terry and James, for the entire Murphy family, we want to express our appreciation for the honor being bestowed upon our brother, Audie, tonight.

How it thrilled us to watch his movie(s). To see him come riding over a hill, or down a hot, dusty street of a western town. What a swell guy!

Audie didn't think he was talented though.

On one movie he was making things weren't going just right so the movie director asked what the hold-up was. “I'm working under a handicap, sir”, Audie said. “What handicap?”, asked the director. “No talent”, Audie replied.

He had talent. He could act, write poems, and songs. He was quite a comic also. When he would come home from California he kept us all laughing. He could bring a tear to a glass eye.

Only in our great country could a young, uneducated man, go to war, become a World War hero, and end up in the movies! Hey, is America great or what?”

UPDATES - In the previous newsletter you were advised as to the publication of an illustrated biography on Audie by CASSELBERRY BOOKS in San Bernardino, California. In February when we learned of their add, I was bothered by the fact that they had no phone number. The magazine publisher also advised me that CASSELBERRY BOOKS did not want their number given out. I thought this was very strange for a business. Sharon Young has now advised me that CASSELBERRY BOOKS has moved and left no forwarding address. I must conclude that they went out of business.

In the same newsletter we also advised you about a forthcoming book, "Gun to Hell" by Basil Creighton, from NORTHWEST PUBLISHING CO. in Salt Lake City, Utah. They at least have a phone number. In speaking with their Mr. Jay Erickson, I was advised as to the reason for the delays. Apparently the firm has been sued by several authors for failing to meet publishing promises and deadlines. Their files and equipment have been confiscated by the FBI and as a result they were forced to layoff a number of employees. If they are unable to resolve their legal problems soon, NORTHWEST PUBLISHING must file for Chapter 11. For those members who have previously paid for this publication, you may wish to contact Mr. Erickson and request a refund. I believe their 800 number is no longer in service; their commercial number is (801) 255-5050. It is unfortunate that this project has fallen through.

FLOWERS FOR AUDIE - I have arranged for a floral arrangement to be sent to Arlington Cemetery on June 20th for Audie's 72nd birthday. While we were not in a financial position to do anything our first year of operation, I plan to make this gesture of affection and tribute every year from now on. The flowers will be identified as from "The Audie Murphy National Fan Club." Those of you who wish to do something on your own should be certain to include the following information when ordering flowers:

Audie L. Murphy
Grave 366-11, Section 46
Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington, Virginia 22211

As a tribute to Audie on his birthday June 20th, American Movie Classics station aired his movies all day from 6:30 AM till 4:30 AM the following day. Their schedule included 12 different movies, all westerns, except for "To Hell & Back." The June issue of their magazine contained a brief article about Audie and Alan Ladd.

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A Prayer For Audie Murphy

by club member Mark Yanagida of Honolulu, Hawaii

From God, we have his ever present spirit around us helping to guide us to a better world. To the mortal heroes like Audie, who graced our lives with his presence on earth and now in spirit too. We need heroes and whether they are dead or alive, they will always be with us to make us feel good about ourselves, our country and what it stands for. Under blue skies at Arlington National Cemetery, a ray of sun shines where Audie Murphy, the Greatest American Hero, lies. Peacefully enough, high up the Cumberland Fells, close under the shelter of a stone wall that will shield him from the worst of the Western gales. On clear nights in winter the stars of Orion, the Great Heavenly Hunter, will ride the sky, brown owls will hoot in the ash tree above his grave and rabbits may scamper and play on the silvery, frosted grass. Audie Murphy, in his eternal sleep, will mind them no more. His spirit though is everywhere and his soul with the grace of God will live on forever, Amen.

“The real heroes of the war are those who never came home”