

HE FOOLS THE GOATS



In the picture above William L. Finley, the naturalist, is shown in a costume he wears when hunting mountain goats with a camera. Made of cotton material, it is worn chiefly to arouse the curiosity of the animals in order to lure them within camera range. Below, a studio portrait of Finley. He is in St. Louis for a lecture tonight.

NATURALIST TELLS OF PHOTOGRAPHING ANIMALS 'AT HOME'

William L. Finley Here for Lecture at Mary Institute Tonight.

Waiting for hours in a blind or sitting on a rock at the top of a mountain dressed in a cotton flannel costume that gave him the appearance of a teddy bear in a child's nursery in order to get choice pictures of elk or mountain goats, has frequently been the experience of William L. Finley, naturalist, who has been taking unusual pictures of animals in their native habitat for more than twenty years.

Finley, who is in the city under the auspices of the Academy of Science of St. Louis, will give an illustrated talk on "Camera Hunting on the Continental Divide" tonight at Mary Institute, Lake and Waterman avenues.

"The idea of the costumes," Finley said today in discussing his adventures, "is to appeal to the curiosity of the animals, especially that of elk and mountain goats. They know it is not another animal of their kind, but they want to see what it is. Consequently they come close to the camera and we get some fine shots. The color and design of



the costume make little difference. Fur ones are too heavy and bulky to wear and if an elk gets in the wind, no costume could convince him that it wasn't a man.

"Mrs. Finley and I have tried various experiments with costumes and find that the lighter ones are best. We have four cameras with different lenses for varying distances. We pick out a moose trail or a salt lick, fix up a blind and wait until the game comes along. It is not a matter of hours, sometimes it is a matter of days.

"Pictures are taken during summer for a number of reasons. We have camped and shot scenes from Alaska to Texas. No animals are killed and the danger from them is not so great as people suppose. Bull moose charge sometimes without much warning but mountain lions and other animals are intensely afraid of human beings. I once slept comfortably all night under a tree with a lion in it. I got the picture next day, too.

"All animals are gregarious. That is why they can be easily tamed. I have even had a pet porcupine and a tame quail. Mountain goats are the steeple jacks of animals; they can almost walk on the bare face of a cliff. Antelopes are the

swiftest wild animals on the continent, but they can't run sixty miles an hour as has been estimated. We made some recent tests and found that forty-five miles an hour is about their limit."

Finley works for the American Nature Association of Washington, D. C., which is attempting to educate people to the necessity of conserving natural resources. Most of the pictures to be shown at Mary Institute were taken in Glacier National Park. The naturalist has taken about 200,000 feet of film during his expeditions. He is author with Mrs. Finley of "American Birds," "Wild Animal Pets," and "Little Bird Blue."

ROCKFORD REPUBLIC,

JANUARY 24, 1930.

Naturalist Will Speak Tonight At Walton Meeting

William L. Finley, nationally known naturalist and author, will speak and show his famous films tonight at a public meeting of Rockford chapter of the Izaak Walton league to be held in Unity hall at 8 o'clock.



WILLIAM L. FINLEY.

The most successful photographer of wild animal life in America, Mr. Finley has prepared 5,000 feet of motion pictures showing intimate scenes of the shyest and rarest animals in their native setting.

Working along the Continental divide, the naturalist obtained excellent photographs of the Rocky Mountain goat, the big horn, deer, ptarmigan, marmots, beaver, and antelope. Throughout the film are pictures of startlingly beautiful vistas in the mountains.

Mr. Walton will accompany his pictures with a tale of adventures found while stalking wild game life with his camera.