

The Cover

CAPTAIN GARDNER STEVENS

January 29, 1926 - February 24, 2002.

Never was a man so aptly named. You could spell it “Guardner”. His parents must have sensed that their son would be destined to guard lives. And that’s what this man did. With a rare combination of dedication, thoroughness, expertise and stubbornness, Gardner “kept em alive”. First for the beaches of Los Angeles, then Del Mar and later in retirement, in Baja California, Gardner established an incredible legacy. While he was on watch, there were no drownings. His crews rescued thousands. And with his typical twinkle of the eye, he would remind us, “half those people would have gotten in anyway”. The point was always well taken. Without his guidance and vigilance, many would have died. Gardner left us recently and now watches over the beaches of heaven. We can all rest assured that when we get our turn to languish next to the ocean for eternity, the beach and the ocean will be safe because Gardner Stevens will always be on duty.

