

Massive Search Launched For Missing Trio

Cabin Atop Mt. Baldy Found Empty; Searchers Fear Scouts May Be Dead

By BOB THOMAS

A massive land and air search for three Boy Scouts lost since Saturday night in the Santa Rita Mountains proved fruitless yesterday.

Hope for the Tucson youths was dimming fast. If alive they would have survived three days and nights of sub-freezing weather, brought on by the worst recorded snowstorm in Southern Arizona history.

They are believed to be lost somewhere in the 9,400-foot high slopes of Mt. Baldy above Madera Canyon, 35 miles south of Tucson.

The scouts, Mike Early, 16, Michael La Noue, 13 and David Greenberg, 12, carried no food or shelter with them and were dressed lightly.

One of the four separate search parties managed to reach the top of Baldy and found a ranger cabin—the boys' goal—empty. The cabin is the only shelter on the peak and is equipped with food, beds, a stove and firewood.

The search for the lost youngsters is one of the most widespread in recent years. Also it has attracted attention from the entire country.

Clearing weather brought approximately 150 men to the mountain to look for the boys. Another 150 men were aiding indirectly in the search by manning ham radios, supplying food, gas and transportation.

A Davis-Monthan AFB helicopter, a C45 Breecraft twin engine plane and scores of private aircraft criss-crossed the rugged Santa Ritas without sighting any trace of the youths.

The search—led by a Pima County range deputy—will resume at daybreak today.

All rescue operations were suspended at dusk last night. All search teams and workers were ordered out of the narrow canyon except for deputies, parents and three University of Arizona students who left the Santa Rita Lodge—rescue headquarters—to camp overnight on the mountain. They hope to save time today by getting as close to the search scene as possible.

Finding the Baldy cabin empty lowered the hopes that the boys would be found alive. Experienced guides and ranchers who live in the area say that without shelter the youths will perish in the deep snows.

For the third night in a row temperatures are expected to dip near the zero mark. Yesterday, in the daylight hours, the mercury never rose above 32 degrees.

One hope remained.

The boys might be alive if they mistook a fork in the trail at Josephine Saddle and chose the path that leads in the general direction of Patagonia.

Deputies said there are several shacks in that area the boys might have sought shelter in. A search party is scheduled to trek up the mountain from Patagonia this morning.

Searchers said the storm apparently struck suddenly in the higher elevations of Mt. Baldy as the three attempted to climb to the cabin. Three other Scouts reported rain starting at nightfall Saturday and changing to snow at midnight.

Mike Early, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Early, of 138 E. 14th St., was



MIKE EARLY



MICHAEL J. LA NOUE



DAVID GREENBERG

described as the leader of the group. A junior at Tucson High School, he is a Life Scout and has desert and Civil Air Patrol survival training.

Michael La Noue, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce F. La Noue, of 733 S. Railroad Ave., is an eighth grader at All Saints School. He, a First Class Scout, and has accompanied Early on previous hikes in the Santa Ritas.

David Greenberg, 12, is a Tenderfoot Scout and a seventh grader at Safford Junior High School. He lives with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Greenberg, of 511 S. Russell Ave. The boy received his scout badge only a few days ago, his father said.

The boys decided to camp overnight in Madera Canyon and climb to the ranger cabin on 9,432 foot Mt. Baldy. They contacted Steve Zene, of 821 N. Longfellow Ave., scoutmaster of Troop No. 70, and asked him about the trip.

Zene said he advised the boys,
(Continued on Page 1B, Col. 9)