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### You Can't Tell About Bears

The fatal wounding of a hunter in Alaska by a she-grizzly which charged him without provocation was instructive in two particulars—the one being that an unmolested bear will charge, if the quarters are close, and the other that the grizzly is listed among the big game of the Alaskan country. Indeed, the range of *Ursus horribilis* is from the arctic coast of Alaska southward. The gigantic Alaskan brown bear, largest carnivore of the planet, has been so widely written about that in the popular mind the notion has arisen that this alone is the great bear of Alaska. But *Ursus horribilis alascensis* is there, and quite as horrible as the name implies and the fact bears witness.

Like the giant brown bear of the north country, the grizzly, but slightly smaller, is usually on its good conduct if unprovoked or not pressed too closely. But, as with the Alaskan brown bear, the temper of the grizzly is not to be dismissed in generalities. The she-bear which figured in the recent hunting accident rushed at the hunter without provocation or warning—and this was by no means a unique display of bad temper. Yet it is probable that had the creature been an Alaskan brown, instead of a grizzly, death would have been the fate of the unfortunate hunter there on the spot. The record is grim with such instances.

But, still speaking in generality and of safe distances, it is true of these two great bears of the North American continent that they ask only to be unmolested. The Alaskan brown bear, for example, a creature fully as ferocious when aroused as the Cape buffalo, repeatedly resorts to intimidation, which it were unwise to style bluffing, to avoid trouble. When William L. Finley, the Oregon naturalist, filmed the brown bears of Alaska, from a discreet distance, animal after animal pretended to charge, and then turned back. But had the camera been nearer the long odds are that we should have had no completed pictures, and that the name of a famous wild life photographer would now be a revered memory. A precautionary rifle, of course, was with the cameraman.

Stewart Edward White, on returning from Alaska several years ago, gave it as his opinion that to speak the brown bear softly, declining to molest that living mass of potential fury, was all one needed to do to insure safety. The self-same rule probably applies to the grizzly, an equally formidable species. But to nearly all rules treating of wild animals there are conspicuously opposite exceptions. Their guardian angels were with Mr. Finley and Mr. White—but the Alaska hunter whose presence roused the she-grizzly was not so fortunate.

### Wildlife Sage Returns From 'Scout' Trip

By Jim Woods

The sage of Jennings Lodge, route No. 10, Portland, is at home after spending a delightful summer in the arid Southwest.

William L. Finley, national vice president of the Izaak Walton league and holder of a similar office in the Wildlife federation, was pleased on several scores when he got back to Portland Thursday night. First off, he was glad to be home and then he was gratified by things he discovered during a month and a half of scouting around Arizona and New Mexico.

"Wild life," he said, "has increased immeasurably in those states.

"For that matter, it seems there has been a good job of wild life conservation all through the West. Elk and antelope have not only been saved from extermination but are more plentiful than some 30 years ago when I was a good deal younger and began studying this conservation problem."

#### Could Make It Tough

This nationally known naturalist said that there are many phases of the wild life problem that a city dweller couldn't properly understand. For instance, allowed to go their course without control, elk, like the buffalo of old, could multiply so fast it would make things tough for any agrarian trying to wrest a living from the soil in their neighborhood. It doesn't pay to take a mawkish view of things.

Deer, he said, are more plentiful in Eastern Oregon than in years—but, they're cagey and man shy.

There are lots of game birds in this state, too, but just try to get a shot at one in "open" territory.

"Few people give credit to the intelligence of wild things," said Finley. "Why, in counties that are closed to hunters, you can knock over a pheasant with a stone. In open counties you're lucky to get within rifle shot of one."

#### Pheasant Is Smart

The China pheasant, introduced into this country, is a smart bird—much smarter than the native grouse that allowed itself to be all but exterminated. Better hunting, too, for the hunter who takes his delight in matching wits with things of the wild. So says Finley.

Every sportsman knows, but could be frequently reminded to good purpose, that certain forms of wild life must be nurtured in order to be preserved, he said. And other forms can get along without help and survive even if you set out to exterminate them. A coyote, for instance, seemingly cut off from every avenue of escape by a hundred hunters, most often will find a wily way out. The coyote, Finley opines, is a nuisance—but one you'd miss if you didn't have him around. You can go too far with this thing of eradicating nuisances, he believes.

But Finley is happy. He has seen encouraging results from his years of campaigning for an intelligent understanding of the wild life of his native land. He thinks he can rest a while now at Jennings Lodge.

### Finley Gains Ideas on Game

William L. Finley, Portland wild life expert, returned to the Rose City Friday with a trunkload of pictures and a mind full of ideas about wild life conservation following an extensive visit through Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah.

After investigating the Arizona and New Mexico systems of antelope protection which have caused the nimble animals to increase by leaps and bounds in recent years, Finley advocated that scientific studies regarding all types of birds, beasts and fish should be made with an eye to putting wild life conservation on a practical basis.

#### Extinction Trend Halted

Finley said that from 1915 to 1920, antelopes in the entire nation numbered only 32,000 and were thought to be following the road to extinction taken by the buffalo. Today, Finley said, the creatures are thrice as numerous and open seasons have been declared where they are most abundant.

The southwest states' program of protection, similar to that followed by Oregon and other states, included the killing of preying coyotes, the transfer of antelopes from the areas where they were most numerous to other regions, the more careful enforcement of laws and increased public interest in conservation.

Finley said he couldn't hold with those who advocated no killing of the animals, but said scientific investigation should be conducted to determine how many should exist according to winter food supplies, possible crop damage and other items.