## Four avalanches in California

# Rescue efforts delayed

United Press International

SQUAW VALLEY, Calif. — Four avalanches roared down a Sierra peak, shoving a two-story building into a ski lodge and killing at least three people. Blizzard conditions and fear of more snow slides prevented rescue teams from searching for as many as a dozen missing people.

Rescuers rushed to the area on "snowcats" but had to wait until dawn to resume the search for missing because of blizzard conditions and the threat of more avalanches.

The first of the avalanches to hit the Alpine Meadows ski resort — located 2 miles east of Squaw Valley — carried a two-story "A-frame" building into the resort's lodge, killing at least three people.

Officials said there were as many as four avalanches in the Alpine Meadows area Wednesday and another in Squaw Valley, where 3 to 4 feet of snow has been falling daily since Sunday.

Nearby residents were ordered to evacuate their homes and were taken to the Sierra Mountain Intermediate School in nearby Truckee. Sheriff's deputies, ambulances, fire trucks and California Highway Patrol units were dispatched to the resort, but some were hampered by smaller avalanches.

The avalanche in Squaw Valley, site of the 1960 Winter Olympics, buried two houses. Five people were rescued uninjured.

Placer County Sheriff's Chief Jim Webber said three bodies were uncovered near the Alpine Meadows resort.

Authorities said two people were injured in the avalanches at the resort but the extent of injuries was not known.

Webber said one avalanche pushed a two-story equipment storage building into the main lodge of the Alpine Meadows resort, smashing windows and a portion of the wall.

Rescue workers and dogs searched the snow at the 7,000-foot-high resort for survivors but the mission was called off after several hours as the blizzard became worse and the avalanche danger increased.

"We are moving out our personnel because of the danger of other avalanches," said Sgt. Keven Besana of the Placer County Sheriff's Department.

A supervisor at Tahoe Forest Hospital in Truckee said the facility had been alerted to receive as many as 20 victims.

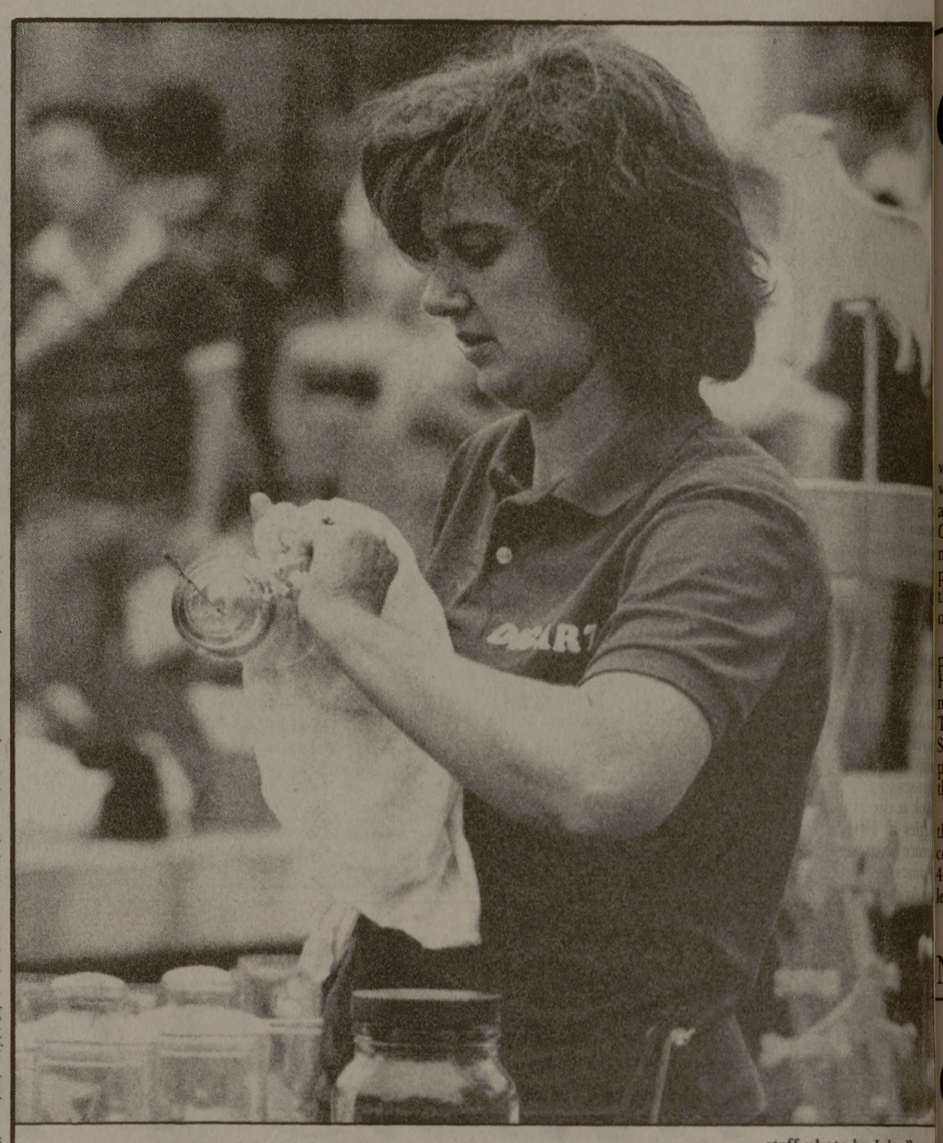
Authorities also learned Wednesday night there had been skiers on the slopes and lifts when the avalanches struck. Earlier, it was reported skiing had been canceled for the day at the popular resort because of the bad weather, but maintenance workers and other employees were on the job.

"We were told the lodge was closed due to poor road conditions," Webber said. "Now we are told people were skiing on hills and were on the lift. We really don't know what we have now on the number of people who were in the area."

A second slide buried cars in the parking lot of the resort.

An avalanche expert advised evacuation of more than 100 residents in the area, Webber said.

Margy Barrett, manager of River Ranch resort, 2 miles from Alpine Meadows, said a slide at the junction of of the resort's access road and Highway 89 knocked over a California Highway Patrol car. Its occupants apparently were not injured.



staff photo by John Ryan

*Shine on*

**Heather Loyo, of College Station, prepares her sandblasted glassware for display during the craft exhibit near the Memorial Student Center.**

# Reagan won't halt nukes cites Soviet superiority

United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan will not clamp an immediate freeze on the U.S. nuclear arms buildup because he believes the Soviet Union is so rich in weaponry it could live through a doomsday missile exchange "and hit us again."

Because Moscow owns such "a definite margin of superiority" over the United States, Reagan said Wednesday a freeze now "would be disadvantageous, in fact, even dangerous to us."

The president, however, endorsed a Senate nuclear weapons-control proposal and said the U.S. team would be ready by summer to begin the planned series of strategic arms reductions talks with the Soviet Union.

Reagan opened his ninth nationally broadcast news conference by inviting Moscow "to join with us now, to substantially reduce nuclear weapons and make an important breakthrough for lasting peace."

The president, remembering "four wars in my lifetime," said he was determined to push ahead for "realistic arms control agreements."

"I share the determination of today's young people that such a tragedy, which would be rendered even more terrible by the monstrous inhumane weapons in the world's nuclear arsenals, must never happen again," he said.

But he did not say he would agree to a summit meeting with Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev on the world nuclear crisis. Deputy press secretary Larry Speakes explained later that such meeting will depend upon the international situation existing at the time.

As expected, the weapons control proposal offered by Sens. John Warner, R-Va., and Henry Jackson, D-Wash., was given Reagan's endorsement. It calls for negotiations with the Soviets to be followed later by a mutual and verifiable freeze later.

The news conference pivoted on the nuclear-weapons issue but Reagan also fielded questions on foreign and domestic policy, the budget and his purported image as a "rich man's president."

He denied next week's working vacation to Jamaica and Barbados was designed solely for relaxation. He said it includes meetings with Caribbean leaders.

"Now it is Easter and everybody else is taking a vacation," he said. "The fact that while we are there I am going to sit in the sand and maybe go swimming for a day before we come back hardly constitutes what I would consider a vacation."

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