



THE AUDIE MURPHY NATIONAL FAN CLUB
AUDIE MURPHY - HONORARY PRESIDENT



HONORARY MEMBERS

BILLIE MURPHY - MARIETTA, TX
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CLUB OFFICIALS

STAN SMITH - EDITOR
SUE GOSSETT - ASSISTANT EDITOR

Vol. 5, No. 2 April, 1999

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT – AUDIE MURPHY DAY – GREENVILLE, TEXAS

Pursuant to our January newsletter, we now have the following additional information available for April 9, 10, 11. Because of the topography of Greenville, the planned parade has been canceled. Also, Governor Bush is not expected to attend the festivities. The following three hotels are offering discounted prices if you mention that you are a member of the Audie Murphy Fan Club:

Holiday Inn **800-831-9525** ask for Sonita **\$49.00/single king**
Best Western **903-454-1792** **\$48.60/single king or 2 double beds**
Royal Inn (formally Ramada) **903-455-9600** ask for Donna Tacket **\$29.95/single king**

The bus tour scheduled for Sunday is \$20.00 and those wishing to go should make reservations with Vince Liebowitz. The luncheon planned for Friday is \$10.00 and also requires reservations. Please see the bottom of page 9 for a scheduling of events.

SUE GOSSETT REPORTS

This is a brief summary of my California trip the week of October 5-9, the highlight of it being meeting Terry Murphy. The week started out with the Hollywood Collectibles Show at the Beverly Garland Hotel, October 3-4. Among the line up of stars was John Agar (JOE BUTTERFLY) who granted me a wonderful interview which is included with this newsletter. Others I met were Peter Breck (THE WILD AND THE INNOCENT) who made the comment that this was his first film and he enjoyed working with Audie; Robert Pine (GUNPOINT), also said he enjoyed working with Audie and Gale Storm (THE KID FROM TEXAS) who said that Audie was very nice.

Jan Merlin (HELL BENT FOR LEATHER) and (GUNFIGHT AT COMANCHE CREEK) met me at the hotel on Tuesday. He talked about how much he admired Audie and that after they made HELL BENT FOR LEATHER Audie wanted him to be a good guy in another movie. Well, Jan was the good guy but still got killed. He chuckled about that. We spent 1-1/2 hours talking and he said that he and Audie got along well together. He did not play cards with Audie because he knew his reputation at cards, so he basically stayed away. However, he praised and called him a very professional actor.

The trip to Lone Pine, California for their film festival was beautiful. Mountains on both sides of the highway along with the Joshua trees made it pleasant drive. Lone Pine is a one street, one traffic light town basically with the Alabama Hills on the left as you are driving up. After attending the show, the drive through the Alabama Hills, searching for the places where Audie made three movies was quite successful. We found the rocks Audie and Felicia Farr were supposed to climb over to escape the posse in HELL BENT FOR LEATHER. There are markers with large photographs showing the sites of movies that were made at this location. We found two from HELL BENT FOR LEATHER and we stood in the spot where they were made. After we had found the group of high rocks, we were told that Audie was over by "Gary Cooper" rock which we found without too much difficulty. If you can imagine acres and acres of rocks and rock formations many of which look alike; it was almost like looking for a needle in a haystack. We had to stop and ask directions, and once we had them, we found it. My brother's car was going up and down, in and out of the narrow pathways between the rocks. He'd stop the car and we'd jump out to check out the markers to see if Audie was on them. When he wasn't, we'd get back in the car and go to the next marker. I sat on the tailgate and hopped on and off trying desperately to find "Gary Cooper" rock. When we did finally see it we ran up and I got to stand in the exact spot where Audie stood at the climax of the film. What a thrill! The view from the top of this ridge is spectacular and we think this is where he was clobbered by Jan Merlin in the beginning of the movie.

Finally, after spending about an hour in the Hills, the sun began to set and the glow from the sun shining on the rocks was breathtaking. Our long trip was worth it, every second and I can't wait to go back. (Submitted by an excitable Sue Gossett)

Last year I received a letter from an Audie Fan in Brazil. There wasn't space for any newsletter insertions until now. He writes that "Audie Murphy used to command a large audience in Brazil, both during his heyday and movie re-runs on TV. However, no Audie Murphy movie has been released on prerecorded cassettes in Brazil except for 'The Unforgiven'. All other movies in the procession of collectors have been taped off the air for private use. These movies are dubbed into Portuguese, with the exception of 'Walk the Proud Land', which was aired by cable TV in the original version with Portuguese subtitles. Some of his movies have been aired many times while others like 'Cast a Long Shadow', 'Showdown', 'Apache Rifles' and 'Forty Guns to Apache Pass', seem to have gone into oblivion." This fan would like to trade memorabilia, especially movie films and photos. Please contact:

REINALDO MORAES
Rue Dona Elmira 251 apt. 203
91.760.230 Porto Alegre, RS
BRAZIL

SUE GOSSETT INTERVIEW WITH JOHN AGAR - October 4, 1998

John is just going to talk off the top of his head and share some recollections about Audie from JOE BUTTERFLY. OK? It's all yours.

Of course Audie was the biggest hero we had since the Second World War. We both got contracts from Universal and my contract had ended when we did JOE BUTTERFLY. I believe Aaron Rosenberg was the producer of the film and we went over to Japan to shoot it. Audie was such a nice young guy. What I heard about him when he was growing up, I think he lost his father when he was around 14 years of age. He had younger siblings and he kind of had to be the father to the family.

He was orphaned at 16. Then he got into the service and did all those heroic things, which of course you know, with his worldwide reputation and all. During the shooting of the movie, Audie was a very nice guy and I really enjoyed working with him. Burgess Meredith was in the film as well. I believe Audie had a percentage of the movie and so did he. One funny thing I can remember. The cast used to get together and play poker. Audie got into a poker game where he had so much doggone yen, so much money, we couldn't play against him. (laughing) But he really was a nice, nice guy. What he did during the war made him kind of not quite trustworthy of a lot of people. I understood he used to carry a gun around with him at all times.

He had those nightmares. He had many nightmares when he was married to Wanda Hendrix. I believe they lived right over here in Studio City. During one particular nightmare he fired his gun right across the bed and scared Wanda Hendrix to death. He shot out a light or something.

The Japanese people were very supportive of this movie. They were very happy to have them over and Audie received a lot of gifts. I didn't receive a lot of gifts. They sent him some crickets. They're supposed be good luck but they kept him awake. He sent them over to the children's hospital or something. Audie, with all the money he made, I think did contribute a lot to help other people out. But we never were buddy buddy. It was hard to get to know him. After we finished making the movie, my contract had run out at Universal, I left and didn't see Audie anymore. But he was a very wonderful guy.

ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS: "Two vehicles owned or leased by the Heritage Trails Girl Scout Council were seized Friday by law enforcement officials after a man allegedly sold crack cocaine from them, the (Mansfield) News Journal reported. **Audie Murphy** was arrested and charged with three counts of drug trafficking, all of which he allegedly did from the Girl Scout vehicles, the newspaper said. Murphy was in the Richland County jail Friday, a spokesman said. Murphy, 44, was arrested as part of 'Operation Crack of Dawn,' a drug sweep." "The issue here is who authorized Murphy to use those vehicles when he used them to deliver drugs on three separate occasions since March of this year." (Submitted by Sue Gossett) Source: Dayton Daily News. November 14, 1998, page 3B. (story continued on page 9)

FUN COLLECTIBLES has 8x10 black & white photos of Murphy: 10 different poses for sale. These **ARE NOT** originals but copies. Eight images are from his western movies, one from To Hell & Back, and one from Joe Butterfly. Price is \$7.50 each. They also have reproductions of lobby cards. Their address is Routes 106 & 107 - Broadway Mall - Hicksville, NY 11801. Contact Diana Arnemann at 516-932-2175.

When I was a Game Warden at Elsinore, California, I had heard gossip that Audie Murphy, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, had bought a country ranch on Railroad Canyon Lake. I made it a point to meet Audie. I drove up the road to his place and found Audie pushing a wagon with a child in it. This was a most common scene to see him playing with his child.

One night I had occasion to arrest two people spotlighting deer on his ranch. As they claimed to be friends of his, I called him at home in the Los Angeles area and told him about the violations. He was very calm and answered that if they were spotlighting deer they belonged in jail.

Audie Murphy was every bit an under control gentleman. He was a very good shot; people who knew good shots said he was the best in Hollywood.

One day we were going to go shooting quail. My dog, Bessie, broke up a large covey of quail. I was in the right place and hit three birds. I was feeling proud of such good shooting. I turned toward Audie with a (hot shot) smile. Audie turned very serious and said "Warden Harn you will never be a good shot if you keep shooting those easy birds." He was right you know.

While on patrol one day, I heard that Audie had been killed in a small plane wreck. I pulled off the highway to a back road with a mind just plain numb. Source: Don Harn – E-mail, November 25, 1998 (Many thanks to club member Pat Kunkle for locating this friend of Audie's)

For those of you seeking the LIFE Magazine. Vol. 23, No. 20. ("Hero and Actress") November 17, 1947, please be advised that FIND A BIRTHDATE has 8 copies remaining @ 18.50. P.O. Box 7027, Wilmington, DE 19803-0027. 1-888-343-LIFE. Attn: Sy or Marilyn Blinn. At the present time they are out of the popular issue of Life Magazine, July 16, 1945.

Club member Marlee Sodt of Stockton, IL has advised me that Barnes & Noble bookstores has a soft covered book titled "Heroes of World War II" by Edward F. Murphy (no relation to Audie). Published in 1990 by Ballantine Books, ISBN # 0-345-37545-9 for \$5.99. While many Medal of Honor recipients are reviewed, this inexpensive book has seven pages of Audie's war exploits. (Source: letter to me dated December 9, 1998)

For those of you fortunate enough to own a copy of Colonel Harold Simpson's book "Audie Murphy – American Soldier", page six has a partial genealogy chart. Given that the book was published in 1975, it lacks a great deal of up dated information. I have provided below, a clearer picture of the immediate Murphy clan. (Hold on to your Simpson books; they are impossible to locate and when found can easily cost \$100.00!) Stan Smith

GEORGE WASHINGTON MURPHY + VIRGINIA DEVORE BERRY
(B)1846 (D) December 27, 1923 (B)1855 (D) August, 1906

EMMETT BERRY MURPHY + JOSIE BELLE KILLIAN
(B)Feb. 19, 1886 (D) Sept. 20, 1976 (B) May 28, 1891 (D)May 23, 1941

ELIZABETH CORINNE (B)May 5, 1910 (D)March 28, 1980
(B)POLAND GLENN BURNS March 9, 1935
(B)WELDON HOWARD BURNS October 2, 1939
(B)ELIZABETH CHARLENE BURNS May 7, 1947

CHARLESTON "BUCK"EMMETT (B)April 23, 1912 (D)May 10, 1991
(B)SHIRLEY MURPHY (date unknown)

VERNON (B)1915 (D)1919 (pneumonia)

ARIEL JUNE (B)March 30, 1919

VIRGINIA ONETA (B)1918 (D)1919

J.W. (BUD) (B)1920 (D)1920 (stillborn)

AUDIE LEON MURPHY (B)June 20, 1925 (D)May 28,1971
(MD)WANDRA HENDRIX January 8, 1949
(DI) April 20, 1951
(MD) PAMELA ARCHER April 23, 1951
(B)TERRY MICHAEL March 14, 1952
(B)JAMES SHANNON March 23, 1954

RICHARD (DICK) HOUSTON (B)February 16, 1926 (D)November 18, 1956

EUGENE (TUNEY) PORTER (B)July 17, 1928

VEDA NADENE MURPHY (B)February 28, 1931
(B)SHARON July 27, 1949
(B)SANDRA June 28, 1952
(B)RHONDA October 6, 1954
(B)JOE MICHAEL April 3, 1957
(B)RICKEY WADELL August 9, 1958
(B)KELLIE July 24, 1961

BEATRICE (BILLIE) (B)September 4, 1933
(B) FARON DALE BONNER October 1, 1953
(MD)VICTORIA LYNN RAY October 8, 1983
(DIV) 1985
(MD)ERIN DROMEDA September 15, 1990

JOE (NOT Joseph) PRESTON (B)February 19, 1935 (D)January 29, 1968
(B) JOSIE BELLE MURPHY 1965 or 1966?

B= Born D=Died MD=Married DIV= Divorced

SUE GOSSETT INTERVIEW WITH WARREN STEVENS - August 6, 1998

Memphis Film Festival

I don't remember specifically when I met Audie. I think it was on the set of "No Name on the Bullet." I didn't meet him before we started shooting the movie. I heard, of course everybody heard of Audie Murphy, but I hadn't met him before. I found him a very willing and cooperative actor, very good to work with. I had no problems whatever with the so-called "star". There was never anything like that with Audie. I did another picture with him called "Gunpoint". We went to St. George, Utah to film that and on location; Audie's bizarre sense of humor came to light. He put snakes in the girls' beds and thought that was hilarious. He really got a kick out of that. The poor girls were frightened out of their wits. As far as I was concerned, none of that sense of humor came out my way, I'm very grateful for that.

No one ever retaliated as far as I can remember. I think they might have been scared to death to try it. Anyway, I found it a most enjoyable experience to work with Audie. He was very good and I think he liked me too, so we got along fine.

SUE GOSSETT INTERVIEW WITH SEAN MCCLORY - AUGUST 7, 1998

When I came on the set of THE GUNS OF FT. PETTICOAT and there he was. We had a marvelous opportunity to bond but it didn't happen. We shot this in Tucson, Arizona and there were the two of us, him and me and there were 23 girls for weeks and weeks and weeks. No other actors. A marvelous time was to be had. But he was very quiet. He didn't drink very much at if at all and he kind of kept to himself. So I had to soldier on alone which was very difficult with all those girls.

Audie did some training of the women. It was just showing them how not to get shot or shoot themselves. Audie was not a practical joker nor did he do any silly stuff on the set. He was a gentle little babe. I can't recall one now but there were no big jokes. He was a thoroughly nice guy and very professional in his acting. I always was amazed when I would look at him; this is the most decorated man in the world. And look at him, he's a young little boy and he was Irish, too!

Most other actors are tough but, he was quiet and kind. I never saw him lose his temper or raise his voice. The ladies mostly said what a gentleman he was, very sweet. He did have a sly sense of humor. I didn't get to know him as well as I would have liked to but he was co-producer on this picture. So he was busy, busy all the time. When I wasn't working, I was busy, busy, too.

“TO HELL & BACK” on AUDIO TAPES! Audie’s book is now on audio tapes. This is available on six unabridged tapes and can be purchased for \$44.95 from Blackstone Audiobooks -Post Office Box 969 - Ashland, OR 97520 (800) 729-2665. The book is read by Tom Parker, recognized Washington D.C stage actor. (Source The Patriot News – Harrisburg, PA & club member Sharon Young)

HASBRO - GI DOLLS: The Company’s name and excellent reputation speaks for its self. As you know, they have already released other Medal of Honor dolls such as Sgt. Francis Currey, USA and Colonel Mitchell Paige, USMC. Several members have inquired why Audie doesn’t have a doll. When Audie was alive, several toy companies interested in doing figures approached him. Audie was deeply offended by this idea. He felt that it was inappropriate to commercialize a recipient in this manner and was even more upset by the glorification of war in the form of dolls or doll figures. The family already knew that Audie wouldn’t have sanctioned such commercialization. Consequently when Hasbro approached the Murphy family they were turned down despite Hasbro’s professional approach to the matter.

IT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN: Recently, one club member returned her second membership card believing it was sent in error. Her honesty is to be commended. Two cards are issued to each member on purpose; one card, it was assumed, would go into a memorabilia album; the second card is to carry in your wallet. Also, the Special Pictorial Envelopes are considered collectors’ items, especially those issued to the club with the handsome cache of Audie on the left side. So far, two of each design is given in October issues as bonus items. They were never given with the thought that you would use them to mail in dues. You have given one half of your bonus away while reducing its intrinsic value to zero. Please keep them; they are for your albums or for gifts, but don’t send them in the mails. (Stan Smith)

Many club members have requested pictures of Pam and Terry Murphy. The truth is that the Murphy's are extremely private people who DO NOT want photos of themselves made public or circulated. It is important to Terry that the focal point remains on his father. He feels that to talk about the family and to send out photos of the family diverts attention away from Audie. There is certainly something to what Terry says about this. People who want to know about Audie's sons are hoping that he reproduced exact replicas of himself because they just can't accept the fact that he is gone. But Terry and Skip are NOT Audie and they do not want to be held up to him for comparison, especially since most of the people who admire Audie have a fantasy of him that nobody, including Audie himself, could ever live up to. I think Terry is very wise to keep the focus on his father for exactly that reason. However, a lesser number of annoying fans have asked what I look like. I DO NOT resemble Audie in any manner. However, to satisfy your persistent curiosity, I am providing two photos of myself on the following page.



Stan Smith - age 18 months



Stan Smith - age 60

AUDIO TAPE/RECORD-Special!!!! Clearwood Records has a special of the only commercially released tape/record of Audie's songs. The ten title selections include Shuttters and Boards & When the Wind Blows in Chicago sung by Robert & Giselle Bouchard. If you order now, you will receive one 33-1/3 album and one audiocassette both for only **\$12.00 Postage Included.** Order "The Songs of Audie Murphy" from:

**CLEARWOOD RECORDS
R.R. # 2 - Antigonish, N.S.
B2G 2K9 Canada
Attn: Mr. Elwood Cleary
(902) 863-1874**

NOTICE! In the classified section of January's newsletter, there was a request for pen pals by JUNE QUICK. I regret to advise the membership that June was suddenly called to join Audie in heaven. Her vitality and enthusiasm will be missed.

In our first issue, Volume 1 – No. 1, we mentioned the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (SAMC) at Fort Hood, Texas. This chapter became operational on June 13, 1986. Membership in the club is a reward to distinguished noncommissioned officers (NCO's) whose leadership achievements merit special recognition. Such clubs are a means of recognizing those NCO's who demonstrate the highest qualities of leadership, professionalism, and regard for soldier's under his or her command. However, the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club is authorized Army wide. Many of the facilities have active clubs and others are in the process of establishing their own chapters.



The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club logo was designed by our resident artist, Don Moore. The initials are separated by three stars which represent the BE, KNOW, and DO for the NCO. The Staff Sergeant rank reflects Audie’s highest enlisted rank. The eagle, our National bird and symbol of freedom, reflects the intent of the club to be nationwide. The laurel represents the individual achievement of the NCO’s in the club. The lightning bolt reflects the swift and decisive action taken by the NCO’s. The sword is a historical reference, a tool for the NCO to cut to the heart of the matter and to lead the charge. Finally, the streamers indicate that on which their philosophy is based.

PAGE 3 follow up “ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS”: **Audie Murphy** was arrested on three counts of drug trafficking last year. Murphy is a hairstylist by profession and was ordered to perform 100 hours of community service hours as part of his probation for non-violent felonies. He spends his Mondays at the Salvation Army giving haircuts to those who normally can’t afford to help themselves. Murphy said, “How they look has a lot to do with how they feel, and to help them with their self-esteem, I feel like I’m doing something good.” “The county’s open-minded service does more than just help the community, it helps the person on probation,” Murphy said. (Source: The Daily Record, June 7, 1998 Page B-1)

AUDIE MURPHY DAY – APRIL 9, 10, 11

- April 9th 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Registration & ticket pick up - American Cotton Museum
- 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Registration & ticket pick up - Holiday Inn of Greenville
- 7:00 PM - Until raided by police - Hospitality Room - American Legion Post 17
- April 10th 7:00 AM - 7:30 AM Information Booths & Hospitality Tables - Holiday Inn & Best Western
- 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM Registration & Ticket Pick Up - American Cotton Museum
- 8:30 AM - Flag Raising Ceremony at Audie Murphy Historical Marker Park in Celeste
- 10:30 AM - Ceremony: unveiling paintings - American Cotton Museum
- 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM AM Day Luncheon - Oak Creek Country Club (ticket purchase required)
- 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM Memorabilia Display - Fletcher Warren Civic Center
- 1:45 PM - Stamp Cancellation Unveiling & Reception - Fletcher Warren Civic Center
- 5:00 PM - Wreath Laying Ceremony - Hunt County Court House
- 7:30 PM - Evening Hospitality Room, American Cotton Museum
- April 11th 8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon: bus tour featuring sites in Hunt & Colin Counties

**NOTE: THE CUT-OFF DATE FOR RESERVING A SPOT ON THE BUS TOUR IS 3:00PM, MARCH 26TH!
 THE CUT-OFF DATE FOR LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS IS APRIL 6, 1999!
 PHONE RESERVATIONS ONLY! (903) 450-4502**