

Wild Life Lines

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THURSDAY'S duck hunters' conference at the Oregon grill made history, for it clearly brought to light a new spirit of practical conservation in the hearts of Oregon and Washington sportsmen. "Conservationists first, duck hunters second," was Arthur I. Moulton's classification of the 200 men who came to order (?) at the rap of his gavel, and the events of the evening bore him out.

Adopting resolutions that will carry to the attention of the federal migratory bird advisory board as well as the game commissions of the west the recommendation that duck bag limits, in the Pacific coast region at least, be reduced from 24 to 15 birds a week, that shooting be permitted only on Sunday and Wednesday, and that an annual federal tax of \$1 a hunter be charged for the purpose of providing funds for the restoration of duck breeding and resting places, the conference proved itself to hold conservation uppermost.

The old debate on "feeding vs. baiting" was discussed at length, and the conference adopted a resolution recommending that Oregon, Washington and California be exempt from regulations on the feeding of migratory birds. The purpose of this, according to the sense of most of the preliminary speeches, was a further matter of conservation—to enable Oregon and Washington duck clubs to hold some of the birds through the winter and prevent them from invading California and Mexico rice and grain fields, where they might become targets of pot hunters. True, this would give Oregon hunters more shooting, but it was felt that the stringent reduction and regulation of bag limits and shooting days recommended would curtail the kill to within practical limits.

The reason for recommending shooting only on Sunday and Wednesday was to curtail the "game hog," who, it was asserted, under present regulations, visits his favorite lake Saturday night, gets up early Sunday and shoots two days' limit, or 24 birds, and then claims he is entitled to two days' limit because he spent two days at the lake. He is technically violating the law, but is practically secure from apprehension by federal or state officers who find it difficult to prove that he did not shoot during the first day at the lake. If he is permitted legal shooting only in widely separated Sunday and Wednesday, the game hog has no defense.

Sunday and Wednesday shooting was objected to by coastal and upper

Willamette valley hunters who declared their shooting comes only during ocean storms which drive ducks inland. If these storms do not happen to come on the open days, they said, this sport would be denied them.

Another bone of contention was the adoption of a resolution recommending that October, November and December be declared the duck-shooting season. Champions of this plan pointed out that with shooting permitted only two days a week under this arrangement there would be only 24 shooting days during the season, whereas under the present two-month season there are 60 shooting days. The longer season was also advocated to give Willamette valley hunters additional shooting, owing to the fact that valley shooting is best late in December and early in January after winter rains have flooded duck lakes.

Among those who participated in the conference, which opened at 2:30 P. M. and continued through the Izaak Walton duck dinner and until after 10 P. M., were such prominent sportsmen and conservationists as Jim Morris, Dr. E. B. McDaniel, Frank B. Wire, state game supervisor; Walter Honeyman, William (Bill) Lambert, Chester F. Leichhardt, United States game protector for Oregon and Washington; Theodore Sheffer, associate biologist, United States biological survey; John B. Ebinger, Tillamook, state president of the Izaak Walton league; Matt Corrigan, chairman of the state game commission; Mark Sidell, Astoria; Frank Ruthman, William M. Fraser, E. L. MacDougall, Arthur I. Moulton, William L. Finley, Pacific coast member of the federal migratory waterfowl advisory board; E. G. Craven, Dallas; Harry L. Spicer, Frank Troeh, J. W. Morris, Dr. Don Nicholson, William Hanley, the sage of Harney county, and Drexel H. Brown.

The question of feeding versus baiting was somewhat cleared up when Mr. Scheffer of the biological survey said the biological survey considered any feeding within gun range of blinds to be baiting.

Mr. Finley said that during the meeting of the advisory board at Washington, D. C., last summer, a resolution was introduced to stop baiting or feeding within 400 yards of blinds. He offered an amendment, he said, to reduce this distance to 75 yards, having in mind the feeding situation at Sauvies island.

Washington's new state game commission caught the eye of Oregon anglers last week when it unequivocally ruled the steelhead trout to be a game fish, closed Washington waters to commercial fishing for steelhead and voted penalties up to \$250 fine and 90 days in jail for any person guilty of selling or offering for sale "any steelhead in any condition, whether fresh, canned, smoked, salted, kippered, frozen or processed."

"That," pointed out George V. Adams, "ought to be of interest to the Oregon game commission."

The Washington commission also ruled that hunting and fishing licenses are to be withheld from any person who shall have ever shot at a human being or domestic animal while hunting until after the commission has considered the case by official hearing.

Journal Cards and Film Show On Program

11-1-33

By Elinor Pillsbury

A HAPPY arrangement of cards for those who wish to play auction or contract bridge and of wild animal

pictures by William L. Finley for those not interested in cards is the program for the benefit party to be given at 8:30 o'clock Friday evening by Portland branch, American Association of University Women. The place is the Shrine ballroom at the Masonic temple, and there will be 250 tables for bridge.



Mrs. J. F. Hackett
From portrait by Naomi N. Swett

The affair will be informal. It is hoped to sell 1500 tickets, as proceeds will be used toward conducting the free-time classes at Central library, which are being attended by about 200 students temporarily unable to go to college. The work is sponsored by the local A. A. U. W.

Mrs. Roy K. Terry, chairman of the ways and means committee, is in charge of the affair, and Mrs. J. F. Hackett is in charge of refreshments. Tickets, which include bridge, the wild life pictures and the refreshments, may be obtained from Mrs. Stephen Conway, who will conduct the play, or Mrs. Clifford W. Powers, chairman for ticket sales.

Oregonian - Nov. 25 BENEFIT AFFAIR PLANNED

William F. Finley and Son to Give
Motion Picture Lecture.

A benefit entertainment featuring William F. Finley, Portland naturalist, and his son, William L. Finley Jr., who will present a motion picture lecture on wild bird and animal life, will be presented tomorrow night at the

shrine ballroom of the Masonic temple by the American Association of University Women. The affair is being given in behalf of the classes for adults unable to attend universities or colleges, which are being sponsored by the association.

Tables will be provided for both contract and auction bridge. Mrs. Stephen Conway and Mrs. Clifford Powers are in charge of the ticket sale for the entertainment.