

Journal Finley Flies To Parley on Bird Safety July 21, '35

Called to Washington for an important conference with President Roosevelt, Harold Ickes, secretary of the interior; Dr. Elwood Mead, chief of the reclamation service and J. N. Darling, chief of the bureau of biological survey; William L. Finley left Portland by plane Saturday evening. He will arrive in the national capital tonight for the conference Monday.

The purpose of the meeting is to work out a plan for protection of birds on the nesting areas of wild fowl reservations on reclamation projects. Heretofore according to Finley, there has been a woeful lack of co-operation on the part of the reclamation branch of the government. Areas on which the birds nest have been leased for grazing purposes with the result that the nests have been destroyed by the thousands.

MUST SAVE BIRDS

Finley has been waging unrelenting war against this procedure with the result the president has declared the birds must be saved and the biological survey must be permitted to have some say regarding regulations for the use of lands within the reservations. This conference is the direct result of the Oregon man's agitation.

The situation has been particularly bad at Tule lake, Clear lake and Upper Klamath lake. The first is partly in California and partly in Oregon, the second is on the California side of the line and the latter is entirely in Klamath county, Oregon.

MAY RESTORE LAKE

It is also expected that this conference will result in action in the immediate future that will bring restoration of Lower Klamath lake. This lake on which steamboats formerly operated and which was one of the nation's foremost wild fowl breeding grounds was dried up by the reclamation service. The area, for the most part, proved worthless for agricultural purposes and is little more than a sandy desert.

Finley, who was to have been one of the principal speakers at the state convention of Izaak Walton League chapters now in session at Tillamook, is a vice president of the national chapter of the league and is Oregon's representative on the national advisory board for migratory wild fowl regulations.

He expects to return to Portland by plane Thursday.

GAME OUTLOOK HELD BEST EVER

Oregonian July 20-25
Izaak Walton League Holds
Convention at Tillamook

BY LEE BOSTWICK
Staff Writer, The Oregonian

TILLAMOOK, July 19 (Special)

—Outlook for game preservation and conservation in Oregon never was brighter than at the present, due to close co-operation between chapters of the Izaak Walton league and other sportsmen's organizations, Chester E. McCarty, state president, declared here tonight in his report to the annual state convention of the league.

During the year just passed the league successfully defended the Columbia river salmon interests by obtaining from the war department more adequate fishways for the Bonneville dam, which is now under construction. The league was successful in bringing about the restoration to the budget of necessary funds to carry on the biological survey—something of vital importance to the conservation of wild life and also of importance to farmers of the state.

Malheur Refuge Won

The long fight for the restoration of Malheur lake as a wild-life refuge, a fight long carried on by William L. Finley, national vice-president of the Izaak Walton league, also was carried to a successful conclusion.

The league succeeded in defeating proposed legislation in the state legislature for the transfer of license fees from the game protection fund to the general fund, which, if passed, would have been detrimental to propagation of wild life and fish in Oregon; the league continued its battle to keep game management out of politics; two new chapters, Hillsboro and McMinnville, were issued during the year, and applications either are pending or will soon be issued to Medford, Roseburg, Drain, Cottage Grove, Eugene, Zigzag, Bend, Burns, Baker, La Grande and Pendleton.

Such were the highlights of McCarty's report delivered at a banquet, where Mayor Swett welcomed the league at the opening session of the convention.

Clean Streams Demanded

Arthur I. Moulton of Portland, national director of the league, pleaded for clean streams and forest protection. Moulton warned that unless the pollution of streams and the destruction of forests ceased this country would be transformed into another Gobi desert.

The convention will continue tomorrow and Sunday, with annual election of officers scheduled for tomorrow afternoon.

TO HOLD PARLEY

News-Telegram
Finley on Way East to Hear
Wild Life Debates
July 22, '35

Co-operation between the U. S. reclamation service and wild fowl conservation agencies is expected to result from a conference being held in Washington, D. C. William L. Finley, Portland naturalist, member of the national advisory board on wild fowl migration, left for the conference Saturday.

Attending the meeting will be Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, Dr. Elwood Mead of the reclamation service, and J. N. Darling of the biological survey.

Many disputes have arisen between the reclamation bureau and sportsmen's organizations. Sportsmen have protested that reclamation heads have leased wild fowl preserves for range purposes and that livestock has destroyed countless nests. Complaints have been made against the reclamation bureau policy in handling dams and lakes, sportsmen alleging no attempts have been made to protect fish.

Reclamation Journal July 29, '35 Head Denies Bird Charges

Klamath Falls, July 29.—In a vigorous statement, B. E. Hayden, superintendent of the Klamath reclamation project, termed as "misleading and uncalled for" recently published statements criticizing the reclamation service relative to wild life conditions on the projects.

Hayden referred to news dispatches quoting William L. Finley, wild life enthusiast and Oregon naturalist. He took exception to statements that reclamation employes have burned off grass and tule cover during bird nesting time on the Tule lake reserve, and that the Tule lake sump is to be enlarged as a "sort of compensation" for damage done by reclamationists.

He said the statements would indicate the reclamation department has engaged in destructive policies without interest in wild life. Nothing, he said, could be farther from the truth.

Hayden said that each year in February or March the reclamation employes do burn off grass and tules, but this is before the birds are nesting, and it is necessary to prevent Lost river from backing up into an artificial channel and endangering the homes of settlers. This practice must be continued indefinitely, he intimated.

He said further that leases for grazing on Clear, Upper Klamath, Lower Klamath and Tule lakes are issued only for seasons exclusive of the period between April 1 and August 1, when waterfowl produce and develop their young.

Hayden protested no one in Oregon is more interested in wild life conservation than himself, but that it is evident that the project, as well as the state and nation, must be run on a business basis, "without reverting to horse and buggy days when lakes were full and wild life abundant."