

THE LITERARY DIGEST

Grizzly Bear Etiquette

AS intent as a sales manager in a conference with his staff.

He can not be disturbed.

This is Bruin fishing in a mountain stream, says Courtland Holdom in *The Christian Science Monitor*. Kadiak and grizzly bears, he tells us, are no more dangerous than any high-powered, high-pressure executive. But—

"If one is persistent, and pushes boldly past the secretary—or the warning growl—he may in either case expect serious consequences."

William L. Finley of Jennings Lodge, Oregon, has spent some thirty years of his life getting acquainted with bears and other wild animals with only a camera shoot at them. He claims that the hunter with a gun, going out only to make a killing, can never know wild life as it actually is.

Mr. Finley, who has caught Kadiaks and grizzlies as close as twenty feet, explained to the *Monitor* correspondent:

"It is generally believed that bears stand beside a stream and reach quickly down with a paw, like a cat, to swish a fish out upon the bank. Their actual methods are quite different. Again and again I saw them plunge with a great splash into some deep pool, where salmon were swarming, and drive the fish out into the shallows. Then they would scramble into the shallows themselves and quickly plant a paw upon a fish. Invariably they would then retire with their catch to a secluded nook in the brush for their banquet."

"It was interesting to observe the differences in method between the young bears and the veterans. The youngsters would frequently try to catch two or three fish which they had driven out into the shallows, while the old bears, taught by long experience, invariably kept their eyes upon a single fish, and as invariably caught him."

WHILE bears are not the vicious creatures they are sometimes pictured, Mr. Finley would not encourage familiarity with them. Especially is this true in national parks, says the *Monitor* writer, where bears have become accustomed to the proximity of men, and are not so inclined to flee from them. If treated with decent respect they are not to be feared. No animal of their size and strength should be approached flippantly.

Bruin demands the deference due to majesty. Mr. Finley thus corrects some current fallacies concerning the etiquette of meeting Bruin as a social equal:

The naturalist who wishes only to study and photograph bears learns vastly different things concerning these huge denizens of the backwoods. A bear is generally disinclined to "charge" a human being. He is, in fact, extremely desirous of avoiding human scent, and even the largest Kadiak bear—and he is the world's largest carnivore—will make off into the woods if the wind carries to him the message of a man's presence.

If he sees a man whom he does not smell, however, the average big bear will stand his ground.

He is king of the forest, and accustomed

to all other creatures yielding at his approach. If he is busy—fishing, for instance—he may be observed quite openly.

But if his right of way is openly challenged, or one attempts to "shoo" him away, he will yield with the utmost reluctance, if at all.

But by nature he is not vicious. There are, however, many bears who have had sad experiences with humans, who have been hunted, and possibly shot, or have escaped with difficulty after being cornered; and these may bear a grudge against mankind. Being large and powerful animals, it is not beyond reason that they may now and then maul the injudicious hunter or camper who fails to recognize their dignity and give them a wide berth.

But the vicious "charge" of the bear, made famous by many a hunter and novelist, is largely fictitious. His own observations have brought to light several explanations of why a bear may run toward a man without any intention of injuring him.

DEATH TO WHALE PLEA OF SOCIETY

Humane Step Asked for
Ethelbert.

PROMPT ACTION REQUESTED

State and U. S. Engineers to
Receive Resolution.

FOOD SUPPLY HELD NIL

Naturalists, However, Have Idea
That Visitor Can Well Take
Care of Himself.

The Oregon Humane society, through its directors, yesterday adopted a resolution urging the state of Oregon and United States engineers to "dispose" of Ethelbert, Portland's Oregon slough whale, in a "humane manner as soon as possible."

The action was taken upon the advice of Byron B. Allison, 1449 Skidmore street, ex-chief engineer for the Pacific-American Whaling company, who told the society the whale will shortly die and become a public nuisance from lack of food.

The society also voted unanimously against proposals to capture Ethelbert and lift him bodily from the river to be placed in a Jantzen beach park swimming tank for exhibition purposes.

Meanwhile Whale Enjoys Life.

While the society was passing resolutions Ethelbert was appearing more satisfied with his adopted waters, Oregon slough between the Pacific highway bridge and railroad bridge, with Jantzen beach park on one side and the Pacific International Livestock exposition grounds on the other, than he had been at any time since he first arrived in Portland's dooryard October 12.

A good night's rest, a day without meddlesome motorboats and sharpshooters to worry him and a breakfast—according to Harvey Wells, president of Jantzen Beach park—of grapefruit and trout, made Ethelbert as chipper a whale as ever visited Portland. He gave no indication of winding up his visit prior to the opening of the livestock show Saturday.

During the day, also, William L. Finley and Campbell Church Jr., respectively Portland and Seattle naturalists, agreed with M. H. Wright, Clark county farmer, that Ethelbert is a small "killer whale" which apparently had followed a salmon run up the Columbia and lost his way into Columbia slough.

After the Humane society directors adjourned, Mr. Allison told why he felt the whale should be put to death.

"There is no food in the Columbia river for a whale," he said. "There are only carp, bass, salmon and trout, all of them too large for a small-throated mammal like the whale. Whales feed on sardines and small fish that run in large schools."

Instinct Heads Upstream.

"This whale apparently cannot get out of the slough because it is his instinct to swim upstream against the current and there apparently is a sand bar or shoal that prevents him from going any farther. Even

if he were taken down the river and released in tidewater he would turn about when the tide changed and soon be headed upstream."

"It is foolish for anyone to attempt to catch a whale in a net, for they are powerful animals and would rip a net to pieces. He might also injure one or more men who attempted to catch him."

Mr. Allison said Ethelbert might live for two or three months before he died, but when that time came the disposal of his carcass would be a real problem.

It was this information, given to the Humane society Mrs. C. T. Hoge, a member of the board, said, which resulted in the resolution.

Mr. Allison suggested the use of a dynamite charge let down beside the whale to put it to death, owing to the fact that no whalers or whaling gear is in Portland.

He also said the descriptions of the whale, which he admitted he had not seen, resembled species known as dog fish, black fish or hump-back whales. Killer whales, he said, do not range north of Mexican and lower Californian waters.

"We have seen a good many whales in northern waters and have no doubt that this is a small killer whale," said Mr. Finley. "The top dorsal fin, the triangular white patches on his sides below the eyes, the white under his body and tail and his general manner of coming up periodically for air are unmistakably characteristics of the killer. We've studied others like him in the ocean and have even photographed them."

"It is well known that killers will follow salmon runs into fresh water streams and no doubt this whale did that very thing. But why he remains in the slough is the remarkable thing. Possibly he is perfectly satisfied with the food he gets—salmon, trout and carp."

"There is no reason why he cannot remain there and live in fresh water as well as in salt water. Putting him in an inclosure of salt water is all

tommyrot. He can't be fed like a chicken or a cat. And he'll find his way out when he gets ready."

"He is a mammal and breathes air. In fact, if he were not permitted to come to the surface he would probably drown like a human being within five or ten minutes. His breathing apparatus is in the top of his head."

Mr. Finley felt that although killer whales are considered very dangerous to humans who might be in the water, he saw no reason why Ethelbert should be feared, for there was no reason why any human being would be in the water at this time of year. Therefore he felt that the whale should be permitted to live and go his way as he chose.