



VIIIth Olympic Winter Games

Statement from Squaw Valley

According to the competitors, the officials and the press observers, Squaw Valley's 1959 Trial Events were a big success. The courses, jumping hills, skating rinks, speed skating oval and other facilities were roundly applauded by winter sports officials here for the North American Championship. International Ski Federation technical delegate for Alpine events Friedl Wolfgang called five of the six courses 'excellent'.

* * *

Olympic Jumps – Heine Klopfer, International Ski Federation technical delegate said 'It could not have been better', when asked about the jumping competitions. Last summer, when he approved the new 40, 60 and 80 metres jumps, he said 'The Squaw Valley jump is definitely the best Olympic jumping facility ever designed. This is the first time the specifications have ever been followed so closely'.

* * *

Speed Skating Oval – Used in competition for the first time, the new 400 meter, artificially frozen oval was praised by racers and officials.

* * *

Cross Country Courses – Knut Korsvold, International Ski Federation delegate originally selected the courses at McKinney Creek but had not seen them completely prepared. He said that he was 'extremely well pleased'. In addition, Bjorn Kjellstrom, vice-president of the International Ski Federation, and Capt. Rolf Gerlofson, technical delegate for the International Union of Modern Pentathlon, both praised the courses.

* * *

When the competitions ended, H.D. Thoreau, Assistant executive Director of the Organizing Committee, said: 'We are grateful for the experience gained during the 1959 Trial Events. We are especially grateful to the competitors and officials who travelled great distances to help us give Squaw Valley this very thorough trial. With the continued advice and counsel of these winter sports experts from all over the world, we feel confident that next year's VIII Olympic Winter Games will be a big success'.

* * *

Scoring of events at the 1960 Olympic Winter Games should be the fastest in history, judging by the performance of a new electronic computer at the recent Trial Events at Squaw Valley.

The computer demonstrated its utility dramatically after the men's slalom when results of the race were distributed to newsmen while they were still interviewing competitors at the finish line. Even more impressive, results of the jumping competitions were off the presses within minutes

after the last jumper touched down. These results have been unavailable for hours in the past because of involved manual calculations!

* * *

WALT DISNEY, famous motion picture producer, best-known for his animated cartoons, has accepted the position of Pageantry Committee Chairman of the VIII Olympic Winter Games. In this capacity, Disney will oversee the staging of the dramatic Olympic pageantry, including the Opening and Closing Ceremonies and the moving Victory Ceremonies which follow each event. Also under his direction will be the traditional relay of the Olympic Torch and the musical programme which will incorporate the national anthems of each of the 34 countries expected to compete.

* * *

Tickets to the Winter Games are now on sale. Tickets applications may be obtained through the Organizing Committee's offices at 333 Market Street, San Francisco 5, California.

* * *

There are three more regulation ice rinks, two adjacent to the Arena and another near the Olympic Village for practice and recreation.

Squaw Valley in Geneva

Mr. Prentis C. Hale, President of the Organizing Committee for the Squaw Valley VIIIth Olympic Winter Games, was last March 20, in Geneva, where he met the Chancellor of the International Olympic Committee to discuss, with him, certain problems concerning these Games.