

Lake Placid 1980



IOC Press Commission meeting

The final date has been fixed for the meeting of the Press Commission on 13th February, the day after Commission members will have inspected the competition sites. The tour has been arranged expressly during the competitions for the world sprint speed skating and bobsleigh championships on 11th and 12th February so that members may see the facilities provided and the way they function.

Construction update

In our No. 114 we mentioned details on certain of the Olympic sites. Recent LPOOC press releases inform us that construction is going ahead on schedule. The 400 m speed skating oval has been completed and will be used for the first trial event when the world sprint speed skating championships are held. Work is also progressing on the three-storey judges' building at Intervale Ski Hill, the luge run, and the athletes' housing, site in Ray Brook which is scheduled for completion in October 1979.

The 70 m and 90 m ski jump towers and topping columns have been completed and the Field House construction is on schedule.

To date there have been 34 contracts awarded for Olympic construction projects, totalling more than \$22 million (SF44 million).

New administration offices

Finishing touches have been made to the North Elba Town Hall in Main Street where the LPOOC administration will have its permanent offices. By the time we go to press the headquarters should have moved from their temporary premises.

Press services

The Press Section of the LPOOC has been divided into two areas of responsibility in

order to carry out its work better in caring for the press during the XIIIth Winter Games. There will now be a Press Chief, Mr. Ed Lewi, and a Press Service Director, Mr. Ed Stransenback.

Ed Lewi has 22 years of newspaper and public relations experience and began his career in the editorial department of the *Schenectady Gazette* as a sports writer and columnist. He has worked as a correspondent and photographer for both the UPI and AP wire services, as well as having done television and radio broadcasting and publicity and promotional work.

He has been working with the LPOOC for over a year and his responsibilities as Press Chief are as follows : maintaining a continuous flow of information on all aspects of the planning and preparation phases of the Winter Games which is disseminated through several different formats-press releases, press conferences, weekly news briefs, tabloid publications (six times yearly), personal interviews (all media), press tours and briefings and personal contacts with local, regional and national news media.

Ed Stransenback, the Press Service Director, was appointed in February 1977 and has over 15 years' experience in journalism and public relations. He has been affiliated with several American newspapers and was the sports editor of the "*Press Republican*" for five years. As well as this he was a consultant to the New York State Legislature.

As Press Service Director, Mr. Stransenback is responsible for the advance planning of press accreditation, transportation, accommodation, photographic services and organisation of all necessary support facilities for approved international news agencies.

New appointments

Mr. Arch S. Swinyer has recently joined the Marketing Committee of the LPOOC as a

(Continued on page 51)

Lake Placid 1980

(Continued from page 23)

Deputy Director specialising in broadcast communications.

Most of Mr. Swinyer's professional life has been concerned with electronics, broadcasting and marketing.

Mr. Douglas Hoffman, the newly appointed Assistant Controller at the LPOOC headquarters, has the job of watchfully controlling the purse strings of the LPOOC.

Future events

1979 will see major world championships in Lake Placid. In February luge-riders from twenty-six countries will compete in world cup events. This competition will serve as a test of the new Olympic luge run and is an event that must be held to comply with an FIL ruling that before a luge facility can host an Olympic or world class event, it must first have been host to an international luge competition. The President of the FIL and the Chairman of its Technical Committee will inspect construction progress at the new facility in April 1978.

In late February / early March 1979 there will be the world cup Alpine ski competition at Whiteface Mountain. The events will be held on the trails presently being cut or modified and groomed for the 1980 Winter Games.

Visits

Messrs. Rato Melcher and Hubert Spiess, both FIS technical delegates, recently inspected construction progress at Whiteface and said that if all goes as planned, Whiteface will be one of the best Alpine skiing facilities in the world.

Members of the Norwegian Olympic Committee visited Lake Placid at the end of November and Mr. Arne B. Mollén, the NOC President, later said that he was quite impressed with the new 70 m and 90 m ski jump towers. He thought that the cross-country and biathlon venues were very good and the facilities for the competitors excellent.

