

# Walton Banqueters Told Of Study Needed Before U. S. Builds Dams

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By WILLIAM L. BAKER

Declaring that Oregon is spending \$100,000 per year in advertising to bring tourists to the state, yet is letting various agencies build power, flood control and reclamation dams on its best streams, William Finley, Portland naturalist-author, appealed to the Izaak Walton club members and the public here last night to insist that adequate study be given all phases of the government program before fish and game sanctuaries are destroyed for the sake of another value that may not equal the one it replaces.

Finley, regular contributor to National Geographic magazine, vice president of both the Wildlife federation and the national Walton league, said that the present rush to build dams on western streams is only a continuation of a poorly-thought-out policy of conservation.

"The history of mankind is the history of a search for food," he said. "Man despoils fertile lands and makes deserts of them, then moves on. But we have renewable and non-renewable resources—the

minerals in the ground are not renewable, but the fertility of the soil, its forests and streams, are soil, its forests and streams, are use, and not the misuse, of these resources. In America 300,000 acres of good farm land pass out of cultivation each year.

"The forest is the mother of our country. It stores up water, it prevents erosion and flood. But today, right here in Oregon, we sadly need a program of tax revision to protect those who hold forest lands but cannot, because of tax expense, hold onto them. We must protect both the men and the forests," Mr. Finley declared.

"Streams are valuable for the pure water they furnish, and in California the water is more valuable than the land. They are also valuable for irrigation purposes, for power and electricity they may develop. They are often used for inland transportation. But they are highly valuable for the fish they contain and for recreational purposes.

"What worries me is that one use is destroying all the other (Concluded on Page Two)

## Walton Members Hear Speeches, Program Friday

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uses. Pollution, caused by commercial interests, destroys the oxygen in the water, the insect life dies, and fish will not live. We need to study irrigation projects, for too often the farmer does not benefit, the increased cost is too great, and he never gets the mortgage paid off to the government. Often there are no screens to prevent fish from being killed; too often sanctuaries of wild fowl are destroyed for the sole purpose of irrigating farm land.

"And as for inland water transportation, in most regions where there are railroads and highways paralleling the waterways, water transportation is about 75 years out of date. They'll pay at least \$50 per ton for every ton of freight moved up and down the Columbia after they spend about \$375,000,000 putting in the dams."

Finley said that after vigorous efforts by fishing interests, both sportsmen and commercial, the government had finally put in fish ladders at Bonneville dam. "Coullee, however, is blocked completely, as is the Sacramento river at Shasta dam, and salmon on these streams may eventually go out of existence," Finley said, however, that the government plans a six-year program to produce a million fish a year in the Grand Coulee area, but after that it has no program whatsoever.

He recalled that army engineers he consulted in Washington D. C. admitted that studies for proposed flood control dams on the McKenzie and Santiam rivers had been made from only one standpoint, that of cost and location, without including the elements of fish, wild life, recreation, or actual need. He said all these factors should be studied before steps are taken to build dams.

### GOALS ARE LISTED

The program, which drew 100 men to Bush's dining room here, was presided over by Charles Fox, president of the Coos county Izaak Walton chapter. Included on the menu were crawfish and salmon. Fox said it was an annual occasion at which "good and bad fishermen, good and poor hunters meet on common ground." He said the chapter's immediate goals are: placing a member on the state game commission, construction of a game refuge on the coast for migratory fowl; development of the Smith basin hatchery, and the Bandon hatchery; conversion of Eel lake into a brood lake; and creation of a friendly relationship with the game commission.

State Walton President J. Stanley Emery of Marshfield introduced to the banqueters "Izaak" Walton, operator of the former Bill Hunter stand on the Rogue, Frank Youngquist, local club vice-president; the local secretary who is also his state secretary, Harold Savage; Harry Slack and Fred Hudson, Coquille; Mr. Sabron, president of the new Gold Beach chapter; Ed Jackson, new resort owner at Lakeside; Dr. A. B. Peacock "whom we'd like to see on the game commission;" and Frank

Smith "who himself has taken 100,000 cutthroat eggs for Coos river." He also introduced Louis Felsheim and Charles Page, Bandon; Rep. Roy Carter of Gold Beach; and James Gerow of Portland, federal game management director for Oregon.

Gerow introduced Jim Savage of Portland, assistant inspector of the U. S. Biological Survey who said that the new excise tax on guns and ammunition will be turned back to the states for special development. Beaver transplanting and sage hen restoration are on the program in Oregon under this act—the Pittman-Robertson act,—he said.

Frank B. Wire, who at the close of the evening showed three reels of interesting Oregon fish and game moving pictures, said the game commission realizes this area's chief problems are those of cutthroat trout and of the two hatcheries.

### PRICE IS BARRIER

E. E. Wilson, Corvallis, commission chairman, said only the price of land at Eel lake stands

between the commission and its plan to make it a brood lake. He described other phases of the state program.

Wilson said artificial propagation of fish is only supplementary to natural spawning.

William Smith of Portland, president of the Oregon branch of the Wildlife Federation of America, said interest in wildlife is second only to interest in old-age pensions. He said a constantly increasing demand for fish and game has caused shortages, especially in the Willamette valley pheasant and in trout. He said it is to be desired that in the future policemen who enforce game laws will be trained to make surveys and censuses and cooperate in other game work.

An invitation was given on behalf of Curry county chambers of commerce for all who can to attend the annual spring meeting of the Oregon Coast Highway association in Gold Beach next weekend.

## Finley to Speak At Walton Fete

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MARSHFIELD, April 11 (Special) William Finley, Portland naturalist and vice-president of the national Izaak Walton league, will be speaker at the annual Coos county Walton club banquet here Friday night, April 14, local officials announced this week. The affair will be held at Bush's dining room.

Charles Fox, Coos county president, said Frank B. Wire, state game supervisor, also will speak. In addition, a program of talks and entertainment is being arranged. Fox expects 125 to 150 sportsmen of the county to attend. The main course will be fish.