

## BURIED BY A SNOW-SLIDE.

### Italian Miners in Colorado Swept Out of Existence.

DENVER, Colo., Feb. 13.—An entire Italian colony was swept out of existence yesterday morning at Silver Plume. An avalanche descended north of the town and buried six families. The number missing is placed at fourteen. The place is inhabited by miners, who work leased properties.

It is believed that two Swedes were also killed, as their cabin was carried off.

The avalanche started at 8:30 a. m. and in its course swept by the Cory shaft house, carrying off the machinery and a boarding house on the side of Pelican Gulch, some 500 feet above Cherokee. On toward the little settlement at the base of the mountain the avalanche rushed. From the town it looked as if the whole side of the mountain was dropping into the valley. Snow was thrown to a height of hundreds of feet in masses that resembled the smoke from a forest fire.


The gulch where the accident occurred separates Sherman and Republican mountains, on which are situated the Rich Dives, Pelican, Cory and Seven Thirty mines, with thousands of dollars' worth of ore exposed directly in the path of the avalanche. The movement of snow was due to a heavy gale that blew all night from the top of the hills. It is estimated that the wind attained a velocity of seventy miles an hour through the night. This

1899 avalanche at Silver Plume kills miners NEWS

Clipped By:  
usmra\_rob  
Mar 8, 2025

loosened the huge mass at the summit at an altitude of 12,000 feet and precipitated it into the valley.

Had not the slide stopped at the bottom of Brown's gulch, the entire town of Silver Plume would have been buried. A new school house, that cost \$8,000, was directly in the path of the avalanche, and if it had not been Sunday a half hundred additional lives would have been lost.



1899 avalanche at Silver Plume kills  
miners NEWS

Clipped By:  
usmra\_rob  
Mar 8, 2025

### ANOTHER SNOW SLIDE.

#### Three Silver Plume Miners Lose Their Lives.

Denver, Feb. 23.—A special to the Republican from Silver Plume says:

An avalanche nearly as large as that which a few days ago swept its fatal course down Cherokee gulch descended Brown gulch at 4 o'clock this morning, killing two men outright and injuring five, one of whom died in a few hours. The killed are Benjamin Nelson, John Anderson and Daniel Fitzpatrick.

The slide crushed the Seven-Thirty mine buildings, and the bodies of Nelson and Anderson are still buried in the mass of timbers, ice and snow, their death probably having been nearly instantaneous.

Owing to the fearful gale that prevailed all day the rescuers were forced to desist work, as the high wind threatened to bring down fresh avalanches.

Peter Oleson was rescued after being under the snow about four hours, and was not severely injured. He and Nelson and Anderson were sleeping in a room over the ore house and Oleson was saved by the roof of the building falling over him and protecting him from the snow.

The snow broke away on the west side of the gulch opposite the Seven-Thirty and swept down to the buildings at the mine. The engine and boiler rooms at the mouth of the tunnel were demolished and the machinery destroyed. The blacksmith shop, ore houses, office, barns and a number of cabins were wrecked and some of them were swept away down the gulch.

People had been expecting this slide for some time past and most of those who were living near the mine in dangerous places had sought safer quarters. Nelson, Anderson and Oleson had not been staying at the mine nights for some time, but as it was very rough weather Tuesday night they concluded to run the risk and remained in the path of danger.

1899 avalanche at Silver Plume kills  
miners NEWS

Clipped By:  
usmra\_rob  
Mar 8, 2025