

WILLIAM L. FINLEY, OREGON'S NOTED NATURALIST, 56 TODAY

Oregonian Aug. 9, 1932
Man Who Spread Name of State Far and Wide Becomes Famous
for Studies and Pictures of Wild Life.

HE IS a doctor of science. It is "doctor" in the east, but "Bill" this side of the Rockies. He is known the country over as an Oregonian, a naturalist of renown, wild life photographer, author and lecturer. "One of the most extraordinary naturalists living, he has photographed everything that runs, flies or swims," says one of the editors in American magazine.

More than 20 years ago William L. Finley was the personal friend of Theodore Roosevelt, John Burroughs and other naturalists. When Roosevelt was preparing for his African trip he asked Finley to visit his son Kermit at Harvard and give advice about cameras and photographing wild bird and animal life. Among the many autographed books in Dr. Finley's library are some by the ex-president. One is dedicated, "To William L. Finley, a practical field naturalist, with the admiration of his friend, Theodore Roosevelt."

In 1911, when Mr. Roosevelt, touring the country, arrived at the Portland hotel, he changed his usual hard-and-fast rule of allowing no one to see him during his rest period and spent a good part of the afternoon with Dr. Finley looking at his pictures and discussing matters of wild life conservation.

Bird Reserves Created.

Three large federal wild bird reservations in Oregon were created by special executive proclamation by Theodore Roosevelt. These stand as a record of Dr. Finley's efforts in arousing popular interest in the conservation of outdoor resources. Through his many articles in Nature magazine, Colliers, Atlantic Monthly, National Geographic and other publications, he has become known to thousands of people who have never heard him lecture or seen his remarkable motion pictures.

Dr. Finley was born August 9, 1876, at Santa Clara, Cal. He first attended the old Gantenbein school on Ninth and Stark streets. Later he went to the Park school and graduated in 1892 from the Harrison school, of which Frank Rigler was the principal. In 1896 he graduated from the old Portland high school, and with the avowed purpose of going on to college he began saving money for a college career.

The following year he went down to the University of California, but to get into a classical course he lacked three years of Greek. Seven months later he passed his Greek examinations, but all his money had passed into the hands of a tutor. The next year he continued his studies at the old Portland academy, and entered the University of California in 1899. It happened that a young lady by the name of Irene Barnhart entered college at the same time and graduated in the same class. Bill and Irene were married in 1906, and have two children, Phoebe Katherine and William Lovell Jr.

Estate on Willamette.

The Finleys have a home on their ten acres at Jennings Lodge on the



WILLIAM L. FINLEY

Nationally known naturalist who celebrates birthday today.

bank of the Willamette. They have made many trips together and in nearly all of the wilder parts of the country from Mexico to Alaska. More than 100 illustrated magazine articles have recorded the studies and experiences of the Finleys. Two of their books, "American Birds" and "Wild Animal Pets," have been published by Scribners, and "Little Bird Blue" by Houghton, Mifflin company. Three of their series of motion picture reels have been released on the theatrical circuits.

In the concrete vault attached to their study at Jennings Lodge is a collection of 60,000 still-life negatives and 200,000 feet of motion picture negatives, the largest in existence covering American wild bird and mammal life. Through many years all kinds of pets have found a home around the Finley estate, from humming birds to condors, flying squirrels, porcupines, bobcats, cougar kittens, mountain goats, antelope, coyotes and bear cubs.

The basis of all of the Finleys' work is to educate the old and young to love the out of doors and to arouse Oregonians to conserve their outdoor resources and develop a more healthful citizenship.

The ambition of Dr. Finley is to have the whole country know of the recreational advantages of the northwest. His new series of motion picture reels soon will be released on the theatrical circuit and during the winter he will give motion picture lectures in all parts of the east and south.

Oregonian Journal 9-28-32
Finley to Lecture—William L. Finley, noted naturalist and lecturer, will speak at the luncheon meeting of the Mutual Business club Thursday in the Heathman hotel.