



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

January 26, 1999 Vol. 5, No. 1

Dear Club Members,

Welcome to the beginning of our fifth year of operation. The membership continues to expand, as does the physical burden upon me to produce this newsletter. Even though a few of you have graciously assisted with typing, there are not enough hours in a day for me to physically work alone. I desperately need a regular staff to help put this effort together. I realize that there are only a handful of members in my immediate geographical area. Unless the situation improves, 1999 may be the club's final year. This cry for help is amplified by the fact that I have reached a time in life affectionately known as the "Golden Years". Things just don't work the same anymore. On September 28, 1998 I had major surgery on my neck and hip for two herniated discs. This was successful. This surgery was needed because of the gift of arthritis. But any major illness or accident to me threatens the club's continued administration. There must be an operational backup plan where staff members can fill my shoes. I am sixty years old; the club membership grows on a daily basis and I continue to age on a daily basis. Even if I remain healthy from here on and avoid arthritis in my hands and other afflictions of aging, time marches on for me. There remains so much to be written about Audie, it would be a tragic for it to end in the year 1999. Do you want to perpetuate the club? May I please have your comments, suggestions and pledges of support? The club's private E-mail address is: almmoh@oncon.com Kindly limit communications to club business. While I enjoy hearing and chatting with members, I don't have the luxury of being a pen pal; there are too many of you and only one of me. Also, let me make it clear while donations are also welcome to pay the dues of those who are financially strapped, the club has more than ample operational funds. Any donations on your part would not alter the picture I have presented here. (Concerned and desperate: Stan Smith)

TRIVA: Club member Rebecca Tidmore of Fort McCellan, Alabama advises me that those of you who watch the "Laverne & Shirley" episodes should pay extra close attention. Pasted on their bedroom closet door is a very large picture of Audie Murphy.

Two men named Audie were acquainted with Audie's mother, Josie, while she was pregnant with Audie in 1924. One of them was Audie West, who would tend to her small garden of vegetables. Nothing is known about him since then. Another young man who was nineteen years old was Audie Evans. He would offer to bring her some needed groceries from the store. Mrs. Murphy, so cherished their kind help that she decided if she had a son, she would also name him Audie. After the baby was born, she told both of the young men that she had named the baby after them. It is unclear if she told them individually or together but the important thing was that the healthy baby boy was named AUDIE. Audie Evans' son, named Audie Evans jr. (nicknamed Buddy) lives in a small suburb of the Houston area with his wife, Joy. His hobby consists of making beautiful wooden wall plaques that house a clock mechanism. When the Audie Murphy display was moved from the Greenville Library to the permanent location at the American Cotton Museum, Audie Evans, jr. donated a clock dedicated to Audie Murphy. This magnificent clock was presented to the Honorable Judge Joe Bobbitt and it now hangs in the Greenville, Texas County Court House. This clock has Audie's picture embedded in the wood and a list of all his decorations. (Submitted by club member Feller Goff)

I have good news for all Audie Murphy collectors. Scripts of "To Hell and Back" are for sale for only \$25.00. Make checks payable to: JOHN GLOSKE.

John Gloske
H.G. Enterprises, Inc.,
18159 1/2 Parthenia Street
Northridge, CA 91325
(818) 881-2219

The script also comes with a **FREE** black & white still from the film featuring the entire cast. The script and still will be autographed by co-star Paul Picerni, if requested. (Source: Sue Gossett)

TRIVIA: Recently I acquired a copy of Antiques & Collecting Magazine, July 1998. Page 20 has a section "Hollywood's Most Decorated World War II Movie Actors." Needless to say, our Audie Murphy headed up this list. He was in good company with the likes of Jimmy Stewart, Robert Montgomery, Clark Gable, and Bob Hope. Pages 21 and 23 dealt with the estimated prices on government issued actor's memorabilia. The Smithsonian has an autographed copy of "Road to Rome" by Audie. This item has an estimated value of \$2,500! Finally, Audie's army fatigue shirt and pants, cartridge belt, canteen, knife and sheath, G-I holster, and backpack from "To Hell and Back" have the stunning group price of fifteen thousand dollars! Well, I don't know who has this assortment, but I must confess that they were not in my collection. (Stan Smith)

Club member Brenda Hopper of Farmersville, Texas has advised me that:

**MOVIES UNLIMITED
3015 Darnell Road
Philadelphia, PA 19154
(215) 637-4444**

has these movies available:

- “A Time For Dying” (1970) stock #53-7284 @ \$39.99**
- “The Duel at Silver Creek” (1952) stock #07-2518 @ \$14.99**
- “No Name on the Bullet” (1959) stock #07-2517 @ \$14.99**
- “The Red Badge of Courage” (1951) stock # 12-1454 @ \$24.99**
- “The Story of Danny Lester” (1949) stock # 09-2946 @ \$19.99**
- “The Texican” (1966) stock # 02-2908 @ \$14.99**
- “Walk the Proud Land” (1956) stock # 07-2516 @ \$14.99**

1998 AUDIE MURPHY PATRIOTISM AWARD - Decatur, Alabama

The recipients this year of the Audie Murphy Patriotism Award are Master Sergeant Gary Gordon and Sergeant First Class Randall Shughart. These were the only two Medal of Honor recipients from Somalia during Operation Restore Hope. Sadly both were killed in action and savagely mutilated by Somalians on October 3, 1993. President Clinton presented their Medals of Honor to the widows during formal ceremonies at the White House on May 23, 1994. Their Medal of Honor citations describe unbelievable heroism. Many thanks to club member Sharon Young who reminded me of this yearly event.

NEW PUBLICATION? Professor Charles Whiting has written a new book titled “America’s Forgotten Army – The Story of the U.S. Seventh” ISBN # 1-885119-60-7, by Sarpedon Publishers. As you know it was LtGen Alexander Patch, Commander of the 7th Army who presented the Medal of Honor to Audie. I DO NOT know the extent in which Audie is covered in this publication. However, in view of Dr. Whiting’s prolific military ability, it may be an excellent reference book to have as an adjunct to your others books. “The Story of the U.S. Seventh” at \$24.95 plus 4.00 S&H may be ordered as follows:

Dorothy Inzer
1690 Dogwood Drive
Vidor, Texas 77662
(409) 768-1281 or (409) 769-7368 (1-5 PM)

Whiting’s book “Hero – The Life and Death of Audie Murphy” remains out of print and used copies remain aloof, but I am keeping my eyes open for those of you who seek it.

THE NATIONAL ENQUIRER STICKS IT TO THE POSTMASTER:

On September 22, 1998, The Enquirer ran a story entitled: *“You can help honor real American Hero Audie Murphy – with a stamp”* by John Blosser, Senior Reporter. Attached to the article was a clip-off coupon with instructions to sign and return to the Enquirer. The coupon was a fantastic success. On October 7th, Mr. Blosser delivered nearly 7,000 signatures to the office of the Postmaster General. Mr. Azeezaly S. Jaffer, U.S. Postal Services, accepted the signatures in a formal ceremony. Mr. Jaffer commented that the interest in a commemorative stamp for Audie is growing, and that he estimates that thus far the post office has 100,000 signatures! Furthermore, this subject is now under serious consideration and things could be a reality in the year 2001. The brevity of Mr. Blossers’s article, he too a fan of Audie’s, does not reflect the time and materials contributed by our Diane Thomason, Larryann Willis, and myself. But it still paid dividends and will continue to pay dividends as the Enquirer expects more coupons since these issues are read for several weeks.

For those members still experiencing difficulty in obtaining the reprint of **“To Hell and Back”**, club member Mike West has advised me that copies can also be obtained from:

Edward R. Hamilton, Bookseller, Falls Village, CT 06031-5000 @ \$7.95. (860) 824-1384

MURPHY CATALOG? A number of our club members have inquired as to the status of the Murphy catalog, which Larryann Willis of the Audie Murphy Research Foundation is compiling. I am not involved in this operation but I will attempt to bring you up to date. The foundation has run into several problems as far as the **“Murphy Catalog”** is concerned. Aside from the legalities, the time and energy required is just overwhelming Larryann. She may have taken on more that she can handle, but she still continues to labor on it. It is also important to make certain they can actually sell the things they will carry. She has run into some unexpected delays with authorizations from the studio. And since so many different companies are involved, further delays are caused by so many credit checks. I have no idea as to a release date for her catalog, but Larryann wishes to have as complete directory as possible before making her mailing. Believe me; I am anxious to see this catalog myself. Your interest is most appreciated but she asks that our membership please be patient. (Stan Smith)

A STAMP FOR AUDIE!!!!!!! A recent article by Bill McAllister, Washington Post correspondent stated that Azeezaly Jaffer, Manager of Stamp Services, U.S. Postal Service, disclosed that an U.S. stamp for Audie Murphy is being planned! This announcement came during an interview October 6, 1998 at the National Postal Museum when Jaffer acknowledged Audie Murphy as the “Most Decorated Soldier of World War II”. While Jaffer did not say when and what form the Murphy stamp will be, it has been widely expected that he will be honored in the Great American Series, perhaps in one of the upcoming rate change stamps! (Source: Linns Stamp News, October 19, 1998)

This is where this story becomes infuriating. There once was talk that the post office was planning a stamp series honoring Medal of Honor recipients. This subject is not up for review at this time. Unfortunately the Great American Series refers to a set of stamps from one cent up to five dollars with several denominations repeating themselves. The stamps include odd denominations such as 1 cent, 7 cents, 11 cents, 17 cents, 52 cents, 55 cents, 60 cents, 75 cents, and so on. This Great American Series is nothing more than a garbage dump in which to pitch names to satisfy the various promoting groups. These are NOT commemorative stamps. If not stopped, Audie could end up on a 7-cent stamp, which lacks the quality and artistic design that commemoratives receive. When is the last time you saw or used a 7-cent stamp? Our battle is far from won. We cannot accept this insult to America’s “Most decorated soldier of World War II.” You must write all of your senators and congressmen and insist that they demand a commemorative stamp; the trash heap is NOT acceptable. (Stan Smith)

World War II Veterans Committee Honors Audie Murphy
By club member Rita Richardson

This prestigious veteran’s organization presented its first Audie Murphy Awards in Washington, DC at the Hotel Washington, November 7, 1998. Recognized for their service in the war were Mary Harrington Nelson, a nurse who survived the Battan Death March during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines; Michael Warrish, an eyewitness to the sinking of the USS Dorchester where the Four Chaplains went down with their ship; and Admiral Thomas Moorer, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I was invited to give a presentation about Audie Murphy at the awards banquet after contacting the organizers about circulating the stamp petition at their conference. Nearly 100 signatures were obtained. Using memorabilia from my personal collection and that of club Editor Stan Smith, I also set up a display of movie posters, books, photos and fliers about Audie, which was well received by the attendees. Most encouraging was the interest shown by the surprisingly large number of younger participants who hadn't heard of Audie but were eager to learn more. Our heartfelt thanks to the Committee for bestowing yet another honor on Audie.

CLASSIFIED

PEN PALS WANTED! I wish to become pen pals with other devoted Audie Murphy admirers. KRISTEN WINER - 1403 East Redmon Drive - Tempe, Arizona 85283.
E-mail: ruswin@amug.org

PEN PALS WANTED! I wish to correspond with other devoted Audie Murphy fans. NANCY MORSE – 217 South Jackson – Kennett, Missouri 63857

PEN PALS WANTED! New member would like to correspond with other devoted fans of Audie Murphy in the Gettysburg, PA and West Virginia area: JUNE QUICK – 1030 Market Street, Apt. # 713, Parkersburg, West Virginia. 26101

FOR SALE: *BELGIUM* poster of “TO HELL & BACK” only \$75.00 + \$10.00 for shipping & handling. I desperately need ORIGINAL lobby-card # 2 of “TO HELL & BACK” Gerry Gerassi – Sodra Bulltoftavagen 18c – S-21222 Malmo – SWEDEN

HELP – HELP!! I wish to trade or purchase for a good copy of “Beyond Glory.” Please! Mrs. Doris Vann -3100 Crickett Drive – Plano, Texas 75023-3644

TRIVA: As of December 1998 the fan club had 400 club members with 390 paid members. The balance represented courtesy members and honorary members. Much to my surprise, the gender break down was roughly 50% female and 50% male. I have no data as to the age groups although I assume most are middle or upper age. We do have a few members who fall into the teen group but their numbers are negligible. We must attract more young people. It will be in their resolute hands that this club or a successor club honoring the name and memory of Audie Murphy will be transported into the next millenium. (Stan Smith)

Interview with Paul Picerni - May 10, 1998, Chicago, IL

Sue, it’s so good to see you here in Chicago at this beautiful collector’s memorabilia show here. It’s been a lot of fun and it’s so nice of you to come all the way up from Dayton to be here. I’m flattered and I know you are the National President of the National Audie Murphy Fan Club. And of course I worked with Audie and I didn’t realize until I read your book that I worked with Audie in the same movies, but not with him, twice, not only in TO HELL AND BACK did I work with Audie but the very first picture I ever did was a picture with Alan Ladd where I had a one-line part called BEYOND GLORY with Donna Reed and Alan Ladd. I think it was probably 1947 at Paramount Studio. I was still in college at the time and I got this one-line bit part. I was so thrilled. I got it from a priest. And then when I read you book, I discovered that Audie Murphy, his first picture, was BEYOND GLORY.

SG: Right. Did you work with him on the set at all?

PP: No, I played a private detective in the picture and to show how long ago when you realize that Alan Ladd played a cadet and Audie Murphy was also a cadet and well cast in that part. And I was hired by the villain's...the kid that was the bad kid, his father to trail Alan Ladd because he went AWOL to visit Donna Reed and me and another private detective decided to follow them to this apartment building and Alan Ladd goes up the stairs and we're hiding in the shadows and my line was, "Are you sure that's him?" That was my line "Are you sure that's him?" And he says "I certainly am." And then I ad lib "Let's go." John Farrow was the director, the husband of Maureen O'Sullivan and Mia Farrow's father. Then I discover, when I read your book that Audie was in the same picture. And of course, later on, after I left Warner Brothers, Audie was filming his life story TO HELL AND BACK at Universal.

SG: Did they pick you for Valentino because you're Italian?

PP: Well, I would imagine so. There were a lot of actors to be interviewed and I remember the day I was called in and I went to this office. I had done several war pictures, you know. I did BREAKTHROUGH and OPERATION PACIFIC with John Wayne but I didn't play Italians in either of those pictures. And then my agent told me about this part of Valentino in TO HELL AND BACK and he had set up an interview for me. And I went into this office and there was Jesse Hibbs, Aaron Rosenberg was the producer, and Audie Murphy. And I saw Audie, and everybody knew who he was at the time, the most decorated soldier of World War II. And I sat down and Audie asked me a few questions and we talked. And I felt a rapport immediately. I mean, I liked him and I felt he liked me. It chokes me up to think about it.

SG: I know he selected Charles Drake specifically to play Brandon.

PP: Yeah. And he said in that interview, he said, "I think Paul would be fine." Very simple and straight forward. He didn't ask me to read or anything like that. He said, "I think Paul will be fine for this part." And that was it. We shook hands and the next time I saw him was on location in Yakima, Washington.

SG: What was that like, I mean Audie had to relive the war all over again? How was he handling that? Was he having trouble?

PP: No, I didn't notice anything. I mean he was very conscientious and very professional. He evidently got along great with Jesse Hibbs, the director. And, you know, there was never any friction on the set at anytime.

SG: I meant with his mental abilities to relive the war again.

PP: Well, if it disturbed him, he didn't show it. No, the picture ran very smoothly. Yakima, Washington, if you are familiar with it, is a very small town in the middle of nowhere. It's a strange combination in this town. The women are all German and the men, for the majority, are Filipino. So you have these big buxom German women and these little Filipino men. I guess there was a shortage of men or something and they brought in a bunch of Filipino men to marry these women in the early days. But Yakima was a very small town. There was one golf course. And I remember Art Aragon, who was also in the film; and I remember Art said to me "Tell me Paul", one day he said, "if somebody said we'll give you ten million dollars with the stipulation that you had to live in Yakima the rest of your life, would you take it?" And I thought for only about a second, I said "No." (Laughing) I've never been back to Yakima since. It's probably a lovely town.

SG: I'm sure it is. I think they used Yakima as the setting because it had the river in it.

PP: It had the river and it also had an Army camp in it. They had the tanks and they had the soldiers that were needed for extras. And Audie was just a delightful guy to work with I mean you could sense a strength about Audie, you know. Audie was not a big man. He was bigger than people think. Audie was about 5 feet 10 and he was probably 160 pounds. And he was well built, wiry. And you just got the feeling that you never wanted to get in a fight with Audie because you would lose. (Laughs hard) He was, he was ... there was such an inner strength that he had. And I know when we were in poker games, we would play poker sometimes, he was some poker player.

SG: Did you play "liar's poker" with him?

PP: Yeah. Anything...any kind...you could never read his mind. You could never know what he was thinking.

SG: Gregg Palmer talked about him playing poker and Jack Elam.

PP: It was not easy to get close to Audie. I mean you couldn't force your way upon him. You had to kind of just lay back and let it happen. And I sensed, you know, in the six/seven weeks that I spent with him, I sensed that Audie liked me.

SG: He didn't like too many actors.

PP: It made me feel good. It made me feel real good.

SG: He liked it behind the set more. He wasn't into the actors too much.

PP: I loved Audie. I loved Audie. I mean, he was a real man. He was a real good person.

SG: He was a good person. He really was.

PP: Yeah. And I just am sorry that I never had the opportunity to work with him again. And after the film I don't think I ever saw Audie again. I read about him, you know. I read publicity and the other stories. But I always...always treasured the memory of working with Audie.

SG: Did he pull any practical jokes or anything on the people on the set? He used to do that on the western sets.

PP: I don't remember that. I think he was a little more serious on this film. He and Charlie Drake, you know, they were good friends. Jack Kelly and Marshall Thompson, we had a nice cast. We had a very nice cast of people in that show and it was a good experience. I just wish I had a few more pictures of TO HELL AND BACK just to bring back memories of some of the scenes we did together. It's kind of sad, you know, to see people like Audie go.

SG: Thank you very much.

AUDIE MURPHY DAY – GREENVILLE, TEXAS: AUDIE Murphy Day this year will take place on April 9, 10, & 11, 1999 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). It is being touted as the "Diamond Jubilee"(75th anniversary) of Audie Murphy's birthday, as 1999 will mark the 75th year since the year of birth listed on his army records. They are planning a lot of events. Friday night will be a hospitality room at the museum, and Saturday will be a parade, the dedication of a small granite monument on the grounds of the museum, a luncheon at a local country club, etc. The afternoon will feature a program at the civic center and a concert at the municipal auditorium by (hopefully) the army band from Ft. Sill or Ft. Hood. That evening there will be barbecue at the American Legion and a hospitality room either at the museum or the Holiday Inn. The museum will open at 1PM, and depending on the cost of a bus, the museum will have a driving tour on Sunday morning to take people to all of the places in Hunt and Collin counties associated with Audie Murphy. Kay Bailey Hutcheson, Phil Graham, Ralph Hall, Governor George Bush and others were invited to participate back in July. All responded (a plus). Like last year, we do expect Billie and Nadene Murphy to attend. I look forward to seeing you in Greenville. For those club members planning to attend, contact:

AMERICAN COTTON MUSEUM
600 Interstate 30 East
Greenville, Texas 75403
Attention: VINCE LEIBOWITZ
(903) 450-4502

**THE AUDIE MURPHY
RESEARCH FOUNDATION
DESPERATELY NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

The Audie Murphy Research Foundation, a non-profit organization, mails out over **THREE THOUSAND** newsletters with each mailing. These are mailed to anyone who wishes them. Only a very small percentage of their mailing can be counted on for tax deductible donations. The cost of printing and mailing greatly exceeds any funds on hand. This is the main reason why their newsletters are generally late and arrive on an irregular basis. The quality of their newsletters plus the photo inserts represents a considerable expense. I realize that all of us are recovering from the Christmas and New Year holidays. **BUT**, if any member can reach a little deeper into their pocket, and send the foundation a little something extra, no matter how small, will help lessen the terrible financial burden that constantly looms over their heads. **DO NOT** feel obligated to direct any monies to the Fan Club. We are quite comfortable as our funds only come from paying members. Thank you for your generosity. (Stan Smith)

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