

Fort Worth Star Telegram

September 10, 1948

RODEO ARENA NAMED FOR HIM

Flags Waving Again for War Hero Audie Murphy By Gita Bumpass

Flags are waving again for Farmersville's little Audie Murphy - but this time the fanfare is a wild western rodeo.

Murphy flew to Texas Thursday morning for the opening Friday and Saturday of the Audie Murphy Rodeo Arena one mile east of Euless on Highway 183.

He'll ride in the grand entry and on Saturday night, will hear official dedication of the arena by Mayor Deen of Fort Worth.

All this is new to Murphy. He had so many war decorations, he has lost count and already has to check his movie assignments thoughtfully.

Murphy spent three weeks in France this summer, accepting the Legion of Honor award and the Croix de Guerre with palm from the commander in chief of the French Army.

The French government, which already had presented Murphy with two awards, heard about his book "To Hell and Back" recounting his war experiences, and decided to lend a helping hand by directing him in a retrace of his wartime footsteps.

Only thing wrong, says Murphy, was the timing of his visit. Wanda Hendrix, his fiancée, arrived in Rome a week after he left for the States - and he could have visited her on location there.

Murphy is all set to play in two movies about juvenile delinquency. The first will involve Boys Ranch at Copperas Cove, and the second, that all-time delinquent, Billy the Kid.

His host in Fort Worth is Ray Woods, automobile dealer, whom Murphy met during the four months he was at home in Farmersville after the war. The actor, already seen on Fort Worth

screens in "Beyond Glory," was honored at Woods' home when he and Miss Hendrix visited here last December.