

4008 Ramsey Avenue Austin,
Texas, 78756 USA,
June 13th, 1989,
512- 452- 0537.

415

Dear Joe,

Your ^{MS} ~~MS~~ garriced yesterday and, as the man who jumped off the Empire State building said as he passed the 80th floor--- All right & far.

I am puzzled by a, to me, cryptic observation, thus

" so that ~~those~~ of you who have STRENGTH & HEALTH magazine March 1939 page 30 will not get "R" and "A" confused--"

enlighten me please. I wasnt aware ~~that~~ any of my offerings had appeared that early in ~~that~~ articular mag. Please, PRETTY PLEASE.

One thing though--- ^{ASSIRATI} I wouldnt be where I am today--- in the weight training world, ~~that is~~, without my friend, philosopher and guide AND brother, Joe ^{ASSIRATI} ~~Assirati~~. Joe is now in his 85th year and knows more about physical culture and weight training than any TEN of the soi-disant COACHES TO THE STARS. In fact he has forgotten more than any given HUNDRED of them ~~ever~~ knew. It was Joe who taught me there is more to winning --- that there is also SHARING and there is also INTEGRITY. To Joe I'll be forever grateful and indebted.

I was surprised by the people who had so many good things to say about me. People I have ~~never~~ ~~heard~~ or ~~con~~ corresponded with--- Donne Hale, Angelo Iuspa et al.

I am also a little saddened too--- Here I am, living on a little less than 600 a month, scraping by month after month, when, if I had ~~open~~, I could be a wealthy man now. But at least I have my integrity left me. Better than others who claim to be NATURAL Bodybuilders but who stuffed down steroids like a kid gollops panakes and maple syrup. I didnt believe in promising kids twenty inch arms in three months, or telling them that, with my courses, they could add 150 pounds to their bench presses in two weeks. So I remain poor. And you know why? I LIKE IT THAT WAY. Id rather GIVE than cheat.

I am surprised the Reverend had nothing to say about me. I thought that h4, at least, would have something kind to say. ^{yes} ~~Maye~~ in your next--- ?

It is true, forty years ago, at Hoffie's 50th birthday party I WAS wearing a red check type lumberjacket and ~~Modfie~~ DID say some nice things about me. This was when ~~Davis~~ and I cleaned 450 to put across the shoulders of JIM BRADFORD to do some reps with.

The only thing I object to in the whole affair is when Al Thomas called me THE GRDND OLD MAN--- I AINT OLD. Grand I may be, but not old,

cheers,

John