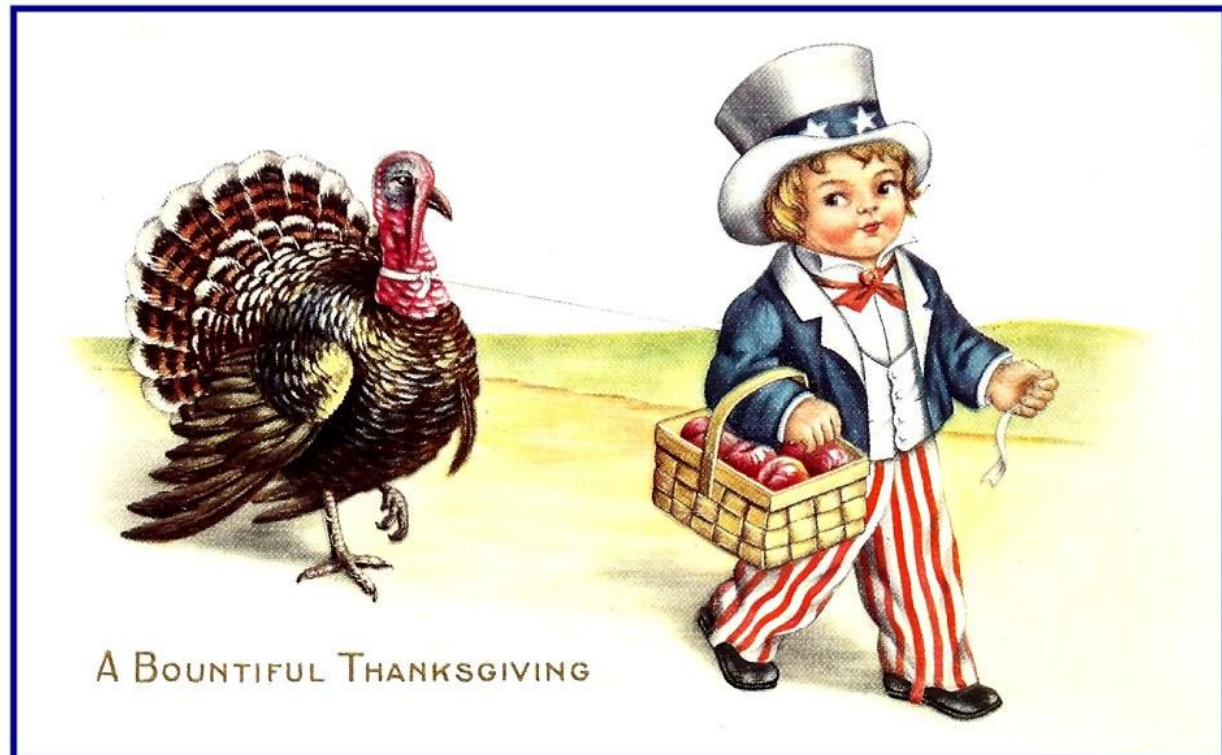




WEBFOOTER EXTRA

NOVEMBER 2016

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



- ◆ Baseball History – see page 3.
- ◆ Remembering the Wild, Wild West – Audie Murphy – see page 6.

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REMEMBERING BASEBALL - AMERICA'S PASTIME



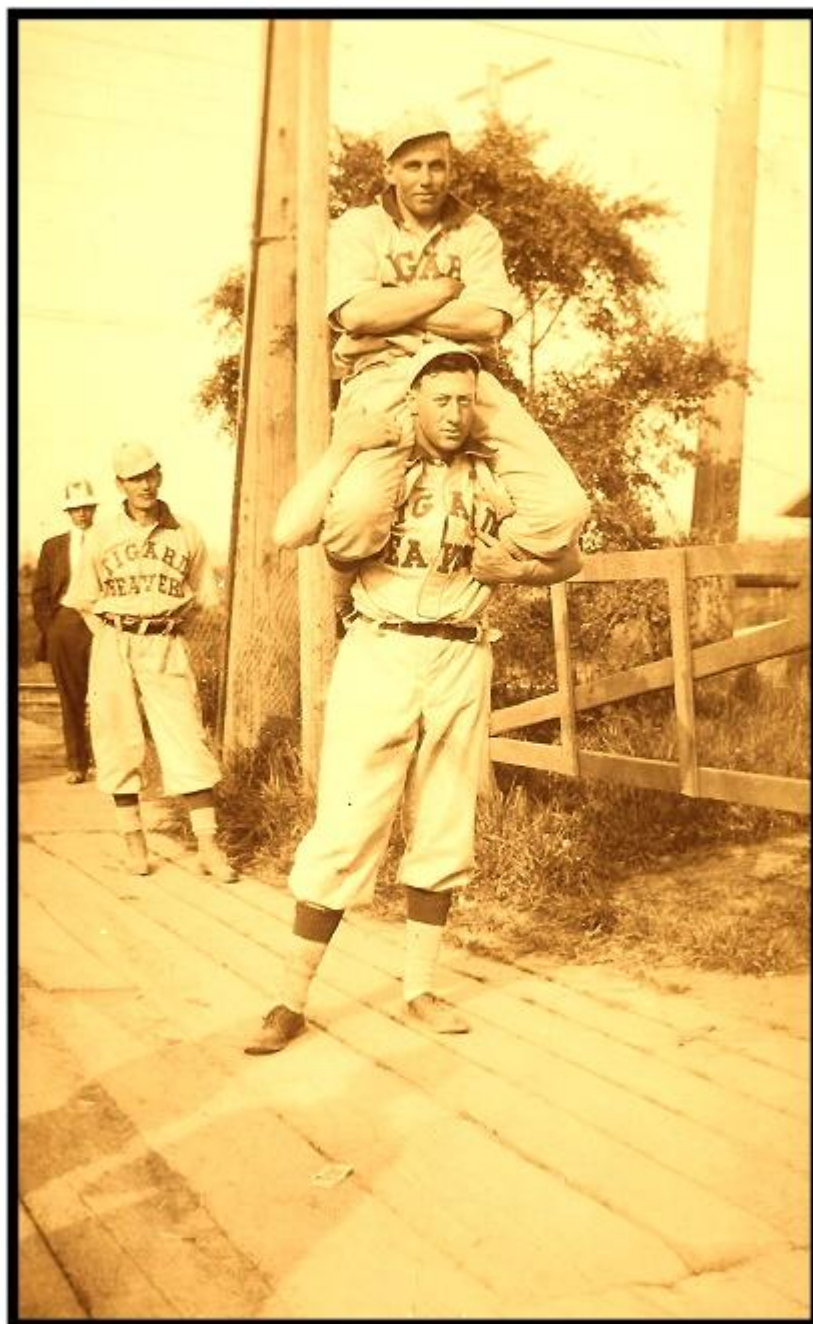
The Tigard Beavers, a semi-professional team, played from 1912 to 1915. Bill Schamoni is holding the bat. Also in the photo: Harry Kuehne, the two Welk brothers, Armour Ariss and the Rehberg brothers.

This recently discovered postcard of the Tigard Beavers baseball team was somewhat of a mystery until we posted it on our Facebook page to see if anyone had any info about it. By sharing the post with a Facebook group, Dead Memories Portland with nearly 13,000 members, we got a response from Valri Darling who volunteers with the Tigard Historical Association. Apparently, this photo was published in the Tigard Times newspaper in July 1976.

According to The Oregonian, the Tigard Beavers were slated to play the Foresters of America in Tigard on May 14, 1914. Then on July 1, 1914, the Beavers lost to the Villa Cubs 10-6.

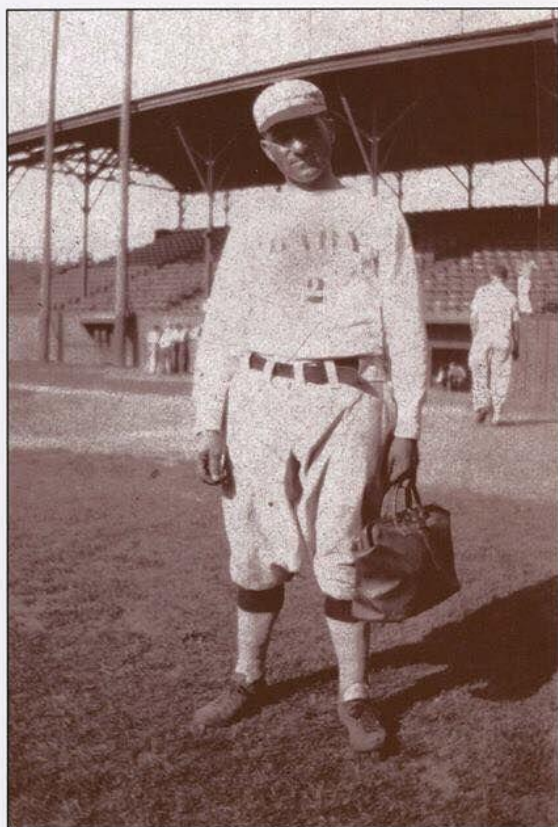
Baseball has been on a lot of people's minds lately with the recent historic win of the World Series by the Chicago Cubs for the first time in 108 years. They beat the Cleveland Indians in the best four of seven games.

Ninety-two years ago on October 4, 1924 KGW Radio inaugurated Portland's first play-by-play sports broadcast, during game one of the World Series at 11:00 am, via special Western Union wire direct from the ballpark and recreated by KGW announcers in Portland. The entire series was broadcast between the Washington Senators versus the New York Giants. The Washington Senators were the winners in seven games.



Another rare view of the Tigard Beavers circa 1914.

**Join us Nov. 19, 2016 for our Annual Meeting
Hear Don Nelson talk about his newest book:
The Sons of Slabtown & Tales of Westside Sports**



The Sons of Slabtown & Tales of Westside Sports



Donald R. Nelson



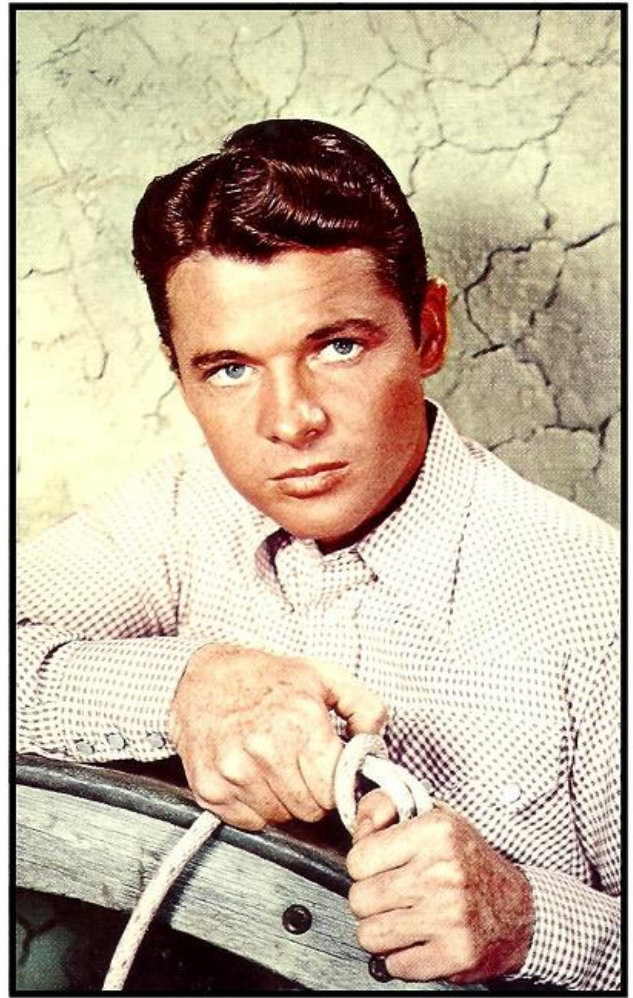
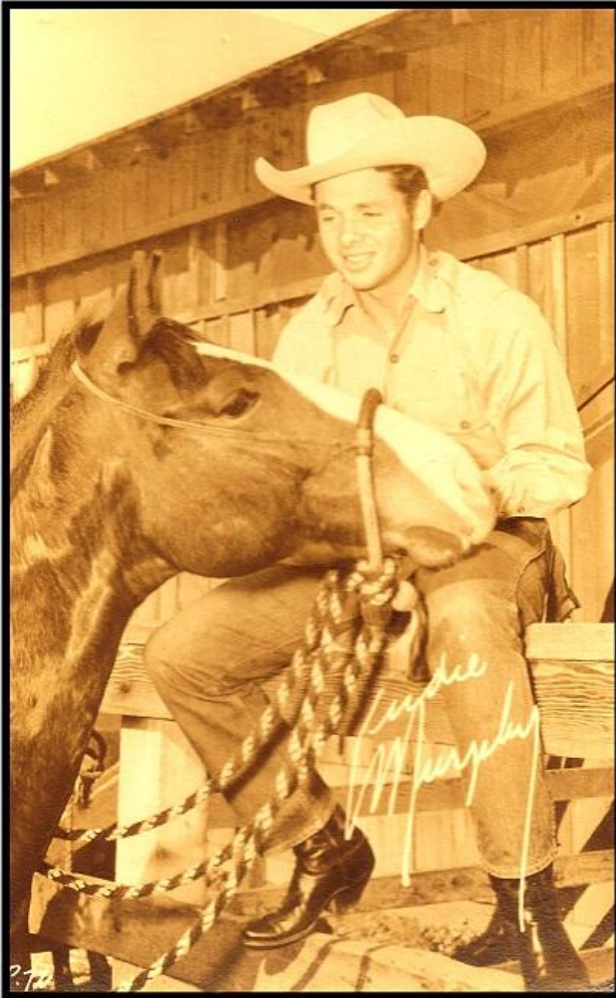
1950 PORTLAND "LUCKY BEAVERS"



BACK ROW: Bill Sweeney (Mgr.), Jim Gladd, Bill Elbert, Johnny Rucker, Fenton Mole, Vince DeBiasi, "Red" Adams, Bill Fleming, Cal McIrvine, Bill Mulligan (Gen. Mgr.)
MIDDLE ROW: Joe Brovia, Roy Helsor, Luis Marquez, Mickey Rocco, Ed Barr, Bob Drilling, Vic Mastro, Jack Creel, Ed Basinski, Art Mills (Coach).
FRONT ROW: Lyman Linde, Hills Layne, John Ritchey, Steve Mesner, "Tip" Berg (Trainer), Leo Thomas, Dain Clay, "Red" Lynn, Frank Austin. **Griffith Family**



Remembering the Wild, Wild West Audie Murphy — Decorated Soldier



The most decorated soldier of World War II, Audie Murphy, returned home a hero and became an actor, mostly starring in westerns.

Audie Leon Murphy, who was born on June 20, 1925, was the most decorated American combat soldier of World War II, receiving every military combat award for valor available from the U.S. Army, as well as French and Belgian awards for heroism. Murphy received the Medal of Honor for valor demonstrated at the age of 19 for single-handedly holding off an entire company of German soldiers for an hour at the Colmar Pocket in France in January 1945, then leading a successful counterattack while wounded and out of ammunition.

Murphy was born into a large sharecropper family in Hunt County, Texas. His father abandoned them, and his mother died when he was a teenager. Murphy left school in fifth grade to pick cotton and find other work to help support his family; his skill with a hunting rifle was a necessity for putting food on the table. Murphy helped feed his mother and siblings by hunting rabbits and other small animals around their property.



Murphy's older sister helped him to falsify documentation about his birth date to meet the minimum-age requirement for enlisting in the military, and after being turned down by the Navy and the Marine Corps, he enlisted in the Army. He first saw action in the invasion of Sicily and the Battle of Anzio and in 1944 was part of the liberation of Rome and invasion of southern France.

In June 1945, Murphy returned home from Europe a hero and was greeted with parades and elaborate banquets. *LIFE* magazine honored the brave, baby-faced soldier by putting him on the cover of its July 16, 1945 issue. That photograph inspired actor James Cagney to call Murphy and invite him to Hollywood to begin an acting career. Despite his celebrity, however, Murphy struggled for years to gain recognition.

After the war, Murphy enjoyed a 21-year acting career. Murphy was a fairly accomplished songwriter, and bred quarter horses. Suffering from what would today be termed posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), he slept with a loaded handgun under his pillow and looked for solace in addictive sleeping pills.



In 1949, Murphy published his autobiography, *To Hell and Back*. The book quickly became a national bestseller, and in 1955, the movie was a hit and held Universal Studio's record as its highest-grossing motion picture until 1975. Murphy would go on to make 44 feature films in all. In addition to acting, he became a successful country music songwriter, and many of his songs were recorded by well-known artists, including Dean Martin, Jerry Wallace and Harry Nilsson.

His 1949 film *Bad Boy* gave him his first leading role. The film's financial backers refused to bankroll the project unless Murphy was given the lead; thus, Allied Artists put aside their reservations about using an inexperienced actor and gave him the starring role.

Universal Studios signed Murphy to a seven-year studio contract at \$2,500 a

week. His first film for them was as Billy the Kid in *The Kid from Texas* in 1950. He wrapped up that year making *Sierra* starring Wanda Hendrix, who by that time had become his wife, and *Kansas Raiders* as outlaw Jesse James. Universal lent him to MGM in 1951 at a salary of \$25,000 to play the lead of The Youth in *The Red Badge of Courage*, directed by John Huston. Murphy and Huston worked together again in the 1960 film *The Unforgiven*.

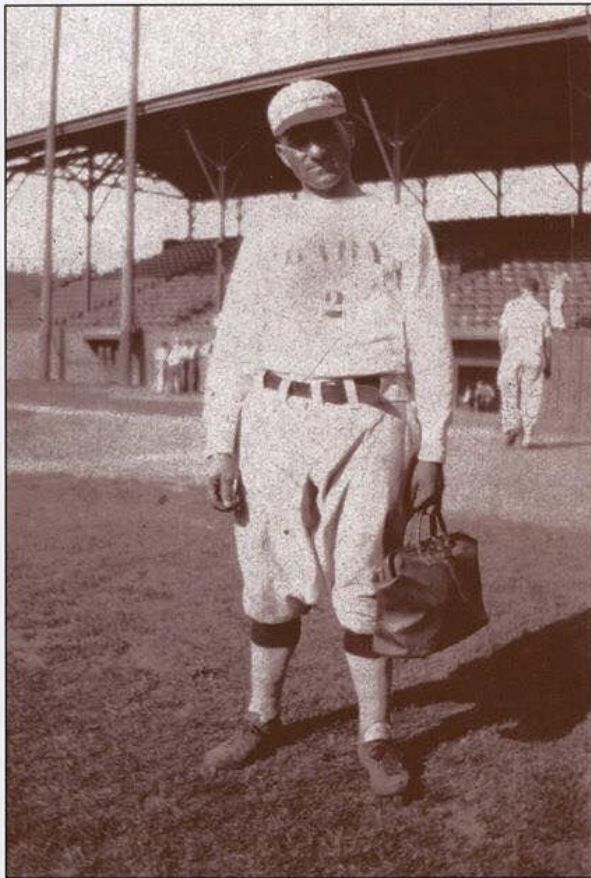
The only film Murphy made in 1952 was *The Duel at Silver Creek* with director Don Siegel. In 1953, he starred in *Column South*, and played Jim Harvey in *Tumbleweed*. Murphy was cast as the lead in *Destry*, the 1954 remake of *Destry Rides Again*.

Although Murphy was initially reluctant to appear as himself in *To Hell and Back*, the 1955 adaptation of his book, he eventually agreed; it became the biggest hit in the history of Universal Studios at the time. To help publicize the release of the film, he made guest appearances on television shows such as *What's My Line*, *Toast of the Town* and *Colgate Comedy Hour*. Murphy continued making movies, mostly westerns.

Audie Murphy recognized the opportunity available to him as an actor as interest and popularity in television grew. In 1959 he began filming a short-lived television series known as "Whispering Smith". The series was a western situated in Denver and Audie Murphy was the star playing Tom "Whispering" Smith. Guy Mitchell and Sam Buffington co-starred. Plagued with problems "Whispering Smith," had a total of 26 episodes that were produced before it was cancelled in 1961.

Murphy bred quarter horses at the Audie Murphy Ranch in what is now Menifee, California, and the Murphy Ranch in Pima County, Arizona. His horses raced at the Del Mar Racetrack and he invested large sums of money in the hobby. Murphy had a gambling habit that left his finances in a poor state. In 1968, he stated that he lost \$260,000 in an Algerian oil deal and was dealing with the Internal Revenue Service over unpaid taxes. In spite of his financial difficulties, Murphy refused to appear in commercials for alcohol and cigarettes, mindful of the influence he would have on the youth market.

On May 28, 1971, Murphy was killed when the private plane in which he was a passenger crashed into Brush Mountain, near Catawba, Virginia, 20 miles west of Roanoke in conditions of rain, clouds, fog and zero visibility. The pilot and four other passengers were also killed. On June 7, 1971 Murphy was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. It is the cemetery's second most-visited grave site, after that of President John F. Kennedy.



The Sons of Slabtown & Tales of Westside Sports



Donald R. Nelson