

A.F. Flies In Noted Tracker From Coast



Hope Rests On Dogs

Sheriff James W. Clark, center, looks over the bloodhounds flown into Tucson last night to assist in the search for three Tucson Boy Scouts lost in the wilds of the Santa Rita Mountains, some 40 miles south of Tucson. At the left is Tom Cox holding the leash of Annie Oakley. And at the right is Russ Cone, a nationally known search expert, holding on to Calo King. (Jack Sheaffer photo)

200 GIs Also Join Searchers

Hope Of Finding Trio Alive Almost Ended

By BOB THOMAS

Search parties—strengthened by a famous tracker, two highly trained bloodhounds and more than 200 servicemen—enter the fifth day of the hunt for three Tucson Boy Scouts today.

Hope that the boys will be found alive in the snow-bounded Santa Rita Mountains has been all but officially abandoned.

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A slight chance that they might have hiked up in a cave or mine shaft was eliminated yesterday when the last known shelter was searched.

Last night an Air Force C54 Beechcraft twin engine plane from the 4th Air-Rescue Unit, Hamilton AFB, Calif., left Fresno, Calif., and landed at Municipal Airport about midnight. Aboard were Russ Cone, noted tracker who has participated in three searches within a week, a California deputy sheriff and two bloodhounds.

The men and animals were immediately taken in Madera Canyon to await daylight.

Cone said that if the snow is well packed the dogs would have a good chance of picking up the boys' trail. He said that lost persons have been found within 24 hours in 90 per cent of the searches he has participated in.

The addition of 200 soldiers from Ft. Huachuca yesterday swelled the searchers' ranks to an estimated 300 men.

Two helicopters and several light planes from D-4 and Ft. Huachuca will continue to fly over Mt. Baldy and its surrounding canyons.

Yesterday 25 airmen volunteers from D-4 took part in the hunt, along with elements of the Arizona National Guard, sheriff's deputies from Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, and nearby ranchers scoured the mountains without success.

The Scouts, Mike Easty, 18, Michael La Noue, 11, and David Grossberg, 11, are lost in heavy snow and freezing temperatures on Mt. Baldy, a 9,400-foot peak that crowns the rugged Santa Rita range.

Like yesterday three companies of the 18th Signal Battalion set up a bivouac in the hills west of Patagonia. An advance party arrived several hours earlier and put into operation a short wave radio network. The network will join and work with others already set up in Madera Canyon on the west side of the mountains.

The GIs, commanded by Lt. Col. J. R. Sereno, are equipped with cold weather gear and field rations to last 24 hours.

The soldiers also have a full field kitchen that will be set up in case the search goes into the sixth day. They arrived too late yesterday to participate in the hunt.

The military also took charge of the air with amateur radio operators withdrawing in favor of Army-Air Force networks. The "hams" are credited with bringing order out of chaos during the first few days of the search.

It was a ham radio operator, Volf Hanson, who first alerted Tucson—and the world—of the missing scouts. Since then ham operators Dale Adams, Rev. George Whitney, Harry Phillips Jr. and Orville Bull have been at their sets almost every waking hour.

At dusk, last night, as cold, tired men again returned empty-handed from the mountain, plans were being formulated for a two-pronged search of the peak.

The soldiers, guided by local

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