



THE AUDIE MURPHY NATIONAL FAN CLUB
AUDIE MURPHY - HONORARY PRESIDENT



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STAN SMITH - EDITOR
SUE GOSSETT - ASSISTANT EDITOR

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TRIVIA QUIZ

Can you name the only western in which Audie Murphy:

- 1) nearly has his eyelids cut off?
- 2) wears prison garb and chains?
- 3) travels with his dog tied on his pack horse?
- 4) sings and plays a musical instrument?
- 5) sleeps in a bathtub?
- 6) is married throughout the film?
- 7) rides a pinto pony?
- 8) provokes an invalid in order to kill him?
- 9) is chased out of a saloon by an irate bar girl?
- 10) beats the bad guy to the draw with his whip?
- 11) never uses any animal for riding?
- 12) plays cards with his jailer from behind bars?
- 13) is impaled in the chest by an Indian lance?
- 14) cooks pancakes?
- 15) dispatches a rattlesnake with a dispatch case?
- 16) gets drunk?
- 17) is tied and dragged behind a runaway wagon?
- 18) has never used a "revolving gun"?
- 19) takes an on screen bath?
- 20) shoots a cigarette from a rival's mouth?
- 21) seeks refuge in a bunkhouse full of kids?
- 22) sits on a lady's lap?
- 23) is shot off the top of a moving train?
- 24) has a living (on screen) mother?
- 25) shoots his leading lady?

ANSWERS to TRIVIA quiz on page 4

Telephone Interview with Gale Storm by Sue Gossett

SG: This being Audie's second starring role, what did you think about his performance?

GS: He was very professional and always knew his lines. He was very pleasant to work with.

SG: He was very serious as "Billy the Kid" and never smiled in the part. Was he like that on the set or did he talk with you when not filming?

GS: No. He was very serious and didn't really let his hair down.

SG: Any thoughts or comments about Audie as an actor?

GS: Don't really have much to tell. We were just doing a job and waiting to go onto the next. He was just a very pleasant and professional person.

TEXAS TO ISSUE QUARTER CURRENCY IN THE YEAR 2004:

It was announced that the US Mint would issue a 25 cent piece paying tribute to the history of Texas. The coin is to be issued in the year 2004. The suggested designs include the following: The Longhorn; The Alamo; The Cowboy; The Chuck Wagon and lastly but most importantly, Audie L. Murphy. No exact date has been given for the minting. (Source: Life & Arts – The Star Telegram, February 17, 2000) Many thanks for club member Mike West of Fort Worth, Texas for this information. (Needless to say, we all want Audie as the approved design.)

Interview with Ruta Lee by Sue Gossett

Sue Gossett: "What was it like working with Audie Murphy?"

Ruta Lee: I did a movie called "Bullet For A Badman" and what a cast! Besides, of course, the leading man being Audie Murphy, we had Darren McGavin. We had Alan Hale. Oh, that bumbly character actor, I am drawing a blank on it. It was a hysterical cast. It was one laugh after another because everybody was fast and quick and I was the only girl so everybody treated me like a baby doll and we had a wonderful time. Audie was not a laugher. Audie had a strange sense of humor that was strictly his own. He would make a joke and we would all look at each other and say "Did that go over our heads; what was it?" His humor was entirely different. He was on a different level and he didn't mix and mingle with the rest of us. He didn't come out to supper with us. We were desperate on location up in St. George, Utah. There was a Dairy Queen and a something else so we were driving 70 miles to go to dinner every night, or driving down to Las Vegas or something And...he didn't play with us. On a one to one when I got to spend a little time with him, he was very gentle, very humble, very sweet, very much of a gentleman but he didn't...(she paused here trying to think of what to say) either he didn't feel secure playing or he didn't want to play and so I never got to know him the way I got to know everybody else in 10 minutes.

ANECDOTES ABOUT AUDIE MURPHY
by club member
Col. Henry R. Bodson USA (Ret.)

It was midspring of 1945 and the 3rd Infantry Division had entered Nuremberg which had fallen from the mortal blows of massed artillery, bombings, and troop assaults. We had witnessed the raising of the American flag in Adolph Hitler Platz in the central walled city, then sped on to the south into Bavaria. American advances were a daily occurrence, and the gains were increasing; the German resistance was weakening fast, and large numbers were being taken prisoner every day. At the 15th Infantry Regimental Headquarters, Audie Murphy was getting bored and restless in his staff assignment. He wanted to be back with the line troops--where the action was--where there was now great exhilaration--for victory and the war's end seemed to be in sight. Audie paced the floor of the operations room, fidgeting with the flap of his pistol holster. The Operations Officer, Major McLaughlin, and the Intelligence Officer, Captain (Red) Coles, were there, noses buried in maps, studying the fast-moving military situation.

Suddenly, Audie turned to them and, with obvious anticipation in his voice said, "Let's go out and get some Krauts!" The other two looked up from their maps and considered it for at least two seconds; then their eyes lit up with expression as if to say "Yeah, why didn't we think of that before?" "Let's use my jeep," one said. "OK," said another. "We'd better get some M-1 rifles," said a third. And in a cloud of dust, the three musketeers of the 15th Infantry drove off to join in the fray, like school kids off on a picnic.

After driving through the advance elements of the American forces, they ran up against a German roadblock near a small bridge. There was a hot exchange of rifle and machine gun fire and then the three sized up the situation as a no-go. They climbed back into their jeep and high-tailed it out of range of the German weapons.

When they returned to headquarters, they appeared to be subdued; and related their story somewhat sheepishly. Although they had brought back no Krauts, it was clear that they were satisfied. For a brief period, they had been back in the real battle--back where the action was--back where they felt they belonged.

MY PROFOUND APOLOGIES TO THE READERSHIP: In the July issue of the newsletter, I ran a story on pages 2 & 3 by Patricia Rivera. I failed to catch Ms. Rivera's statement about Audie being an alcoholic. We all know this is not true but I failed to delete this false statement. I apologize for this terrible oversight. (Stan Smith)

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUIZ

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) Tumbleweed | 14) Ride a Crooked Trail |
| 2) Arizona Raiders | 15) Column South |
| 3) Six Black Horses | 16) Kansas Raiders |
| 4) The Wild and the Innocent | 17) 40 Guns to Apache Pass |
| 5) Ride a Crooked Trail | 18) Seven Ways From Sundown |
| 6) Bullet for a Badman | 19) The Wild and the Innocent |
| 7) Sierra | 20) The Cimarron Kid |
| 8) No Name on the Bullet | 21) Hell Bent for Leather |
| 9) Destry | 22) Gunsmoke |
| 10) Drums Across the River | 23) Gun Point |
| 11) Walk the Proud Land | 24) The Unforgiven |
| 12) The Kid From Texas | 25) Sierra |
| 13) Apache Rifles | |

Many thanks to club member Marlee Sordt of Stockton, Illinois for this quiz

I don't know exactly when I first saw Audie Murphy. I believe it was his movie "Destry" I do know that I was a very impressionable teenager. And it was love at first sight! Of course, at the time, I did not know that he was an American Hero. Then I saw "To Hell and Back". I realized there was more to him than movies. I lost track of him when I got married, raised four children, got divorced and remarried. In fact, it has been only recently, within the last couple of years, that I have again found him. I went onto the Web and for some strange reason, just typed in Audie Murphy. Lo and behold, what a surprise I got! My first stop was at the Audie Murphy Research Foundation website. It was wonderful to be back in the fold, so to speak. And it's like I have been thirsty for any kind of information about Audie. I have been collecting movies and books and anything I can find about him. I feel like I'm back in my teenage years except I now can appreciate him so much more. I love learning new things about him, about his sense of humor, his modesty and unselfishness. And I mourn his loss and for what he could have been today. If he were still here, he would be 76 years old, but to me he will always be that young, handsome cowboy or soldier. Well, guess I've rambled on enough. Once I get started, it's difficult for me to stop. Thanks for lending an ear. (By club member Barbara Little of Suffield, Connecticut)

You Were a Real Hero, Audie Murphy

No, Audie, you didn't like to be called such a thing,
but hero you were just the same,
From the very beginning you displayed your worth,
and the accolades grew with your fame.

When just a small lad you accepted the challenge,
and you cared for your loved ones with zeal,
With your rifle in hand you took out to the field,
so your family would have that next meal.

When you lost your loved mother, a part of you died,
your heart seemed broken beyond all repair.
Then, through all the pain, your invincible pride
helped you rise from the depths of despair.

When the world went to war, determined you were
to enter the Army and serve.
You strove hard to achieve, and prove you had courage,
the country needed someone with nerve.

You were not very big, not soldier material,
you seemed malnourished and frail.
Threat of a baker school caused your temper to flare;
you would rather they put you in jail.

You soon proved your merit and advancing in rank,
you set an example for "brave",
You protected your men whenever you could,
they all knew just how much you gave.

Through all the bad weather, mud, fleas and malaria,
you knew not the meaning of quit.
You led from the front; and to get the job done,
your commanders knew just who they could get.

You fought side-by-side with your buddies that died,
as the count of the casualties rose.
The medals you won for incredible deeds,
you wore as a tribute to those.

With odds overwhelming, you made your great stand,
you were well acquainted with strife.
You thought not of yourself, but the men you sent back,
for them you'd have given your life.

No, you were not big, but your exploits sure were,
you proved it time and again.
Your men really loved you, with them you stood tall.
You were truly a man among men.

WILLIAMSBURG FILM FESTIVAL - FEBRUARY 24-26, 2000

INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPH CAMPANELLA BY SUE GOSSETT 2/25/00

JC: Hi, it's funny you mentioned working with Audie. He and I did one show in New York. What year was that, do you remember?

SG: In 1961, I believe.

JC: 1961, that was 39 years ago. But I'll never forget it. Audie made such an impression. Well, yeah, with all the medals and the heroics and things which we all appreciate, no question about that. But going beyond that, just meeting him was fascinating because here was this unassuming gentleman. Because that was what he was. A gentleman, who came in, was very professional, and did his work. He had such an honesty and a sincerity about him that we were all impressed. And I remember that as New York actors, we were all big stage people, had all studied acting and here was this kid, in a sense. I'll always think of him as being young. I never thought that he would ever grow old. He came in and just joked with everybody and everything. That happens with this profession. And I think we did a very good show. In fact, as I remember, we got good reviews in the paper when it came out. Of course in those days of live television, the reviews came after the fact.

SG: Was there an audience?

JC: No, no. There was no audience except for the professionals, all the cameramen, the New York people who were really impressed by, all (emphasized the word all) impressed by Audie. He did his job, you know, I just have never forgotten. I had a small part in the play. I had been in pictures 12 years but I hadn't any really big parts. I was working my way but it was something I will never forget.

There was a panel with Joe and Harry Carey, Jr. together which was hosted by a moderator. I asked both gentlemen how it was to work with Audie. The response from Joe was as follows: (I had asked the question about working with Audie and Joe asked me the name of the show they did in New York as apparently it had slipped his mind at the moment. I told him "The Man" and these were his comments:)

JC: The Man. He was "The Man". He came in and the airline lost his luggage so he spent the whole night getting new suits for himself so he would look proper. And he was a gentleman, he really was. He was working with some pretty high powered New York actors at the time but he didn't take a back seat. He was a gentleman and he was very professional and I was in awe a little bit with all those medals and things. I thought, good God, they must have weighed him down carrying those things around with him. (He slumps forward in the chair as if the weight of the medals was forcing him). Just a very humble gentleman.

The moderator asked Joe if Audie was easily intimidated. Joe said:

No, not all.

Moderator asking Harry Carey, Jr., "How did you view him?"

H.C.

I worked on an episode of "Whispering Smith" with Audie and a wonderful guy, a singer named Guy Mitchell. Audie was extremely nice. He was very proud of his horse. He wanted me to see his horse. And then I did a test with him, years ago. I forgot to mention it to him when I worked with John Houston on "Red Badge of Courage" but he gave that role to cartoonist Bill Mauldin. But we had a good test together. I was hoping I would get that.

Which Way To Go

Dedication : To Audie Murphy, my hero

By club member Margaret Markley, Wooster, Ohio

Lonely too long was this heart of mine.
Loving and longing for you to be thine
Wanting you only and loving you so
Now my heart is wondering, which way to go,
Which way should I wander, should I forget
Should I stay lonely, and wait for you yet,
Or should I forget now, the love I once knew
Which way should I go Dear, Lord what should I do.
Loneliness hurt me there's bitterness now.
Love - faith and patience are weaker somehow.
Should I try with another and not let it show.
Oh Lord won't, you help me, which way should I go.

THANKS AUDIE

Relentlessly defended me and those about this land,
At what price did he pay, just for us and our ware,
Regardless of immediate danger, continued to care,
Inevitable going on silently, in his army caravan.

He may not have done it alone, but gave all he can,
Accumulating turmoil, pain with his losses do snare
Relentlessly ever onward concerned for other's welfare,
He and all those courageous ones constantly plan.

Protecting poor and rich alike, a true champion,
Awesomely striving with Tipton, 'twas hunky dory,
Murph's not alone, but stood very tall among everyone,
May history reveal and remember his horrendous story,
My way of life and spec of land portrays his icon,
In return, may he always have peace beyond glory.

Jean Louise Corty Veatch, Valparaiso, Indiana - copyright 1998

FINAL ISSUE

Dear Friends,

It is with the deepest of regrets that I announce the termination of the fan club. For over seven years I have been under treatment for severe clinical depression (unipolar). None of the various medicines or electro shock treatments have had any positive effect. I find it increasingly difficult to maintain any enthusiasm or concentrate on the fan club. All back issues plus the bonus items will still be available.

I suggest that you continue to keep me posted on any address changes in the event that I resume publication. I hope all of you have enjoyed the newsletters and found them informative and beneficial. For those of you who have paid for the year 2001, a refund check will be sent out within 7 – 10 days. I thank you for your support and interest.

With regrets,

Stan Smith

Some months ago I acquired a very poor Xerox copy of an Audie caricature that appeared in the Baltimore American on October 16, 1955. It fascinated me and I wanted to share it with you. After more than twenty hours of repair work, it is suitable for the newsletter. I assume it was initially in color. If any member has the original page, I would like to borrow it for photographic reproduction. (Stan Smith)

