

White Death

Each year millions of tons of ice and snow slide down mountain slopes in a white fury, smashing into villages, shearing away forests, suffocating people and animals, and inundating roads, rivers and railroads.

These are the snow avalanches, some of the greatest destructive forces on earth, ranking with other powerful phenomena like earthquakes, tornadoes and hurricanes.

Occurring in the steep high slopes of the Alps and Himalayas, the Rocky Mountains and the Andes, the Pyrenees and many other mountainous areas, these sudden natural juggernauts have taken thousands of lives. In only seven minutes, one of the worst avalanches claimed 3,500 lives on Jan. 10, 1962. Three million tons of ice broke free from a thawing glacier on Peru's highest peak—22,205-foot Nevado Husacaran—and roared down the valley, sweeping up trees, boulders, flocks of sheep and engulfing nine Peruvian villages. The worst avalanche disaster ever recorded occurred on Dec. 13, 1916, during World War I,

when a series of snow avalanches killed 10,000 soldiers of the opposing Austrian and Italian armies. During that war, at least 60,000 people were killed by avalanches in the Alps alone.

There are many kinds and combinations of avalanches. Dry-snow avalanches can race down a mountain at speeds as high as 280 miles an hour, driving a column of compressed air ahead of them and creating a vacuum in their wake. The light dry-snow is like fine powder, whirling through the air and sifting into nostrils and throats so that people and animals are suffocated. A wet-snow avalanche, on the other hand, moves more slowly but can hit with pressures as powerful as 22,000 pounds per square foot.

Many things can trigger an avalanche and start it sliding down a slope. A sudden thaw in the weather, an extra few inches of new snow, the weight of a skier or the vibrations of thunder. A sonic boom from a jet has started a slab of white death shooting down the slope; so have a pistol shot or the crack of a whip.

SOME PEOPLE WILL THINK YOU'RE CUCKOO TO PAY \$25 FOR "JUST" A CLOCK



They're the same people who don't mind living with "the approximate" time or walking into a Five-and-Dime every six months to buy another new \$8.95 wind-up tick-tock.

Also, this clock is not "just" a clock. It is a most elegant tabletop timepiece from West Germany with the following attributes:

There is the calendar. When you wake, you'll know what day it is! (This sometimes comes in handy!) Around back you will see no handle for winding... no cord for plugging-in. An ordinary flashlight battery powers the mechanisms—for a good year or more. When it begins to lose its juice, red appears under the number "12". Now, about the alarm. It's not the alarming kind. Just effective. Reveille begins with four short but insistent signals. If you don't shut off the alarm, there will follow a continuous bzzzzzzzzzz that would stir Rip Van Winkle.

Furthermore, this timepiece is in excellent taste. Quite handsome. Designed to "go" anywhere. You will think so, too. The works of this TwelveMonth Clock are so precise and perfect that you can adjust it to within two seconds of being on-the-dot every 24 hours. It's a rare wristwatch that can time itself to such a fine degree. The usual Haverhill's 10-day money-back Guarantee applies (if you are not impressed in every way). Beyond that, there is the Manufacturer's Warranty covering parts and workmanship. This extends over a full year. So if you can afford to indulge your appreciation of fine

Haverhill's goes to the ends of the earth to bring you the finest things. This Diehl TwelveMonth Clock is no exception.

things, this indeed is the timepiece that should bid you "Good Morning" each day. This is also a pretty wonderful gift to a son and daughter with early morning classes.

— NO TIME LIKE THIS TIME —

Mail to: **HAVERHILL'S** SN 0128
526 Washington St.,
San Francisco, Calif. 9-1111

Please send me the Diehl TwelveMonth Clock. Satisfaction or refund guaranteed.

I enclose check for \$24.95 plus \$1.00 for postage and insurance.
(California residents add 4% sales tax.)
 Bill AmExp.

Acct. # _____
Name _____
Address _____
Zip _____

© 1966 **Haverhill's**
Searching the World to bring you the Finest

SCIENCE SERVICE

The Institution for the Popularization of Science organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation.

Board of Trustees—Nominated by the American Association for the Advancement of Science: Wallace R. Brode,*** Washington, D.C.; Bowen C. Dees, National Science Foundation; Athelstan F. Spilhaus, University of Minnesota. Nominated by the National Academy of Sciences: Harlow Shapley, Harvard College Observatory; Detlev W. Bronk, Rockefeller University; Henry Allen Mae, The Clark Foundation. Nominated by the National Research Council: Leonard Carmichael, National Geographic Society; Eric A. Walker, Pennsylvania State University; Glenn T. Seaborg*, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. Nominated by the Journalistic Profession: Gordon B. Fister, Allentown (Pa.) Call-Chronicle; Ralph B. Curry, Flint Journal; O. W. Riegel,**** Washington and Lee University. Nominated by the Scripps Estate: Ludwell Denny, Scripps-Howard Newspapers; Edward W. Scripps II,** Edward W. Scripps Trust; *President, **Vice President, ***Treasurer, ****Secretary.

Staff—Director: E. G. Sherburne Jr. Assistant Director: Dorothy Schriver. Writers: Carl Behrens, Barbara Culliton, Jonathan Eberhart, Ann Ewing, John Ludwigson, Faye Marley, Patricia McBroom, Frank Sartwell, Barbara Tufty, Judith Vorst, Ruby Yoshioka. Magazine Production: Marilyn Raleigh. Science Youth Division: Joseph H. Kraus, Lloyd Ulmer. Photography: Fremont Davis. Circulation Manager: Marcia Nelson. Syndicate Sales: Forrest L. Snakenberg. Librarian: Margit Friedrich.

ADVERTISING

Louis D. Young, Advertising Director, SCIENCE NEWS, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036. Telephone 202-667-8945.

Advertising Representatives: SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPERS. General Advertising Department: 200 Park Ave., New York, N.Y., TN 7-5000; 400 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill., SU 7-3355; 800 Broadway, Suite 1100, Cincinnati, Ohio, 721-1254; Suite 211, Braniff Building, Dallas, Texas, FL 7-3847; 908 E. Northland Tower, Southfield, Michigan, 444-4595; 6363 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif., OL 3-0026; Room 1522, Philadelphia National Bank Building, Philadelphia, Pa., LO 3-6275; Central Tower Building, 703 Market St., San Francisco, Calif., GA 1-5187; Suite 417, 3384 Peachtree Rd. S.E., Atlanta, Georgia, 261-5171.