



In 1977, *Muscle Mag International* publisher Bob Kennedy asked a variety of iron game notables to pay tribute to Steve Reeves' legacy on the occasion of Reeves' 50th birthday. Excerpts from their comments are included in boldface below, along with just a few of the letters and tributes we received from our readers. We thank Bob Kennedy for permission to reprint these, and thank the many loyal *IGH* readers who sent us their personal memories of Steve. We also thank Deborah Engelhorn Reeves for permission to reprint many of the photographs of Steve contained in this issue.

We'd also like to let our readers know that there are two excellent sources for further information about Steve Reeves and his life. Chris LeClaire collaborated with Reeves on an authorized biography called, *Steve Reeves: Worlds to Conquer*. It's a wonderfully illustrated look at Reeves' bodybuilding and movie careers. To purchase, send \$35.00 to: Chris LeClaire at P. O. Box 116, South Chatham, MA 02659. *IGH* readers may also be interested in the official Reeves fan club—the Steve Reeves International Society. It publishes a quarterly magazine, *Classic Physique*, and can be reached at P. O. Box 2625, Malibu, CA 90265. A membership, which includes the magazine, is only \$25.00 a year in the USA and \$35.00 in other countries.

Finally, we apologize for the delay since our last issue. It took several of our authors longer than usual to submit their pieces and then, as we began the layout process of the magazine, our computers became infected with the MTX virus. It took two visits by technicians to get the machine working properly again and after that problem was solved we discovered we had to go back in and restore many files that had become damaged. However, in partial payment for your patience, we've made this issue 44 pages long. We feel that both Steve and our readers deserve the eight pages of extra effort.

—Jan and Terry Todd



**It was the Reeves movies more than anything else that inspired my training in the late 50s and early 60s. His films also marked the beginning of the public acceptance of bodybuilding**

—Frank Zane

Dear *IGH*:

Terry's piece on Reeves in the May/June 2000 *Iron Game History* was a beautifully written tribute! Doreen and I read it aloud to each other, pausing at the elegant passages, wiping away a tear or two, and just smiling in appreciation and gratitude that you folks are there doing what you do so well! So little is reported on our heroes in the national press, so little accord is given to the lifetimes spent in pursuit of our sport . . . I sincerely hope that Steve Reeves is happy wherever he is, but I am certain he knew that all of his achievements were on record and part of the Iron Game attic at UT and that his history would be in good hands.

Spencer Maxcy  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

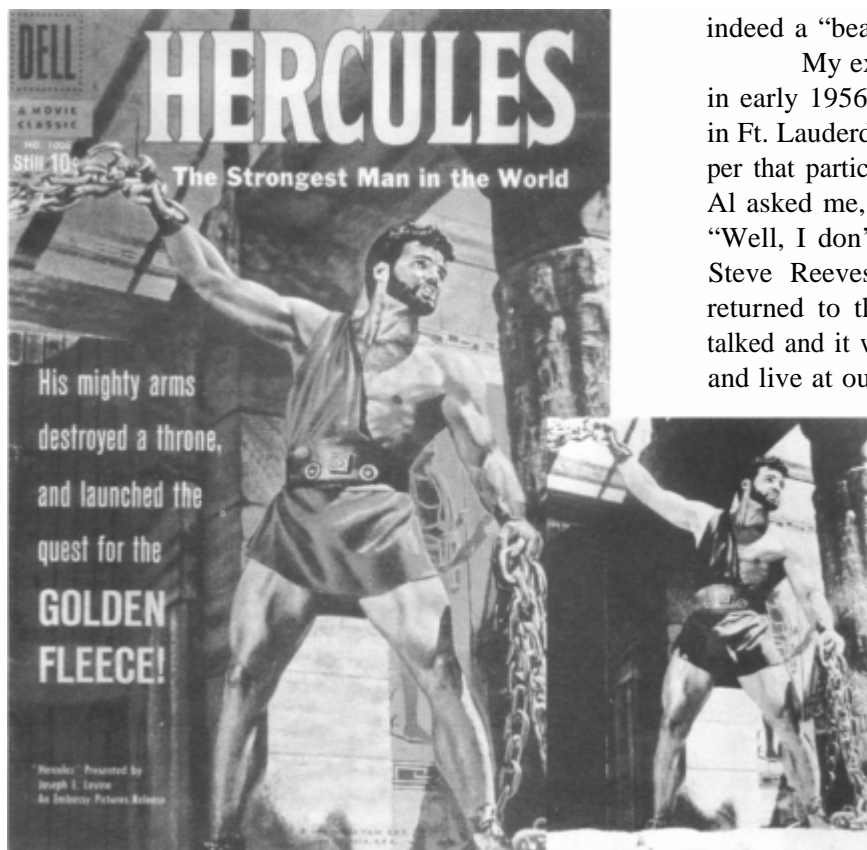


**The greatest compliment I could ever pay any man is the way Steve made me feel the first time I ever met him; I could not stand being in the same room with him! He made me feel totally inadequate as a bodybuilder . . . Steve was Michelangelo's concept of the perfectly formed man!**

—Vince Gironda

Dear *IGH*:

I knew Steve from the 1940s prior to his Mr. America win. Steve was long recognized as a great champion and made a tremendous contribution to physical fitness. His "Hercules" of the screen influenced millions of people to become healthy and physically oriented. Steve had an ideal physique and never bragged about his achievements in bodybuilding or the film



This publicity photo of Steve Reeves was artistically reproduced in color on the cover on a Dell comic book published in conjunction with the release of *Hercules*.

world. He was a very humble person. His personality projected an image of what people actually thought about him. Because of his Hercules fame, he influenced millions of young people with his clean living and clean thoughts. And he was a great role model for all the kids of America. His star in the world of physical culture will shine forever alongside those of his great contemporaries.

**Vic Boff, President  
Oldtime Barbell & Strongmen Association**



**We used to wonder what it would be like to be like  
Reeves—the best looking, best built man God has  
ever created.**

**—Larry Scott**

**Dear IGH:**

I am so pleased you are going to devote your entire magazine next time to Steve Reeves. He was

indeed a “beautiful gentleman.”

My ex-husband Al and I first encountered Steve in early 1956. He unexpectedly showed up at our gym in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. When Al came home for supper that particular night, someone walked in behind him. Al asked me, “Do you know who this is?” I answered, “Well, I don’t know who he is, but he looks just like Steve Reeves.” Steve stayed for supper and then returned to the gym with Al. During the evening we talked and it was mutually agreed that Steve would come and live at our home for awhile. It seems Steve and his wife, Sandra Smith, were separated and getting a divorce. When that was finalized Sandra drove off with her belongings in her Volkswagen across county to California.

Steve then settled in at our home for the next several months. We introduced him to the islands off Florida—Nassau in the Bahamas, and the Caribbean. The natives down there knew of him and he was constantly stopped on the sidewalk to sign autographs, and snap photos. He was having a great time and was most congenial to everyone. Steve, Al and I and all our close friends had a great time socializing or just sitting at home watch-

ing TV. He was also working out quite hard and made great gains at that particular time. Eventually he left in his Karman Ghia for the West Coast.

I must tell you about one important incident that

Steve played a great part in. We had two little boys and I was expecting a third child in the fall. Our driveway was on a steep upward slant beside the house. In those days nobody locked their cars. One Sunday afternoon we were all in the living room just relaxing after lunch, and Steve just happened to glance out the window and saw our station wagon rolling backwards down the drive. He leaped up and ran outside and stopped the vehicle just as it was crossing the road and saved our two little guys, before Al and I could even get there.

Guess I better quit here as I am sure you will be receiving lots of info from other folks that he encountered through out his life. This family is most saddened at Steve’s passing. It seems impossible that he would succumb to anything.

**Vera Hope Christensen  
Las Vegas, NV**



**I can remember the first time I saw Steve. It was 1952 at Leo Stern's Gym. I was never so impressed with a male in my life.**

—Bill Pearl

**Dear IGH:**

Thanks for your tribute issue to Steve Reeves. In 1949, I introduced Steve to Mario Lanza, while we worked out in Santa Monica on Muscle Beach. Steve loved classical music and Lanza's voice. Lanza, who loved to use weights, loved to be around Steve Reeves. They had a great feeling for one another.

Many years later, in 1957, both Steve and Mario were making films at the same studio in Italy (the Ciuecitta Studio). They were able to renew their friendship in Italy. A lot of people may not know this, but Steve was a very sensitive person; for a hobby he wrote poetry and listened to classical music.

Also wanted to let you know that the Venice Beach Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Parks and Recreation recently held an event, produced and emceed by Bill Howard. Thousands of people were present, and the Award was a gold-plated American Eagle that said, "Spirit of Muscle Beach Award, presented to Terry Robinson, in recognition for your many years of service to the sport, the art form and lifestyle of Bodybuilding. July 4, 2000." Previous winners include Harold Zinkin, Steve Reeves, Jack LaLanne, and Abbye (Pudgy) Stockton.

It's great to be able to inspire others to keep developing their bodies and minds. I've been encouraging people for over 60 years now.

**Terry Robinson  
Los Angeles, CA**



**Steve Reeves was the first man that was responsible for getting bodybuilding to the general public through his films. He did a hell of a job with it and was a good actor and should get a lot of credit for putting bodybuilding where it is today.**

—Arnold Schwarzenegger

**Dear IGH,**

First of all, it's hard to believe that you've been doing this for over a decade now, right? I just realized this when recently receiving a Xerox copy of *IGH* volume I number 1. It really has been a blessing, especially with so many of the old folks like Perry Rader, Bob Hoffman, John Grimek, Vince Gironda, and now, Steve Reeves gone from this world.

Your last issue, which has as the lead story the report of Reeves' death makes me recall meeting him about five years ago at a movie fan convention here in Chicago. It was promoted by a guy named Bud Courts, who holds such shows all over the country. They have many celebs and a whole lot of venders selling videos, photos, lobby cards, etc. Well, here I was, walking along with my head sort of down, looking at the merchandise available, when I noticed that whoever's table this was, he had an awful lot of Steve Reeves photos. Well, finally these old eyes of mine looked up and there was Mr. Reeves, himself, in the flesh! Needless to say, I quickly obtained an autographed photo (one of those from the series taken by Lanza) and did some chatting. Steve was a man of 70 yet he had the vitality of a 30 year-old, and looked great.

Once again, thanks for *Iron Game History*. And keep up the good work! With the quality of the publication, and the information, you'd think you'd have hundreds or thousands of Patron subscribers.

**John T. (Red) Ryan  
Chicago, Illinois**



**Steve Reeves was directly responsible for my career in motion pictures. Steve opened the door for me (and other bodybuilder/actors) with his success as Hercules in Italy in the late fifties.**

—Brad Harris