



THE AUDIE MURPHY NATIONAL FAN CLUB
AUDIE MURPHY - HONORARY PRESIDENT



HONORARY MEMBERS

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CLUB OFFICIALS

STAN SMITH - EDITOR
 SUE GOSSETT - ASSISTANT EDITOR

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A VISIT TO ARLINGTON CEMETERY TO SEE AUDIE'S RESTING PLACE

By club member Lilian Smith

On November 16, 1996 I had the pleasure and honor of visiting Arlington Cemetery. Originally from County Cork, Ireland, residing temporary in Connecticut, I wanted to make this trip before returning to my homeland. Stan Smith, editor of the fan club, was gracious enough to pick me up at Dulles International Airport and drive me to the cemetery where we arrived just in time to witness the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. A most impressive sight and one that I shall not forget. Afterwards we had the opportunity to meet club member Lisa Ann Carey of Alexandria, Virginia. Lisa took us into the barracks where the tomb guards reside and we were given a tour of their quarters. The first thing one sees upon entering the guards living quarters is a large color photo of Audie on the wall. I also learned that the guards are required to learn verbatim one of his poems as a condition for completing their learning process to be a full fledge tomb guard. From there the three of us went over to Audie's grave where several photos were taken of the marker. Looking at his marker, this nearly religious shrine, moved me to a great deal of excitement and gave me a warm feeling. Lisa Carey apparently visits Audie daily and places flowers and small American flag on his grave. I look forward to a return visit both to the cemetery and to see Stan and his family again.

RECOLLECTIONS OF AUDIE MURPHY BY CHARLES OWEN - CO. B, 15th INF.

"It seems as if it were yesterday, that day I met Audie Murphy. On Christmas day 1944, a fresh contingency of infantry replacements from the U.S. passed through the Port of Le Harve on the northern coast of France and by early January arrived at a forward troop replacement depot in France where the 15th Infantry Regiment of the Third Division was holding a hard fought position in the Horbourg-Bennwihr area.

The ground was frozen hard under a deep blanket of snow. The highest daily temperature averaged 14 degrees. The replacement depot was housed in an old Catholic church building located behind a brick wall along with the church cemetery.

A very young appearing, neatly dressed second lieutenant wearing an army 45 pistol and carrying an M1 carbine, walked up to the sergeant standing at the gate and ask(ed) for eighteen replacements for his Third Platoon, Company B. The lieutenant was very persistent in demanding replacements from Texas. The sergeant, checking his roster, curtly replied, 'Sir, I only have sixteen Texans.' The lieutenant accepted the sixteen Texans and selected two more from other favorite states.

The eighteen replacements lined up in the road and the officer introduced himself as second lieutenant Audie L. Murphy. The name, we did not recognize. He ordered us "at ease", as he began an informal briefing. There was no visible indication that the lieutenant, up to that time, had received a battlefield commission and numerous bravery citations, including the third highest, the Silver Star. From his brief, warm, encouraging orientation, we could sense that he was brave, battle wise compassionate leader. He told us not to be ashamed to be afraid and that it was O.K. at times to cry.

The briefing had calmed the anxious replacements and somehow we felt proud and encouraged following Lt. Murphy down the snow-covered road a few kilometers to Company B's position.

Just a few weeks later, January 22, 1945, the Third Division pushed off into one of its most fierce battles of World War II, the battle of (the) Colmar Canal. On January 26, four days later, Lt. Murphy ordered us eighteen replacements to dig in at the edge of the forest while he mounted upon a burning U.S. tank destroyer and with a 50 caliber machine gun turned back a fierce German counterattack of armor and infantry which would have surely annihilated Company B.

For this, Lt. Murphy was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor and endeared himself forever to the eighteen infantry replacements, of which I was one.

What a leader!" (Source - personal letter dated & signed November 11, 1996)

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Recently, several members attempted to have their dues charged to their VISA CARDS. The club is not a business enterprise and we are not set up to accept or process any credit card transactions. We will never be in a position to do so, nor would we qualify and economically we would lose because of their fees. That would result in an increase in the dues. Please continue to pay your dues with personal checks, money orders or cashiers checks. Some have even sent cash, but you do so at your own risk. We deeply regret any inconvenience our primitive payment system causes you. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. (Stan Smith)

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY DALE GOOCH, NOW OF GRANITE FALLS, WA., A CHILDHOOD FRIEND OF AUDIE'S, TO THE EDITOR OF THE FAMERSVILLE TIMES ON JULY 2, 1994

“Dear Editor:

I enjoyed reading the recent (June 16) "TIME OUT" article concerning Audie Murphy. It refreshed my own memories of the local boy who became a legend. Many stories, including a few books, have been written about the war hero and movie celebrity. I do not recall any that mentioned his having lived and attended school in the Floyd community for at least a part of his boyhood. So, in an effort to rectify this discrepancy, I would like to share my personal recollections of the brief period in which he attended school at Floyd.

As I recall, it was during the 1937-38 school year that classes were meeting in the three church buildings located in Floyd while a new school building was being constructed by the WPA. My younger sister, Jean, and I attended classes in the Baptist building which took care of grades five through seven. It was late in the fall following the cotton harvest when a new kid named Leon Murphy enrolled in the fifth grade. ("Leon" was the name that he preferred to be called at that time.) It was obvious that Leon was a few years older than the other fifth graders in spite of his naturally small stature. After reading Monroe Hackney's account of having gone to school with Leon at Celeste through the fifth grade, I realized that young Murphy must have had to spend more time in the fields than in the classroom. It was probably the only reason why teachers found it difficult to promote him to the next highest grade. I can attest, however, that he was both bright and studious, after having observed his class from my section of the church building.

Although he appeared somewhat quiet and restrained by nature, he participated freely in class discussions and activities. I recall one instance in which he shared with his class how his grandfather had submitted to the U.S. Patent Office an improvement of the cotton gin. As proof, he brought a copy of the original patent application to show to the class. He also related that someone stole his grandfather's idea and took full credit for it.

Being two grades ahead of but one year younger than Leon, my personal experiences with the hero to be was limited to playground activities. We played a game called "Annie Over" during recess and lunch periods. Leon loved the game and demonstrated exceptional skills in "capturing" opponents by bouncing the soft rubber ball off their backsides. I relished being on the same team with him since we usually won because of his aggressiveness.

I can attest, also, that during the short time that I knew young Murphy, he demonstrated most of the admirable qualities attributed to him by numerous authors.....good mannered, quiet demeanor, hard worker, clean, neat, intelligent, levelheaded, modest, fearless, etc.

His reason for being in the Floyd community during that period was that Leon and his mother, along with younger brothers and sisters were living on a farm owned by either Jim Greenwade or "Sandy" Terry. The two farms were adjacent and were located about a mile northwest of Floyd. It was my understanding that the farmer furnished the family a house to live in while they hired out to help with the harvest.

Leon did not finish the school year in 1938 and I can only assume that it was because he had to return to the fields to earn money for the support of his family. I had no further personal contacts with him although he remained in the general area of Floyd. He lived, for a time, with the Haney Lee family and helped with farm work. In his later writings he relates that Mr. Lee treated him like a son and that he, in turn, regarded Lee as a second father. The Lee family, incidentally, was located few miles north of Floyd.

The last time that I saw Audie Murphy (he was officially "Audie" then) was when he stepped off the Greyhound bus at Floyd dressed in his recently acquired, but ill-fitting, olive drab uniform. He was on leave from basic training at Camp Wolters in Mineral Wells and was evidently headed for Haney Lee's farm to visit his friend and mentor.

I had no further reason to give my ex-schoolmate so much as a thought since I, too, soon donned an army uniform and had enough to occupy my thoughts while serving with the Fifth Army in Italy. Japan had already surrendered when I received a newspaper clipping from home extolling the heroics of a local G.I. named Audie Murphy. I related to a buddy that I once attended school with a Leon Murphy who looked remarkably like the war hero. A short time later it became evident that "Audie" and "Leon" were one and the same.

In conclusion, I would like to share something that has puzzled me for a number of years. Why is it that our Post Office Department has not honored Audie Murphy by putting him on a commemorative stamp? Many people of lesser importance have been honored by Commemorative stamps over the years, but I do not recall seeing Audie Murphy on any of the stamps. It will soon be fifty years since Audie received the Congressional Medal of Honor. I think it would be fitting for someone or some group of individuals from the Farmersville area to take it upon themselves to contact the proper authorities to make it happen. Thank You," (signed) Dale Gooch -

MEMPHIS - TENNESSEE PEN PALS WANTED

New club member Dieter Lack in Germany is anxious to make contact with any club members in the Memphis, Tennessee area. Please write to DIETER LACK at the following address: Liliencronstrasse-2 - 25746 - Heide, GERMANY. Dieter's home and Fax number are the same: 011-49-481-61885

CLARIFICATION: Several members have attempted to contact Clearwood Records in Canada to obtain "The Songs of Audie Murphy" sung by Robert and Giselle Bouchard. They are still in business and I can offer no explanation as to their difficulties in getting through. Clearwood Records was originally mentioned in our second newsletter of 1995 (Vol. 1, No. 2) on page 10. Mr. Cleary has the 33-1/3 albums at \$14.00 postage paid. The inside of the record jacket has some biographical information on Audie. His inventory of cassettes is depleted but if you wish he can make you a copy from the record @ \$10.00 US postage paid. Obviously the cassette will not have the paper insert which identifies the contents. Furthermore, I do not know of any other company that has released albums or tapes solely of Audie Murphy songs. If one has the time and money, you can search individual record albums where one song may be listed. Several dozen artists must have done "Shutters and Boards". I hope this information has been beneficial. (Stan Smith)

MOVIE REVIEW

THE CIMARRON KID almost seemed to be a sequel to **KANSAS RAIDERS**, based on the locale, and the main character's involvement with the Dalton Gang. Audie plays Bill Doolin, another real-life outlaw, recently released from jail. Doolin is traveling by train when it is held up by the Daltons. He is recognized and assumed to be a member of the gang. He is forced to flee and become a fugitive. Wanting to know the whereabouts of the gang, the local marshal finds him working on a cattle ranch. Doolin refuses to tell him, escapes and decides to join the gang.

Soon after, the gang raids two Coffeyville, Kansas banks in broad daylight. However, the raid doesn't go quite as planned. All but Doolin and Bittercreek are killed. They reorganize the gang and begin a spree of robberies. The marshal's office starts putting officers in every town trying to catch the gang.

Meanwhile, Rose, Bittercreek's girlfriend, gathers information about the train payrolls for the gang. Rose makes arrangements for the gang at a boarding house in town but is double-crossed by the owner. The town is barricaded upon the gang's arrival but they still manage to get into the roundhouse and find a way out of town. During their escape, Bill is wounded by Red and he recovers with Stacy's help.

Carrie tries to talk sense into Bill by giving himself up. Bill is too proud to accept charity from her father who offers to sell the ranch and help them to buy some land and settle down. He wants to do just one more big job and then things will be all right.

Realizing that he can't continue the outlaw life indefinitely, Doolin decides on one more major train heist, and then plans to flee to Argentina with his girlfriend. The robbery goes badly, all of his friends are killed and he is captured. At the end, Doolin has been persuaded to do his time in prison, then start a new life ranching.

This movie was filmed in the Sonora, California area from May 17, 1951 to June 15, 1951, and was released in January 1952. It ran 84 minutes. It also starred James Best, Yvette Dugay, Beverly Tyler, Roy Roberts, Noah Berry, Jr., William Reynolds, Tony Curtis, Palmer Lee and Leif Erickson.

A critic described THE CIMARRON KID as a movie "between a conventional sagebrusher and the exalted Western". In show-business slang, a "sagebrusher" usually refers to a Class-B Western.

By this, his eighth movie, critics got used to Audie deliberately underplaying his roles. They understood it as a manner of acting that Murphy had developed and not the hesitation of one who did not know his job. Typically one critic wrote, "Murphy turns in an even, soft-spoken performance."

Shooting on THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE was completed seven months before filming THE CIMARRON KID. But Murphy, still under contractual obligation to Universal, could not wait for the reviews on RED BADGE. He and Pamela Archer had been married on April 24, 1951. After a brief honeymoon in Texas, they came home to Hollywood where they moved into an unpretentious apartment on Fountain Avenue. Audie and Pamela had planned to start having children soon, so he could not get far away from the low-budget Westerns in which he was already typed. (Submitted by Sue Gossett)

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ANOTHER GOOD MAGAZINE SOURCE:

I recently made contact with the following magazine dealer. At present, she has about 150 magazines with Murphy articles. Many of the magazines are in mint condition. They are going fast. I know; I grabbed about 15 copies. Anyone with Katherine Hepburn magazines can make some fantastic deals with this lady:

Joan Seaton
7335 Penrith Drive
Mechanicsville, Virginia 23116
(804) 730-2232

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QUOTATION OF THE YEAR : “Audie Murphy’s likeness should have been put on a U.S. postage stamp fifty years ago. By the reflecting pool there should be a sculpture of him which represents all of America’s valiant military personnel who were willing to die that we could enjoy our liberty. Such recognition by America is long overdue.”

W. and Frabcesca Williams – Lubbock, Texas - January 12, 1997

WHAT DID HE LOOK LIKE? Several club members have asked what did Audie Murphy really look like physically. Personally, I have no idea. However I can say that on June 30, 1942 when Audie was given a physical examination for military induction, the following vital statistics were recorded: “height- 65-1/2” (5’ 5-1/2”); weight - 112 pounds; color of hair - brown; color of eyes - hazel; complexion- ruddy; waist 27”; eye sight 20/20; blood pressure- 118/60; blood type -A.”

Now, club member Bill Russo of Milton, Massachusetts has a deeper fascination for the inconsistencies about Audie’s height and weight. He relates “One of the great debates about Audie is the exactitude of his height and weight. Though it is possible that he grew and continued to grow during his military service, the most unlikely possibility is that he shrunk during the 1950’s, only to grow taller again, and then to be mysteriously shrunken again by the 1960’s. However, according to published sources, this appears to be the case. One hates to make a mountain out of a molehill, or something than it actually is, but the reports of Audie’s height and weight seem to be greatly exaggerated. Herewith is a short compendium of the ‘heights’ Audie has reached.”

SIZE	YEAR	SOURCE
5’6”	1950	<i>Kansas Raiders</i> press book
5’10”	1951	<i>Picture Show</i> , a British publication
diminutive	1951	according to Bill Mauldin, recalled in 1971
118 pounds	1955	<i>Modern Man</i> magazine
welterweight	1956	<i>World in My Corner</i> press book
5’9”	1958	Universal Studios press release
“much under 6’2”	1958	<i>Guns of Fort Petticoat</i> press book
5’10”	1966	recalled in a 1983 <i>Esquire</i> feature
8’4”	1975	size of statue in San Antonio
6’	1984	size of statue at Texas Nat’l Guard, in Austin

However, club member Linda Ruiz needs to know a little more. If any of our club members know Audie’s shoe size, shirt and pants size and hat size, please write Linda at the following address: 387 North Melrose Drive #B, Vista, California 92083. She’ll greatly appreciate it. I’m surprised Linda didn’t inquire whether Audie wore “boxers” or “briefs”!

MORE TRIVIA: For those club members who have purchased the Tony Jackson color lithograph of Audie from Centurian Art Prints LTD in Tucson, Arizona, club member Dieter Lack in HEIDE, Germany thought you may care to know the translation of the inscription on the wall behind Audie. In English it reads “What have you done for Germany today?”

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POINT OF CLARIFICATION: On August 23, 1979 the Australian Post magazine printed on pages 5-7, an unflattering article about Audie titled "The Kid who loved to Kill" and attributed it to Bob Larkins. While Bob Larkins did write for this magazine at the time, this article was NOT his. He did not agree with the contents and had nothing to do with the sensationalized headline, but was unable to do anything about it once it had been published. Source: personal letter dated November 18, 1996 (I am pleased to report that Bob is now a full fledged member of the fan club - (Stan Smith)

CLASSIFIED

WANT TO BUY Special Pictorial Cancellation honoring Audie Murphy, June 20, 1996, Greenville, Texas. Contact: Monte Eiserman - 14359 Chadbourne - Houston, Texas 77079

FREE – FRENCH ARTICLES!

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Other than our foreign club members, do any of our American members read and speak fluid French? If so, let me know. I have free Audie bonus for you. Please do not respond because you have a friend who reads and speaks French. I only have a few copies to share. Please be honest with me. “First come – first served” (Stan Smith)

AUDIE MURPHY ROSES – AGAIN!

Larryann Willis of the Audie Murphy Research Foundation has advised me that the supplier of the original Audie Murphy rose has been located. These are custom orders with a \$10.00 charge per order and \$10.95 per bush. The order time requires 6 months to two years to fulfill! If you can be patient and live long enough you may place your order with:

Vintage Gardens
2833 Old Gravenstein Highway South
Sebastopol, California 95472

That must be one hell-of-a-rose if it take humans nine months to have a baby!

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TOP PRIORITY – ALL MEMBERS!

Recently I communicated with officials at the Greenville Post office to ascertain what activities were planned for Audie's birthday June 20th. Since last year it was declared "Audie Murphy Day". I wanted to know if any special pictorial cancellations were planned since it was an overwhelming success in 1996. I was advised that regulations only allow for one special pictorial cancellation per significant event. Therefore, none was planned. If other dates could be shown to be significant, then the post office would consider a special cancellation for that date. I immediately wrote Ms. Kelly Hall at the Greenville Chamber of Commerce and explained that Audie's birthday would not be important if it were not for his Medal of Honor action of January 26, 1945 and the special elaborate ceremonies during the presentation of his Medal on June 2, 1945 in Salzburg, Austria,

The Chamber of Commerce agreed with my justification as to the importance of June 2nd. Subsequently they approved and support a special pictorial cancellation for June 2, 1997 as well as formal ceremonies to take place in the Warren Civic Center 2-4 PM on June 2nd, 1997. Refreshments will be available and entertainment is planned. Note that all profits above their expenses will be donated to the Audie Murphy section of the Greenville Library. The general public is invited and may order the regular special pictorial cancellation from the Chamber of Commerce.

Don Moore has graciously provided the special cancellation design, vastly different from last years. In addition, I have created a *SPECIAL CACHET* for the left side of the envelope, like the quality and style utilized on First Day Covers. This will be part of the special member bonus for this year. Each club member will receive two covers in their July newsletter. Only the Fan Club members will receive the special cachet. Later in 1997, I will again communicate with the Chamber of Commerce that January 26, 1998 also is a day to celebrate with a special pictorial cancellation and that plans should be made accordingly. One of the main reasons to push for these tributes is greater exposure of Audie's name and hopefully to make some impact on the circus clowns that run the postal advisory board and on their fearless leader, the Postmaster General, whose real title should be "General Nuisance and Head Clown".

For non-members and those who desire extra covers, there are two ways of ordering.. If you order special pictorial cancellations and the post office must provide both the envelopes and stamps, the cost per envelope is \$3.00. If you provide the envelopes with .32 cent stamps applied, the cost per cancellation is only \$2.00. Please note that such envelopes must bear the appropriate amount for *first class mail*. You certainly may apply plate blocks or pairs but the minimum postage must be THIRTY-TWO cents! Mark your calendars now and plan to be in Greenville, Texas on Monday June 2nd. It is too soon to have the complete activity details for this mailing. Place your orders and payment with:

Mrs. Kelly R. Hall (903) 455-1510
Greenville Chamber of Commerce Foundation
Post Office Box 1055
Greenville, Texas 75401-1055

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