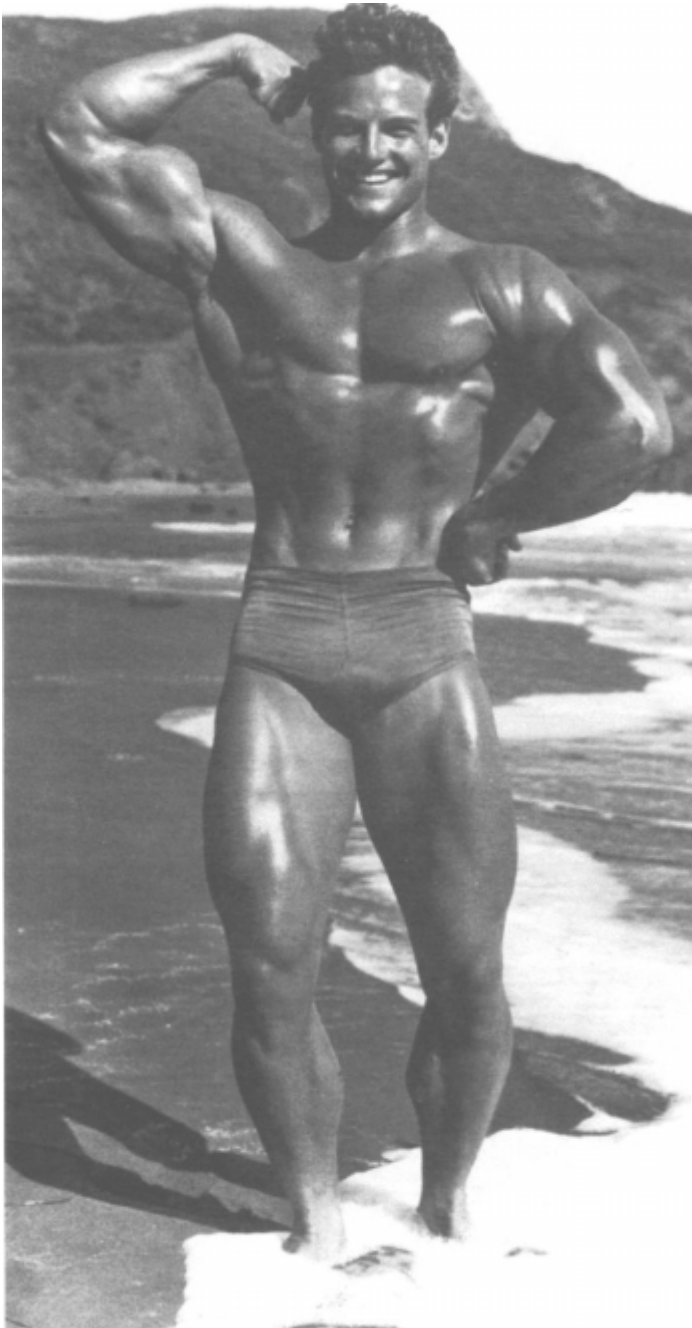


The Immortal Reeves

by Les Stockton



Two beach icons—Steve Reeves and Diamond Head.

Steve Reeves was perfect the first time I saw him, after his early training at the gyms of Jack LaLanne and, especially, that of Ed Yarick, who nurtured the early development of this classic legend.

Beginning with 17 inch calves [in high school], the widest shoulders and a small waist, six feet tall and with an eventual 215 pounds, as handsome as any movie idol, Steve had a body that easily and quickly responded to the weight training. Once in a lifetime someone special comes along and Ed Yarick knew Steve was one of these.

When Steve stayed with us on visits to Southern California, perfection required perfection, as Steve was very meticulous about the preparation of his nutritious meals. So Pudgy became an even better cook. At that time she—and I—certainly thought Steve would live forever.

Of course, she couldn't have known that she would be featured 50 years later in an article in the April 2000 issue of the Association of Oldtime Barbell & Strongmen Newsletter with a picture displaying her and Steve. Nor could she have anticipated the editor's [Vic Boff's] observation that they were the supreme examples of the natural [pre-chemical] "Classical" physiques—the male and female "Epitomes of Physical Development." And then just days after reading this incomparable tribute, she was devastated to learn that her "Forever Living" male role model's wonderful, exemplary life had come to an end on May 1, 2000 in a San Diego, California hospital at 74 years of age. Pudgy said, "Oh no, Steve. Not there and too soon."

"Classic Perfection" is the description of Steve that will be remembered by all of us who knew and respected him for his inspiring accomplishments. Steve, you will live forever in our hearts and thoughts, and we shall never forget you.