

RESCUE CREW IS EN ROUTE UP MOUNTAIN

Hesperus Gold Mine, Near Mancos, Scene of Tragedy, Skier Reports.

ENDURES WEEK OF RAGING BLIZZARD

Snowslide Catapults Woman Through Roof of Cook Shack; Half Dozen Buildings Wrecked.

MANCOS, Colo., Feb. 18 (AP)—Sixteen miles of snow drifted mountains faced a rescue party which planned its departure today for the Hesperus gold mine, where an avalanche roared off a mountain top, killing six persons and injuring two others.

Striking with such terrific impact that it catapulted a woman through the roof of the cook's shack, the big mass of snow and rock carried the broken remains of half a dozen buildings 450 feet into a small canyon.

It tore loose from the summit, 1,000 feet above the mine, and swept

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a path three-quarters mile wide, as, gaining speed, it roared down the slope.

Above Timberline

The scene was above timberline, at an altitude of 13,000 feet, where for the past week a raging blizzard has piled up snow unceasingly. Few trees or shrubs grow at that height.

The dead: Parley Jensen, Roy Guier, Clint Noble and Charles Boessler, all of Mancos; Earl Wyman of Denver, and Mrs. Janie Rees, of nearby Cortez, Colo. Their ages were not learned.

The injured: Neil Ansguard, 20, of Golden, Colo., a nephew of John A. Pratt, of Golden, one of the mine owners, and Alvin Fink, 20, of Mancos. Word brought here by Ben Hartley, one of 12 who the avalanche missed, said they would recover. They were bruised and, possibly suffered broken ribs.

Hartley, worn out by a perilous trip down here, reported the tragedy late yesterday to Sheriff Jess Robinson of Montezuma county. He made his way on skis, one of which was splintered, which were worn by one of the victims at the time of the slide Sunday afternoon. They were the only available pair in camp.

"I was in the mill when the slide struck," Hartley related, "and saw part of the buildings ripped off and swept into the canyon.

Latest reports indicated that the rescue party leaving here under Sheriff Robinson's direction to retrace Hartley's trail would encounter difficult conditions, particularly on the last half. An uphill journey faced the crew, and blizzard conditions apparently continued.

Sufficient shelter and food remained, Hartley said, so that the people still in camp would not suffer.