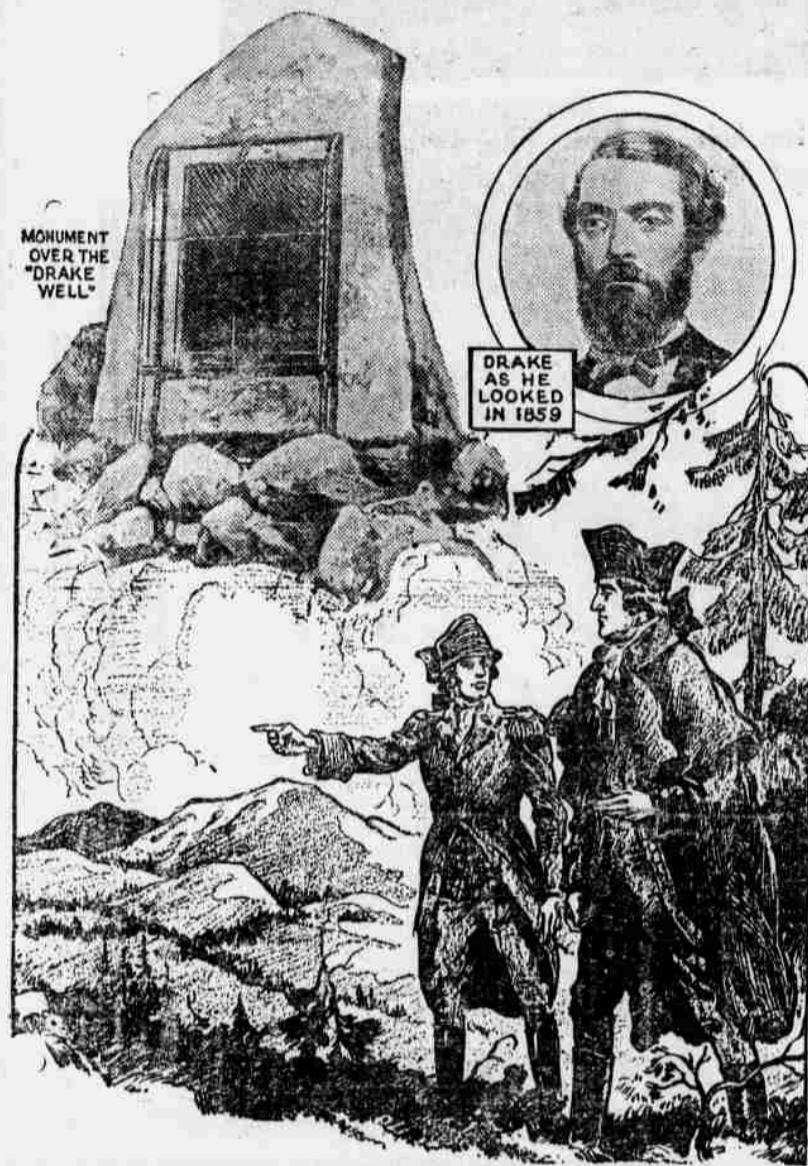


Washington's Early Adventures Now Assuming New Significance



By HENRY BOTSFORD

AFTER well nigh a century and three-quarters a new interest has recently been aroused in the earliest military adventures of George Washington. When barely twenty-one years old, in 1753, Washington was sent by Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia into the far northwestern wilderness—that is, northwestern Pennsylvania—to warn the French that they must cease their efforts to occupy that region. Recent researches have given a new historical significance to that expedition, during which Washington, always reckless of his personal safety, had one of his narrow escapes from death at the hands of a treacherous Indian guide.

The French at that time occupied Canada and claimed the Mississippi and Ohio Valleys. Through the fringe of English speaking colonies along the Atlantic contained the chief European population, France maintained sovereignty over most of North America's area. They were apparently determined to occupy northwestern Pennsylvania, partly because it was known even then to be rich in petroleum.

Region's Wealth Known
Pioneers and missionaries, English, French, German and Dutch, had all reported to their governments that the petroleum was of great potential value. There is, however, no reason to believe that Washington knew of its existence or value until his adventure of 1753. Then he learned that the oil had long been used by the Indians and the pioneering whites for fuel and light, for medicine and in making war paint. Washington was so much impressed with its possibilities that he later became owner of a large area of oil-bearing lands. Although the petroleum industry in its modern form was then undreamed of, Washington was so sure that a fortune resided in his oil-bearing lands that in his will he listed them as his most valuable holdings. In the property schedule attached to the will he wrote:

"This tract was taken up by General Lewis and myself on account of the bituminous spring which it contains, of so inflammable a nature as to burn as freely as spirits and as nearly difficult to extinguish."

The Will of Washington
Some historians declare that in an earlier will Washington dedicated this "burning spring" to the public. At any rate, it had passed from his ownership before his death. He sold this tract for \$200,000, but, suspecting it was a gift to his estate under a will, he warned his heirs that if they sold it for less than \$200,000, they would be liable for the \$200,000. Washington's first knowledge of petroleum was gained within a few miles of the place where the well was not opened until six years later, in 1780, when the first well, just south of the Pennsylvania, and really started the modern petroleum industry.

A Development Wonder
Today the American industry is the major part of the world's oil business. Americans are directing oil developments all over the world. It is all part of the huge problem: to make sure that the tomorrows shall see America's requirements met. Every decade the production of petroleum has doubled. Science and technical progress have met all demands. Foreign investment and development are in the nature of insurance for the future.

In the days of Drake and the industry's beginnings petroleum's value lay in lubricants and kerosene. The age

of machinery was only beginning, with its insatiable demand for lubricants, while kerosene, though the best illuminant ever known, was dangerous because of its explosive. It is difficult now, when the world is being combed for more petroleum to make more gasoline, to realize that gasoline was once a nuisance and a menace. The internal combustion engine created the demand for gasoline, now the primary product of petroleum. The demands of millions of motor cars increasing constantly, invention and chemistry were set at work by the captains of the industry to make the barrel of petroleum turn out a larger and larger proportion of gasoline. This was done by the cracking process, through which every year now sees a larger proportion of crude oil turned into gasoline.

High and Growing Demands
Today well-nigh 2,500,000 barrels of petroleum are required every day to satisfy the demand for motor cars, tractors, trucks, buses, artificial gas plants and the innumerable by-products. Invention is constantly finding new uses, as enterprise just as constantly finds new supplies of petroleum. The wonderful and rather mysterious fluid has revolutionized social habits and industrial methods; yet it is only two-thirds of a century since the industry had its feeble beginning in the Pennsylvania oil country.

This year the country will use about 750,000,000 barrels of petroleum. The country will use 700,000,000 gallons of gasoline and will export 1,900,000 more. The production, processing and marketing of petroleum is probably second only to agriculture among American industries.

Roundly, 70 per cent of the world's petroleum industry is American. Ten billions of capital is invested in it—half the valuation of the national rail-road system. It employs just about 1,000,000 people. The petroleum pipe line system, gridironing a good share of the country, aggregates about 85,000 miles. Petroleum revolutionized naval warfare by bringing in the oil burning ship; it is fast revolutionizing merchant marines in the same fashion. Multiplication of motor cars, along with the special taxation of their gasoline, has made possible the modern highway system.

A Trus Social Service
Perhaps the most nearly revolutionary result of Drake's modernization of the petroleum industry is to be found in the change it has brought in the life of rural America. It has carried the city to the country, the country to the city. It has, by making possible the cheap and quick transportation that everybody nowadays enjoys, enabled country and city to know and understand each other as they never did before. It has brought social and educational privileges to country dwellers that a few decades ago seemed absolutely denied to them. On the one hand it has enabled the cities to spread out into suburban areas and the zone of country estates; on the other, it has enabled the people of the open country to have neighbors, society, church and school privileges, intimate acquaintance.

It is a historic fact that the tendency toward division of interest and understanding between city and country is the most serious internal menace to the security of nations, to the integrity of society.

More than anything else, country and city need to know and understand each other and each other's problems. The easy transportation, the ready opportunity for association and acquaintance that have come with the Age of Petroleum have made possible, in this favored country at least, exactly this new intimacy and understanding.

Bird Cripples Live Under Big Handicap

As in the case of human beings, so in bird life there are those which for some reason or other are fated to go through life with certain handicaps.

Unfortunately, man is mainly responsible for bird cripples. Rabbit trapping, as carried on today, is responsible for damage to thousands of pheasants. No less than 50 per cent of those shot in a small wood recently had only one foot, but they had managed to survive and were in perfect condition apart from this damage.

Smaller birds often get a leg smashed, but seem able to get along without it by hopping on the sound one and using their wings. Not only will a starling just manage to exist under such conditions, but it will fight and scramble after food and manage to hold its own.

In wild-fowling it is frequently found that after a large flock of birds has been put to flight a smaller number remain behind and seem loath to fly. If these were examined through a good pair of glasses, they will be seen to be the halt and the lame that have been damaged in some part of the body.

Nature has a rough-and-ready way of healing their hurts and many cripples survive for a time.

Few birds that are born cripples survive for long, for their enemies are many and the weakest are the first to go.

Powerless to Resist Sweep of Avalanche

There were several destructive avalanches in the St. Gothard region in 1925, when the railway was damaged at several points, and many peasants and workmen were killed. But one rainy Sunday in September, forty-five years ago, 150 persons perished when a large portion of the Plattenbergkopf split off and slid down on the village of Elm.

Early in the day great boulders began to come crashing down with disturbing frequency, and quite a number of men were out watching them. Suddenly they saw a whole cliff sway and topple over. Seventeen minutes later another cliff fell, and, to their horror, the doomed villagers saw that the mountain had thus been undermined, and was poised over their air far above them. Four minutes later it fell, shattered into millions of fragments, and came sliding down at terrific speed. Through the village went the avalanche, across the tranquil meadows of the valley, and up the opposite mountain-side for a couple of hundred feet, when it diverged right and left, like the wash of a spent wave, for many hundred yards.

Douglas Fir Entirely Distinct Tree Species

The Douglas fir, a native of the Northwest but now being planted extensively in the East, is becoming a popular Christmas tree, according to the American Forestry association. The species was named for a Scotch botanist who discovered it on an expedition in 1825, but its scientific name is pseudotsuga, meaning "false hemlock." As a matter of fact, it is neither a hemlock nor a fir, and, though it is sometimes called a spruce, it isn't that either. The tree belongs to an entirely distinct species. The tree most commonly used for Christmas trees is a real fir—the balsam, so called because its blister-like pockets yield the resinous liquid known as Canada balsam, which is used among other things for attaching cover plates to microscope slides.

His Opportunity Lost

The small boy had received many presents on his birthday, but the best of all—a real watering can—arrived just as he was going to bed, and despite his tears and protests the owner of this treasure was told that he could not use it till next morning.

Soon after dawn his mother heard howls of anguish from the garden and, looking out, she discovered that these came from her small son, who stood in a drenching rain clad only in his night-shirt, grasping the cherished can in his hand.

"What on earth is the matter?" demanded the anxious mother.
"Oh, oh, oh!" wailed the disappointed one. "I did so want to water the garden, and now God's been and done it!"

Good Money in Whaling

The Vestfold district of Norway, where many of the old Vikings had their homes, is still the recruiting region for one of the most romantic callings of modern times—whale hunting. Leaving their small farms in the care of wives and children, the men set out for south Georgia, and the Ross sea in September and return at the beginning of the following summer. The Norwegian whale-hunting fleet numbers about 20 ships and employs 4,000 men.

The work is very hard, but is extraordinarily well paid, every man receiving a royalty from the catch. Some men average \$6,000 a year, and the ablest, after years of good service, is trusted with the harpooning.

Cantonese Army Suffers Reverse

Shanghai.—The forces of Marshal Sun Chuan-Fang thrust the Cantonese threatening army farther away from Shanghai. They hurled it from the Cantonese advanced base in Chekiang province at Chuchow toward the border of Kiangsi province, some 200 miles from Shanghai.

31 Years Ago

February 14, 1896

C. C. Cunningham is in trouble. He is also in jail, and the cause of his worry and incarceration in the city bastille is all due to a peculiar penchant of his for selling spirituous, vinous and malt liquors in less quantities than one gallon without first having secured a proper license from the city.

Last Saturday there came from Governor Lord a pardon for Frank Kelley, who was in jail for having in his possession at Milton, a quantity of deer meat at a time when the law made it a misdemeanor. The petition was signed by over 100 persons at Milton and 80 at Pendleton, and the reason for asking for it was that Kelley has a family dependent on him whom the county would have been compelled to keep had he remained in jail to serve out the full \$50 fine. He had already been in confinement for ten days at \$2 per day.

Chief Joseph, the veteran Indian warrior, who is now at Colville, Washington, expects to visit Young Chief as soon as the snow disappears and the Indians on the Umatilla reservation are arranging to accord him a grand reception on the aboriginal plan. It is nearly two years since Joseph was last here, and, as on the other occasion, his stay will be made a pleasant one. Teebit, the 16-year-old son of Young Chief, is at present visiting Joseph.

The narrow gauge engines purchased from the Dr. Baker estate by the O. R. & N. company will be brought up from the road opposite the Cascades, and will again be used on the Dixie branch. Two of them are little moguls with three drive wheels on a side, and in early days were used to pull freight trains from Wallula to Walla Walla.

Work on the ladies' hall of the Eastern Oregon state normal school at Weston will be begun in a short time, and it is expected that the building will be completed by June 1.

William Mosgrove is quite proficient as a horse-trainer. This week he is working with one that exhibits a little more fire and vim than is ordinarily the case in "bronco busting," but he finally put a rig on the animal which effectually subdued it.

J. N. B. Gerking started two gang plows at work on his place west of town, Monday. There is plenty of moisture in the ground at present and the soil works splendidly.

Marshall Gillis has had a gang of four Indians at work on the streets this week. The sunken places along the line of the water system received special attention.

A juvenile dance was in progress at the opera house, Wednesday evening.

NOTICE OF FINAL ACCOUNT

In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Umatilla County.

In the Matter of the estate of Jacob Franklin Reno, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed his final account and report in the above entitled matter and that the above entitled Court has fixed Saturday, the 5th day of March, 1927, at the hour of 10:00 o'clock A. M. of said day, as the time, and the County Court room in the County Court house at Pendleton, Umatilla County, Oregon, as the place, for the hearing of said final account and report. Objections to said final account and report should be filed on or before that date.

Dated at Athena, Oregon, this 4th day of February, 1927.

S. F. SHARP,
Administrator with the Will Annexed of the Estate of Jacob Franklin Reno, Deceased.

Watts & Prestbye Athena, Oregon, Attorneys for Estate. F4M4.

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