

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Journal July 1, 1935
Communications to The Journal for publication in this department should be written on only one side of the paper, should not exceed 300 words in length, and must be signed by the writer, whose mail address must accompany the contribution.

SPLENDID OUTDOOR-LIFE WORK

Sunday Journal Articles of Messrs. Finley and Averill Highly Approved; With Suggestions for Further Advancing Conservation.

Portland, June 27.—To the Editor of The Journal—May I congratulate you on the outdoor-life page being conducted in your Sunday issues by William L. Finley and Ed F. Averill? Not only myself but many conservationists with whom I have talked feel that a splendid work is being done by these two experienced and conscientious men. I note with particular attention Mr. Finley's article of last Sunday. I agree to some extent with his criticism of sportsmen on the ground that they are concerned only with taking game and fish and not with the maintenance of the supply. The criticism, however, should not all be directed to sportsmen, and an effort should be made, as I am sure it will be by Mr. Finley and Mr. Averill, to awaken the people of the state generally to the immense general good that may be done for all by conservation and promotion of our outdoor recreational resources.

I note also Mr. Finley's suggestion that the work of propagating fish and game should be more scientifically done. With this I heartily agree. I do not, however, agree with the suggestion that the game farms and fish hatcheries should be directly conducted by the state college. An educational institution should not be required to engage in the collateral enterprise of hatching fish and game. At the same time, the undoubted resources of the State college in the way of scientific investigation should be made available to the game department. I am sure Mr. Averill, with whom I have often talked respecting the reorganization of the commission on more permanent and constructive lines, will agree with me when I say that a better plan than that suggested by Mr. Finley would be to leave the game commission in charge of both propagation and protection work, but to avail that commission of the scientific work of the State college by always keeping on the game commission a representative of that institution.

Some years ago Mr. Averill, myself and others collaborated in attempting to work out a plan to take the game commission out of politics by providing for the appointment of its members for terms that could not be terminated at the will of the governor except for good cause shown. We contemplated that the governor should be required to appoint from persons recommended by the groups most directly concerned. It was suggested that one member should be selected by the State college, one by the organized sportsmen, one by the state board of forestry, one by the State grange, and one by the governor on his own nomination. These, when so selected, would hold office for the term for which they were appointed, and could not be removed except for cause. We would thus have a permanent commission structure, free from political interference, and at the same time would avail ourselves of the interest of the various elements most directly concerned with conservation and protection of fish and game.

However it may be accomplished, I fully agree with Mr. Finley, that the haphazard method of propagation and distribution should give way to a system based upon scientific field investigation and accurate knowledge of conditions under which planting and distribution are carried on. I hope you will keep up the good work being done by Mr. Finley and Mr. Averill.

Arthur I. Moulton.

Journal Finley Objects July 3, '35

With his customary sound commonsense, William L. Finley, famed naturalist, has vetoed the suggestion made by Ed F. Averill and endorsed by the Oregonian that the federal wild life refuge comprising Malheur lake and the Blitzen valley be changed to the Finley refuge as a recognition of his 30 years effort in securing its creation. Mr. Finley writes:

The names of that region are a part of the history of Oregon and should not be changed. Malheur is mentioned in Peter Skene Ogden's Journal of 1826. Malheur and Blitzen are on all the maps and in the records. People know where they are and what they mean.

At the same time Mr. Finley deserves recognition for if it had not been for his persistent propaganda before legislatures, congress, federal officials including presidents, his illustrated lectures, magazine and newspaper articles publicizing the cause, there would probably have been no such wild life refuge.

Mr. Finley induced the first Roosevelt to make the initial order reserving Malheur lake as a wild life refuge and he was largely instrumental in inducing the second Roosevelt to have the government purchase the adjacent territory and complete the task of reserving to futurity the largest wild bird breeding grounds in this region.

There are many ways of bestowing recognition without changing historical and distinctive geographic names.

TOWER LIGHTS

Journal
July 11, '35
By Harry Leeding

THERE'S goldfish, 4½-pounders, in "them thar" Sawtooth mountain lakes, our Twin Falls, Idaho, operative informs.

All of which may prove to be the medium that will prevent more serious argument between The Journal's outdoor experts, William L. Finley and Ed F. Averill, and the Oregon game commission's fish connoisseurs, Frank Wire and Matt Ryckman, as to whether a lochleven can outeat a cutthroat or a rainbow at one sitting.

Who wants to fool with such ordinary piscatorial creations as lochleven, rainbow and cutthroat when four-pound goldfish are available?

However, if you're thinking of stocking the front yard pond with a few, consider first, the difficulty of getting them; second, the danger of having Joe McGlock of across the street flicking a fly in your pond, and third, the consequent damage to the petunia bed.

IN EARLIER DAYS

Journal July 13, '35
From The Journal's Files

July 13, 1925—10 Years Ago

Salem—Appointment of W. L. Finley of Jennings Lodge, naturalist, author and lecturer, as a member of the state game commission to succeed Richard W. Price was announced today by Governor Pierce.

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For Outdoor Fans

"OREGON OUTDOORS"

By William L. Finley and Ed. F. Averill

A fascinating page of authoritative articles on wild life, forest and stream, edited by men who are experts on outdoor life.

EVERY SUNDAY IN THE

SUNDAY JOURNAL

Journal 7-8-35

Oregonian July 3-35 Mr. Finley Objects

To the Editor: In The Oregonian June 22 is a letter from Mr. Averill suggesting a change in the name of the federal wild-life refuge comprising Malheur lake and the Blitzen valley. I appreciate very much your editorial in the same issue suggesting that my name be used in this connection.

In The Oregonian June 29 is a letter on the same subject by Mr. Saltzman, a buckaroo who rode the range with Pete French. He gives the answer.

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WILLIAM L. FINLEY.