

## Conservation Strikes Warm Note in East

*Journal Mar. 8, 1938*

A growing interest in the preservation of wild life and the conservation of natural resources is evident in the East, according to William L. Finley, nationally known naturalist, who just returned to Portland after two months of lecturing and attending conferences in the Middle Atlantic and New England states.

"People are looking to the West as the one section of the country where nature's gifts have not been completely exploited, and are concerned about saving it for recreational as well as economic reasons," Finley said.

Finley gave a reminder that President Roosevelt has designated March 20 to 26 as Wild Life Restoration week, a period in which people should make an effort to learn about intelligent use, not misuse, of game and resources.

While in Baltimore Finley attended the meeting of the National Wild Life federation, an organization which attempts to co-ordinate the efforts of all bodies interested in

wild life. He was elected vice president.

Finley conferred with United States army engineers and with officials of the United States bureau of fisheries, asking that a study be made of the possible effect on fish life that the proposed \$56,000,000 flood control program on the Willamette river would have. He cited the objection that present plans have no provisions for fishways on the several dams.

He referred to a bill now in congress which would allocate \$500,000 for construction of hatcheries on the Columbia river and quoted Frank Bell, United States commissioner of fisheries, as saying that if the money is allotted, he will not administer it until something is done to stop seining and netting of salmon immediately above Bonneville dam.

## W. L. FINLEY HOME FROM TOUR EAST

*Oregonian 3/8/38*

W. L. Finley, naturalist, returned yesterday from a two-months' tour of the east during which he attended the third annual conference of the General Wild Life federation.

At the meeting, held in Baltimore, it was announced that President Roosevelt had set the week of March 20 to 26 as Wild Life Restoration week, Mr. Finley said.

Two Portlanders were elected officers at the conclave, Mr. Finley being named vice-president and Carl Shoemaker, secretary and business manager. Jay Darling of Des Moines, Ia., is president.

### Fish Study Planned

Mr. Finley said he had discussed the matter of Oregon fish resources in Washington, D. C., and had been informed that a study will be made of possible damage to salmon if the proposed dams are installed in the head waters of the Willamette river.

He said he had conferred with Frank Bell, United States commissioner of fisheries, on the proposed bill now in congress appropriating \$500,000 for the building of hatcheries on the Columbia river. He added that Mr. Bell had expressed the belief that no commercial fishing should be permitted on the Columbia above Bonneville dam.

## Fear Project Dams Might Endanger Fish

*Journal Mar. 12, 1938*

Serious question as to the effect of the proposed \$56,000,000 Willamette valley flood control and irrigation project, which has just received the approval of U. S. army engineers, upon fish and wild life was raised at the tri-state conference of fish and game bodies at the Multnomah hotel Friday afternoon.

William L. Finley, wild life expert, strenuously objected to further pushing of the proposal until all sides of the issue have been studied. Finley charged that the projected seven dams, too high to permit fishways, would create seven "biological deserts" in the most beautiful part of the state.

Their effect would be to not only reduce natural attractions, which annually draw \$35,000,000 in tourist trade, but would jeopardize migratory fish life for years to come.

### Might Impair Spawning Grounds

Others voiced similar objections. Frank Wire, state game supervisor, said hatcheries on the river could not take the place of natural spawning grounds which would be impaired by the seasonal fluctuation of water behind the dams.

Dr. Fred Davidson of the federal bureau of fisheries said that a survey of the area to be affected by the proposed program had been started. Fred Foster, also of the federal bureau and chairman of the conference, said that conservation bodies of the state should use their influence in forcing the attention of congressmen on the report.

Some accord was reached on proposed measures to increase escapage of Columbia river salmon and steelhead to upper river spawning grounds after delegates from Washington and Idaho said there was little use in protecting spawning grounds unless the large takes on the lower Columbia river were reduced.

### Favor River Closure

Oregon game and fish commissioners and E. A. Storvik, representing commercial gill netters, agreed they would favor closure of the lower Columbia to commercial fishing during the winter season after December 1. Several also said they would approve banning of stationary gear on the Oregon side of the Columbia to go along with the regulations now in effect in Washington.

Chairman Veatch of the fish commission pointed out, however, that the voice of the state bodies could only take the form of recommendations and that final action would be up to the state legislature.

The conference continued this morning with a closed session.

## AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Tuesday, March 22-1938

Association Hall, 8 P. M.

A beautiful motion picture film of Birds and Animals will be given by

Dr. William L. Finley

Honorary President of the Society and Vice-President of the National Wild Life Conservation Committee

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