

*Oregonian June 22-35*  
Name It for Bill Finley

It is peculiarly appropriate that, in the bestowing of geographical names, there should be commemorated those whose lives were associated with kindred works. These are monuments deserved and enduring, lacking not in instruction, and they excite the emulation of the young. These encourage that ambition which Plutarch called a hunger for fame.

Thus the proposal voiced in this issue by Ed F. Averill, himself a naturalist of distinction, that the great waterfowl and game refuge of Malheur and Harney lakes and the Blitzen river valley, recently created by the federal government in its program to restore the wasted wild life resources of the nation, be named for William L. Finley, is a suggestion most agreeable to this newspaper.

It is entirely true, as Mr. Averill tells us, that but for the zeal and unremitting advocacy of Mr. Finley this signal victory for conservation might never have been achieved. Whether the refuge be named for Oregon's foremost naturalist—one who is foremost, too, in the biological councils of the continent—or whether this opportunity for repayment is disregarded, still should the name of William L. Finley be indis severably linked with the accomplishment. In candor as in gratitude the tribute should be paid him.

To recapitulate: It is an Oregon refuge for waterfowl, though it is the first and greatest of national projects for the restoration of marsh life. It was conceived, in its origins, by an Oregon naturalist, and but for his unwearying insistence and intelligent advocacy, might long since have been abandoned. Its author, more than any other, is William L. Finley of Oregon. Will not the federal government give to this claim for recognition that serious attention it so manifestly merits?

## Contributors'

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Monument to Finley

To the Editor: Every Oregonian interested in the perpetuation of our migratory wild fowl has undoubtedly been pleased with the action of the government in purchasing the famous old "P Ranch." This has added the entire Blitzen river valley to the Malheur and Harney lakes reservation and thus created America's first "super-game refuge." Doubtless a new name will soon be selected for this great sanctuary. In this connection would it not be fitting to give honor and recognition to the man who has labored unceasingly for a quarter of a century for the complete restoration of this wild life area.

If my memory serves me correctly it was in 1908 or 1909 that William L. Finley and Herman Bohlman first explored the lake. The report of that trip caused President Theodore Roosevelt to set aside Malheur and Harney lakes as a bird reservation. This put an end to the slaughter of the birds by plume hunters and others, but it did not prevent the usurpation of the water flowing into the lakes with the result that they were rapidly ceasing to exist. It was then that Finley took up the fight in earnest, and with his newspaper and magazine articles, his lectures and motion pictures he carried the story to almost every nook and cranny of the United States. As a result of the efforts of this man more than of any other, a few months ago the project was designated as "number one" on the list of possible national reserves.

Of course those of us who know Mr. Finley know this is only one of the many similar meritorious projects for which he has been working—giving of his own time and money. In my opinion, if any man in America deserves a monument of this kind it is William L. Finley.

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*Nature Magazine June 1935*

It is with pleasure that the officers of the American Nature Association and the editors of Nature Magazine announce that William L. Finley, nationally-known naturalist, conservationist and Nature photographer, has been added to the staff of this Conservation Department of Nature Magazine. Mr. Finley will concentrate on field work, studying important conservation problems and current methods being employed in their solution and providing authentic and up-to-date information for this department.