

...were returned marked "DECEASED". I saw him last year at the Golf Bash and he looked like death warmed over. Rumor has it he died from AIDS.

September 21st,
Same address. Same phone.

Dear Joe,

Thanks for your card mailed from Chicago, dated September 17th and here yesterday, the 20th.

I ~~had~~ heard Honey had won, but not who placed 2nd and 3rd. Before the contest took place--- way before--- there was a heavy buzz going around that Ray was gonna "win." He was also doing a load of bragging as to what he was gonna do to Honey when he got him on the platform or whatever. In view of this, it would be interesting to learn what Ray's reaction was when they announced him as "third."

In any case It is my thought I wouldnt want him representing Mr O, since he had already been booted out of a contest as winner for use of illegal drugs. I would have suspended him for life. If you havent already, I suggest you read Rick Wayne's book MUSCLE WARS. It gives a good account of what went on behind the scenes of contests, how Brother Ben got up at every one and said hpw it was impossible to "fix" an IFBB contest. Wayne repeats this time after time, so perhaps it was his way of saying Ben protested too much. While the book is no great American novel, it does interest one.

I have some news for you and none of it good.

I suppose y'u have heard of the death of Leo Gaudreau, some time in July I think. Now here was one of the nicest and most honest blokes in the Game, entirely untainted by certain of his associates. He and his wife had been married for 62 years. He was close to 86 when he hopped it. I imagine it was the result of two strokes he had had. He was in a nursing home at the time of his death.

Bert Assirati is dead. He passed away on August 31st at 8PM. His sister Nellie had phoned Joe Assirati to tell him Bert was in a bad way. Then Bert's wife, Marjorie, called Joe on the 30th of August to ask him to contact me and let me know Bert was in a bad way. Later on I got a letter from her. She told me Bert had gone into the hospital on the 13th of August for some sort of treatment and seemed to be doing OK. Then on the 30th the hospital called her and told her to get there fast. When she arrived Bert didnt know who she was and died a day later. Cause of death, cancer of the bladder. Bert wasnt buried until September 13th. I'll let you have all the details when I get them.

Next, Leo Murdock is also in a bad way. He had been having bowel trouble for some time and finally went to the doctor's. Diagnosis--- cancer of the colon. But when they operated on him they found it was too late--- it had spread to the liver. I have tried to get them three times without success.

Joe Wender has his ass in a crack. The FDA is onto him for a tanning pill he has been selling. It was on National Television News the other night. Showed the cover of the mag MUSCLE AND FITNESS, then the ad inside the mag. Seems there have been two deaths as a result of using the tanning pill. See some law suits arising out of this.

Dougie Ehite, the NYC photographer is also dead. Bloke I know wrote two letters and both