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WASHINGTON FIRST U. S. MILLIONAIRE

Started in Life Poor, Worth Huge Sum When He Died; How Gained

The first American millionaire was George Washington, according to Eugene E. Prussing, Los Angeles lawyer, who has just completed 13 years of research into Washington's career as a business man. Summing up the results of his study in the American Magazine, Mr. Prussing says:

"It is customary to think of Washington as soldier and statesman. He was also a man of business, successful farmer, builder of transportation, engineer, pioneer and promoter. He was a man of broad commercial vision and rare business ability. He spent one-fourth of his life in public service and yet left behind hi ma record of business achievement and a fortune that entitle him to be called our first millionaire. He started life with but a few cents of his own. When he died, the land and other investments that he directed to be sold were worth, by his own conservative investment in his will, \$530,000, and this did not include some of the most valuable portions of his estate."

Apprenticeship in Business

Washington' apprenticeship in business started soon after his father's death, which occurred when the boy was 12. From that time he was pretty much on his own, and was always faced with the problem of making a living. His first job was as an apprentice surveyor and his pay was a doubloon a day, or the equivalent of \$7. The work lasted two months, and when it was finished he took a brief course at William and Mary College in order to pass the examinations and secure a license as a surveyor. At 17 he become official survey or of Culpepper county, and thus began his life work as an engineer.

He had the thrifty idea of not taking all his pay in cash. He knew where the best acres were located and believed that land prices would rise steadily.

Enterprises Expand

As time passed his enterprises expanded. His returns on his farming averaged as high as \$15,000 a year. He ran a gristmill, conducted extensive fisheries, maintained a ferry across the Potomac, and was managing director of a large lumber company. He became president of the Potomac River company, which later

evolved into the Chesapeake and Ohio and the Baltimore and Ohio railroad systems. He bought, in parcels of varying size, a total of 53,000 acres of land in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia.

He had a special liking for bank stocks, as investments and recommended their purchase to his executors in his will.

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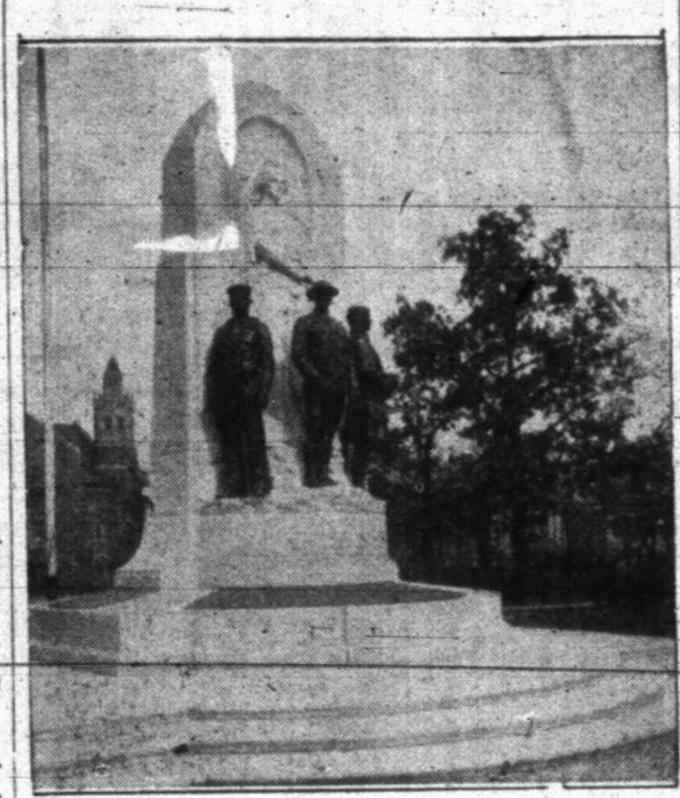
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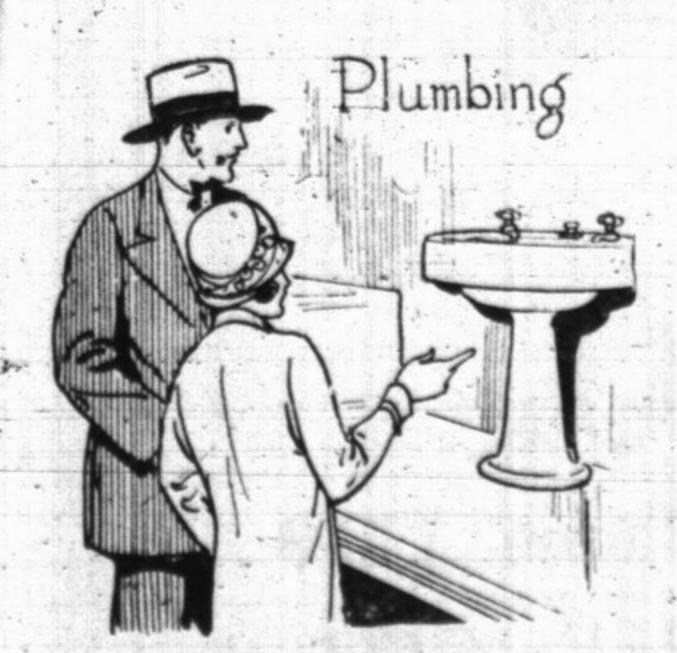
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