

MINE EMPLOYEE LEAPS CLEAR AS AVALANCHE HITS

V. A. Babcock Escapes with Life, \$50, His Brok- en Cello

V. A. Babcock, Alaska Juneau mine employee, was one of those having a narrow escape in the avalanche of yesterday.

Babcock had just moved into the Matson Boarding House Saturday. He was finishing a bath when the slide roared down last evening. He threw something around him and rushed out on the porch just in time to see the steps swept away from in front of him. He dodged back into his room. The radio slid the full length of the room, his cello flew to pieces. He grabbed the pieces of his favorite instrument, \$50 he had laying on the table, and jumped out the window and to safety on firm ground. He saw the house slide away in the avalanche and said he believed Mrs. Matson was in it.

Babcock hurried to a friend's house to get some clothes and then joined in the rescue work.

"Gosh," he said. "I never saw anything go to pices like that cello and it didn't seem as if anything hit it."