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Control of Flood Waters

Oregon City Enterprise
Apr. 22, 1939

There is and probably always will be two extreme points of view regarding the use of river waters. One points to the control of water for power purposes, such as Bonneville Dam and Grand Coulee Dam. The other has to do with the Willamette Basin project, affecting flood control primarily and navigation secondarily.

All such projects have encountered stout opposition of William L. Finley and other lovers of fish life, who contend that the construction of dams are bound to destroy the fishing industry in this state. In a discussion of the whole subject, the Coos Bay Times has the following comment:

Another important aspect of these government dams is that they are usually poorly managed and become too expensive to pay out as they would be forced to do if privately managed. The Bonneville administration, with thousands of watts of power to sell, and millions to spend in selling it, is in the position today of trying to cram power down the throats of Oregon people. Its acts in the recent legislature were not beyond criticism, as it tried to get liberal laws passed so everyone could drink from the bottomless well of public electricity. So whether the Bonneville project will do anything more than force several private utilities to go broke or out of business, is still another question.

That's true enough. But the Willamette Basin project should not be compared with the monster dreams along the Columbia river. There is real need for the control of flood waters and for improvement in the navigation aids of the Willamette from Oregon City south. As a layman, we have no fear that the fish resources of Willamette tributaries will be destroyed in a well-planned effort to protect the farm lands of the basin and in regulating the flow of water. Any other conclusion is gloomy and flows from a single-track mind.

Waterway Saving

To the Editor: By a coincidence we note you publish a long letter from a W. L. Finley, who tells us how we can save \$100,000 yearly by simply not developing our inland waterways. Mr. Finley seems to have overlooked the rather important fact that henceforward the function of government must necessarily be to develop our natural resources to benefit society generally, incidental to the chore of giving work to those whom capitalism is apparently unable to provide for.

After all, the \$100,000 he speaks of saving would supply a very poor diet to the millions of starving unemployed, nor would it make a very dependable foundation on which to plan for future supplies of food and shelter. Notwithstanding the sad plight of "the widows and orphans," the clock will not turn back in our U. S. A. L. E. HUEY,
4604 Southeast Forty-fourth ave.

Oregonian - Apr. 26, 1939

W. L. Finley Opposed to Dam On Umatilla

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PORTLAND, Apr. 26—(P)—William L. Finley, well-known Portland naturalist, opposed construction of a \$23,700,000 dam at Umatilla rapids on the Columbia river today because "it would help destroy the salmon runs" and "an effort should now be made to balance the federal budget." The naturalist, commenting on a

statement by Col. Thomas M. Robins, army engineer, who said the Umatilla project was necessary to provide cheap transportation on the Columbia, asserted "many people do not understand either the costs or results of inland waterway transportation."

Baker, Oregon, Apr. 26, 1939
Democrat-Herald

Journal - Apr. 23-39
Audubon Society To Hold Dinner

The James John Audubon birthday dinner for Oregon Audubon society members and friends will



be held at 6:30 p. m. Thursday at the Bohemian restaurant, 910 S. W. Washington street.

W. H. Crowell, president of the society, will be one of the principal speakers. The Lucy Audubon society, sponsor, is planning the program.

Dr. William L. Finley, noted naturalist, will be toastmaster. The weekly lecture scheduled by the society at Central library has been canceled for this occasion.

Waltons of Clatsop Get Charter Tonight

ASTORIA, April 26.—J. Stanley Emery, president of the Oregon council of the Izaak Walton league, will present a charter to the new Clatsop county organization here tonight.

William L. Finley, widely known Oregon naturalist and wild life conservationist, will be the principal speaker at the presentation banquet. F. M. Franciscovich, Clatsop state senator, will be toastmaster.

Founders' buttons will be given to Leonard Peterson, president of the local chapter, and to Walter Johnson, secretary.

Journal - Apr. 26, 1939

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Audubon Society Dinner

William L. Finley will be toastmaster at the Oregon Audubon society dinner Thursday at 6:30 p. m. at the Bohemian restaurant. There will be exhibits of bird feeding devices and food, nesting boxes and nesting material.