



Hope Virtually Abandoned For 3 Boys

Search Enters 4th Day

Crews Will Continue To Comb Mountains

By BOB THOMAS

Canyon-pitted Mt. Baldy was a white-topped sentinel of silence yesterday as it kept secret the fate of three Tucson Boy Scouts.

Rescue teams, bone tired after their third day of searching, virtually abandoned hope that the youngsters would be found alive.

However the search will be resumed at daybreak today with the hope that by some miracle the boys have survived the zero weather that has whipped over the mountain top since the Scouts disappeared Saturday night.

More than 100 men working in clear, bright sunshine, swarmed over the 9,400-foot mountain, made a sweep across nearby Mt. Hopkins and searched the snow-choked

Copter In Search

A helicopter from Davis Monthan Air Force Base, being used in the search for three Tucson boys lost in the Santa Rita Mountains, is

shown in the snow-covered desert near the Madera Canyon in the foothill country, while a group of searchers, left, discuss plans. (Arizona Republic photo)

canyons on the Patagonia side of the Santa Rita Mountain Range.

Absolutely no sign of the boys was found, searchers said.

The trio—Mike Earl, 16, Michael La Noue, 13 and David Greenberg, 12—have been missing since Saturday night when a sudden, record snow storm swooped down on them.

They were attempting to climb to a ranger cabin near the summit of the peak, 40 miles south of Tucson. Three companions said they last saw them hiking toward the cloud-shrouded top late Saturday afternoon.

The others, Louis Burgess, 15, Ronny Sepulveda, 12, and Ralph Coltrin Jr., 12, returned to their camp at the end of the Madera Canyon Rd. The two 12-year-olds became tired and were taken back down the mountain by Burgess.

The missing three decided to try to reach the cabin despite threatening weather. They failed to make their objective because searchers Monday found the small cabin empty.

The six scouts—all members of Troop No. 70—planned to camp overnight in the mountains despite the advice of their scoutmaster.

Yesterday eight separate search parties combed the rugged mountain and probed old mines and caves without luck.

Two search parties from Santa Cruz County led by Deputy Jack

Sullivan and composed of Patagonia and Sonoita men climbed through Gardner and Josephine canyons on the east side of the Santa Ritas.

For the second straight day two helicopters—one from Davis-Monthan AFB and the other from Ft. Huachuca—hovered over the cold, windswept canyons. Several light planes from Ft. Huachuca also prowled over the area.

A burst of gun shots—supposed

to signify that the boys had been found—caused a brief flurry of excitement and hope yesterday afternoon.

However, the shots were from two men who had become separated from their search party and wanted help. The men, identified by Range Deputy Guy Hill as Bill Bartlett and Don Smith, managed to walk out after nightfall.

Sheriff James Clark said the

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