

MURPHY SHOULD BE ON A STAMP

By Carol Ferguson

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The U.S. Postal Service recently announced the list of commemorative stamps to be released in 1996, and a bright and varied collection it is.

Writer F. Scott Fitzgerald and artist Georgia O'Keeffe are among those to be honored, as well as Big Band leaders like Glenn Miller, Count Basie, Goodman, and the Dorseys. Also on the list are communications pioneers, a salute to the Olympics, endangered species and folklore names like Casey at the Bat and Paul Bunyan.

The 93 new stamp topics were chosen by an advisory committee of private citizens who make their selections from thousands of suggestions received annually.

"These stamps represent the best of what America is all about," said Postmaster General Marvin Runyon. "They stand for the pursuit of ideas, knowledge, courage, excellence and success."

With these qualities as guidelines for stamp selections, we suggest that perhaps Hunt County citizens have overlooked one of our own, for too long.

Audie Murphy, the most decorated hero of World War II, is known throughout the world both for his daring exploits in battle and for the popular Western movies in which he later starred, but he has yet to be honored with a commemorative stamp.

Hunt County citizens will be observing

the area's 150th birthday next year, and one sesquicentennial project which could be undertaken even in advance of the celebration is an effort to promote Audie Murphy for a stamp subject.

Anyone interested in promoting an Audie Murphy stamp may send letters to Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee Stamp Development Board, USPS Headquarters, 475 L'Enfant Plaza West SW, Room 5800, Washington, D.C. 20260-6352. Duplicate letters to our senators and representatives in Congress would also help.

If endangered species of plants or animals qualify for commemoratives, surely Audie Murphy is worthy of serious consideration.

Heroes have always been an endangered species.