

FINLEY, THE MAN

A Little, Too, About Hunting with a Camera and Concerning Pets

A MAN whose friends playfully accuse him of making life one prolonged vacation, and who admits the fact quite readily, is William L. Finley, the naturalist. Akron's Garden Club could not have made a happier choice for guest and speaker than this keen camera explorer of the Rockies, who was in Akron, March 21.

Leaning forward in his chair at the Portage and smiling a bit quizzically, he said, "After all it's a great blessing to be able to do the thing you love in life." And what Mr. Finley loves, putting it briefly, is "anything that's out of doors." Angling, swimming, mountain climbing, observing wild creatures and wild flowers, and above all hunting them with his camera, these are the things which go to make up the well-rounded life of this interesting man.

In appearance he is slender, alert, keen-eyed, more the scholar than the accepted out-of-door sportsman type. Years of writing, first as editor of his college paper back in University of California days, later as editor of the American Nature Magazine, and other nature publications have given him an easy, sparkling flow of words. Atlantic Monthly and Century and many a sportsman's magazine have included his name in their list of contributors. Yet he confesses that he is not a facile writer, that it comes hard to him.

Rather would he be ascending the Rockies or tramping over the Arizona deserts, running perilous risks, to get pictures of the daily habits of the Rocky Mountain goats, those most timid of wild creatures, or of racing antelopes in full action.

"Camera hunting is infinitely better sport than real hunting," he said. "Anyone can stand at a distance and shoot a gun, but there's real excitement, danger and adventure and plenty of opportunity for using one's wits in shooting pictures of wild animals. Plenty of close calls, too," he added. "An old enraged bull moose in Alaska charged us once, and there were some angry brown bears another time."

Sometimes he and his wife don white goat costumes, not to fool the timid animals so much as to attract their attention and curiosity. "They will stand poised looking

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at this new and strange animal, and then we snap the coveted pictures," he said.

Out in his western home near Portland, Oregon, Mr. Finley has 10 acres of land where he gathers all sorts of strange pets and watches their antics in captivity. Bear pups, baby antelopes, porcupines and coons are included in this adopted family. He has discovered that environment has everything to do with the wildness of these creatures. They become tame and affectionate under his care.

His favorite is "Don Q," a pet California quail, which he adopted as soon as it was one day out of the egg and which accompanies him many times on his lecture trips. "Don Q" has lost all desire to be with other birds and animals. "He loves but two things, people's feet and especially tan shoes," said Mr. Finley, smiling. Mrs. Finley, also a University of California graduate, accompanies her husband on most of his adventures.

And his face lights up as he speaks of his two children. For children and their education in natural history is another of Mr. Finley's hobbies. "It's a great thing to get children out of the places in which they live and develop their individuality in strange and interesting parts of the country," he said.

One gets a picture of Phoebe Catherine, now 21 years old, trailing along up mountains after her enthusiastic parents in the old days, and of William, Jr., now 20, chasing mountain goats, when still in rompers.

Phoebe Catherine is already following in her parent's footsteps with a bent for writing and several of her nature stories already published in various magazines. William, Jr., has not yet decided what he is to do, according to his father, but the out-of-doors has always been his life and it is safe to prophesy that it always will be.

It's a popular message which this man of nature and science brought to Akron, a message which left us city dwellers and office workers more than a bit envious. The call of the out-of-doors strikes a sympathetic note in every heart.

History Society To Hear Address

Tucson on Arizona May 12-1930

William L. Finley, noted photographer of nature and wild life, will address the Tucson Natural History Society at the University of Arizona tomorrow night on "Outdoor Experiences."

Mr. Finley is a graduate of the University of California and is the author of many articles and a number of books on birds and wild life. He is one of the most popular lecturers on birds and other wild life in the United States.