

*Travel Club Bulletin
Lancaster,
Pa.*



Tuesday, January 12, 1932

At 8:15 p. m.

WILLIAM L. FINLEY, Sc.D.

"Wild Animal Outposts Along the Alaskan Coast"

¶ Recently Dr. Finley returned from a long cruise in the Bering Sea and along the Alaskan coast, where he exposed nearly twenty thousand feet of motion picture negatives, besides hundreds of still life negatives, filled with exciting experiences from beginning to end, especially while exploring the volcanic islands along the Aleutian chain.

¶ The rugged country about Mt. McKinley; Kodiak and Afognak, the haunts of the Alaskan brown bear, which is the biggest of all living carnivorous animals; Kenai, the home of the moose; Akutan, the headquarters of the Bering Sea whalers, where pictures of whales were taken from the mast-head; Unimak, with its myriads of sea-fowl crowding the rocks from tide-line to pinnacle; Bogoslof, the "Jack-in-the-box" of the sea, still steaming and hot with volcanic fires, and, lastly, the Pribilofs, the island outposts of the Bering Sea, with their romantic story of foxes and fur seals.

TRAVEL CLUB *Lancaster Pa. member* VISITS ALASKA

Wild Animal Outposts Are
Shown in Motion
Pictures.

Jan 12-13-32
Lancaster Travel Club crowded the Martin auditorium as usual, last evening bent upon a journey to the more remote coasts of Alaska and the islands that stretch westward to Asia, to visit "Wild Animal Outposts" under the able guidance of William L. Finley, naturalist, author and explorer. Mr. Finley has a well-earned reputation for the photography of wild life and wilderness scenery with which he illustrates both his books and lectures and he sustained that reputation.

The journey was mainly by water, although there was some pack train travel through desolate volcanic regions, and a great variety of small craft, including a collapsible rubber boat that resembled a mighty doughnut, that conveyed the explorers and their companions. There was so much to show and describe that the big brown bears had to be left for another trip but a pair of bear cubs acquired on the first plunge into the wilderness proved star performers. Those cubs were as intelligent, mischievous and entertaining as any pair of boys could have been, and when the party set out across the Bering Sea on a coasting steamer the little sea-sick bears were so human in their misery and absurdity that the audience was convulsed with conflicting laughter and sympathy.

The journey was made in the sunny and flowering Alaskan summer when the average temperature is quite delightful, even though the nights are cold for travellers from temperate zones. The desolate regions of eternal ice and snow were penetrated far enough to find the abundant wild life; caribou moose, mountain sheep and goats, strange birds with plumage so closely matched to their surroundings that often they can only be seen when in motion; fish in amazing millions.

The demonstrated abundance of seals, sea-lions and birds was almost equally astonishing. Kipling's charming stories of the seal and sea-lion were recalled and made real by the scenes of intimate and apparently undisturbed animal life graphically portrayed; yet one could not fail to appreciate the difficulties encountered and overcome in taking these pictures.

The next meeting of the club will be on Thursday, January 28, a meeting not on the season's program but added by the club governors for a timely visit to the scene of war in Manchuria under the guidance of Upton Close, who has just returned from that region with excellent pictures.

TRIP TO ALASKA ENJOYED BY CLUB

Intelligencer Journal
William L. Finley Shows Interesting Pictures At Meeting Of Travel Members
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Bouncing down treacherous rapids in a novel rubber boat, clambering rocky mountains and following twisted trails on horseback, members of the Travel club went adventuring Tuesday night into remote corners of Alaska.

Accompanying them on their camera trip and adding vivid descriptive notes was William L. Finley, Sc. D., well known travel lecturer.

"The out-door movement is the greatest thing in America today," Dr. Finley told his audience. "It represents a vital part of our development as a nation and there is not one citizen who can afford to disregard it."

Taking the out-door angle rather than a direct educational viewpoint, Dr. Finley held the interest of his listeners by accompanying a series of excellent action pictures from the Northland with an entertaining story of the trip. Adopting orphaned bear-cubs, making friends with fawns and wild birds and hanging from precarious tree perches to "shoot" pictures of mountain sheep, the lecturer and his party explored Alaskan wilds during the "summer" season.

Shattering the delusion that Alaska is a land of perpetual snow and ice, Dr. Finley showed pictures along the southern coastline, where balmy days, bright sunshine and flower filled gardens deny the traditional cold of the Northland. Temperatures average about the same as those of eastern New Jersey, the speaker declared. Probing inland Alaska, he continued, one finds the great ice fields and year 'round snows, where the cold of deep winter holds the country in its clutch from season to season.

Wild animal outposts were visited by the club, including Mt. McKinley National Park, where caribou roam at large and mountain sheep clamber the rocky cliffs. Rare camera views of bird and animal life were secured through patient waiting and weeks of experiment. There was the curious ptarmigan, described by Dr. Finley as "the bird who always wears woolen socks to keep him warm and who cheerfully changes into a white coat when the first snows set in."

Journeying farther into the rugged mountain lands, the club landed on the top of the world, where Mt. McKinley reaches its 23,000 foot height above the hilly countryside and where glaciers hurl huge avalanches of ice and snow across frozen plains. Hunting down the Kodiak and the Alaskan brown bear, largest of all carnivorous animals, the travellers found during their trip the rookeries of sea-lions and the dens of Arctic foxes and fur seals.

During the "summer" season it is possible to explore some of the inland on horseback and it was by this means that the camera hunters returned to the coast and cruised the Bering Sea, finally ending their journey in Seattle, Washington.