

Still Hunt Missing C.R. Boy

By William Simbro
 (Register Staff Writer)

TODDVILLE, IA. — A day-long search Monday by about 250 persons failed to turn up any solid clues to the Saturday night disappearance of Guy Heckle, 11, of Cedar Rapids at a Boy Scout campout.

Fellow scouts in Troop 101, sponsored by the Eisenhower School PTA, told officers the group was playing the game, "Capture the Flag," when Guy disappeared about 8 p.m. Saturday. They said he had the "flag" at the time and was supposed to be hiding to keep it from being captured.

Searchers Monday combed an area three miles in radius from the hilly, wooded campsite near the Cedar River about two miles northwest of here.

"It's just faith that's keeping us going," said Howard Heckle, the boy's father.

Heckle described his son as "adventurous," but said the lad wouldn't disobey rules set by his scoutmaster. He said the family hasn't given up hope that Guy will be found alive.

"If the Lord has taken his soul, I want his body," the saddened father said.

Many of Heckle's fellow employees at Iowa Electric Light and Power Co. were among the searchers Monday.

Sheriff's deputies had no firm theory as to what may have happened to the boy. One fear expressed by searchers was that a boy lost in the darkness could fall off one of the area's numerous drop-offs into the river.

People from all walks of life joined in the search Monday.

Bob Strempe, a commercial photographer and neighbor of the Heckles, joined in the search Saturday night and was there all day Sunday and Monday. He closed up his studio.

Another searcher was Mrs. Robert Claypool. After spending the day tramping through the woods, Mrs. Claypool described Guy as "an obedient, co-operative boy. He isn't the type who would go off against the rules."

Mrs. Claypool was his first den mother in Cub Scouts. "If you were to pick a boy or a family that something like this would happen to, it wouldn't be the Heckles," she said.

Officers said at this point there was no reason to suspect foul play.

Heckle said his son is a religious boy. "My wife and children love the Lord and have followed Him better than Dad has. But it's faith in the Lord and the help and concern of all these people that's keeping me going today."

The Heckles have two daughters, aged 13 and 14.

Joining in the search Sunday and Monday was a Cedar Rapids municipal helicopter. Cedar Rapids Mayor Donald J. Canney spent part of Monday as a spotter in the helicopter.

Besides officers of various law enforcement agencies and individual volunteers, organized groups involved included citizens' band radio clubs, Boy Scout troops, church groups, Monroe Township Fire Department, Iowa Electric employees and workmen from the construction site where Iowa Electric is building Iowa's first nuclear-powered electric plant.



WIREPHOTO (AP)

Search for Scout Continues

About 250 persons search a heavily wooded area near Toddville Monday for a youth who disappeared during a weekend outing with a group of Boy Scouts. Missing is Guy Heckle, 11, of Cedar Rapids.

CHINA COTTON SALE NOT FINAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — The government has not received official confirmation of a big sale of U.S. cotton to mainland China, Laurel C. Meade, sales manager for the Agricultural Department, said Monday.

Meade said he was misunderstood over the weekend when he told the Associated Press the sale of 400,000 bales of cotton to China had been confirmed by a Texas firm.

Plains Cotton Cooperative of Lubbock, Tex., sold the cotton to a British firm, Raili Bros. & Coney, Meade said. It was this transaction that had been confirmed, he said.

"We got confused between calling it a confirmation of a sale to Raili Bros. and calling it a confirmation of a sale to China," Meade told a reporter.

"The department has no documentation of a sale of cotton to China," Meade said. "But we do keep hearing rumors in the trade that this is so."

Meade, who heads the Export Marketing Service in the department, earlier had been asked if U.S. cotton had been sold to China. He said then it was true and that confirmation of the sale came to USDA last Friday from an official of the Lubbock Cooperative.

Wyoming Nuclear Test Delay Told

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — A Wyoming group was told Monday that plans for an underground nuclear test called Wagon Wheel will be delayed for a year, if not dropped altogether. The federal officials told the Wagon Wheel Information Committee that President Nixon's proposed federal budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1 contains no request for Wagon Wheel research and development.

TERRITORY VOTE

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Legislation to give residents of Guam and the Virgin Islands the right to vote for president and vice-president was introduced jointly Monday by the delegates from the two territories.

Market Price Variance

The contracts provide, however, that for every \$1 the market price in a given area falls below the contract price, Armour will absorb 25 cents.

For each \$1 the market price rises above \$24, the farmer will absorb a 25 cent discount.

A.S. Drain, Armour executive vice-president, gave this example:

"If the applied market price base is \$18, the producer receives \$19.25, or 25 cents per hundred extra. If the market price rises above \$24, the hog raiser gets three-fourths of the increase."

Oren Lee Staley of Corning, president of the National Farmers Organization (NFO), hailed the contract as a major breakthrough to end the "feast and famine" characteristics of the hog-price cycle, but said the prices specified fall far below the current costs of production for hogs.

He said the current cost of producing a pound of pork for Iowa producers ranges in the area of \$25 to \$28.60 per hundred weight, depending on whose figures are being used. The NFO has been bargaining with meatpackers on this subject for more than two years, he said.

NFO Idea

"They've bought our idea," he said, "but what we were talking about is a contract between the meatpackers and the NFO, in behalf of its members.

"What we're saying is, 'join the NFO and bargain together.' Our ideas and concepts have been sold. Now is the time to join together and make it more effective."

Bill Lashmeer, bargaining coordinator for NFO, charged that the Armour plan is an effort to get into the picture before the other NFO contracts are announced.

"I think they (Armour) know about some of the other negotiations going on," he said, "and they're hoping to get below those figures (in other contracts)," Lashmeer said.

Staley said the NFO feels that any contract negotiated

Possible Interest

Bill Dew, manager of hog procurement for Armour, agreed that many farmers might not be interested in contracts with hog prices at current highs levels.

But when prices fall to low levels, as they usually do during the summer, it is hoped many hog producers will be interested in signing the contracts.

The pacts apparently would be binding on both the farmers and Armour even if prices were to rise sharply and farmers wanted out, U.S. District Attorney Allen Donielson of Des Moines said.

"I'd have to look into the restraint of trade laws and the Armour plans in detail to say positively," Donielson said, "but on the surface it looks to me as if the contracts would be valid."

"We theorize that if enough

people do this (sign contracts), and enough of our competitors do this, it might tend to put the hog market into the \$20 to \$24 range, said Armour's Dew.

"That would at least do away with the disastrous prices of 1971 and other years that nearly put many people out of business."

Dew said Armour and other meatpackers have had hog procurement contracts with producers in the past, but most of them have been tied to the futures market.

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Armour Announces Plans for Guaranteed Hog-Price Floors

By Arlo Jacobson
 (The Register's Agri-Business Editor)
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PHOENIX, ARIZ. — Armour and Co., one of the nation's major meatpackers, has announced plans for a four-year contract with farmers to guarantee a floor price for hogs.

The proposed contract offers a guaranteed price in the range of \$20 to \$24 per hundredweight, well below current prices that have been exceeding \$30 in recent weeks. Thus, not many hog producers could be expected to take immediate advantage of the proposal.

The contracts provide, however, that for every \$1 the market price in a given area falls below the contract price, Armour will absorb 25 cents.

For each \$1 the market price rises above \$24, the farmer will absorb a 25 cent discount.

A.S. Drain, Armour executive vice-president, gave this example:

"If the applied market price base is \$18, the producer receives \$19.25, or 25 cents per hundred extra. If the market price rises above \$24, the hog raiser gets three-fourths of the increase."

Oren Lee Staley of Corning, president of the National Farmers Organization (NFO), hailed the contract as a major breakthrough to end the "feast and famine" characteristics of the hog-price cycle, but said the prices specified fall far below the current costs of production for hogs.

He said the current cost of producing a pound of pork for Iowa producers ranges in the area of \$25 to \$28.60 per hundred weight, depending on whose figures are being used. The NFO has been bargaining with meatpackers on this subject for more than two years, he said.

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