



THE AUDIE MURPHY NATIONAL FAN CLUB
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“Audie Murphy -The Maui Golden”

By VALERIE MONSON - Staff Writer -Maui News, Hawaii

PUUNENE -- Audie Murphy, the invincible golden retriever that captured an island's heart after his astounding tale of survival was made known, has been adopted and is living a dog's life on the beach in Makena. "This is the ultimate rags-to-riches story," said Jocelyn Bouchard of the Maui Humane Society. "We couldn't have asked for a better home."

Audie was a nameless lost dog about four months ago when he was discovered tangled in a Makawao hedge by Paia Elementary School student Jesse Emmsley and his brother, B.J., when they were hunting for Jackson chameleons. The animal was near death, suffering from a ghastly neck wound caused by the rope winding tighter and tighter into his flesh as he tried to escape. The boys called the Humane Society. Officials immediately rescued the dog, which they speculated had survived about a month on flies and rainwater. Because of his amazing will to live, the retriever was named after World War II hero Audie Murphy.

The Humane Society, a nonprofit organization on a tight budget, immediately put the word out that, without donations, the dog would probably have to be euthanized. Not only did Audie require extensive care to recover from his neck wound, but it also was learned that he suffered from heartworms, a costly disease to treat.

In only a few weeks, more than \$8,000 poured into the Humane Society. All the extra money was deposited into a special account that has been named the Audie Murphy Fund and is used to pay for medical treatment of other stray animals who ordinarily would be "put to sleep."

Along with the donations came offers to adopt the dog. Bouchard said interviews were conducted with what officials felt were the top three choices, and the winning family was Jim and Tami Mandela, who happen to have another golden retriever named Hobie. Audie and Hobie apparently have become great friends. And so everybody was totally happy -- except, perhaps, Bouchard, who had cared for Audie for more than two months at her home. "It was bittersweet," she said. "I had had him for 10 weeks and so it was very emotional not to have him anymore, but he has a great home. I'm very happy it worked out this way."

Audie isn't completely out of the medical doghouse yet. He needs to have a final heartworm test in July to make sure the treatment was successful and then, if all is well, he'll be neutered at that time, too.

But Audie's legacy will continue at the Humane Society, in memory and at the bank. Bouchard said another \$185 has trickled in to be added to the Audie fund and, starting June 16, she and Karla Kimmey will begin a six-week trick class for dogs with all proceeds going to the Audie fund. Already, the fund has saved some stray dogs with medical problems.

To contribute, send donations to the Audie Murphy Fund, Maui Humane Society, P.O. Box 1047, Puunene - Hawaii 96784.

Bouchard said Audie's new owners have promised to stay in touch. Considering all the people at the Humane Society who have fallen in love with Audie, that's the only humane thing to do. (Submitted by club member Richard Rodgers)

MY LAST HERO

A Personal View by club member Claudette Harris of Austin, Texas

I have been a fan of Audie Murphy for as long as I can remember. Born in March 1945, I came to admire Audie from hearing my father talk about him and his exploits of WW II (my father is a veteran of the Battle of Britain). It seems that Audie has always been my special hero. To me, he was a symbol of that great and good generation that stood in the gap - and gave us the freedom and prosperity that we often take for granted. Looking back, it is strange how my life has been affected by Audie - even though I never met him in person, he has been a constant thread in the tapestry of my life.

Audie's finesse of movement, obvious intelligence, and quizzical sense of humor appealed to me right away. His most compelling feature was the expression in his eyes - beautiful eyes that sparkled with an odd combination of Irish humor and instant death; eyes that had seen much misery so young and yet somehow he tried, like so many returning veterans, to overcome the horrors of war and get on with life. His East Texas drawl sounded as familiar as my own family background. Like Audie, my relatives grew up on dirt farms, picking cotton in the boiling Texas sun with fingers bloodied by cotton thistles. I am glad that Hollywood never completely succeeded in erasing that nasal Texas twang.

Audie was a typical scion of the old Southern code of manhood, a tradition now at bay in an age indifferent to heroes. Despite early deprivations, Audie was a lucky man- lucky to have been born so good-looking; lucky to have come through the war alive and relatively unscathed; lucky to have attracted the attention of Hollywood, and best of all, lucky to have had two fine sons and a wife like Pam. But in the end, all that luck was not enough. This tense, fierce young man with his unbending code was overcome by self-destructive impulses. He burned out at the end. But I don't think any less of him for all that. Never was a hero more deserving of accolade - or more human.

Around 1965 I began seriously collecting on Audie: stills, pressbooks, lobby cards, fan magazines, articles, clippings, etc. I was single and working then, so I had the money to spend and the time to collect. I started off buying two large scrapbooks on Audie from a fellow collector. Since then I have continually added to them until now I have six large scrapbooks full of memorabilia, articles, fan magazines, etc. They are very precious to me - after a fire destroyed our house, the first thing I did when I could get past the firemen, was to discover the condition of my cherished scrapbooks: luckily, they were only burned on the outside and water-damaged, but mostly intact. They are irreplaceable because of the time and the money I put into them. Today, they are brittle keepsakes I keep wrapped in plastic, stored away in a safe place. I must confess I seldom look at them now as they make me depressed.

As a result of my interest in Audie, through the mail I began to correspond with another movie collector named Garnett Harris of Roanoke, Virginia. After Audie's plane crashed on Brushy Mountain in May 1971, Garnett sent me the Roanoke newspaper write-up of the tragedy. Time went on, and eventually Garnett and I met and married in November 1971. We spent our honeymoon at Holiday Inn in Roanoke. From my window in the hotel room I could see the vicinity of Brushy Mountain where Audie died. Some years later, several of Garnett's relatives hiked to the spot and brought me back pictures of the memorial plaque placed there by the local VFW. The story of our courtship by mail would fill another article and seems like an old movie from the 1930's - another coincidence that Audie had much to do with. As the years roll by and that tragic Memorial Day weekend fades from view, I often marvel how much Audie has affected my life.

When Audie died, some of me died too. At first, I couldn't believe it. I was very depressed and stunned. Still am. He would be 73 now. Too bad he could not live to see his sons grow up. He was the first important person in my life that I had ever lost. Ironically, his death in May 1971 signaled a turning point in my own life, from being single to being married with a new future for Garnett and me. Garnett is also a fan of Audie's and he is an expert on the "B-Western" genre. Thus, we met as a result of our mutual interest in Audie.

We also went to Washington, DC and Arlington Cemetery on a later trip, where I placed a wreath on Audie's grave. Though I wish I could go back, I am not able to travel now, but I am grateful for the times I could. Garnett and I managed to go to the dedication of the VA Memorial hospital in San Antonio. While there, we saw Pam and other members of the Murphy family-- although at a distance. I have read so much about Pam, Corinne, Nadene, Terry, and Skipper, etc. that they seem as familiar to me as my own family. I regret that I could not meet them close up - but the crowd was large that day and there were a lot of people seeking Pam's attention.

When I could travel, Garnett and I would go to events concerning Audie. When we first got married, we would make the "Audie tour" - Celeste, Kingston, Greenville, Farmersville. There is a marker on Highway 71 near Kingston, telling about Audie's birthplace. One summer day I stood there in the Texas heat, listening to the locusts sing and the sound of the trees rustling, imagining what it would be like to grow up here in the Depression years. Audie's old home was a crumbling shamble of planks in the distance and the field was fenced off to visitors. Being a Texas girl myself, I remember stories from my parents and grandparents about how tough it was during the 1930's, especially for sharecroppers and farmers.

I have been gratified by the new National Fan Club headed by Stan Smith and Sue Gossett. Their newsletter is well done, and it is a credit to Audie's memory. I still miss Audie and I get a little sad every Memorial Day. His passing was also the passing of the America I grew up with and loved, when right and wrong were not as ambiguous as they are today. At this point in life, I am too wary and cynical of hyperbole to bestow the word "hero" upon many people. It is an appellation too often overused and undeserved in the mass media. Besides, as F. Scott Fitzgerald said: "Show me a hero, and I'll show you a tragedy." So true. Nevertheless, the term applies to Audie and the men of his mettle. He will always be my special hero - and my last.

SUE GOSSETT - CHARLOTTE, N.C. - July 9th-12th 1997

With my fifth book signing under my belt, I look back at Charlotte as a wonderful experience. The first one last year at this time was the debut of the book so most of the people at this Western Film Festival had already purchased it. Those that did purchase it were very big fans of Audie. I also got to meet people from all over the country and even a gentleman from Ottawa, Canada who is a big fan and found the book in upstate New York.

Among the celebrities attending were: James Drury, "The Virginian"; Jane Adams, leading lady and serial star; Sue Ane Langdon, "The Rounders" & "Frankie & Johnny"; Will Hutchins, "Sugarfoot"; Gary Gray, juvenile lead with Randolph Scott & Tim Holt; Donna Martell, "Ten Men Wanted" & "Hills of Utah"; Johnny Western, songwriter, "Paladin Theme" and the High Chaparral 30 year reunion with Bob Hoy, "Joe" the Foreman; Ted Markland, "Reno"; Henry Darrow, "Manolito De Montoya" and Don Collier as "Sam". A surprise added guest was Johnny Crawford of the "Rifleman". The Ernest Tubbs award was presented by his son, Justin, to Stonewall Jackson at the Saturday night banquet.

Getting to meet Don Collier, who made "Seven Ways From Sundown" was a thrill. However, upon speaking with him about Audie, he said he really didn't know him as he had only a small part in the movie. Don is a very nice man and it was a pleasure chatting with him.

Bob Hoy is also a stuntman and director as well as an actor. He knew Audie and was his friend. Bob was at Charlotte last year and that's where we first met. Bob played several characters in the movie, TO HELL AND BACK. He relayed a story about Audie while filming the movie. Audie was a little embarrassed about the part of the movie which shows him receiving his medals. Bob asked him if it was all true, Audie said yes, and Bob said "go for it". And Audie did.

The big surprise for me was meeting Johnny Western. Some of the stars came into the dealers' room to look around and Johnny stopped by our table. When he saw that I had written the Audie Murphy book, he made a point of telling me that he had purchased the book and had it beside his TV and used it for reference. He met Audie back when he was singing with Johnny Cash in the 50's whereupon Audie invited him to California and to look him up which Johnny did. Audie presented Johnny with a pistol which he cherishes to this day. A warm and friendly man who thinks the world of Audie Murphy.

Johnny Meeks, one of the entertainers, sang "Shutters and Boards" for me on both Thursday and Friday evenings. The people also seemed to enjoy hearing Audie's contribution to the variety of country music.

"MURPHY EXHIBIT MOVING" The Audie Murphy memorabilia which had been on exhibit and in the custody of Walworth Harrison Public Library since the early 1970's, was conveyed to the American Cotton Museum. The Murphy memorabilia will be the centerpiece of a permanent exhibit at the Cotton Museum and was scheduled to open on March 1, 1998. This special area will be designated as *The Audie L. Murphy Memorial Hunt County Veterans Exhibit*. Donations are currently being accepted to assist in the Murphy display. All donations are tax deductible, as the museum is a 502(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donor names and applicable memorials will be listed on a special plaque accompanying the exhibit. Donations should be sent to:

American Cotton Museum
Attention: Murphy Exhibit
Post Office Box 347
Greenville, Texas 75403-0347

Vince Leibowitz, interim executive director of the American Cotton Museum in Greenville, said that memorabilia from other notable veterans of Hunt County, such as Claire Chennault of the Flying Tiger's fame, will be arranged around the permanent Murphy centerpiece. The museum is physically located at 600 Interstate 30 East.

The decision to move the Murphy artifacts was based mainly on the lack of security at the library. The room in which the materials were kept had an entrance not visible by the staff at the circulation desk. For this reason, the room was locked at all times unless viewing appointments were made. The library staff is not large enough to justify someone on a full-time basis and the possibility of someone walking out with items was a constant and major concern.

However, the acquisitions by the Cotton Museum do not mean that the library ceases to have any connection to Audie Murphy. Beth Pettit, library director, says that the genealogy room of the library will retain numerous photos of Audie from childhood on. The photos are numbered and allow for a self-guided tour. A handout sheet explains the background of each photo. (Source: Article by Carol Ferguson - Greenville Herald Banner - December 7, 1997 & fax document from Vince Liebowitz dated January 9, 1998)

PEN PALS WANTED ! I wish to establish pen pals with other devoted Audie Murphy admirers in the New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania area: **WILLIAM LEE HYNDMAN**
17 Blackwell Avenue - Morristown, New Jersey 07960 - (973) 538-5897

PERSONALITY DOLLAR BILLS! I have located a firm that markets celebrity dollar bills. These are \$1.00 denomination and they have the image of Audie Murphy superimposed over George Washington as if it were officially printed. Don't worry, the Treasury Department has confirmed that since no defacing has taken place, nor was there intent to make the bills unfit and since they are offered as novelties, no violation of federal statutes has taken place. While these bills normally sell for \$5.95, special pricing is available to our fan club.

1	Audie Murphy Dollar	\$3.95
6	" " Dollars	3.00 each
12	" " "	2.75 "

Minimum order for credit cards is \$15.00. If you order now, you may obtain 3 Audie Dollars for \$9.95, postage paid. As of this notice, only 50 remain in stock. Order from:

THURSTON MOORE COUNTRY LTD
304 West Due West Avenue
Madison, Tennessee 37115
Attention: Tracy Moore
(602) 807-2119

NOW AVAILABLE – *REVISED SECOND EDITION* “THE FILMS & CAREER OF AUDIE MURPHY”. Personalized copy may be obtained for \$15.00 + \$2.00 S&H from: Sue Gossett, PO Box 192, West Carrollton, OH 45449. Overseas orders, please add \$10.00

TRIVIA: For those devotees of trivialities, some unnamed individual, with abundant free time and no social life, went to the laborious effort of counting Audie’s freckles. You may be interested to know that Audie had “728 freckles.” SOURCE: Fort Worth Star Telegram, June 15, 1945.

EDITORIAL: There is a misconception in society that because an organization is identified as a “FOUNDATION” that it is automatically endowed with abundant funding. **THE AUDIE MURPHY RESEARCH FOUNDATION** is totally dependent upon voluntary contributions. The quality format of their newsletters and the cost to mail them is horrendous. Unfortunately, donations have been slow and sparse. This has resulted in an irregular timetable for printing and mailing. Please be patient with their efforts. Your contributions will be deeply appreciated and most welcome. (Stan Smith)

AUDIE MURPHY DAY 1998 GREENVILLE, TEXAS!!!!

May 23, 1998 is Audie Murphy Day in Greenville, Texas. This celebration of Audie's life will be bigger and better than previously. Many activities are planned. At this time, Audie's sister, Nadene, will be one of the speakers. The Greenville Post Office will be selling special pictorial cancellations. Don Moore is already designing the special cancellation image. Many of our club members are expect to attend. The BEST WESTERN in Greenville is offering a 10% discount for those who identify themselves as club members. The timetable of events looks as follows:

Saturday – May 23, 1998

AMERICAN COTTON MUSEUM

- 8:00AM** Flag ceremony by The Sgt. Audie Murphy Club from Fort Sill, Oklahoma
- 8:15AM - 12:00 Noon:** Book signing by SUE GOSSETT in the museum
- 8:15AM- 6PM** Museum grounds/exhibits open for touring; Movie & public service clips from "To Hell & Back"
- 9:00AM** Formal dedication: Audie Murphy Memorial Hunt County Veterans Exhibit
- 10:00AM** Continental breakfast style reception
- 10:00AM** Awards ceremony for postal service stamp design & school essay contest

FLETCHER WARREN CIVIC CENTER

- 12:00PM** Civic Center open for viewing of memorabilia
- 1:30PM** Presentation of colors by Dallas Audie Murphy VFW Post 1837; reading of proclamation by Mayor Pro Tem Byron Chitwood; presentation of State highway map highlighting the 51 miles of the renamed Audie Murphy Highway
- 2:30PM** Reception and refreshments sponsored by the American Legion

AMERICAN LEGION POST

- 8:00PM** American Legion dance, music by "James Gang Band" – admission \$4.00

Excerpts of a Speech given by
Club Member Feller Goff during an induction ceremony for the
Sergeant Audie Murphy Club at Fort Hood, Texas - July 30, 1997

Today some exemplary sergeants are to be inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, a great honor for them. Audie Murphy biographers describe him as a war hero and a movie star; he was a poor kid from Texas who became the most decorated GI of W.W.II. Cited time and time again for heroism in battle, he ultimately received his country's highest award for action above and beyond the call of duty, the Congressional Medal of Honor. After the war he went to Hollywood to star in dozens of motion pictures and several television shows. Tragically, he died in a plane crash in 1971 at the young age of 46.

Who was Audie Murphy; where did he come from and where does America get such men? In my personal memory of Audie I found him to be a very modest, polite and unassuming person. He liked to talk about his family, his two sons: Terry and James Shannon whom he called "Skipper". And, of course, his lovely wife, Pam. And he liked to talk about his quarter horses, which he loved to race.

What made a common man like Audie Murphy into a true warrior of the red, white, and blue when he put on the uniform of an American soldier? What happened to that man when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941? Audie Murphy was just sixteen years old when he received the news from a rural postman. He had no notion of where Pearl Harbor was or the world-shaking significance of the sudden attack. But nurtured on stories of WW I., he had always wanted to become a soldier.

As America began a hurried mobilization for W.W.II young Murphy feared that the war would be over before he could get into the fight. The doctor who had delivered most of the Murphy children, like most country doctors, failed to keep accurate records. So with the help of his oldest sister, Corinne, who agreed to corroborate his date of birth, young Murphy was able to satisfy the recruiters. But he only weighed one hundred and twelve pounds. He was first turned down by the paratroopers and then by the Marines. An Army recruiting sergeant advised young Murphy to fill up on bananas and milk before weighing in for the infantry. Maybe the sergeant saw in Audie Murphy the determined heart and mind of a young man who desperately wanted to serve his country. In 1942, almost on his eighteenth birthday, Audie Murphy entered into the service of his country.

Audie Murphy came from a family of poor Texas sharecroppers, seven brothers and five sisters. Like thousands of other kids all across the union, he practically grew up with a rifle in his hands. In the woods and fields around the house where he grew up, he found plenty of small game to put meat on the family table.

After seeing the Hollywood film "To Hell and Back", Audie's sister, Nadene Murphy, remarked that it was really funny to see Audie in the film telling the kids to wash off the dishes, because there was no food on the plates to get washed off!

Audie was gifted with 20/20 vision and could hear a squirrel around the other side of a tree. He rarely missed a shot, and was better at off handed shooting than when taking direct aim. Once when he was completely out of shells for hunting, a local hardware store manager allowed him four bullets on credit. Returning to the store the next day, Audie squeezed three unspent shells into the store manager's hands, thanked him and left.

When Audie's unit landed in Sicily in 1943, he got his first taste of war when he saw a fellow GI blown up by a German artillery round. Murphy began to show the kind of soldier he would become, in his aggressiveness towards the enemy and in taking and holding enemy ground. From that beginning it seemed to his commanders that Audie Murphy was either bound for heroics or death. In his first few days on Sicily, he was assigned as a runner but constantly volunteered for patrols. On July 15th he received a promotion to corporal and was assigned to front line duty. After his first ten seconds under fire, war lost its glamour for him. He learned that caution and the calculated gamble were better than the headlong romantic rush into the face of enemy fire.

On January 26, 1945 Audie's unit was in France, in the Colmar Pocket, near Holtzwihr. He and his men had been ordered to dig in and hold their position. Audie went charging across the snow covered field to reach the line of battle and with each stride forward he kicked up a toe full of powdery snow. So much so that a fellow observed that he looked more like a steam engine than a man.

Almost immediately his unit was attacked by five or six German tanks and two reinforced rifle companies. Ordering his men to fall back, Murphy remained on the firing line. Using a field telephone, he called down artillery fire on the approaching enemy. When the command post wanted to know how close the Germans were, Audie answered "Hold the phone, I'll let you talk to 'em!"

The artillery barrage was effective against the German tanks and they started to run for cover; however the German infantry continued to advance. Having exhausted the last round in his carbine, Murphy looked around quickly for anything he could find to throw at the enemy. He found what he needed was the 50 caliber machine gun mounted on top of a burning tank destroyer, ready to fire. The burning tank and the battle lasted for an hour. When it was over, the tank had exploded and Murphy had killed over fifty enemy soldiers, and succeeded in turning back the German assault. Later he remarked that he was in no hurry to leave the burning tank, because it was the first time in months that his feet had been warm! Later Audie wrote of himself, "With a head full of dreams and a pocket full of holes and an ignorance beyond my years I went off to war."

What makes a soldier go that extra mile when he should be going down for the count? What makes him stagger to his feet to act in a manner above and beyond the call of the duty? Audie Murphy started living above and beyond at the age of thirteen, when he went to work to support his mother, brothers and sisters. And when he enlisted in the service, he continued to follow this creed.

Today, as I look across this group of fine young men and women, I see no slackers here; I see no flag burners here. I only see the faces of heroes, and I believe that Audie Murphy's indomitable spirit lives on in the heart of each and every American who dons the uniform of these United States. And I'd like to salute you all, each and everyone. Thank you.

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