

BOY SCOUT TRAGEDY

INTRODUCTION: The configuration of Madera Canyon and the trails leading into the upper regions of the Santa Rita Mountains were quite different in the 1950s than what you see today (the 2000s). In order to have a better understanding of the tragedy that evolved in 1958, it is necessary to have an appreciation of the area as it existed then. In Madera Canyon, the current Roundup parking and picnic areas had not yet been built. The Santa Rita Lodge was in existence but the Chuparosa Inn Bed & Breakfast was not. The Madera Canyon Road ended about a mile past the Santa Rita Lodge at the Baldy Trailhead (the point where the Baldy Trail separates from the currently named Carrie Nation Trail. There was a picnic area with picnic tables and an outhouse in the ravine below the road.

In 1958, the Baldy Trail was the only trail leading from Madera Canyon to the top of Mount Wrightson (also known as Old Baldy). The Super Trail had not yet been built. The other main trail to Mount Wrightson was the Gardner Canyon Trail that started in Gardner Canyon and intersected the Baldy Trail at Baldy Saddle. The Temporal Trail was also in existence and it branched off from the Baldy Trail at Josephine Saddle and went to Patagonia. The Josephine Trail (Josephine Canyon Trail), Walker Basin Trail and the Crest Trail were also in existence.

There were two structures on the mountain that played a part in the Boy Scout Tragedy. The first structure was the remains of the Fire Lookout Tower that was situated at the very peak of Mount Wrightson (elevation 9,453 feet). The original lookout was built around 1909 and was extremely rudimentary. The Forest Service replaced it around 1920 with another structure. This was a relatively small, austere structure (approximately 8 feet by 8 feet) that was equipped with a telephone. This lookout was replaced in 1928 with a more substantial building (approximately 12 feet x 12 feet) that contained a work area, kitchen and sleeping area. It also had a cupola that contained a fire finder instrument. However, this structure was removed in the late 1950s and all that remained in 1958 was the decking with a crawl space underneath. A sign-in roster was kept in a can underneath the decking. The second structure was a cabin that in 1958 was periodically used by the rangers when they were in the area. The Baldy Cabin, built around 1914, was approximately 14 feet by 16 feet and contained a cook stove, beds and a loft. The cabin was located near Baldy Spring, just a short distance from Baldy Saddle along the Gardner Canyon Trail (currently the Super Trail) because of its proximity to a water supply. In 1958, the cabin was still periodically used and was stocked with food and firewood. The cabin burned down in the fall of 1973 and all remnants were removed.

A phone line had been built between the Forest Service's Madera Administration Site and the Fire Lookout on Mt. Baldy to provide communications. The phone line followed the Baldy Trail in some areas and digressed from it in other areas. Generally, the phone line followed the shortest route and cut across switchbacks to save wire. Phone lines also connected the Madera Administration Site to Patagonia via the Temporal Trail. The phone lines were no longer in use in 1958 and had been gradually deteriorating. The phone line on the temporal trail was to play a significant role in the ensuing tragedy.

PROLOGUE: Everything started on Tuesday evening, 11 November 1958 when Boy Scout Troop 70 held a regular meeting at the All Saints Catholic Elementary School. When it was

announced by Scoutmaster Steve Zene that there were no special plans for the following weekend, Life Scout Mike Early requested permission to speak. He was looking forward to celebrating his 16th birthday on Sunday, 16 November, and planned to commemorate it with a hike to the top of Mt. Baldy (Wrightson) in the Santa Rita Mountains. His plan was for him and Lou Burgess to hike on Saturday (15 November) from Madera Canyon to the site of the former Fire Lookout, sign in and then return to Madera Canyon to camp out for the night. Mike had hiked many times as high as Josephine Saddle but had never hiked above there and this was to be a great achievement for his birthday. Many of the other scouts also wanted to participate and it was decided that those who could get their parents permission would meet at the Early residence with their hiking gear at 10:00AM on Saturday Morning.

There were six boys at the Early residence Saturday morning: Eagle Scout Mike Early (age 16 the following day), First Class Scout Michael LaNoue (age 13), Second Class Scouts Lou Burgess (age 16) and Ralph Coltrin Jr. (age 12), and Tenderfoot Scouts David Greenberg (age 12) and Ronny Sepulveda (age 11). Mike Early was also a Junior Assistant Scout Master.

David Greenberg's 12th birthday was 15 November and he had convinced his parents to delay his birthday party by a day and let him go on the hike. Three other boys had planned to join the excursion but fate intervened. Two of the boys got their instructions mixed up and were waiting at the Church instead of going to the Early residence and therefore missed the departure. The other boy had planned to go but his mother had employed enough delaying tactics in getting him ready that he also missed the departure.

TRAGEDY SUMMARY

Saturday, 15 November 1958 – The six boys and their equipment piled into the Early Studebaker and John Early, Mike's father, began the drive to Madera Canyon. The weather forecast was good and it would be a great day for hiking. Lou Burgess, however, had noticed a reddish tinge to the sky when he woke up that morning and had remembered the old Sailor's saying "Red Sky in Morning, Sailor take warning". He had mentioned this to Mike but Mike had laughed it off. They got to the canyon about noon and John Early decided to drop the boys off at the Madera Lodge instead of driving the extra distance to the trailhead. He promised to pick them up the following morning in time to attend the birthday parties.

After John Early left, the boys picked up their gear and headed up the road to the Baldy Trailhead where they planned to set up their base camp. It took about a half hour to reach their intended camping area at the very end of the picnic area and commence setting up their campsite. Mike Earl, David Greenberg and Ronnie Sepulveda set up their tents and Lou Burgess hung his hammock between two trees. Ralph Coltrin and Michael LaNoue assembled a makeshift shelter using a picnic table and a half tent shelter that Michael had brought. The boys then decided to have lunch before beginning the hike.

At about 1:15PM, Mike blew his whistle to gather the boys together to commence the hike up the Baldy Trail and advised them to bring along some water and snacks. The Temperature was about 56 F. They stopped periodically to rest and look around and about 2 hours later reached Josephine Saddle where they stopped for their longest rest. Above Josephine Saddle the Baldy

Trail passes by two relatively flat areas and then a long straight stretch before it starts the series of switchbacks below Bellows Spring. The first flat area (or camping area) is located where the current Super Trail diverges from the Baldy Trail and it was near here where the boys stopped for a short rest.

They continued on past the second flat area, made the sharp turn in the trail to the left and were working their way up the long straight stretch when they had to stop for another rest. About half way up this portion of the trail there is a large pyramid shaped rock on the left side of the trail and an unusual shaped tree.



Unusual Tree Marking the place where Ron & Ralph waited

Ron Sepulveda had become exhausted and had developed blisters so the decision was made that he should wait there until the others returned. As soon as they were out of sight beyond the next bend in the trail, Ronnie

began to scream about being left alone so Lou stopped the group and it was decided that Ralph would go back and stay with him. Lou assured the two boys that they would return within a half hour. The four remaining boys then proceeded up the switchbacks in the trail below Bellow's Springs. After continuing up the trail for about fifteen minutes they stopped to rest again and Lou attempted to convince the others that they should turn around and go back. It was already about 4:45PM with only about an hour or so of daylight left and an estimated temperature of about 36F.

Even with the threatening weather, Lou was unable to convince the others so he turned back to rejoin Ronnie and Ralph while Early, LaNoue and Greenberg continued up the trail after promising to turn around soon. After Lou rejoined the two boys, the three started back down the Baldy Trail. By the time they reached Josephine Saddle, it was already dark and clouds obscured any lights from the valley. With only one flashlight to help light the way the boys slowly picked their way back to their campsite in Madera Canyon and finally reached it about 7:30PM. The boys settled in and started their wait for the others to return (Ronnie in his tent, Ralph under the modified picnic table and Lou on his hammock). A freezing rain started about 9:00PM and then progressed to a downpour. Lou soon got soaked and retreated to Mike Earl's tent. Around midnight the temperature had dropped to near freezing, the rain had turned to snow and the other three boys still had not returned.

Sunday, 16 November 1958 – Around 4:30AM the heavy snow had accumulated to the point where it collapsed the two tents and Lou and Ronnie initially took refuge in the picnic area outhouse. However, since they had none of their gear with them, this proved unsatisfactory. The outhouse was very small, very cold and really smelled. Lou had Ronnie remain in the outhouse while he went to try to get a fire started near Ralph's picnic table shelter. Because of the blizzard conditions, he had no luck in getting a fire started. Lou decided their best chance was for all three to ride out the storm under the picnic table shelter. Since there were only two sleeping bags, Ronnie tried to retrieve his from his collapsed tent but succeeded only in losing one of his shoes and the only flashlight in the deep snow. The three then huddled together to keep warm.

Around 9:00AM, with about two feet of snow on the ground and a temperature of about 24F, Lou decided to send Ralph down to the lodge to see if Mr. Early had arrived and to get help.

About half way down to the lodge, Ralph met Mr. Early coming up the road in search of the boy's camp. While they headed back up the road, Ralph informed Mr. Early about the missing boys. Upon reaching the campsite and talking with Lou, Mr. Early told Ralph and Ronnie to go down to the lodge for help while he and Lou would go up the Baldy Trail in search of the other boys. The two boys headed down to the lodge, Ronnie with a shoe on one foot and only a sock on the other and Ralph with both shoes that he couldn't get tied because his hands were so cold. Ronnie decided to run because his feet were cold and ended up losing his other shoe and his socks before arriving barefoot at the lodge. Ralph arrived a few minutes later and the boys were soon warming themselves in front of the lodge fireplace and passing on the word about the missing boys. A doctor who lived in the canyon was at the lodge and gave them a quick checkup, determining that they had no serious problems.

Val Hansen, a ham radio operator, and his brother John Linder also happened to be in the lodge that morning. The lodge phone was not working because of the storm so Val and John hurried the half-mile back to their cabin and started broadcasting an alert on his radio. The message was picked up by Ray Cunningham in Kansas City who relayed it to Orville Baire in Tucson. Baire contacted the Pima County Sheriff's office about 11:00AM and then Orville notified Dale Adams who put into operation the Catalina Emergency Net, an alert system for the Catalina Radio Club. Val and John then made their way back to the lodge in their vehicle and began broadcasting the alert using Val's mobile radio. Radio operators throughout the U.S. heard these calls. They, in turn, called local authorities by radio and long distance phone calls. A Santa Cruz County Deputy Sheriff was the first responder to reach the lodge. Although the search area was located in Santa Cruz County, an agreement was reached that search arrangements would be coordinated by Pima County and Deputy Sheriff Guy Hill was selected to lead the search effort.

In the mean time, Mr. Earl and Lou Burgess fought their way up the Baldy Trail as far as Josephine Saddle but found no evidence of the three missing boys. Lou was exhausted so he turned around at the saddle and went back down the trail to the lodge while Mr. Earl went a ways farther up the Baldy Trail. A short time later after battling waist high snow and wearing only moccasins on his feet, Mr. Earl also turned around and made his way back to the lodge. He then decided to return to Tucson to get more help and warmer clothing. He contacted Mr. LaNoue and Mr. Greenberg and the three made their way back to Madera Canyon, Earl and LaNoue in LaNoue's pickup and Greenberg following in his car. They arrived back at the lodge shortly after Deputy Hill and Deputy John Walker. It was still snowing heavily and with the approaching darkness it was apparent that continuing the search that afternoon was not possible. The three fathers returned to Tucson with Lou Burgess while Ralph Coltrin and Ronnie Sepulveda remained overnight in Madera Canyon in one of the cabins. Deputy Hill continued to organize a massive search that was to commence Monday morning, 17 November. There was no real organized search mechanism in place in 1958 so Deputy Hill created one of his own. He contacted the sheriff's posse and volunteer rescue groups in both Pima and Pinal Counties and arranged for Davis-Monthon AFB to provide a helicopter for an aerial search. He also contacted a number of area ranchers.

Monday, 17 November 1958 – Deputy Hill called a meeting of searchers at the Pima County Courthouse at 7:30 AM to provide preliminary information and get the search effort started. He then went to Davis-Monthon AFB to board a helicopter and begin an aerial search. Pima County

Sheriff James Clark assumed responsibility for the search headquarters at the Madera Lodge. The search effort from Madera Canyon got underway around 10:00AM with the arrival of Boy Scout Explorer Troop 8, a number of volunteers from Tucson and Volunteer Sheriff's Posse members with horses from Pima, Pinal, Cochise and Santa Cruz counties.

Search and rescue operations quickly commenced. Four separate search parties were formed and started combing the mountainside. One of their first objectives was the Ranger cabin at Baldy Spring in hopes that the scouts had been able to make it there and wait out the storm. The cabin was equipped with food, beds, a stove and firewood. A team of searchers (MSgt Ted Gillett from Davis-Monthan on skis, Sheriff's Sgt B.C. Rickey, Deputy Bill Tarshia and volunteers John McGregor and Don Lindon on snowshoes) broke trail through 3-foot drifts for over five hours before fatigue called a halt at about the 8,000-foot level (the elevation at the cabin was approximately 8700 feet). Next, Forest Ranger Bill Anderson and three members of the Pinal County Sheriff's Posse (Tom Rankin and Emmet and Cliff Foster), struggling through five-foot drifts, made it to the cabin on horseback only to find it empty. There was no sign that the boys had made it that far.

About 150 people were participating in the search with about another 150 people providing support. Also, a helicopter and a C-45 from Davis-Monthan AFB and numerous civilian light aircraft participated in an aerial search of the area. The helicopter, piloted by Capt. Robert Johnson, rescued two airman from Davis-Monthan who had been marooned in the canyon but had not yet been reported missing. Bruce LaNoue returned home to get provisions and equipment and then returned to the canyon. He set up camp on Josephine Saddle and remained there for the next 18 days participating in the search for the three boys. He even had the family dog join in the search for three days hoping the dog would find his master. Temperatures were dropping to around 0°F at night and only raising to about 32°F during the day

Tuesday, 18 November 1958 – About 100 searchers participated in the search on the 18th without any success. Two of the searchers were young ranch hands Glenn Carleton and J. L. Monzingo who searched up the Temporal Trail from Patagonia on horseback. Just before reaching the U-shaped curve in the trail around McBeth Springs, Glen's horse suddenly stopped. Upon dismounting, Glen noticed that his horse's hooves had become entangled in a telephone wire. Glen removed the wire from his horse and wrapped it around an adjacent bush. The wire at one time had connected the Forest Service's Madera Administrative Site to the Patagonia Ranger Station but was no longer used or maintained and had fallen down in many areas. He also retrieved a matchbook that had been clipped to the wire. The two cowboys noticed nothing else out of the ordinary so they proceeded on to Josephine Saddle. These two clues would help many years later in an analysis of how the three boys ended up where they did. Before the day was over, Fort Huachuca was requested to provide a large number of soldiers when they realized it was going to take a massive search effort. A call was also made to Russell Cone who was living in Los Gatos California to come and bring his bloodhounds to aid in the search.

Wednesday, 19 November 1958 - The search was expanded when 300 men of the 16th Signal Battalion, Fort Huachuca, led by Lt. Col J.R. Serena joined in the search. Thirty-five airmen from Davis-Monthan led by Lt. Col. George Shafer also arrived. With the arrival of the military leaders, a more orderly search plan was devised. An organized grid type of search was decided upon and the troops were to fan out in ten-foot intervals to search the slopes and ridges. Mr.

LaNoue decided to camp out and conduct his search from Josephine Saddle.

Thursday, 20 November 1958 – Lt. Col. Shafer from Davis-Monthan decided to relocate his troops to Josephine Saddle and commence their search operations from there. Some of the airmen also assisted Russ Cone in his search using the bloodhounds. Lt. Col. Serena from Fort Huachuca took 15 soldiers and climbed to the top of Mt. Baldy and established a temporary camp there in order to save time in searching that area. Russ Cone, his partner Tom Cox, and Russ's two bloodhounds joined in the search after having their dogs smell various articles belonging to the missing boys. Russ and his dogs had flown in from California to assist in the search. A group of 150 soldiers from Fort Huachuca under the supervision of four Patagonia ranchers (Ed Monzingo, Ed Cottan, Paul Kunde and Archie Ray) searched the Temporal Canyon area.

Friday, 21 November 1958 - Another 300 men from Fort Huachuca (the 72nd Signal Battalion led by Lt. Col William C. Golladay) joined in the search and combed the western side of the mountain and concentrated their search on the area where the dogs had picked up a scent. One of the searchers, Sgt. Winfred Gordon, discovered two aeronautical maps similar to the type owned by Mike Early. They were found in a snowdrift near the place where Lou Burgess had turned around that fateful Saturday. It was determined though that the maps had belonged to some of the searchers and not Mike Early. Several Sheriff's Deputies, numerous Patagonia ranchers headed by Mike Knagge and 35 Airmen from Davis-Monthan led by Lt. Col George Schafer searched the top of the mountain. Later that day, Mike Knagge and J.L. Monzingo discovered four brush markers across the trail (a traditional Boy Scout signal) that had appeared through the melting snow on the Baldy Trail just above Baldy Saddle.

Saturday, 22 November – Mr. Early and a number of his friends and relatives joined the search. The number of people involved in the search had increased to over 750 but nothing of any significance had been found.

Sunday 23 November 1958 - Searchers found the makings of a small fire along the Baldy Trail below Baldy Saddle. It looked as if someone had tried to start a fire using sticks and branches and a Kleenex similar to that carried by Greenberg. The Kleenex was only brown around the edges. Sunday evening the bulk of the search was called off by Sheriff Clark and three deputies (Sergeants Guy Hill, Frank Wootan and B.C. Richey) were left at the Santa Rita Lodge to oversee the continuing search as the snows melted.

Monday, 24 November thru Wednesday, 26 November – Only about 10 searchers still remained on the mountain. The searchers consisted of Forest Rangers, ranchers and law enforcement personnel.

Thursday, 27 November, Thanksgiving. – There was no official search scheduled but several people continued the search anyway. A group of seven searchers led by James Hardin searched the Josephine Trail and a portion of the Baldy Trail above Josephine Saddle. One of the searchers was seriously injured when his horse bucked him off which brought their search effort to a halt.

Friday, 28 November – Only two small groups of searchers were on the mountain today.

Saturday, 29 November thru Sunday, 30 November – A small group of people continued the search over the weekend with nothing significant being found.

Monday, 1 December thru Wednesday, 3 December – Sgt Hill and his two deputies, assisted by Mike Knagge, continued to coordinate the remaining volunteer searchers. Small search parties consisting of the parents, ranchers and deputy sheriffs continued to search for the missing boys on Monday. On Tuesday, Mike Knagge and three other ranchers guided a small group of soldiers under the command of Lt. John Stillwell in their search efforts on the slopes west of Baldy Saddle. On Wednesday, Santa Cruz Deputy Jack Sullivan and Mike Knagge coordinated a group of soldiers from Fort Huachuca in the search along the Temporal Trail. It was decided that the following day, Thursday, would be the last day of the search and a request was made for Fort Huachuca to provide soldiers for one more search effort.

Thursday, 4 December 1958 - Mike Knagge had 50 Fort Huachuca soldiers from the 16th Signal Battalion searching the area around the Temporal Canyon Trail. Mike was assigning the soldiers in small groups to work the various draws. Mike was on horseback heading along the temporal trail toward Patagonia and was a short distance past McBeth Springs when his horse suddenly shied. The horse began sniffing and snorting and fixating on something down the slope. Mike quickly recruited two soldiers, Pvt. John McKenna and Pvt. Kelley Kinser, to search the slope. They were carefully working their way down when one of the soldiers slipped and rolled down the hill. His tumble ended when he landed on something strange. Looking closer, he realized it was the body of one of the missing boys. He immediately alerted Mike Knagge who confirmed that it was one of the missing boys. It was 10:20 A.M. when Knagge fired two shots into the air as the signal to indicate that one of the boys had been found. Mike immediately made his way back to Josephine Saddle where the three fathers were waiting and asked them to go down and wait at the lodge for more information. A quick search disclosed the location of the other two bodies farther down the slope. The searchers also found a crude lean-to that had been constructed of pine branches and the remains of a small fire around which the boys had apparently huddled during their battle against blinding snow and freezing temperatures. A still-operative flashlight and David Greenberg's hatchet were found near the fire. The site of the fire was about 100 feet down slope from Temporal Trail and located on a tiny ledge. David Greenberg was found about 12 feet from the fire site. Mike Early was found about 25 yards down slope and Michael LaNoue was found about 30 yards below Mike. Body bags were dropped to the site by a helicopter and were used to recover the bodies. They were then loaded onto a litter to be carried out and back to Madera Canyon by six soldiers. The soldiers also built small rock cairns at each of the three sites where the bodies had been found. At 5:05 P.M., the Ft. Huachuca soldiers walked out of the mountains with the bodies of the three boys.



Slope below Temporal Trail Where Boys Were Found

The youngsters were found on the 19th day and what was scheduled to be the last day of a hunt that at one time involved an estimated 700 men. The area where the boys were found had been searched by 40 to 50 men on previous days but always before, the bodies had been hidden by at least two feet of snow. Just the day before, two searchers had eaten their lunch on a point just above the site. The three boys are buried not far from each other in Holy Hope Cemetery in Tucson



Ralph Coltrin at Fire Ring Site

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EPILOGUE: Over the years there have been several attempts to piece together the various bits of information and try to determine just what happened and why the three boys ended up at the location where they were found. Mike Knagge's initial theory was that they may have been attempting to follow the phone line and ended up on the Temporal Trail by mistake and then decided to stop and set up a camp when the weather got real bad. Lou Burgess, in a discussion with the author of this web page in 2005 did not feel that the boys had been following the phone line as it descended down the wash above the Temporal Trail because the terrain in that area was rather rough going. He felt that they mistakenly took the Temporal Trail from a point near Josephine Saddle. Lou said that back in 1958, there was a short cut through the trees about 20 feet or so before the actual junction of the Baldy Trail with the Madera Canyon Trail. He said that it always 'felt right' to treat the short cut as another switchback when coming down from the top. Lou indicated that several different times he had ended up on the Temporal Trail and had to 'regroup and get his bearings' and turn around to make it back to Madera Canyon. He feels that this was more likely what had happened to the boys rather than them following the phone line toward Patagonia.

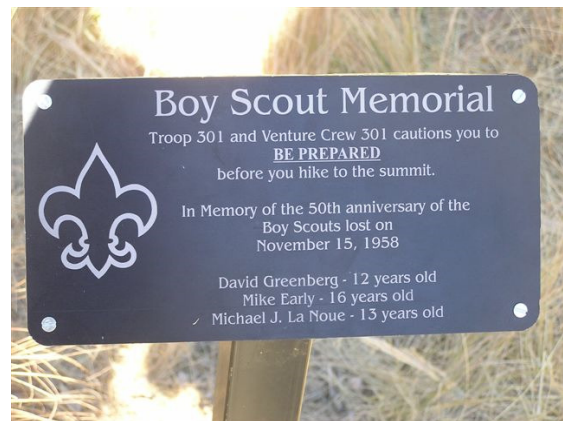
The most probable scenario of what happened was developed by Cathy Hufault, sister of Ralph Coltrin, in a book that she authored. Cathy did considerable research and interviewed many of the original participants and uncovered additional clues. This scenario is summarized here. After Lou Burgess turned around, the other three boys (Early, LaNoue and Greenberg) continued up the Baldy Trail. Before they reached Baldy Saddle, David Greenberg became tired and was left to wait by the trail while the other two continued on. While the other two continued on, David became cold and attempted to start a fire while he waited for their return. It was most likely David that tried to start the fire because of the materials and the rudimentary nature of the fire (David was brand new to scouting). Early and LaNoue continued past Baldy Saddle and up the trail toward the top until they decided that they should give up their quest to reach the peak and return to where they had left Greenberg. They placed brush markings across the trail to indicate where they had stopped in case they had a chance to try again the following day. After returning to where they had left Greenberg, the three descended the Baldy Trail toward Josephine Saddle. Upon approaching Josephine Saddle in complete darkness and with only one flashlight, Mike Early made the fatal mistake at the junction of the Temporal Trail and began following it toward Patagonia. After passing McBeth Springs, Mike tripped over the downed telephone line, fell off the trail and rolled down the hillside breaking his leg. LaNoue and

Greenberg then went down to where Early had stopped and determined that their only alternative was to wait out the storm. There was a narrow flat spot under a tree where they set up their camp. The two boys built a fire ring with stones and gathered wood using Greenberg's hatchet. They also constructed a lean-to with pine branches to provide as much protection from the deteriorating weather as possible since all of their camping gear was back in Madera Canyon. It was probably Greenberg who climbed back up to the Temporal Trail to leave a marker and left the matchbook hanging on the telephone wire. They then settled in to await rescue. The boys had put up a valiant fight for survival but it was no match for the storm of the century.

Memorial markers were originally placed at the three locations where the boys were found. These markers consisted of rock cairns and crude branch crosses and were placed there by the soldiers who found the boys. In 1959, David Greenberg Sr. had three metal plaques made and Ralph Coltrin and Mr. Early placed these at the original memorials. These memorial sites gradually disintegrated over the years and were scattered over the hillside. In 1988 Ralph was able to recover the metal plaques of Early and Greenberg but was unable to find LaNoue's plaque. Mr. Greenberg also had a large metal plaque made and it was mounted at Josephine saddle. A few years later Boy Scout Troop 249 erected a wooden memorial plaque at Josephine Saddle commemorating the deaths of the three boys. This plaque is still there and what is left of Mr. Greenberg's large metal plaque has been secured to it. An effort was initiated in 2012 to recognize this memorial as an Arizona Historical Site. On 15 November 2008, the 50th anniversary of the tragedy, a new metal plaque commemorating the boys was installed at the entrance of the Super Trail by the Upper Roundup parking area. This plaque was installed by Raymond Helton of Boy Scout Troop 301 as his Eagle Scout project. On 31 March 2012, the missing original plaque was found. Scott Gallas was intrigued by the story of the Scout Tragedy and he and his son decided to hike to the location where the boys had been found. As they descended the slope below the Temporal Trail they noticed a pile of rocks with the cross part of the plaque sticking out of the rocks. It was Michael LaNoue's Plaque. They retrieved the plaque, climbed back to the Temporal Trail and were headed back to Josephine Saddle when they met a group of hikers led by Ralph Coltrin. Scott turned the plaque over to Ralph and it is now safely accounted for.



Josephine Saddle Memorial Plaque



Super Trail Memorial Plaque

November 17, 2018 was a special day in the Santa Rita Mountains. Scouts from many of the Tucson area Scout Troops and Packs made a memorial trek to Josephine Saddle to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the scout tragedy. The memorial service at the saddle included the dedication of the restored Memorial Plaque and the playing of Taps by two young scouts.



Ralph Coltrin & Restored Plaque



Two Buglers Playing Taps

December 1958 and from the summary of the tragedy by Bonnie Henry in the 9 November 1988 Arizona Daily Star. The article was subsequently updated in 2005 from comments provided by Lou Burgess and again in 2010 from information provided by William Gillespie, US Forest Service, and by Linda Strader. The article underwent a major revision in January 2011 based on information contained in the book *Death Clouds on Mt. Baldy* by Cathy Hufault and from discussions with Ralph Coltrin. It was revised again in December 2012 to correct minor errors and to acknowledge the finding of the missing memorial plaque. Another update to the article was made in June 2019. All photographs by Tom Johnson.

Additional Material: GVHC Library File 38