

Thru the Mailbox¹

Edited and Reprinted by Richard L. Rodgers

Comments? Comments are welcome. Just use the link below to our message board.
<https://www.audiemurphy.com/msgb/viewtopic.php?t=4985>

WHILE LOOKING for material for the first newsletter of the New Year, it occurred that Audie may have already written something for his fans. As it turns out, he did. The following messages are reprinted from *Audie Murphy's Almanac*, published by Ms. Margaret Walters, January 1953.

About Margaret Walters Editor of Audie's Almanac



Ms. Margaret Walters was born in Roanoke, Virginia on February 21, 1921. In the 1950's, with permission received from Audie Murphy, she launched Audie's Almanac, a fan-club based publication. Her ambition, according to a "Meet the Members" column in one of its editions, was "To have the best fan club in existence."

A Personal Note to Margaret²

December 19, 1952

Dear Margaret:

Claire called me today to tell me about my very first journal arriving, so I rushed right down to take a look. Gee, I was pleased. You did a swell job and well, what more can I say but thanks, thanks, and more thanks.

With Xmas practically on us we've been quite busy. I've been buying all kinds of toys for our son, but somehow, I guess people are right – such a little baby just won't appreciate a baseball outfit. Well, anyway, I tried.

Well, Margaret, my sincere thanks for all your effort, the product of that effort was just swell. My very best to you and yours and I hope the new Year brings you everything you desire.

Sincerely,
Audie

¹ "Thru the Mailbox" was a column of letters published in each issue of *Audie's Almanac* by Ms. Walters.

² A private note to Ms. Walters probably thanking her for his first copy of *Audie's Almanac*. "Claire" is probably Audie's personal secretary.

Audie's New Year's Wish to His Fans³

Dear Members:

First, I want to wish you a belated Happy New Year and I hope 1953 brings you all that you desire.

I have been very busy lately, first I have just finished two pictures – “Gunsmoke” and “Column South” and when you see them I do hope you like them. After the pictures I went on tour through Indiana for about a week and then came home and moved into a new house in the San Fernando Valley. Boy, is there a lot of work to a new house. I’ve been doing all the little chores around the house, building little extras, pruning the walnut trees and I’m building a gym in the garage so that I can work out at home.

I’m planning on making a PA⁴ tour through Montana and some of the other western states in February and I do hope I’ll be able to meet many of you.

Baby Terry is really growing up; he’s 10 months old now and walking and doing quite a bit of talking, however, some of it we can’t seem to understand. He’s really a Daddy’s boy too, which makes me very proud. While I’m working out in the gym in the garage I can double as a baby sitter, clever huh?

Well, I guess that’s about all for this letter, so keep well and, of course, all the best from the three Murphy’s, Audie, Pam, and Terry.

Sincerely,
Audie



³ Probably written about the same time as Audie’s private note to Ms. Walters dated December 19, 1952.

⁴ An acronym probably for *public affairs* or *personal appearance*.

A Letter from Pam!!

Hello everyone:

Writing for a fan club journal is really a new experience for me, but when Margaret invited me to, I was very pleased.

I do want to thank you for your loyal support of Audie and for always being so thoughtful and kind. It's difficult for a man to express his gratitude, but deep down, Audie is so very grateful and appreciates all you are doing for him.

As Audie told you in his letter, we've been every busy with our new house and it's really lovely. And, of course, taking care of the house and Terry is a full time job, so I will close for now.

Thank you, Margaret, for the opportunity to say hello to Audie's fan club members and to thank them.

You're all wonderful!!

Fondly,
Pam Murphy



New home of Audie Murphy, Terry Murphy, Pamela Murphy, and "Vixen" the family dog. Located at 6233 Orion, Van Nuys, California. Photo courtesy of Ms. Eva Dano.

AUDIE MURPHY – IN PERSON!!

249 Ogden St.
Hammond, Ind.

Dear Margaret:

The most wonderful thing has happened to me. It all started when I was reading the Sunday comics. I had just finished reading Joe Palooka and turned the page when whose face should be glaring at me but Audie Murphy's. It really surprised me to see him because Hammond⁵ isn't too large

and our paper doesn't carry much on movie stars. I read the article with his picture and was amazed to find that Audie and several other stars were

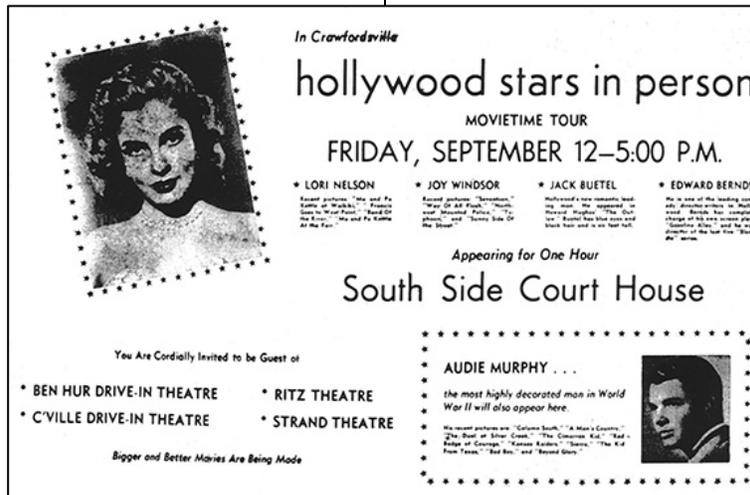
actually coming to Hammond. I almost fainted. After liking Audie for so long – that he was really going to be here. I couldn't say a thing for at least five minutes, but finally I said "Mother, he's coming here!" I rattled on and on explaining to

her who, when where, and why, they were coming. Then I realized that they would arrive at 11:00 Thursday, that was a school day. I decided that I was going to see him no matter what.

I didn't sleep well for the next four nights. I planned everything perfect. Washed my best school clothes, and washed my hair till it shone. At last Thursday arrived after a sleepless night. I went to school in the morning for first and second period classes. I

was to go to the dentist⁶ at 10:30. At about 10:15 we heard sirens across the street. Everyone looked out the classroom window at the City Hall, which is just across the

street. There was a bus with a sign saying Movie time U.S.A. Tour. I knew that Audie was there but I couldn't see him. I fairly flew up to the school office to get permission to leave. I ran out



Crawfordsville movie tour announcement about 125 miles southeast of Hammond. Image courtesy of AMRF message board user "Visayla".

⁵ Hammond, Indiana is on the north corner of Illinois and the southwest tip of Lake Michigan near Chicago.

⁶ As a public educator, the AMRF editor and webmaster can attest to the fact that students still pull this trick today with the help of their parents, nearly seven decades later. 😊



Audie Murphy and Lori Nelson. Photo courtesy of M.D. Marks

and caught the bus for the Court House where the meeting was to be held.

I got there first, as the escort arrived. Then was when I got my first look at Audie. I just froze in my tracks. Then I started moving to the front to get a closer look at him. He is even

cuter than his pictures. All the stars moved toward the platform to start the program. Besides Audie, there was Lori Nelson, Jack Beutel, Joy Parker and a producer. They talked about what types of movies the public wanted and Audie gave Mayor Anderson the fire prevention trophy of

1952. Toward the end of the program, Audie was making faces at a little baby. I thought that was very sweet. He was kneeling on the platform on one knee signing autographs for everyone. Three girls and myself were right in front of him. He signed my book "To Hell and Back." I asked him how his son was and he said Terry was fine. - One of the girls asked him if his book was going to be made into a movie and he said possibly. We showered questions at him, and he answered them all in a very nice way. All the time he was signing autographs. Some people just handed him paper to write on and he punched holes in the paper accidentally. I held my book on his knee as a desk so he wouldn't ruin any more papers. He thanked me very nicely. About this time the producer said he had to go but the crowd yelled, "No!" and they said they would let him stay one minute more. When the minute was up the crowd moaned again. Everyone offered to let him stay at their house if he would stay. We all said we would take care of him but they said he had to go. He signed a few more autographs then he had to leave. There were some 2,000 people at the meeting. He left in a convertible with the mayor.

I will always remember that day as one of the biggest moments in my life. I just had to tell you about him. He

didn't disappoint me in any way. Audie was the nicest dentist I ever met.

Sincerely,
Betsy Rudolph
(Ed. Note⁷: I'm sure all of us would have loved to have been in your shoes, Betsy. Lucky, lucky girl!!!).

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

Film Personalities Set For Week's State Tour

GROUPS of movie stars, traveling in air-conditioned busses, will visit 55 or 60 Indiana cities for luncheons, dinners, public square appearances and other festivities next week in connection with the "Movietime" drive sponsored by the Allied Theater Owners of Indiana.

The stars, divided into three units, will start the tour Monday morning after a breakfast for press and radio at the Marott Hotel here. Most of them will arrive on the American Airlines 8:23 p.m. flight tomorrow to join Rex Allen, Bill Shirley, Forrest Tucker and Tony Romano, who have been here for the last week to help with the organization's "Hollywood At The Fair" exhibit.

NEW ARRIVALS will include Audie Murphy, Lori Nelson, Mary Castle, Gene Evans, Joy Wilson, Mary Blanchard, Jack Buetel, Ann Bancroft, Producer Carey Wilson, Director Edward Bernds and at least one more to be named later. Trueman Rembusch, president of the ATOI, was still in almost hourly touch with Hollywood production heads to line up personalities for the tour last night.

The first unit, to include Murphy, Brends, Nelson and Wilson, will visit Frankfort, Logansport and Kokomo, Monday; Peru, Rochester, Goshen and Elkhart, Tuesday; South Bend, La Porte, Michigan City, Wednesday; Hammond, Indiana Harbor, Whiting and Gary Thursday; Crown Point, Brook, Kentland, and Crawfordsville Friday.

Group No. 2, including Allen, Castle, Wilson, plus an unnamed personality, will stop in Anderson, New Castle and Muncie, Monday; Elwood, Marion, Wabash, North Manchester and Fort Wayne, Tuesday; Decatur, Portland, Winchester and Connersville, Wednesday; Rushville, Batesville and Madison, Thursday, and Jeffersonville, New Albany and Seymour, Friday.



AUDIE MURPHY is among the Hollywood personalities who will meet here tomorrow night for a state-wide "Movietime" tour Monday through Friday of next week.

Indianapolis Star, circa Sept. 12, 1952. courtesy of AMRF message board user "Visalya".

⁷ Written by Ms. Margaret Walters.

--- RYME TIME ---

Audie has a fan club,
An especially nice one too;
It is always prompt and ready
In answering letters to you.

His journal is always very nice,
Which Audie's life is in,
He answers questions, letters and
such,
In this wonderful book of him.

Audie's family is built of three,
An attractive bunch they are;
Audie, Pam, and Terry, too
Live in California, so far.

*Barbara Carback
Thurmont, Maryland*

QUIZZING AUDIE

- Q. Would you like to make a picture based on your book "To Hell and Back?"
- A. Yes, in fact Universal-International is planning on it sometime in the next two years.
- Q. To what factory [sic] do you attribute your success as an actor?
- A. In my case, pure luck.
- Q. Does Pam have any desire to appear in pictures?
- A. No.
- Q. Would you like to do a stage play?
- A. Yes, eventually.
- Q. Do you like to sign autographs?
- A. Yes.

- Q. Do you prefer technicolor pictures?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Is it true Pam was to appear in one of your pictures, but having poison ivy, was unable to do so?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you want your son to be in pictures?
- A. If he so desires. I think a child should choose his own career or profession.
- Q. Do you want to make other pictures besides westerns?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you appear in "Texas, Brooklyn & Heaven?"
- A. Yes.
- Q. What is the name of your Doberman Pinscher?
- A. My Doberman died, his name was 'Ranger'. I now have a Weimaraner given to me by John Houston [sic] and his name is "Big John."
- Q. Did you enjoy working with Stephan McNally and Susan Cabot?
- A. Yes, very much. They are both really wonderful people.
- Q. What is your next picture?
- A. "Gunsmoke"
- Q. Who are your co-stars?
- A. Susan Cabot, Paul Kelly, Jack Kelly, and Charles Drake.
- Q. Have you written any other books other than "To Hell and Back"?
- A. No.

Q. Do you think fans help make a star?

A. Yes, definitely.

Q. Would you like to make any suggestions for the next journal?

A. No, I think Margaret and all the staff are really doing a wonderful job.

Q. Do you like questionnaires?

A. Yes.



GUNSMOKE publicity movie still with Audie Murphy and Susan Cabot. Image courtesy of Eva Dano.



GUNSMOKE movie still with Audie Murphy and Jesse White.
Image courtesy of M.D. Marks.



GUNSMOKE lobby card courtesy of M.D. Marks.