



## Progress report from Squaw Valley

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President Prentis C. Hale and Executive Vice President Robert DiGiorgio of the VIIIth Olympic Winter Games Organizing Committee, represented their Association at the International Olympic Committee's meeting in Tokyo, May 13 to 17.

MM. Hale and DiGiorgio presented the latest Progress Report for the 1960 Squaw Valley event, which included a proposal requesting the dates February 18 through 28 be ratified by the International Olympic Committee, which was agreed.

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Taking advantage of the tremendous snowfalls at Squaw Valley this past Winter,

technical advisors for the Organizing Committee conducted successful mechanical snow-packing tests on the cross-country courses near Lake Tahoe.

According to Sheldon Varney, experienced cross-country competitor and chief-of-course for the Olympic cross-country races, the snow-packing machines and accessories used in the tests 'will do the work of many men and will do it better than individuals could do it'.

'A source of worry in the Sierra Nevada area is the possibility that large amounts of snow may fall in short periods of time', Varney reported to the Games organizers. 'These machines will be able to handle the situation and pack trails in a matter of hours.'

Some 180 inches of snow fell in March and the first three days of April 1958 ; 60 inches during a five-day storm that mountaineers tabbed *The April Fool Blizzard*.

Several tractor-roller combinations were used to compact snow before, during and following this storm with the most successful being a four-pontoon Tucker *Sno-Cat* which pulled two metal-sized rollers fitted with hickory planks.

These drums, 33 inches in diameter, packed the snow within an eight-foot track, followed the bumps and contours of the terrain and provided a firm base regardless of the snow depth.

Packers were tested in dry and powdery snow, hard-packed and sticky. Minor adjustments allowed the machines to be used on all surfaces.

The Tucker *Sno-Cat* is the same vehicle used in many of the Antarctic expeditions.

(See our illustrations in this issue.)

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#### OTHER INFORMATION

*Location.* Squaw Valley is located at 200 miles from San Francisco and 40 miles from Reno. Its altitude is of 6,200 feet on the floor of the Valley, a natural amphitheatre, one-half mile wide and two miles long. Squaw Peak rises to 8,885 feet at the West end of the Valley.

*Snowfall.* 450 inches average yearly snowfall ; 88.5 inches average January snow depth ; 96 inches in February and 103 inches in March.

*Weather.* 2.5 degrees Fahrenheit mean temperature in January, 26 degrees in February and 30 degrees in March.

*Dates.* The Games will take place from February 18th through 28th.

*Entries.* Approximately 1,000 athletes from 30 to 35 nations are expected to compete.

*Olympic Arena.* The planned 11,000-seat Arena will be the scene of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies and the majority of the ice hockey and figure skating competitions.

*Speed Skating Rink.* An artificially-refrigerated speed skating rink is being built in Squaw Valley. The 400-meter rink is located adjacent to the ice arena.

*Olympic Village.* All of the competing athletes will be housed together in a separate Olympic Village. This 300-room, seven-building complex is being built in a secluded arena. All of the athletes will live together and will find all facilities.

*Practice rinks.* In addition to the main rink and the speed skating oval, there will

be three practice rinks. Two will be located in the main Olympic area next to the Arena and will be the sight of the Olympic Village. It will require refrigeration equipment.

*Ski Jumps,* 45, 60 and 80-meter Jumps will be constructed in Squaw Valley this Summer. The Jump profiles were designed by Heini Klopfer of Germany, a member of the F.I.S. Jumping Committee. They will be located just south of the Ice Arena.

*Press Facilities.* In addition to the complete accommodation in the Arena, a large Press Building is being constructed in the main Olympic area which will be the center of all press, radio and television coverage of the Games. This building will be 328 feet long by 66 feet wide, and will have working space and all facilities.

The Press Housing will be centered around the Nevada Lodge on the shores of Lake Tahoe, just 7 miles from the Valley. From the Press Housing, Reno can be reached in 40 minutes in automobile. Additional working press facilities will be found at all of the sports venues.

*Spectator Centers.* Two large public restaurants are planned for the Olympic area. Each of these two unique six-sided buildings will have lounge, first-aid, rest-room, restaurant, bar and all facilities within its 372-foot perimeter.

*Roads and. Parking.* Four-lane highways will lead to the entrance of the Valley. Parking for more than 1,000 staff and press vehicles and buses will be located right in the Olympic area, with a public parking designed to handle 10,000 automobiles located nearby.

*Public Housing.* Public housing accommodations for more than 30,000 persons are available within a radius of 40 miles for Squaw Valley. Enquiries should be directed to the Housing Direction of the Organizing Committee.

*Tickets.* Ticket applications are expected to be available in July 1958. Orders will be filled in order of the receipt of applications. Inquiries should be directed to the Ticket Director of the Organizing Committee.

*Transportation of Athletes.* The Organizing Committee will provide round trip air transportation from central pick up points to Squaw Valley and return, along with housing and board for up to 21 days for a total of 500 dollars per man. This will apply to all competing athletes and those officials covered under International Olympic Committee Rules. (A real gift ! *Ed.*)

*Television coverage.* It is expected that the Games will receive the widest television coverage of any sports events in history. They will be seen in colour and will reach

a potential audience of 140 million people in United States and 40 millions in Europe. TV towers will be erected along the Alpine courses so that the cameras can provide a complete pictorial sequence of each racer's effort from start to finish. Closed-circuit television may be used to bring the skiing events right into the Arena and Spectator Centers

so that public and press can watch the events without going up the mountains.

*Transportations.* Leading United States airlines fly to within a few miles of the Valley. Transcontinental trains stop at Truckee, just 10 miles from the Valley. Major highways make the area easily accessible by private automobile.