

MEMORANDUM

TO: MR. WEST:- FROM: FRANK N. ROBINSON DATE: AUGUST 15, 1928.

SUBJECT:

I want to call your attention to this story in the Evening Telegram of last night. This boy is one of those who filed an application and was rejected. He works on a Scripps-Howard Newspaper in Oklahoma. Mr. McRae wrote a letter in here favoring his candidacy. Miss Kirk, a woman writer on the Telegram, came up several times to see about it.

My own very private thought on the subject is that the Scripps-Howard United Press crowd were hopeful that in this way they might get a news writer aboard the Byrd Fleet. However, I have nothing but my own surmise behind this statement.

FNRST

Robinson



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



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FEBRUARY 8, 1910

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JAMES E. WEST, Chief Scout Executive

August 15, 1928

Commander Richard B. Byrd,
Hotel Biltmore,
New York City.

My dear Commander Byrd:

My attention has been invited this morning to the attached clipping concerning the personal effort of Scout Bill Witt to reach you with a view of having personal consideration given to his anxiety to be a member of your party.

I find that Scout Witt did file formal application, and that his case was considered by the Committee, but that he did not qualify in the judgment of those who made the preliminary eliminations so as to be included in even the semi-final group of seventeen scouts. He is apparently a very fine young man and has a host of friends. I could say about the same thing with reference to each of the eighty-eight boys whose applications are in our hands.

In his case there were a large number of telegrams and evidence of considerable interest to develop favorable consideration.

Attached to the newspaper clipping is a memorandum from our Publicity Department for your confidential information.

Sincerely and cordially yours,
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

James E. West

Chief Scout Executive.

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HOPES TO SCOUT POLE.



Bill Witt.

BOY HIKE HERE
FOR POLAR JOBHonor Scout Comes 1,500
Miles to See Byrd.

Covered, so to speak, with 1,500 miles of mud and dust, Bill Witt, 19, ranking Boy Scout of Oklahoma, trudged into New York today in search of Commander Richard Byrd.

Bill hitch-hiked his way here from his home in Oklahoma City to press his application for a place on Byrd's Antarctic expedition.

"I decided I ought to come to New York and talk to Commander Byrd personally," the youth explained, "and there wasn't any way to get here except by walking. Fortunately, I got auto rides much of the way."

This is the Oklahoma boy's first trip to New York, but, undaunted, he climbed on a West Side Subway half an hour after arriving on a 23rd St. ferry. To a boy who has already had 60 hours in the air as a flying student, a subway, it seems, is just one more thing. He will get his pilot's commission after 10 more hours of flying.

Among the reasons Bill thinks he is qualified to go on Byrd's dangerous expedition are the following:—

He carried ice in Oklahoma City for two summers.

He has 65 Scout merit badges (76 are the maximum obtainable) and 10 honor, or public service, badges. When he gets dressed up in all his badges he looks like a suit of walking armor.

He is a crack shot with a rifle, can bulldog a steer like a veteran and can throw a rope almost as well as his fellow Oklahoman and friend, Will Rogers.

CONEY TO HOLD CARNIVAL

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