

# SNOW WRECKS HISTORIC MINE

## Avalanche Kills Three, Injures Four; Others Escape

OURAY, Col., Feb. 25 (AP)—Historic Camp Bird gold mine, where the late Thomas Walsh "struck it rich" in 1896, was a shambles today, caught in the crush of the Colorado Rockies' second death-bearing snow avalanche in eight days.

A snow-slide three miles wide shot down "Chicago slide" and crashed through the camp yesterday, killing three persons and injuring at least four.

On Feb. 16, the Hesperus gold mine, 590 miles south of here, was struck by an avalanche that killed six.

Breaking loose from the craggy peaks rimming a canyon above here, the Camp Bird slide swept through the lower floor of a two-story bankhouse, demolished a \$100,000 mill and a snow-tunnel connecting buildings of the camp, and piled up a half-mile farther down the mountain.

A second slide narrowly missed

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the camp, then joined the first avalanche to pile tons of snow, battered timber and other debris against the mine entrance, temporarily trapping 25 miners on the lower level. They freed themselves.

Mrs. Rose Israel, the camp cook, was killed when, hearing the slide "crack loose" a half mile above camp, she stepped onto a porch to watch the down-rushing snow. She was enveloped in the mass and her body was carried 40 feet down the mountain, where it was recovered later.

The other victims were Chapp E. Wood, mill foreman, and Ralph Klinger, blacksmith. Their bodies have not been recovered by survivors, digging in the tons of debris for them.

W. A. Funk and Richard Dunn were buried alive in snow when the avalanche crushed a workshop and adjoining tunnel. They were rescued.

The Camp Bird properties are in the center of rugged mountains that were known as silver and lead "diggings" until Walsh, father of Evalyn Walsh McLean, Washington socialite, brought out ore samples that other miners had discarded as worthless.

The ore assayed about \$3,000 a ton in gold content. Walsh took a \$2,500,000 bonanza fortune out of Camp Bird before he sold it to an English syndicate in 1905 for \$5,100,000.

A general mining slump left Camp Bird inactive a few years later, but it was revived in 1929 by a company headed by Joe King, the present manager. At the time, ore from the mine was running between \$125 and \$150 a ton.