

## Avalanches Hit Mine; 10 Rescued

FAIRFIELD (AP)—10 persons were rescued late Monday night from the Buttercup mine, off Willow Creek road northeast of Fairfield, by Sawtooth rangers Gary Smithy and Darrell Smith, both Fairfield, it was reported Tuesday afternoon.

A series of snow slides and avalanches buried four pickups, a one and one half ton truck and other mine equipment and part of an ore trestle was destroyed. Fate of house trailers, parked at the mine, is unknown.

Al Osborn, Gooding, president of Russco Silver Company, who operates the mine, called the rangers to investigate the condition at the mine. Smithy and Smith, went to the mine about 2 p.m. Monday. Two small slides had already occurred and partly destroyed the ore trestle and buried the truck. The rangers came out to the Willow Creek road where Osborn was plowing with a DG cat.

They said the conditions were extremely hazardous and suggested getting people out of the mine.

The rangers went back in a four-wheel drive vehicle, following Osborn on the cat. A series of slides separated the cat and truck with snow about 17 feet deep before they reached the mine.

They rescued the personnel at the mine a short time before eight slides buried the pickups under the snow and brought them out in a Forest Service vehicle.

1964 Ten rescued from Buttercup mine after avalanches



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