

Sentry Box For Camera



Ronald Shanin

Kiwanis Travel Film Tuesday At KM High

On Tuesday evening, the Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club will present its 2nd program of the "Travel and Adventure Series" at 7:30 p.m. in the Kings Mountain Senior High School, Barnes Auditorium.

Ron Shanin has made a speciality of producing films about the remote areas of Africa and has traveled extensively in many African countries. He shot cattle-killing lions for a chief, and later began filming the wildlife and primitive tribes. "Rivers of Fire and Ice", a film which took him 4 years to pro-

duce and which cost the lives of 2 men, was selected by the National Screen Council for a national award and is now being screened in theatres around the world by Universal Pictures. Shanin's photos have appeared in Life, Look, Newsweek, Sports Illustrated and in the McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology, and some of his films have been used on the T.V. show "High Adventure with Lowell Thomas." He has supplied the U.S. Navy with films of poisonous snakes for their Global Medicine Training Program. Shanin has a degree in aeronautical engineering from

M.I.T. and for years was a rocket engineer with the Bell Aerospace Corp.

Shanin conducts an experiment in Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Rhodesia to settle the controversy over whether vultures locate their prey by sight or scent. He feigns death on the open plains and after some bizarre encounters with animals, a vulture lands alongside of him, proving that they locate their prey by sight. On one occasion a lion cub trots up to his "lifeless" form, and a lioness, concerned about the safety of her cub, chases Shanin

up a tree.

Shanin is convinced that wild creatures believe that danger will approach on either 2 legs or 4 legs. No legs, no danger. He constructs a lightweight mobile blind, like a one-man sentry box with a hole in the front for his camera, and he is able to walk right up to animals without frightening them. His close approach to lions is quite exciting.

One of Shanin's friends in Zambia is both a witchdoctor and the head of a village. He has 4 wives and 31 children, and his village is neatly laid out in a functional pattern. An animated

diagram of the village, supplemented by the movies, gives a good appreciation of the life style of tribal Africans.

A buffalo, wounded by poachers, was reported to be chasing natives near Shanin's camp and he went after it with a borrowed rifle. When he got close, he was suddenly tossed into the air on the animal's horns, then ran for a tree and scaled it like a monkey, before the enraged buffalo was able to trample him. Two men with telephoto lenses got the encounter on film.

Shanin finds a tiny lion cub waandering alone in the veld, and raises it in his camp along

with a German Sheperd pup and a young baboon. The interplay among the animals is humorous. Shanin regularly takes them for walks through the jungle, and from time to time they encounter wild animals with unpredictable results but lots of action.

The film gives us a view of wildlife and tribes that could only be revealed by years of filming and a safari covering 50,000 miles of remote bush country.

Tickets may be purchased from Bridges Hardware, Dr. Scott Mayse, or Dr.G. Howard. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

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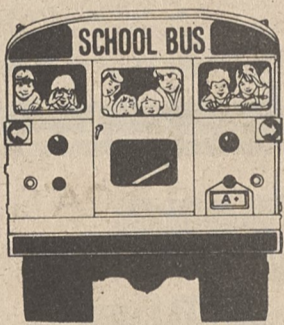
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