

Racine, Wis.
Times Call
Jan 15, 1930

LIBRARY BRINGS WILD LIFE TALK BY NATURALIST

Explorer, Animal Photographer, to Speak Here

William L. Finley, Oregonian, has a national reputation as a naturalist, author and lecturer, as well as a successful photographer of wild animal life. Through his articles in Nature magazine, the National Geographic, the Atlantic Monthly and other national publications, he has become known to thousands of people who have never heard him lecture or seen his motion pictures. Three large federal wild bird reservations in Oregon stand as a record of his efforts in arousing popular interest in the conservation of our outdoor resources. These were created by special executive proclamations by President Roosevelt.

For the past 20 years Mr. and Mrs. Finley have cruised the coastline, packed and camped through all the wilder mountainous country of the west, from Alaska to Mexico. Their travels have produced some 200,000 feet of motion picture film and over 20,000 still negatives, which constitute what is said to be the greatest photographic record of American wild animal life ever made.

Getting the Goat

For eight different seasons Finley has tried to get motion pictures of the Rocky Mountain goat. During the past summer he played the trick of dressing up in a white goat disguise, with imitation ears, horns, and beard, and crawling along the ledges with his motion picture camera. This strategy worked to perfection, for it enabled Finley to get up as close as he wished to these wild animals; in fact, one day an old Billy disputed his right to a certain ledge on Chapman peak. The real Billy looked at the imitation, twiddled his tail and lowered his horns, but the buzz of the camera halted him and the telltale wind gave the danger signal of human scent.

Dr. Finley is to appear here on Thursday evening, Jan. 23 at 8 o'clock at the First Baptist church when he will show his wild life films and tell the story of his adventures in "Camera Hunting on the Great Divide."

The lecture is given under the auspices of the public library and admission is free.

Capacity Crowd Views Film Of Wild Game Life

Naturalist, Explorer Is
Speaker at Library
Lecture.

America's "roof," the Rocky mountains, and wild game which is found there were vividly portrayed last night in moving pictures accompanied with an explanatory talk by William L. Finley, naturalist and explorer, in the fourth of the series of library lectures at the First Baptist church last night.

Intense interest of Racineans in nature was proved since the auditorium was filled to capacity long before the lecture began. School children made up a large share of the audience. The pictures shown were taken by Mr. Finley himself on expeditions sponsored through Nature magazine, and included many close-ups and action pictures of wild animals which would provide the only adequate description of their habits and life.

Opening his lecture with pictures of the locale in which the expedition hunted, Mr. Finley briefly outlined some of the difficulties of camera-hunting, enumerating among them the necessity of patience in waiting and working so the animals do not catch the human scent and become alarmed. The sage grouse and the prong horned antelope were two of the main objectives of the expedition, and much of the photography of the former was done between 5 and 7 a. m.

Measures Speed.

Among the most remarkable pictures shown by Mr. Finley were those of the prong horned antelope. Showing just how the camera man concealed himself in a "blind" and photographed the antelope at close range, Mr. Finley continued telling the habits of the animal. Later he showed pictures taken in a car racing across a plateau with an antelope, this being the first time that the famous speed of the animal was ever accurately measured. It was found to be between 35 and 40 miles an hour. Herds of antelope numbering three and four hundred were photographed silhouetted against the horizon, and slow motion pictures gave a graphic representation of the mode of running they employ.

Activities of beavers as photographed by a second expedition in Glacier National park formed another section of Mr. Finley's lecture in which he recounted interesting anecdotes. Complete pictures of a beaver rebuilding a dam, showing every act, taken within a range of five feet were especially remarkable. The beaver, according to Mr. Finley, uses many willow branches in dams since in the spring they sprout and take root. An interesting close-up of a beaver showed its front paws to be formed like tiny hands and its hind feet to be webbed like that of a duck. The beaver's flat tail, according to Mr. Finley, is not used as a trowel as popularly supposed, but is used to slap the surface of the water giving a distress or alarm signal when the animal suspects danger.

Camouflage Used.

Pictures of big horns or mountain sheep, and mountain goats were secured under especial difficulty. Both are so sure of foot and keen of eye that the photographer, in order to catch them, must crawl to ledges above them. Both species leap rapidly over rough mountain sides and find footing on sheer descents. Camouflage in the form of costumes for the photographer were used to intrigue the mountain goat's curiosity.

The last refuge of the American elk, in the southern Rockies, was depicted and particularly noteworthy pictures of moose, which because of their temper, are harder to photograph, were obtained in Alaska. The photographer was successful in getting moose to come within 55 feet of his camera.

Monday the fifth library lecture, dealing with ways and words of birds will be given by Charles Crawford Gorst, authority on bird life and bird songs.

Bangor, Me.
Commercial
Jan 24, 1930

Will Show Some Unusual Pictures Of Very Wild Life

William F. Finley—who, as briefly stated in the Commercial, will speak in Bangor City Hall, March 5, under auspices of the Bird Conservation Club—will have with him some thrilling moving pictures, taken on the two recent Pack-Finley expeditions into the northern part of the Rocky Mountains, under the auspices of the American Nature Association.

Rocky Mountain goats, outwitted by the use of a goat disguise, photographed within 50 feet; moose that threatened the cameraman, and at one time came too close for his comfort; beaver, bighorn sheep, high up on the mountain passes; pronghorn antelope, photographed from a pursuing automobile traveling at 45 miles an hour; herd of elk, fording a river; (bears, raiding the camp); deer, marmots, ptarmigan, jays, Franklin grouse or fool-hens, and many others equally interesting are among the pictures that Mr. Finley will show and lecture upon.