

WILLIAM L. FINLEY IS BRINGING MOVIES

La Grange, Ill. Citizen
Sunday Evening Club Speaker
Has New Lecture, Films
About Alaska

11-10-32

What are said to be the most remarkable films of their kind will be shown in LaGrange next Sunday by William L. Finley, when he appears at the Legion Sunday Evening club. His moving pictures were made last summer, which he spent as he says, "getting familiar with the wild life of Alaska and especially the Kodiak Bear."

Mr. Finley, an Oregonian, has a national reputation as a naturalist, author and lecturer, as well as a most 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 remarkable 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 twenty 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 two hundred thousand feet of motion picture film and over 20,000 still negatives, which constitute the greatest photographic record of American wild animal life ever made.

New Lecture and Pictures

This will be the first showing of the remarkable moving pictures Mr. Finley made in the northern part of the United States, in which he is shown on quite familiar terms with the wild and ferocious Kodiak bear. Finley's narrative of his experiences on this expedition is filled with thrills as well as having many humorous incidents scattered through it.

Mr. Finley is an excellent teller of stories and has spoken in every state in the Union. There is scarcely a city of any consequence in the United States that has not had from one to ten of his lectures during the last ten seasons. He has been bringing the great outdoors of this continent to the dwellers in our towns and cities.

Among the many interesting films shown will be a whole series showing the famous and dangerous Kodiak bear. Another and perhaps the most amazing of the series of reels, shows two whales jumping far into the air and landing in the water on their backs.

None of the pictures have ever been shown and may be seen only in connection with Mr. Finley's personal appearance.

Finley Outlines His Pictures

When asked recently about the new films he will show with his lecture, Mr. Finley said, "My new series of five reels which I shall use have not been shown anywhere. They were taken in two long cruises in British Columbia and Alaska in the summer of 1931."

"These are undoubtedly the most spectacular motion pictures we have ever taken. We were in Glacier Bay and cruised up to Muir glacier during the first days of warmer weather, after a long cold spell. We got pictures of great blocks of ice hundreds of tons in weight, breaking from the top and plunging into the sea. The water splashed as high as the wall itself, nearly three hundred feet. The tumbling off of each big iceberg sounded like the roar of a big cannon. The whole face of the mile-wide glacier changed in two or three hours."

"After several days hunting and following whales, we saw and pictured the most thrilling sight that ever comes to a whaler. Two whales were "breaching"—jumping far into the air in play and landing on their backs with tremendous smacks. This is the first time that a fifty foot whale has been photographed leaving the water."

"For two weeks we were out with Hasselberg, the best known guide in Alaska, hunting Kodiak bears with a movie camera. We photographed some of these at a distance of only 25 feet. Many shots were taken from a blind, as the bears rushed pell-mell down the bed of a stream toward the camera, catching salmon in the swift waters. The pictures show exactly how it is done. Two of these big monsters were pictured standing on their hind legs watching the camera man, then walking backward at a distance of forty feet."

"On the islands off shore we filmed many species of birds, especially those living in large colonies."

Martin Johnson Praises Films

Martin Johnson, famous for his "Simba", "Congorilla" and other epic films writes about Finley's picture:

"I have had the pleasure of seeing five reels of the new films made in Alaska last summer by William L. Finley of Portland, Ore., and am pleased to say that both Mrs. Johnson and myself are delighted with this beautiful film. I have never seen finer photography than this. Among the things that stand out in my mind are the bear picturers and the unusual fishing scenes. The antics of the bears are most amusing, so much so that I feel certain they are going to

be the most interesting bear pictures that have ever been made by anyone."

"Mr. Finley has handled the Alaskan atmosphere and scenery in a most professional and interesting manner, being absolutely authentic, and I heartily recommend these pictures to the public."

The invocation will be given by Dr. Clifford H. Newham, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church.

LYCEUM COURSE PATRONS TO HEAR ADDRESS TONIGHT

11-10-32

Lyceum course patrons are privileged to hear an exceptionally good talk this evening when, at 8:15 o'clock, William L. Finley gives his talk on "Alaskan Wild Life and the Kodiak Bear" in the Louis G. Kaufman auditorium. A Marquette resident, who saw the pictures in the Field Museum in Chicago, said "they are of such superior character that one cannot afford to miss them."

Tickets may be obtained and seats reserved at the high school office this morning, any time after 8:30 o'clock. The admission is the usual one charged for high school lyceum course entertainments.

The series of pictures tonight includes five reels taken during two long cruises into British Columbia and Alaska in 1931. Mr. and Mrs. Finley, during the months when they were making the pictures for this lecture, spent several weeks with Hasselberg, an Alaskan guide known to all who have ever made treks and explorations into that region.

UNUSUAL WHALE PICTURE.

Not only did Mr. Finley get outstandingly interesting pictures of the kodiak bears but he has fascinating bird pictures taken on the islands off the Alaskan coast, and the film tonight shows the first picture ever taken of a 50-foot whale completely out of water. The picture was obtained while two whales were "breaching", that is were "jumping far up into the air in play and landing on their backs with tremendous smacks." Imagine a creature long as some of our city lots are wide whanging up in the air and coming down kerplunk!

This illustrated talk to be given tonight, is Mr. Finley's most recently completed lecture film, but he has some 200,000 feet of motion picture films and more than 20,000 still negatives, which record the things he has observed about the wild animal life of America during the past 20 years which he has devoted to his specialty.

Many persons, though they may never before have heard him lecture, are familiar with Mr. Finley's work through articles and pictures that have appeared in the National Geographic and Nature Magazine.

MET HIM IN BOOKS.

Readers interested in the outdoors have long ere this made his acquaintance in the three books which the Finleys have written, "American Birds" and "Wild Animal Pets," both published by Scribners, and "Little Bird Blue" by Houghton-Mifflin and company.

They have been hunters of wild game, these Finleys, from Alaska to the Gulf of Mexico and through the wilder parts of the Cascade and Rocky Mountains but armed with camera and notebook instead of guns. Certainly he is no "dude rancher," judging from his picture. Clad in an old what-was-once-a-slouch hat, wearing a neckerchief for a tie, and old clothes, mounted on the burro he used to carry him through the mountains, he looks like a lot of things but certainly not a dude rancher.

Suppose he will be all dressed up in a stiff shirt and starched collar tonight, but in his picture he looks like the chap who just couldn't refrain from hitting the trail, and says the advance notice sent on: "You will like him and his pictures."