Where The Hunt Is Centered

This is the rugged face of Mt. Baldy, 40 miles south of Tucson in the Santa Rita Mountains, where the search for three Tucson Boy Scouts enters its sixth day today. Baldy is laced with huge rock outcroppings and is pitted with gullies and canyons. [Photo by Jack Shephard]

Search For Scouts Enters 6th Day

Bloodhounds Find Scent That May Lead To Trio

But Tracker Doesn't Want To Raise Hopes

By DON CARSON

The fate of three Boy Scouts lost Saturday in a snowstorm on the slopes of Mt. Baldy may be learned today.

Bloodhounds, handled by search experts Russ Cone and Tom Cox, yesterday picked up a scent that may solve the riddle of what happened to the young Texans.

The three boys—Mike Early, 13, David Goben, 12, and Michael La Nasa—were part of a group of six who tried to scale the mountains just before a sudden snowstorm hit. The other three boys killed early in the trip and returned to Madden Canyon.

"I don't want to assume high hopes," Cone said last night after returning from his search of the rugged Santa Rita Mountains peak 40 miles southeast of Tucson. "But the dogs did improve something.

"I don't know how long they worked the smell. You don't think of time in instances like this. We had to turn back because of darkness.

Santa Rita's Closed To Hunters

The Santa Rita Mountains, site of an extensive range for hang gliding, have been closed to all hikers indefinitely.

The Arizona Fish and Game Commission made the decision Wednesday after hearing that the search would enter its sixth day today.

An estimated 480 men are combing the area surrounding the rugged mountains in quest of the Tucson youngsters.

Fear of injury to one of the searchers prompted the decision, an official said.

Today is the first legal day of deer hunting in Southern Arizona.

The site of the discovery, according to Cone, was above the 7,000-foot level and below what is known as Baldy saddle, a sharp-edged ridge extending north from the 8,625-foot peak.

"It looked as though two horseback riders had investigated the general vicinity," the line Carina, Calif., tracker said, "but apparently their inspection had not extended too far off the trail.

"The area we are particularly interested in is a side hill and a small ridge—looked almost unsearchable since the snowfall.

"We'll look over the area from the air," he said, "and they Tom and I shall look the trail and pack in to the spot by horse.

Cone described the entire area as blanketed by snow.

"It was three feet deep in many places," he said.

Could the boys have fallen from the trail to possible death in a small canyon there?

"Listen," the veteran of 35 such hunts pointed out, "there's not a place on that mountainside where a man couldn't fall 100 feet into the snow.

"The dog's discovery ended an elevator story day for an estimated 480 men.

Approximately 30 men from Tucson, Santa Cruz and Maricopa counties, together with 15 men from Dragoon, Arizona, who had been searching the canyon area, were at the site today.

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