

The Church-Finley Expedition, sent out in the early summer by the American Nature Association in conjunction with the Bureau of Fisheries of the Department of Commerce, is on its way out from its last pack trip into the wild regions of Alaska. On June 11, William L. and Irene Finley, representatives of Nature Magazine, boarded the Yacht Westward, the sturdy, sea-going yacht of Campbell Church. Campbell Church of Eugene, Oregon, well known mining man, traveler and sportsman, with his son, Campbell, Jr., has made many trips into all parts of Alaska studying and hunting big game.

The Finleys have camped, cruised and collected records and pictures for many years, and of all his journeys into out-of-the-way corners of this country, Finley says this summer's cruise into the big waters of Alaska has been the best.

The party left Ikatan, Alaska, and crawling through the treacherous pass between the Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, cruised along the Aleutian Chain, one group of a succession of volcanic islands that stretch clear across to Asia. Neither are they dead volcanoes, for the party camped for days at the foot of Shishaldin, a perfect, snowy cone resembling, and perhaps a cousin to Fujiyama of Japan, which belched black smoke through the day and at night threw up constant, glowing showers. A little further along the stormy and dangerous coast of these islands, the exploring party was ^{wrecked on the crossing canoe} shipwrecked in an attempted landing through a strong surf on the shore of Unimak Island. Three members almost lost their lives. Proceeding

on into the Bering Sea, the daring little ship anchored in the sulphurous and steaming crater of Bogoslof, the island that rises and sinks into the depths of the ocean frequently and without warning. Here the explorers and nature seekers hung over the threatening pit, taking measurements and maps, sounding the depths of the sea, and feverishly shooting pictures of the great colonies of sea lions and the myriads of Pallas Murres (sea birds) that live and rear their young on these hot cliffs amidst the rising steam and sulphur. Hardly had the Westward steamed out of the pale green crater when Bogoslof blew up again. So there is a chance to visit her again, make new maps and charts and write her history ^{anew} again. ~~Probably the sea lions and sea birds will not be seen there for many years.~~

From here the expedition pushed further north into the wild Bering Sea to study and picture the great Alaska seal rookeries on the Pribilof Islands, as well as the famous blue foxes. Here they saw the glowing rock gardens of St. Paul and St. George Islands, and found many rare birds and animals, among them Kipling's little "lemming of the ice floe."

Later they visited many other strange islands and shores, exploring unknown rivers where the runs of fine Alaska salmon were so thick that they bumped and pushed under the boats. A motion picture story of the salmon industry from Bristol Bay to Karluk and other important stations was made. The last inland journey was made into the McKinley Park region where they met the big Kadiak bear face to face, where one of their party had a narrow escape by taking liberties

with a mad moose. Campbell Church, Jr. was working the motion picture camera on a charging moose in the mountains in the Fox River district of Katchemak Bay. He dodged in the nick of time, but was slashed on the arm by the antlers of the big beast. They scaled the heights for the white sheep, and in other regions stalked the caribou on the rolling tundra.

The expedition ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ is coming out with 20,000 feet of motion picture negative and 800 still life negatives. ^{The cruise} It has been full of thrills, and all too short.

The Westward had aboard four motion picture cameras and five still life cameras. She was equipped with two fast motor canoes, and two small boats. The results of the naturalists' ^{work} will be published in a series of articles in Nature Magazine, and an extensive series of lectures through the leading cities of the east will begin on November 15th.