

Search For Trio Of Lost Scouts Will End Today

*Sheriff Calling Off Area's Largest
Manhunt Unless Some Traces Are Found*

By DON CARSON

The hope is gone.

After seven grueling days of search, Sheriff James W. Clark yesterday announced that, barring unforeseen developments, the quest for three lost Tucson Boy Scouts somewhere near Mt. Baldy would end at dusk tonight.

The threesome—Mike Early, 16, Michael LaNoue, 13, and David Greenberg, 12—was lost just a week ago when a sudden snow-storm struck the 9,432-foot peak which crowns the Santa Rita Mountains, 48 miles south of Tucson.

Despite the fact that the hunt is entering its eighth day, the faces of the searchers yesterday seemed to display only one emotion: "We'll never find them."

Yesterday some 700 men covered the rugged slopes around Baldy, but there was a marked difference in their facial expressions when they returned from the mountain.

Previously, their countenances were covered with sadness and disappointment. Although some admitted there was little hope of finding the boys, their faces belied their words. "The boys will still be found," they seemed to say.

The men which make up this largest manhunt in the history of Southern Arizona began returning from their quest around 3:30 p.m., roughly two hours earlier than in previous days.

There was no hope in their faces — only the realization that one more day remained in their grueling search.

As during the day before, possible clues to the boys' location were uncovered and then discounted with regularity.

Lt. Edwin Turner and his group of nine Ft. Huachuca soldiers discovered the heel to a boot. Which boy had lost it? "None of them," reported Patagonia rancher Mike Knagge. Norm Brazeeu, a Tucsonan who has joined the search, told me he had lost two heels.

Lt. Col. George E. Schafer, head of the Davis-Monthan hospital, and his contingent of airmen located a pair of gym shorts. They did belong to young Greenberg. But they were part of the scent guide used by California search expert Russ Cone and his partner Tom Cox, on Friday.

Then came the day's biggest find: a pup tent, a red and white blanket and one brown glove. An unidentified group of Huachuca men found these. After analyzing the articles, it was determined they had been on the mountain for several months.

So it went throughout the seventh day of search.

A bevy of minor accidents cropped up during the day's activity. Five Huachuca soldiers were flown to the fort for treatment of scratches and abrasions. They are expected to be back for the search today.

A search of the bluff area by Knagge, Ed Monzingo, his son J. L. and a Monzingo ranchhand, Glenn Carlton, proved futile. The entire area, however, was not covered and the men will return today.

Friday, Knagge discovered what appeared to be four trail markings—one of them was angled toward the treacherous cliffs which mark the western face of Baldy Saddle.

These men will be joined by 42 soldiers who spent the night on Josephine Saddle.

Bruce La Noue, father of Michael, continued his inspection of the mountain area. He, too, will go back on this morning after first checking the terrain by air.

John Early, Mike's father, expects to climb the trail for the first time today.

"Maybe my boy is waiting for me to come get him," he said.

David Greenberg expects to continue his quiet vigil at the Santa Rita Lodge, search headquarters.

Red Cross Help Pledged As Long As Hunt Lasts

The American Red Cross will continue to serve food to the searchers in Madera Canyon as long as the hunt for three lost Tucson Boy Scouts goes on.

An official announced last night that should local funds be completely used, national funds would be available.

"We'll stay as long as Sheriff James Clark continues the hunt," the official said.

Clark yesterday announced that, barring unforeseen developments, the hunt would be called off tonight.