

AUDIENCE LIKES FINLEY'S FILMS

La Grange Citizen
Naturalist Shows Alaskan Islands and Mountain Creatures at Legion Club
1-29-31

One feels very much inclined to envy the life of William Finley, photographer and naturalist, who exhibited this past Sunday to the Legion Sunday Evening club audience the pictorial records of some of his trips. A gorgeous cruise in a yacht in Alaskan waters, and a pack-trip in the Cascade mountains formed the background for a series of remarkable movies in which wild life came right up to the camera.

To see the films it seemed just as easy as flagging a street car or buying a package of cigarettes, and in his talk Mr. Finley gave little hint of the years of work and preparations which these pictures took.

He particularly stressed the part that uncertainty must play in securing movies of the creatures of the wild. He was eight years in getting the reels showing the mountain goats of the Rockies, and, he said, someone else might have shot them the first day out from the base-camp.

The afternoon trip was devoted to the waters of lower Alaska, particularly the Aleutian Islands, the long string of little dots found on the maps, which bend in a half-moon from southwest to north of west, toward Asia, from the Alaskan peninsula.

More fish than most of the audience thought there were in the world outside of cans were shown. The life-story of the salmon, with its four year period of existence, during which it grows from spawn to maturity, sets out to sea from the stream in which it is born, and after a long time returns on its journey of life and death, to lay its eggs, where it first came to life, and then die, was shown in especially interesting pictures.

The antics of two of the most amusing bear cubs that ever were filmed delighted the afternoon audience, most of which consisted of youngsters. The mysterious disappearance of one of them created just as much grief to the children as it did apparently to Mr. Finley's party. Another wonderful reel (for that

matter, all of them were wonderful) was that showing the rookery of the sea-lions at the Pribiloff Islands, the government, protected "hatchery" for the beasts which circuses use for fish-catching. Scores and hundreds of them, cows, pups and the big and savage bulls, were shown on the shore.

The Unimak and Kenai peninsulas and Kodiak Island, with its huge brown bear, the largest of wild animals on the continent, were visited on the expedition which took several months and some thousands of miles of cruising in the waters that skippers ordinarily avoid. Using the yacht as a base the expedition voyaged inland on foot or by means of small canoes equipped with outboard motors, through white-water canyons where even the audience was on edge as to whether or not it would get wet.

The afternoon program was presided over by Henry Livezey, vice-president of the Sunday Evening club.

On the Continental Divide

The evening program covered the Continental Divide, the glorious Cascade mountains, wild and rugged, with their equally wild animal inhabi-

tants. The wary mountain goat was not accommodating in posing for his picture, and chose the high and barren uplands for his home. Pictures of him perching on apparently vertical walls showed the difficulty of photographing him face to face, and it was only by means of a disguise which if it did nothing else aroused the curiosity of the beasts that finally made his pictures.

A herd of several hundred of the fast-vanishing antelope of the plains was shown, and paced in an auto, the speedometer of which recorded that the animals were fully capable of 45 miles an hour on the level. Just what they could do on the rough was not noted, for the automobile has not as yet been able to master the technique of leaping over half-ton granite boulders.

The photography was magnificent, and Mr. Finley has the art of projecting his voice and raising its tone until every person in the hall could hear him perfectly.

In his announcements, President Marshall Mathews voiced the thanks of the Sunday Evening club organization to the faithful corps of ushers

who have served at a long and sometimes tedious job.

Pleads for Jobless

F. D. Cossitt, past commander of the post, and member of the committee on unemployment, voiced a plea to LaGrange people to find jobs for the men and women who are registered at the Legion unemployment bureau.

"You must think of jobs they can do," he reminded his audience. "Saturday only four jobs were reported. We have well over 300 names on our list, and four jobs won't go very far.

"We want to keep them from going to charitable agencies, and they want to be kept from going to them, although it would probably be easier to do so than to sit around the bureau office day after day waiting for work.

"February will see more calls for work, and we must have something to offer."

He concluded with thanks to the body of retired business men who have been handling the office work of the bureau.

Nature Magazine Finley Lectures Jan. 1931

Many of our readers have asked to be kept informed of the lecture schedule in the East of William L. Finley, our field photographer and naturalist, whose wild life travels with Arthur Newton Pack, President of the American Nature Association, have resulted in such remarkable motion pictures and such interesting stories for NATURE MAGAZINE. Here are some of Mr. Finley's dates during December and January: December 15, Beacon, N. Y., Board of Education Series; December 17, New York City, American Museum of Natural History; December 20, Lawrence, Mass., White Lecture Fund; December 21, Groton, Mass., Groton School; January 10, Coatesville, Pa., Y. M. C. A.; January 12, Lancaster, Pa., Lancaster Travel Club; January 14, Pittsburgh, Pa., Science and Art Museum; January 15, Reading, Pa., Reading Public Museum; January 18, Bronxville, N. Y., Parent Teachers Association; January 19, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Vassar Brothers; January 20, Cortland, N. Y., State Normal School; January 23, Windsor, Conn., Loomis Institute; January 25, Kingston, Mass., Adams Course.