

August 18th, 1928.

MEMO. TO MR. WEST:

RE: CHOICE OF SCOUT FOR BYRD EXPEDITION

In reply to your request, I submit for consideration list of the six Scouts, from whom one is to be chosen to accompany Commander Byrd to the South Pole, in the numerical order of preference.

This does not represent my first judgment. I have tried very carefully to be impartial and unprejudiced, changing my ratings as the six Scouts met their various experiences.

I would like to add that I have heard, but not studied, their records nor am I familiar with their physical examination reports or their National Training School ratings.

I am acquainted only with their performance under all sorts of conditions while living and traveling with them the six days they were in New York.

I invented some duties not on their schedule in order to confirm any doubts I might have had in the matter of their characteristics, attitudes, reactions, etc.

Except for their comparative physical fitness, of which I do not have the record, I believe any one of the six would be a credit to the Boy Scout Movement if chosen for the Byrd Expedition. From the standpoint of character, I am certain all would make good.

It was difficult for me to choose as in some cases the selection could be only through finding in what one Scout excelled in comparison with the others.

It was a pleasure to have been associated with the group and I am grateful for the privilege.

MALCOLM C. DOUGLASS

HIS STRONG POINTS

1. He appears to have a good strong physique
2. He has an excellent character with the highest ideals.
3. He is intelligent and very observant.
4. He is absolutely sincere.
5. He is respectful.
6. He shows good judgment. He seems to be experienced along many lines.
7. He has a good personality. He does not make a strong first impression, but a short acquaintance seems to lead to a strong friendship that rings deep.
8. He is keenly interested in the sciences and problems of all kinds. He likes to reason solutions for himself.
9. He appears to be a plodder with perseverance and patience. Willing to work and to take orders.
10. He enjoys serving others. He appreciates the responsibility of the Scout who is chosen.
11. He is easily adapted to his surroundings.
12. He has a keen, though somewhat underlying, sense of humor.
13. He has a wholesome respect for serious things.
14. He is ambitious and enthusiastic.

HIS WEAK POINTS

1. He is not a rapid thinker. He takes time, but is usually right.
2. He is a little too serious. I am not certain how he would stand up under a considerable dose of banter on board ship. He accepts criticism appreciatively, however.

HIS STRONG POINTS

1. He has an outstanding, pleasing, personality.
2. He is a rapid thinker, and quick to carry thoughts into effect.
3. He is a willing worker.
4. He has an excellent character.
5. He is willing to, and has performed, menial labor -- knows how to do hard work cheerfully.
6. His Southern temperament would be easily understood and could be sympathetically handled by Commander Byrd.
7. He has had a variety of experiences.
8. He is intelligent.
9. He has had to rely upon himself for long periods.
10. He can readily stand joshing.

HIS WEAK POINTS

1. He has not an outstandingly strong physique.
2. He is slightly over self-confident, and ~~Seem~~ likely to assume a responsibility not within his jurisdiction.
3. He has a slight tone of insincerity.
4. He seems to be given to grand-stand playing to ^Ascarcely perceptible extent.

5.

CLARK SPURLOCK
EUGENE, OREGON

HIS STRONG POINTS

1. He has had extended experience in out of doors.
2. He is a hard worker.
3. He is an intelligent thinker and fairly rapid.
4. He is respectful.
5. He is apparently absolutely fearless.

HIS WEAK POINTS

1. He is stubborn to a great degree which may find its value in perseverance.
2. He has ^{poor} sense of humor.
3. He will not take orders ^{very} readily.
4. He gave me the impression of being somewhat sly.
5. Question the health of his eyesight.
6. He is a slow thinker and slower to act.

4.

DONALD H. COOPER,
TACOMA, WASHINGTON

HIS STRONG POINTS

1. He has had considerable experience both in hard work and outdoor contact.
2. He is intelligent.

HIS WEAK POINTS

1. He is not particularly refined, cultured; or well educated in book knowledge.
2. He is not interested in research or deep thinking.
3. He is stoop-shouldered.
4. He does not readily stand joshing.
5. He is too serious - frowning most of the time as though it were hard for him to digest many ideas at once.
6. He has a rather negative personality.

5.

ALDEN E. SNELL,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

HIS STRONG POINTS

1. Perhaps the most intelligent and cultured of the six.
2. He has a good personality.
3. He has excellent judgment.
4. He can withstand joshing.
5. He has an excellent physique.
6. He is not easily excited, calm under stress.

HIS WEAK POINTS

1. He is somewhat diffident.
2. He is not always respectful (answers Chief Scout Executive with "yop's" in public).
3. He is not always on lookout for opportunities to be of service.
4. He is very slightly conceited.
5. He does not appear to be a plugger and seems to give up too easily with an excuse.
6. I would say lazy. In other words, he lacks initiative and purpose.

6.

JACK HIRSCHMAN,
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

HIS STRONG POINTS

1. He know what it means to do hard work.

HIS WEAK POINTS

1. He ^{has} ~~is~~ not a particularly pleasing personality.
2. He talks too much.
3. He is pessimistic and skeptical.
4. He is a grand stand player to slight degree.
5. He has poor health.
6. He is self conscious, and intro-spective.
7. He wants his services to be appreciated.