



TIME
The Weekly Newsmagazine
NEW YORK & CLEVELAND

Byrd

EDITORIAL ROOMS
25 West 45th Street
New York

May 28, 1928

Herbert Bayard Swope, Esq.
The New York World
New York City

Dear Mr. Swope:

A friend of mine, George Thorne of Chicago, wants to go with Commander Byrd's South Pole expedition. He has every qualification -- scientific, physical, financial. I think if Commander Byrd would see him he would take him like a shot. I know you have the Commander's ear. Would you put in a word for Thorne, to help get an interview?

Here are the facts about him: Age, 28. Graduates this June from Yale School of Forestry. His course included geology, mineralogy, topography. He is a licensed pilot and owns a plane. He is ruggedly built, never sick a day, goodnatured, quiet. Winter sports have always been his forte. He has won long-distance ski-races (cross-country) in Switzerland and Norway. He is a good rifle-shot and a thorough sportsman. He's been through Africa, camped in Canada and the Rockies. His father was George A. Thorne (Montgomery, Ward & Co.), who died just the other day. Mr. Thorne brought his boys up to do things with him out of doors. I have known them all my life.

Thorne (his nickname is "Mike") wants to go with Commander Byrd because he wants to make exploration his métier. He has an income of \$25,000 per year and could contribute that amount or much more. But he soft-pedals that because he is not trying to buy-his-way-in. At present he is in Arkansas on a forestry-study problem. He returns to New York June 2 and wants to be sure of at least seeing Commander Byrd and offering himself for the trip.

With many thanks for anything you can and will do, and with my best regards,

Sincerely yours,

John S. Martin
John S. Martin



JAMES S. COBB

PROVINCIAL
OTTO L. GUERNSEY
VICE PRESIDENT

Abercrombie & Fitch Co.

MADISON AVENUE & FORTY-FIFTH STREET

NEW YORK May 21, 1928.

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

Dear Commander Byrd:

I am taking the liberty of calling to your attention a man whom I know, who is extremely interested in your coming South Pole Expedition.

I would not bother you with this unless I really believed it is possible that the individual in question, Mr. George A. Thorne, might be of some value to you.

I know him personally, through his sister and brother-in-law, and know he is an entirely dependable person and his desire to become associated with your expedition is not that of one who is seeking notoriety. He is a man of independent means and as you will note in the resume of his qualifications, which is attached, he is interested enough to be willing to use them in case he has an opportunity to become associated with you.

In case you might be interested in Mr. Thorne, I know where I can get hold of him and he will be only too glad to go and see you at any place that would be convenient for you.

I would not take the liberty of writing to you in this connection about this individual unless I knew him and could recommend him.

Very truly yours,

OLG-flm

Otto L. Guernsey
Vice President.

Gale Forestry Camp
Crossett, Arkansas
May 21, 1928

Commander Richard E. Byrd
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir;

Can qualify as skin among
Norwegians. Exploration is my ambition. Have
been previously tied down by ill parent. Father
recently died.

I graduated from Gale Sheffield Scientific
School in the class of 1925. Will receive M.F.
degree from the Gale Forestry School, June 20, 1928.

I own and operate an airplane, having
Connecticut Limited Commercial License No 49.

Residence:- 1130 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago

Address:- St Anthony Hall, New Haven
Will be in to see you about June 11th.

Very truly yours
George A. Thorne jr.

Yale Forestry Camp
Crossett, Arkansas
May 21, 1928

Commander Richard E. Byrd
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir,

Can qualify as skier among Norwegians. Exploration is my ambition.
Have been previously tied down by ill parent. Father recently died.

I graduated from Yale Sheffield Scientific School in the class of 1925. Will
receive M.F. degree from the Yale Forestry School, June 20, 1928.

I own and operate an airplane, having Connecticut Limited Commercial License
No 49.

Residence:- 1130 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago

Address:- St. Anthony Hall, New Haven

Will be in to see you about June 11th.

Very truly yours,
George A Thorne Jr.

George A. Thorne. Apr 26. Yale 1920.

Scientific, mechanical and technical training.
graduates June 19 from Yale School of Forestry.
Interested in work of developing natural resources.

Owns small airplane - has pilot's license
Extremely interested in future of aviation

Experience in skiing at Placid. St. Moritz &
Norway. wins long distance skiing championships
yearly. Thrives in cold weather.

Independent means, willing to use it. He desires
to go for notoriety as a game but anxious
to find a use for his tremendous health,
vitality and endurance. Untiring endurance,
never been sick and an unfailing cheerful
disposition.

Considerable experience in camping and
long canoe trips.

MRS. GURTHIE SHAW
FOREST AVENUE
RYE, NEW YORK

George A Thorne. age 26. Yale 1925

Scientific, mechanical and technical training. Graduates June 19 from Yale School of Forestry- Interested in work of developing natural resources.

Owens small airplane- has pilots licence (*sic*)

Extremely interested in future of aviation.

Experience in skiing at Placid, St. Moritz and Norway- wins long distance skiing championships yearly. Thrives on cold weather,

Independent means, willing to use it. No desire to go for notoriety or as a game and anxious to find a use for his tremendous health, vitality and endurance. Untiring endurance, never been sick and an unfailing cheerful disposition.

Considerable experience in camping and long canoe trips.

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The Weekly Newsmagazine

NEW YORK, CLEVELAND
— AND CHICAGO —

OFFICE OF THE PUBLISHER

25 WEST 45TH STREET
NEW YORK

May 22, 1928



Dr. John H. Finley
The New York Times
New York City

Dear Dr. Finley:

Persuant to our talk this morning, following are the qualifications of George Thorne, of Chicago, a candidate to accompany Commander Byrd's South Polar Expedition:

He is 25 years old, son of the late George A. Thorne of Chicago. His father, a partner in Montgomery Ward & Company, was a vigorous out-of-doors man, a fine sportsman who brought his boys up to be his companions on hunting and fishing expeditions. George, or "Mike", as he has always been called, is the oldest son.

He graduates this June from the Yale School of Forestry, where he will take the degree of Master of Forestry. His course has made him a proficient field man in geology, mineralogy, surveying, topography. During his post-graduate years at Yale he purchased a small airplane and obtained a pilot's license. The career he planned was in the conservation and utilization of natural resources, especially forests. He invested in timber tracts near Franconia, N.H. and used his plane to visit there, and for transportation on field trips in his courses. At present he is in Arkansas.

His experience of out-of-doors life goes back to his earliest boyhood -- camping and fishing in Northern Michigan, Canada, the Rockies. He is a good horseman, rifle shot, canoe man. He has been through Africa, hunting. His greatest proficiency is in winter sports, especially skiing. He has won long-distance ski races at Lake Placid, St. Moritz and in Norway. He thrives on cold weather and to my certain knowledge has never been sick a day in his life. He is powerfully muscular and has extraordinary endurance. Like most healthy men he is incurably good-natured. I have known him all his life and never seen him nervous, annoyed or anything but cheerful. He is quiet by nature, and very mature for his years, the maturity of experience. He has never heard of fear.

#2
Dr. Finley

His reason for wanting to go with Commander Byrd is not to do the spectacular but because, having independent means, great vitality, scientific training and a love of the outdoors, he wants to make scientific exploration part of his life. (I have mentioned his other interest, forestry). He has an income of \$25,000 per annum, which amount, and considerably more if it were needed, he would gladly devote to the expedition. He wants to be understood on this point, that he is not seeking to "buy his way in". He puts his personal qualifications and interest first and offers himself primarily as a man, considering it merely a fortunate circumstance that he would be in a position to contribute money as well, if it were needed.

Commander Byrd could learn more about "Mike" Thorne from Juan Trippe, President of the Pan-American Airways, who knew "Mike" at college. I believe Mr. Trippe is going to suggest "Mike" to Commander Byrd, anyway, as a good South Pole man.

With many thanks to you, Dr. Finley, for your kindness in bringing this to Commander Byrd's attention, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Wm. S. Martin

July 24, 1928

Mr. George A. Thorne, Jr.
Yale Club
Vanderbilt Avenue & 44th St.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Thorne:

Please call at the Expedition's headquarters here in the Biltmore at your earliest convenience with regard to making an appointment for the necessary dental treatment at the clinic which has been opened up here in New York.

Looking forward to seeing you soon, I am

Sincerely yours,

C.E. Lofgren
Personnel Officer

CEL-S

The following information is necessary in compiling permanent records of the expedition and for use in releasing newspaper and magazine articles. Please mark as "confidential" any statements you do not desire to be given out of the office.

NAME George A. Thome Jr.
ADDRESS 1130 STREET Lake Shore Drive CITY Chicago STATE Ill
AGE 26 NATIONALITY American
PLACE OF BIRTH Winnetka CITY _____ STATE Ill
DATE OF BIRTH Dec 20, 1901
MARRIED OR SINGLE Single
NEAREST RELATION Mother - Mrs George Thome KINSHIP _____
ADDRESS** 1130 STREET Lake Shore Drive CITY Chicago STATE Ill
PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS
HEIGHT 5'4" FEET 8 INCHES
WEIGHT 152 POUNDS
COLOR OF EYES Blue COLOR OF HAIR Light
COMPLEXION ruddy
PROMINENT MARKS AND SCARS _____
HAVE YOU EVER HAD MILITARY OR NAVAL SERVICE* No.
BRANCH _____
APPROXIMATE PERIOD _____
LENGTH OF SERVICE _____
HIGHEST RANK OR RATING ATTAINED _____
ARE YOU NOW A MEMBER OF THE ARMY, NAVY OR MARINE CORPS _____
IF SO GIVE COMPANY, DIVISION OR REGIMENT*** _____
TRADE OR PROFESSION Forster
IN WHAT OTHERS HAVE YOU A WORKING KNOWLEDGE Aviation
RELIGION _____
EDUCATION Scientific
GRAMMAR SCHOOL Winnetka Public School
HIGH SCHOOL The Hills School (Master of Forster)
COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY Yale DEGREES B.S. & M.F.
WERE YOU A MEMBER OF COMMANDER BYRD'S NORTH POLE EXPEDITION _____

IN WHAT OTHER SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED _____

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION _____

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS _____

WHAT FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS DO YOU BELONG TO St. Anthony at York.

WHAT OTHER CLUBS OR ORGANIZATIONS _____

DID YOU EVER SERVE WITH COMMANDER BYRD IN THE NAVY _____

WHEN AND WHERE _____