



## Los Angeles 84



### Olympic Torch

The Olympic Flame, kindled traditionally by the sun's rays at Olympia, will be handled by up to 10,000 Americans in a historic, imaginative relay ending in the lighting of the giant torch in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum to signal the opening of the Games of the XXIIIrd Olympiad next year

And the relay will raise some \$30 million for youth athletics in America through the LAOOC plan to sell sponsorships for the relay. Individuals, groups or organisations may nominate a torch-bearer to run one kilometer on the 19,000 kilometer route for a payment of \$3000 to the Los Angeles committee's "Torch Relay Foundation". This money, which is tax-deductible, will be returned to local sports communities throughout the United States to support sports programmes. The total number of sponsorships is to be limited to 10,000, with the remainder of the torch route being run by a special team of 150 experienced athletes.

The torch relay, a tradition begun at the Games in Berlin, 1936, will pass through every state in the Union. When the flame reaches Seattle, it will ignite two further torches which will be flown separately to Alaska and Hawaii for relays in these states, and in all it is expected to pass through. 1500 cities and towns in the U.S. From Olympia to Athens, the flame will be run by some 675 young people, then taken from Athens to New York by chartered aircraft. The total journey from Olympia to Los Angeles will be some 12,000 miles, one of the longest in Olympic history.

The first leg of this massive relay, from New York City, and sponsored personally by Peter Ueberroth, President of the LAOOC, will be run by Gina Hemphill, granddaughter of Jesse Owens, the outstanding champion of the 1936 Games, and by Bill Thorpe jr., grandson of Jim Thorpe, the famous Olympic champion of the Games of 1912, in Stockholm.

The LAOOC's conception of the 1984 Olympic Torch Relay is expected to be the largest-ever fund-raiser for youth that the world has known.

### Transportation

On a hot Saturday this summer, the traffic situation in Los Angeles, the cause of some concern for the Games of the XXIII Olympiad next year, was put to the test - and passed.

On Saturday August 6, with a temperature of 106 degrees registered at the LA Civic Centre (the hottest August 6 since 1684), a freakish series of public events co-incident in the ultimate automobile city, putting the traffic and freeway systems under the closest of scrutinies.

The Los Angeles Raiders were playing the San Francisco 49ers (American football, professional) at the Coliseum, before at least 50,000 people. The Los Angeles Rams were playing the San Diego Chargers (American football, professional) at Anaheim Stadium with an attendance of approximately 50,000. In baseball, the Los Angeles Dodgers met the Atlanta Braves, in Dodger Stadium (50,000+). Motocross at the Rose Bowl, Pasadena was expected to have 50,000 and in addition there was a synchronised swimming event at the new Olympic Pool at USC, cycling at the new Olympic Velodrome in Dominguez Hills, a circus in Exposition Park, and events at the Greek Theatre and the Long Beach Convention Centre.

In total, there were more than 200,000 people on the move, by car, along the freeways, going to and from these entertainments.

Mr. Bill Forsythe, the LAOOC transportation director, studied traffic patterns in two-hour helicopter flights during the afternoon and evening, covering the Greater Los Angeles area. He reported no more than normal freeway and street congestion.

He said, "The traffic was much lighter than I expected... it was a weekend night, which gives us a measure of weekend nights during the Olympics. But this city handles weekend sporting events well, and without too many problems".

Six of the 16 days of the Games - from July 28 to August 12 - will be "weekend" days.



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Opening Ceremonies in the Coliseum will be on a Saturday, Closing Ceremonies on a Sunday.

In addition, an extensive and sophisticated service of buses is being planned to take spectators from distant car parking areas to the venues, so that substantially all parking in the immediate area of the venues will be official.

"When the Coliseum is going with 80,000 spectators for track and field, about 17,000 for boxing in the Sports Arena, and 10,000 in the swimming stadium, we are counting on at least 65 % of the people coming by bus". For Los Angeles, the biggest problems in traffic may come on weekdays, when business and working traffic combines with that of the Olympic Games. This too is being closely studied.

### Cultural

With five new projects announced this summer, the 1984 Olympic Arts Festival threatens to become one of the wonders of the contemporary world. These projects are Los Angeles theatre, Korean dance, California sculpture, performers from the People's Republic of China, and above all, "freeway murals".

This last venture seems to us to be inspired. "Ten Los Angeles mural artists will create original works along the Harbour Freeway between downtown (ie city centre - Ed) and the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum". In Los Angeles, the ultimate automobile city, and therefore freeway city, this concept will provide permanent landmarks of the 1984 Olympic Games and will also illustrate the ultimate American qualities - energy and imagination.

Robert J. Fitzpatrick, director of the Olympic Arts Festival, said, "There is absolute continuity between the Greek sculptors, whose work prepared the spirit for the competition in the Ancient Games, and these muralists, who will prepare the eye for the 1984 Games".

As he did with the Fine Arts poster artists, Fitzgerald simply told the muralists, "This is the Olympic Games, Los Angeles, 1984". The diversity of styles is enormous. He said, "The

artists were given no particular subject matter, but all have used the athletes, or some aspects of the Games... very artistically".

The original artwork has been completed, work on the sites has begun, and will be completed in May, 1984.

In addition to this, from four to eight Los Angeles theatre productions will be a central part of the Olympic Arts Festival from June 11 to July 22.

The Chengu Acrobatic and Magic Troupe from Sichuan province of the People's Republic of China, will appear in the U.S. for the first time. They will be accompanied by the Central Music Ensemble, which will also play separately.

Korea's Pongsan Dancers, and the Korean National Dance Company, will appear, the Pongsan Dancers in the Festival of the Arts. The Korean National Dance Company will be making its third "Olympic" appearance.

The California/International Arts Foundation is to present a major exhibition of the works of 12 of California's most important sculptors.

Robert Fitzpatrick, who has been President of the California Institute of the Arts for the past nine years, said, "The Festival is now being set. The budget is committed. We will now begin the period of preparing to welcome the countries of the world...".

The Festival will run from June 1 to August 22, the first part being international, the second concentrating on the multi-cultures of Los Angeles, Southern California and the United States. More than 50 performing companies from 18 countries and six continents will give more than 230 performances and there will be at least 15 exhibitions, including "A Day in the Country - Impressionism and the French landscape", in association with the Louvre, Paris, to be displayed at the Los Angeles Country Museum of Art. This will be the first time such an exhibition has taken place in the Western United States.

The Olympic Arts Festival is being sponsored by the Los Angeles Times-Herald group of newspapers in the amount of \$5 million, and the total expenditure is likely to be \$8.560.000.