

Klamath Lake Draining Hit By Naturalist

Journal June 4-37

Klamath Falls, June 4.—Speaking within a few miles of Lower Klamath lake, William L. Finley, naturalist and national vice president of the Wild Life rederation, held up that lake as a "horrible example" of the draining of a valuable bird refuge for assertedly non-profitable farm operations.

Finley made the statement in a talk on the need for conservation of natural resources, before a luncheon meeting of the Klamath Kiwanis club.

The naturalist declared that before Lower Klamath lake was drained, government experiments had shown the land of no value for agriculture. But promotion had its way, he said, and the land was drained, destroying a great natural bird sanctuary. Lower Klamath lake, he said, "became a biological desert."

Finley mentioned the efforts now on foot to relood the lake. He said that for a long time the reclamation service worked solely for land reclamation and did not consider wild fowl conservation. In more recent times, he said, close co-operation has developed between the reclamation bureau and the biological survey, and practices ruinous to wild life have been halted. He mentioned the Clear Lake grazing controversy, describing it as an example of two departments working at cross-purposes, and declared that all this now has been changed.

The naturalist said that pollution of streams is one of Oregon's greatest problems, describing the Willamette river as a "public sewer." He said that dams are a menace to fish life, but stressed that conservationists do not propose abolishment of any industries, but merely want to save the great natural resources.

FINLEY DEPLORES DRAINING OF LAKE

Oregonian June 4-37

KLAMATH FALLS, June 3 (Special)—Calling lower Klamath lake a "biological desert," William Finley, vice-president of National Wild Life federation, deplored circumstances which brought about its draining, in making a public address here today.

Finley came here with representatives of state game commission, wild life federation, biological survey and forest service.

Finley said lower Klamath lake is a "horrible example" of ruination of a great bird sanctuary for assertedly unprofitable farming operations.

"Now it's a biological desert—a complete loss," he averred. He declared that government studies showed, before the lake was drained in 1912, that its bed would not make good farm land. Nevertheless, he said, promoters had their day, and the project was put through.

Finley took cognizance of recent movements to relood the lake, and said that this may now be accomplished.

WILD LIFE IS TOPIC IN BEND

District Conference Is Well Attended

Bend June 5 1937
Noted Game Authorities
on Program Held in
Pine Tavern

Central Oregon sportsmen, who came from points as far distant as Burns, last night heard nationally known speakers say that game and fish of the Deschutes basin will eventually prove a greater asset than the pine forests that at present reach up to the timber line of the Cascades. The occasion was "mobile convention" of the Oregon Wild Life federation that brought to Bend such game authorities as Dr. W. L. Finley, vice president of the national federation; Stanley G. Jewett, now in charge of all federal game refuges in the Pacific states; Frank B. Wire and Ed F. Averill.

Nearly 100 sportsmen and women attended the Bend meeting, one of four held in Oregon. The conference was in the Pine Tavern, at a dinner meeting. George Aitken of Sisters, member of the executive committee of the Oregon Wild Life federation, presided and introduced Averill, who was toastmaster. The conference lasted until 10:30 p. m., and ended with the showing of films by Wire, state game supervisor. Feature of the pictures was a "movie" of a bear emerging from hibernation in the snowy mountains of northeastern Oregon.

Primary purpose of the conference was to arouse further interest in the program of conservation approved by the state planning board, two members of which, C. W. Reynolds and V. L. Sexton, were present last night. Reynolds last night touched on the work that the state board has done.

Not included in the original program, Dr. L. E. Hibbard, former member of the game commission who drove from Burns yesterday evening in two hours to be present, proved one of the outstanding speakers of the evening, centering his remarks on the Oregon outdoors and especially bird life. Both Hibbard and Jewett touched on the Malheur game refuge, now one of the most notable on the continent, and told of the great number of birds there. Before development work was started on the huge refuge, 112 species of birds had been counted. Now 220 species are listed. Jewett told his audience how some of the Malheur birds range as far south as the Argentine and Paraguay in South America and others nest within the arctic circle.

In his brief talk, Dr. Finley decried the inroads of commerce on wild life haunts and touched on the drainage of nesting grounds and the pollution of streams. A number of the speakers bitterly criticized the condition in the Willamette river, described as an "open sewer." These same speakers referred to the clean

Deschutes, now becoming nationally famous as a trout stream because it is not used for sewage disposal.

It was W. J. Smith, president of the Oregon Wild Life federation, who touched on the income angle of wild life. "We can almost place wild lie in the class of big business," he said, mentioning that people of America annually spend about \$750,000,000 in fishing, hunting and enjoying the out of doors. The speakers agreed that industry has its highly important place in American life, but added: "Many a city has given away a \$1,000,000 river to get a \$1,000 industry."

Edward Cliff, associated with the game management department of the forest service, was another of the speakers. He outlined the forest service program of conservation of natural resources through use.

Two former members of the state game commission, Dr. Hibbard and Dr. J. C. Vandeventer, were present. Dr. Vandeventer spoke briefly. George Simerville, president of the Deschutes Sportsmen's association, and Don H. Peoples, chamber of commerce secretary, were introduced. The association and the chamber of commerce sponsored the local meeting.

Redmond sent a large delegation, headed by Dr. Paul Rogers, who reported that the Redmond-Sisters Sportsmen's association now has 171 paid up members. Dr. Hibbard was spokesman for the Burns delegation.

The large group voted to join into a district, to become a unit of the state federation of sportsmen.

Officials who took part in the local conservation program came here from Klamath Falls. Similar meetings were held in Roseburg, Medford and Klamath Falls.