



VIIIth Olympic Winter Games

at Squaw Valley, California

February 18th to 28th, 1960

The organizers of the Games surpassed themselves beyond all expectations, the Games being an outstanding success both from the technical and administrative point of view. The organization was beyond reproach except for the fact that the press complained that their living accommodations were too far from Squaw Valley (30 km.). As against that, the press enjoyed exceptional facilities such as the wonderful new electronic system I.B.M. RAMAC, a coverage system which gave results which were remarkable in precision and speed, as it gave out the result of each event as it took place in record time.

These Games will certainly mark an epoch in the history of Winter Olympic and we are quite certain that the people who condemned these Games in advance to failure, have by now completely changed their opinion. We would like to mention all the people who worked so hard throughout these ten days at Squaw Valley but this is quite impossible. We shall content ourselves to mention the principal organizers to whom we offer our most sincere congratulations on their splendid achievement; they are: Mr. Prentis C. Hales, President of the Organizing Committee,

Mr. Robert Di Georgio, Vice-President, Mr. Joseph A. Moore, Vice-President and Mr. H. D. Thoreau, General Secretary. A full page of the Bulletin would not suffice to mention all those who deserve the gratitude of the International Olympic Committee, be they the technical advisers, the technical delegates of the International Federations or their presidents. Let us single out, however, Mr. Marc Hodler who presided most efficiently the International Skiing Federation, these Games were looked upon as the Skiing World Championships. Hence, the distribution of the medals won by the athletes of that International Federation had to be featured outside the official Olympic Prize giving ceremony.

THE OPENING CEREMONY

This ceremony took place in accordance with the Olympic Protocol, it was most dignified and was witnessed by 15,000 spectators. The most dramatic moment of this ceremony was undoubtedly the arrival of the Flame (it came from Norway), this was synchronized with the arrival of an Olympic Champion, Mrs. Andrea Mead, who

was escorted by 8 skiers, came down the slope of the Papoose Peak, landed at the Stadium where she was received by a skater, she then lighted the great torch which burnt throughout the Games. The Flame had just covered a journey of 9,000 miles. A brass band composed of 1,300 musicians and a chorus of 3,000 singers performed the *Olympic Anthem*. The young olympic champion of figure skating, 20 years old Carol Heiss, took the oath on behalf of all the athletes present. The symbolical release of 2,000 carrier pigeons (some of which preferred to stay at home in Squaw Valley during the Games!) was followed by the release of 20,000 balloons ending by magnificent fireworks, two innovations which were not foreseen on the Protocol, they were organized by Walt Disney and gave a superb final touch to this imposing ceremony.

THE GAMES

From the technical point of view, these Games ran smoothly without a hitch; a thing for which the organizers are indebted to the International Federations as the latter appointed teams of highly specialized technicians who deserve to be praised for their excellent work. On the first Sunday, a crowd of 47,000 spectators witnessed the various events, the total attendance of spectators to the Games amounted to approximatively 250,000. The car park foresaw accommodation for more than 10,000 cars, this number was reached on the first Sunday of the Games.

THE CLOSING CEREMONY

This ceremony was held in accordance with the Protocol and drew thousands of spectators. It was most impressive and dignified. Mr. Avery Brundage, President of the International Olympic Committee pronounced the closing of the Games which synchronized with the release of 20,000 balloons, and a spectacular firework projecting into the sky parachutes which carried the flags of the thirty nations present at the Games, this was a dazzling finale to the Ceremony. A lone pigeon was seen flying over the Ice Rink, one of the 2,000 pigeons which stayed behind!

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The little village of Squaw Valley has earned for itself a reputation of perfection thanks to the Winter Olympics which were held there and we venture to predict that this little village holds out bright prospects for the future and is likely to become one of the most important winter sport stations. The success of its future depends simply on the judicious exploitation of the publicity this future winter sport station had earned for itself by a flawless organization of the Games. We cannot conclude this brief and very incomplete account of the ceremonies without thanking most sincerely Mrs. Dorothea Walker, Chief of the Protocol, (and her charming fellow-workers) for the valuable assistance she so readily gave to the members of the International Olympic Committee, the leaders of the various olympic organizations and in particular to President Brundage and the author of these lines.

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1964

Now let us turn to Innsbruck, the host city of our future Winter Olympic Games, which are to be held there in 1964. The organizers sent out a *team* of specialists to Squaw Valley where, in a specially built chalet, they held exhibition model of what the IXth Games are going to be. The Mayor of Innsbruck, Mr. Lugger, was there personally in attendance assisted by Dr. Edgar Fried, General Secy, to the Austrian Olympic Committee.

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RECEPTIONS

The members of the International Olympic Committee were overwhelmed with kind invitations from all quarters. It is quite impossible to mention them all. The Opening Ceremony of the Session in San Francisco was very well carried out in every respect.

The speeches pronounced on this occasion are published in the present issue of the Bulletin. Let us mention the dinner offered by Mr. Brown, Governor of California; it was held in the Garden Court of the Sheraton Palace hotel at San Francisco, as well as the equally sumptuous dinner offered by Mr. Sawyer, Governor of Nevada, at Carson City. A big ball in honour of the members of the International Olympic Committee was held at the St. Francis Hotel at San Francisco; its success was enhanced from the fact that there was a large attendance of the high society of the town who attended the ball on the invitation of the Mayor of the City and Mrs. and Mr. Prentis Hale, president of the Organizing Committee of the Games. All thanks are due to the countless people who did so much to make the sojourn of the members of the International Olympic Committee such a happy one. Californians did live up to their reputation indeed!

(See page 10 Official Results).