

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

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TRIVIA: Club member Fran Zimmerman of Englishtown, New Jersey sent me a menu from the Rough Rider Steakhouse & Saloon in Marlboro, New Jersey. Lo and behold, one of their entrees is "Audie Murphy" Pork Chops. This delight consists of grilled center cut pork chops topped with peppers, onions, sausage and pototoes, in a spicy brown sauce for only \$11.95! I wonder if the chops have freckles?

MORE TRIVIA: Well, it was a matter of time before technology reached this peculiar point. There is a website identified as "Find A Grave." One can search for an individual by name, location or claim to fame. Yes, you can now view Audie's marker at Arlington Cemetery and if you have a printer, you can obtain two decent pictures of his resting place. The website address is as follows http://www.findagrave.com/pictures/murphya.html

REFERENCE: DIANE BATES THOMASON STAMP DRIVE:

AS OF MAY 23, 1998
OVER 32,000 SIGNATURES HAVE BEEN COLLECTED!
KEEP KICKING BUTT DIANE!

FLOWERS FOR AUDIE – Like last year, a floral arrangement was sent to Arlington Cemetery on June 20th for Audie's birthday. The flowers were identified as from "The Audie Murphy National Fan Club." Those of you who wish to do something at any time on your own should be certain to specify the following information when ordering flowers:

Major Audie L. Murphy Grave 366-11, Section 46 Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, Virginia 22211 **********************

Déjà Vu by club member Feller Goff of Dallas, Texas

A couple of weeks ago Feller and his wife, Jocey, went to Carrabba's, their favorite Italian restaurant. They were graciously ushered to seats deep inside. A very nice and pleasant young waitress with blond hair and pretty blue eyes came over to take their order. After the food was delivered, a cordial conversation took place. She seemed a little inexperienced and Jocey asked if she were new. She replied that she had only been working at Carrabba's Restaurant for about a year, and that she was from Baltimore. The waitress wanted to know where the Goff's were from. Feller mentioned that he would have never met Jocey if the British army hadn't run him out of Belfast, Ireland for taking pictures at a check point which was a very serious offense, two days before his 49th birthday. And that he had met Jocey the next morning during breakfast in Dublin, Ireland. The waitress asked if they were from Ireland and the Goffs said no, that they were mostly Scotch-Irish decent from the United States.

The waitress then mentioned that her name was *Shannon* and that she was pregnant with a little boy. She was not married and she was looking for an Irish name for him. Feller asked, "What is your last name?" To his utter amazement, she replied "*Murphy*." Feller immediately responded, "I have the perfect name for you, call him Audie – call him Audie Feller Murphy!" The waitress said that that sounded great but wanted to know where he got that name from. Feller told Shannon who Audie Murphy was and that there was a picture of Audie and Feller in the restaurant show case. Feller told her that the middle name was his. Shannon replied, "That's what I'm going to name him; Audie Feller Murphy." Funny how things happen. Baby Audie is due October 21, 1998

On page 7 of our second issue from 1995, I listed under MOVIE SOURCES the following:

VINTAGE VIDEO Leeds Point, NJ 08220

Both I and other members have been unable to contact the above firm for several months. It must be concluded, therefore, that they have <u>ceased business operations</u>.

Meanwhile, one of our club members has located a new source for AUDIE FILMS:

NOBLE R. BROWN'S HEAVENLY VIDEOS 10306 Trent Court - Indianapolis, Indiana 46229-1463 (317) 894-0599 - E-mail: nrbrown@juno.com

Just a reminder that the Audie Murphy Fan Club can only locate sources; we never endorse them. We are NOT responsible for your satisfaction. In the business community it is always "Buyer beware." He has the following titles in his catalog.

ARIZONA RAIDERS (1965) 94 minutes -COLOR BULLET FOR A BADMAN (1964) 80 minutes - COLOR THE CIMARRON KID (1951) 84 minutes - COLOR CAST A LONG SHADOW (1958) 83 minutes **COLUMN SOUTH (1953) 85 minutes COLOR** DRUMS ACROSS THE RIVER (1954)78 minutes - COLOR **DUEL AT SILVER CREEK (1952) 77 minutes - COLOR** 40 GUNS TO APACHE PASS (1967) 96 minutes - COLOR **GUNPOINT (1966) 86 minutes - COLOR** GUNS OF FORT PETTICOAT (1957) 83 minutes - COLOR **HELL BENT FOR LEATHER (1960) 82 minutes - COLOR** KANSAS RAIDERS (1950) 80 minutes - COLOR THE KID FROM TEXAS (1950) 78 minutes - COLOR NIGHT PASSAGE (1957) 90 minutes - COLOR POSSE FROM HELL(1961) 89 minutes - COLOR RIDE A CROOKED TRAIL (1958) 87 minutes - COLOR RIDE CLEAR OF DIABLO (1954) 80 minutes - COLOR SEVEN WAYS FROM SUNDOWN (1960) 87 minutes COLOR THE TEXICAN (1966) 86 minutes - COLOR TUMBLEWEED (1953) 79 minutes - COLOR WILD & THE INNOCENT (1959) 85 minutes – COLOR

CIVIC DUTY by club member Shelby Jean Roukoski-Clark from Dothan, Alabama

The Dothan Opera House is located at the heart of Dothan's downtown district. The 'Downtown Group' in their work of restoring and renovating this particular area have not only kept the old Opera House in good shape but have done an excellent job of salvaging several blocks of Dothan's true 'architectural' history. One of their fund-raising projects was some personalized sidewalk bricking. Using bricks from some of the original buildings (torn down earlier) they offered the public a chance to help out----and in so doing also honor someone in their family, a 'favored' person, etc. After thinking about it, I made the decision to honor, not the National Hero, nor the Hollywood Star--but the man, Audie Leon Murphy. Audie now has his own walk stone there with his full name and the dates 1924 – 1971. (Appropriate photos have been sent to Terry Murphy.)

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND TRIBUTE: The History Channel broadcasted a program about Arlington National Cemetery featuring the notable persons buried there, especially Audie Murphy. The narration, by Ossie Davis, related Audie's unique status as the most decorated enlisted man in WWII. Also shown during the 30 second segment was an official portrait of Audie at the time of his return from the War, the actual gravesite at Arlington and footage from the filming of "To Hell and Back".

AN ADVENTUROUS QUEST: Audie Murphy Day, Greenville, TX By club member Ann Joyner of Dallas, Texas

I must begin this report with a tribute to Rita Richardson, whom I have found to be a woman of dauntless courage. We started out on our three-day adventure very early on the morning of May 23rd, from Dallas. It was something of a rocky start. Between questionable navigational skills and Rita's unfamiliarity with the Texas highway system, we arrived, finally, at the American Cotton Museum in Greenville shortly after the flag-raising ceremony, so I am unable to report on that. But things got off to rapid start. After meeting Stan Smith, we struck up (or Rita struck up) conversations with the various members of the Ft. Sill Training and Doctrine Command, Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. All were members of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club at Ft. Sill. They were on hand for the day to serve as color guard for the events. These young men and women were all excellent representatives of our country's Armed Services, especially in their uniforms, which represented those of every war from the American Revolution to the Gulf War. From there I left to get in line for an autographed copy of the Second edition of Sue Gossett's The Films and Career of Audie Murphy. (I had a first edition copy at home, but it wasn't autographed.) Afterwards, we had time to wander the exhibit, a fascinating array of photos, paintings, posters, and memorabilia, not only of Audie Murphy, but other local veterans as well. Like the rest of the guests, I was impressed by the visiting exhibit: U. S. Army carbine, serial number "one-one-zero-eight-seven-eight-three," which Audie Murphy told reporter Thomas B. Morgan was the serial number of his rifle during the war. It was well protected, not only by a glass case, but also by the attendant who had brought it from Ft. Benning, GA for the day's activities.

The dedication ceremonies at the museum continued with Vince Liebowitz, museum curator acting as host, and introducing speakers Congressman Ralph Hall, who retold the entry he made in 1996 to the Congressional Record honoring Murphy, and Nadine Murphy, who shared some recollections of

her older brother. Afterward we saw how talented the young people of Greenville are when the winners of the stamp design contest were announced and the posters exhibited.

We made it to the Fletcher Warren Civic Center early enough to browse with ease the collection Audie Murphy movie posters from Larry Winters of Greenville, Texas. This room contained over 40 large movie posters from each of Audie's movies. I don't know whether it was really concern for getting a good seat, or whether Rita was embarrassed by my drooling over the posters and lobby cards, but Rita pointed out that the center was rapidly filling up, so I reluctantly joined her in the room across the hall, where we were able to get excellent seats in the second row, just behind the

dais. As we waited for the other guests to find seats, and for the ceremonies to begin, I noticed an older gentleman sitting on the front row, just ahead of me, whom I had seen earlier at the museum. The color guard entered and we all stood up, and as we heard the words, "Present Arms," the man in front of me snapped to a rigid salute. The fact that his back was slightly bent and that his right hand shook a little did not deter from the extreme dignity and pride of this obviously active, if a bit elderly man. I later learned that he was Feller Goff! The ceremonies proceeded with Taps and the National Anthem, then a welcome address by Greenville City Councilman, Leo Hackney. Kevin James sang "True Americans" and Greenville's Postmaster, Fred Arrambedez unveiled the new stamp cancellation: our smiling boy-hero in an oval-framed print. Club member Don Moore designed this special cancellation. Club member Richard Rodgers of the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Website spoke of how important it was to have an education. Next came the inspiring address by the Honorable Allen Clark, a disabled veteran of the Vietnam War who walked unaided with a purposeful stride in spite of having lost both legs during the war. The main point of his speech could be summed up in the words, "some choose to give," which he used to describe Audie Murphy. When he closed the address by quoting passages from Harold Simpson's Audie Murphy: American Soldier, there was hardly a dry eye in the house, including the Honorable Mr. Clark.

During the reception after the ceremonies we met and visited with Richard Rodgers, Audie Murphy historian Michael West, Avery Dowdy and George Cox, both old army buddies of Murphy, and Nadine Murphy and Billie Murphy Tindol.

As the festivities were winding down, I managed to convince Rita that it might be a good idea to find a motel, as neither of us had a place to sleep for the night. She seemed surprised by my anxieties, but agreed. It was quite late by the time we arrived at the planned dance, and nearly everyone had gone home, but we did stay long enough for me to teach Rita the steps to that famous Texas line dance, "Cotton-eyed Joe." - the "polite" version, by the way, for any reader who happens to know that there are two sets of lyrics which accompany the dance.

We headed back to the motel to get a good night's sleep. Little did I know what lay ahead as our "fearless leader" was already planning the next day's activities.

SEARCH OF AUDIE MURPHY by club member Rita Richardson of Alexandria, Virginia

Ann Joiner, of Houston, Texas and I spent Sunday driving around Hunt County, Texas, looking for places associated with Audie's boyhood. We headed north out of Greenville on the Audie Murphy Highway where, about 11 miles on, we stopped at a marker near the field where once stood the sharecroppers shack in which he was born. Sadly, the heavily vandalized structure was torn down in the mid-70s. The place is called Kingston; not really a town, just a point on the map once surrounded by many small farms. It wasn't hard to imagine a poor young boy dreaming of a better place beyond the distant hills. Thankfully, the weather was cloudy and mild so we didn't get to experience the notorious Texas summer sun.

Further up the road we came upon a large landscaped area with a flag pole, another marker about Audie, and a newly-planted memorial garden in full bloom. Just beyond is the town of Celeste where Audie lived most of his childhood. The railroad tracks are still there where Audie's family once lived in a boxcar. Abandoned stores run along both sides of the road for a block or so but you can still identify the former businesses, including the movie house where, after a week of hard work, kids got their first glimpse of the

bigger world. It was in Celeste that we met people who knew Audie. He was known as a quiet boy, and one man recalled seeing him sitting alone just watching folks go by. We sat for quite a while at the local hangout, the combination gas station and convenience store reminiscent of the one Audie worked in as a teenager. Now the old timers congregate there on Sunday mornings. By sheer chance, we got to meet a grandson of the Cawthorns, who had been second parents to Audie, whom he fondly addressed as "Ma" and "Pa". We saw the site where the Cawthorn house once stood next to a shack the Murphy's lived in for a time, both long gone. We were quite touched by the generosity of the townspeople who offered to show us around and one who even took us into his home.

Heading on, we drove through rolling hills dotted with fields, ponds and every kind of farm building, some so old and dilapidated it was hard to tell if they were for people or animals. We soon entered the town of Farmersville, a much larger place than Celeste, with a wide, still-viable main street. In the center were memorials to local veterans, including a stone inscribed with Audie's poem, "Helmets in the Dust." What a thrill to be standing where, on that sweltering hot June day in '45, the whole community thronged to see the boy-hero just home from the Big War. We drove around the side streets for a while, and though the home of Audie's sister Corinne no longer stands, one can still get the feel of the place as it must have been back then.

We stopped next in Floyd, a small community along the railroad tracks. It was here we saw a boxcar still in use as a storage building. Imagine living in such a thing! We also saw the lovely old Methodist church from which kindly ladies ministered to the "deserving poor" in the days before welfare. The school where Audie finished his formal education is still there. Driving along an unpaved road, we saw other sharecroppers' shacks and if you listened, you could almost hear the ghosts of the men, women and children who toiled like animals in those vast fields. The impression made on a youngster would have lasted forever.

Coming full circle back to Greenville, we stopped at the Cotton Museum just as Vince Liebowitz was closing up for the day. He joined us for dinner and we ended up chatting until nearly 11 PM. There we hatched plans for next year's Audie Murphy Day celebration. What a fitting way to end this unforgettable day.

The next day, Monday, we took one last swing through Greenville to see the Post Office where Audie enlisted and the vacant lot where once stood the radio repair shop Audie worked in at the time. The old downtown area has fallen on hard times, but you can still see elegant streets lined with the homes of the well-to-do that must have seemed like another world to the young Audie.

We spent the rest of the day in Ft. Worth, at the old stockyard area, where Audie sometimes did business. It's mainly a tourist area now, but you can still see (and smell!) real livestock. At the Ernest Tubbs Record Shop we found a tape containing the most famous of the songs he composed, "Shutters and Boards," which we listened to on the way back to Greenville. We couldn't help but think the melancholy lyric tells us something about the writer.

The following morning, after driving Ann to the airport, I made a stop at the Dallas Library to see what they had about Audie. Not only do they have an extensive newspaper archive, but also a clipping file and microfilm records on Audie. I didn't have time to do a thorough inventory, but I did meet two older fellows who recalled seeing Audie, once with Wanda Hendrix. He described them as a couple of cute dolls when he came back for the premier of "To Hell and Back".

The quest for Audie Murphy will go on for years to come, there is so much more to do. It was very special to have had the chance to see where he grew up and where his memory remains very much alive.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES FOR MURPHY MEMORABILIA

Phyllis Givens
HOLLYWOOD COLLECTABLES
Post Office Box 4035
Sedora, AZ 86340
(520) 204-1631
[She has a limited quantity of
3 sheets & 6 sheets]

JERRY DOUGLASS
Post Office Box 389
Mabelville, AR 72103
Phone/fax (501) 847-2106
Has "B" Western videos

BILL BUCKNER
3701-A South Harvard
#127
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135
(918) 743-5871
Has lobby cards, stills & posters

KAUFMAN'S NOSTALGIA 112 Church Street Lakeland, Georgia 31635 (912) 482-3915 Has movie posters, old comic books and autographed pictures

SY & MARILYN BLINN Post Office Box 7027 Wilmington, DE 19803 Phone: 302-478-0385 <u>LIFE MAGAZINES</u> (From 1937 – 1972) WORLD OF YESTERDAY (WOY) 104 Chestnut Wood Drive Waynesville, NC 28786 (704) 648-5647 Attn: Ron S. Downey Magazines & books

FILMS FROM THE NORTHLAND 4195 Hodgson Road Shoreview, MN 55126 (612) 482-1488 Attn: Mr. Carl Hoglund Old films

THE OLD COWBOY PICTURE SHOW Post Office Box 66 Camden, SC 29020 (803) 432-9643 Attn: Mr. George Coan

WILLIAM TELL IMAGES
Post Office Box 4 – Dept. M
Coppersburg, PA 18036
(610) 282-4269
<u>COLOR</u> military photo only \$7.95!

The Scholar's Bookshelf
110 Melrich Road
Cranbury, NJ 08512
Fax no: (609)395-0755
E-mail address:
books@scholarsbookshelf.com
"To Hell & Back" \$14.95
video tape catalog no. 5ADDA
& re-issue of book version \$7.95
catalog no. 5FQTA

A HERO IN ARLINGTON By CORRINA CRAIG

AUDIE MURPHY SAW THE TOMB STONES LINED UP ROW BY ROW AND ALWAYS KNEW THAT SOME DAY THAT WAS WHERE HE'D GO.

HE'D SEEN THE WAR AND FOUGHT IT AND CONQUERED 'NO MAN'S LAND', THAT STRANGE THING THEY CALL DESTINY HAD BEEN PUT INTO HIS HAND.

HE'D LEARNED TO FIGHT WHEN HE WAS YOUNG WITH HUNGER ALWAYS NEAR.
LIFE WAS HARD IN TEXAS
BUT AUDIE HAD NO FEAR.

HE'D PICK UP HIS OLD .22 AND HUNT DOWN SOME SMALL GAME SO HIS SISTERS AND HIS BROTHERS TO THE TABLE ALWAYS CAME.

NOW, WHEN HIS COUNTRY CALLED HIM, HE DID NOT HESITATE AND JOINED THE 3RD DIVISION BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE.

THOUGH STILL A BOY AND BABY FACED AND PEOPLE CALLED HIM "KID", HIS SHY APPEAL AND QUIET WAYS BELIED THE STRENGTH THEY HID.

THEY ALSO CALLED HIM "BABY"
'CAUSE HE DIDN'T EVEN SHAVE,
BUT CHANGED THEIR WAY OF THINKING
WHEN THEY SAW HE WAS SO BRAVE.

NOW, HIS BRAVERY IS LEGEND; HIS COURAGE UNSURPASSED, AND NO ONE WHO IS ARMY HAS SUCH A VALIANT PAST. HE WAS AWARDED EVERY MEDAL THAT THERE EVER WAS TO GIVE. BUT HE NEVER BRAGGED ABOUT THEM NOT ONCE, WHILE HE DID LIVE.

SO MANY PEOPLE OWE HIM THEIR FREEDOM TO THIS DAY. AND SO MANY PEOPLE LOVE HIM FOR WHAT HE BROUGHT THEIR WAY.

MURPH WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED AS A HERO TRIED AND TRUE AND WILL NEVER LOSE HIS PLACE IN THE HEARTS OF ME AND YOU.

AND HE WILL ALWAYS BE ALIVE
IN THE BOOKS OF HISTORY
WHERE THAT SPECIAL PLACE OF HONOR
IS FOR EVERYONE TO SEE.

NOW IT'S <u>MAJOR</u> AUDIE MURPHY AND HE EARNED IT THROUGH AND THROUGH AND EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW THAT WHO LOVES THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE.

Copyright 1996 Corrina Craig

A TALE OF AUDIE MURPHY

He jumped upon a burning tank on a raw cold January day and fired at some Germans coming down his way.

Commanding Baker Company, he ordered us to leave.
"Get the hell out," he hollered, from atop that tank that day.

Three times that tank was hit that day, live ammo on the deck, as Murphy manned the fifty firing down the way.

He climbed up on a flaming tank, "Incendiary Bomb," and saved our lives that wintery day that snowy January day.

That little Texas Irishman called fire upon himself, as he aimed machine gun fire on attackers to his line.

Young Lieutenant Murphy, not yet 21, Old in battles, wise in war, killed many enemy that day with that fifty caliber gun. His beloved Baker Company under siege that day, received tire gift of life from Murph to fight another day.

Not recounting post-war plans as he saw a burning tank, a tired and battered Baker man, "Above and beyond", as it goes offered his life so we may live as he stopped the enemy cold.

In such a spectacular way he fought, the land he loved and honored, gambling against outrageous odds, with a fifty caliber gun, he won.

Audie Murphy won that day, that freezing winter day, as fires from within the tank burned hot and stunned his soul.

As Audie gave his native state, a hero, ever loved, he added glorious deeds that day appending pride to history.

By Irving Kelley, S/Sgt Co. B. 15th Infantry - W.W.II