

26 May 1933

My dear Carl:

I am delighted to hear that you have entered the popular and subscription voting contest being conducted by the Norwegian News Co. It certainly would be nice if you could win the grand prize. If you put the same effort into this contest that you put into your work while a member of my expedition to the Antarctic, I am sure you will come out a winner. I wish you the best of luck.

With my best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Carl Petersen
29 Princeton Place
Merrick, L. I.

26 May 1933

My dear

I am writing on behalf of Carl Petersen who, I understand, has made application for a commission in the Naval Reserve.

Mr. Petersen was radio operator on my expedition to the Antarctic, from 1928 to June, 1930, and spent the winter night at Little America on the Ice Barrier.

Petersen has been a Sergeant in the Air Corps since 1927. He went up for Second Lieutenant in 1928 but could not secure his commission on account of not being an American citizen. Due to an inadvertence, he was held up for some time in securing his papers. I believe he finally secured his papers last June. Petersen has set his heart on securing his commission and I know he would be a valuable asset to the Naval Reserve.

Petersen's own application will give you a record of his experience but I just want to add a word in regard to his splendid character and ability as a radio operator. His work was exceptional. He has a high sense of loyalty and is a splendid type of citizen.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

7 April 1933

My dear Carl:

Brickson certainly got himself into a peck of trouble. The charge against him was burglary which is a penitentiary offense, but he did not really deserve to be so charged since he was intoxicated and, I am sure, would not have done such a thing had he been sober. It has been quite a task to get the Y. M. C. A. to change their charge. He is now up for petty larceny and I hope we can eventually get this charge changed to drunk and disorderly conduct which will not be the blot on his record that stealing would be.

I am sorry about the 50% cut. That sort of thing is going on everywhere. Our going South depends upon conditions in the country. Hanson is not going and you are the only radio man I have so far. However, Hanson and a man by the name of McCaleb, an engineer, are advising me and I am going to get them in touch with you concerning what Paramount wants to do for us.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Carl Petersen
29 Princeton Place
Merrick, L.I.

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
16 May 1932

My dear Carl:

I don't want you to lose out on my account. It is very likely that Ellsworth will, in a very short time, select his radio operator. Ellsworth is wealthy and it is likely he can do more for you than I can. He is also an extraordinarily fine fellow, and a gentleman in every sense of the word.

I don't wish to recommend to you any course of action because that is too big a responsibility for me to take. I realize that you have a family and that you must do the best you can for yourself and, regardless of everything, I am in favor of your doing what is best for you.

If you want to accept Ellsworth's proposition, you have my O.K. and my blessing. If you do accept it, I shall miss you tremendously since there is no one whom I would rather have on the expedition than you. You must not think because I am attempting not to be selfish I am not anxious to have you. You have already been accepted for my expedition, as you know. I will be glad to give you a letter of recommendation to Ellsworth. He is very likely to ask you if you were going with me. You can, of course, tell him yes but that I have released you from any promise to me. If you wish me to communicate with Ellsworth, you had better act promptly since he is going away Wednesday.

I have not mentioned your name to him but did tell him if he wanted to take with him any men who agreed to go with me, I thought he had better get in touch with me about it.

I was glad to see you the other day but sorry I had such a short time in New York.

Best wishes always,

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Carl Peterson
163 Thelma St.
Merrick, L.I.

Dublin, New Hampshire

August 7, 1930.

Captain H. H. Bailey
Hdqtrs. Byrd Antarctic Expedition
Hotel Biltmore
New York.

Dear Hilton:

Carl Petersen, one of the best fellows in the world, is terribly hurt about a lot of things. Not angry, but hurt. I am devoted to him.

I have written him a long letter trying to straighten him out. He thinks that I have paid no attention to him, and gives Joe Rucker the credit for placing him in a position.

You will recall about the whaling story. Will you please do what you can to get this placed somewhere? I thought it was delightful in the way it was told, with the errors due to his limited experience in English. However, I guess it couldn't go that way.

Devotedly,

R. E. Byrd/L