

33 Are Saved As Snow Slide Crushes Camp

BISHOP, Calif. (AP)—A weekend of wild weather in California had a fortunate ending in the rescue of 33 persons whose mining camp high in the Sierra Nevada was crushed under giant snow slides.

Southern California is cleaning up after a storm that dumped as much as 4.50 inches of rain. Northern California had a breather, but is braced today for "a pretty good-sized" new storm. It is expected to hit Tuesday, with more snow and rain.

The 33 rescued Sunday night were workers and their families at the U. S. Vanadium Corporation's tungsten mill—the world's largest—9,000 feet high in Pine Creek Canyon, 20 miles northwest of here.

Saturday a huge slide poured down from crags above. One end of the mill was caved in. Four homes were partially destroyed.

The home of mill superintendent Tom Holmes was crushed and buried. Mrs. Holmes was knocked out of the house, over an auto, under a fence and against a tree 60 feet away.

Her 15-month-old son was buried under 18 feet of snow and debris. Workers dug for two hours. They finally found him nestled between two pet Dachshunds—unharmed. Besides the dogs, he was protected by his play pen and a heavy chair.

The roaring slide swept away the kitchen and front room of John Emerson's home. But it left intact the bedroom where his three sons were sick in bed.

Mrs. Gil Simmons was in her kitchen. The avalanche destroyed everything but the kitchen. Rescuers found her perched on the stove.

Two other workers were buried for 10 hours before being freed. Others caught in the slide's path were bowled over but unharmed.

The 33 took refuge in the mill's basement, where the rescue party found them. None was seriously injured. They were there for more than a day, praying and watching smaller slides bounce down the canyon walls.

1952 Thirty three saved after snow slide crushes mining camp

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