

OMAHA ENGINEER INVENTED 'SCRAPER

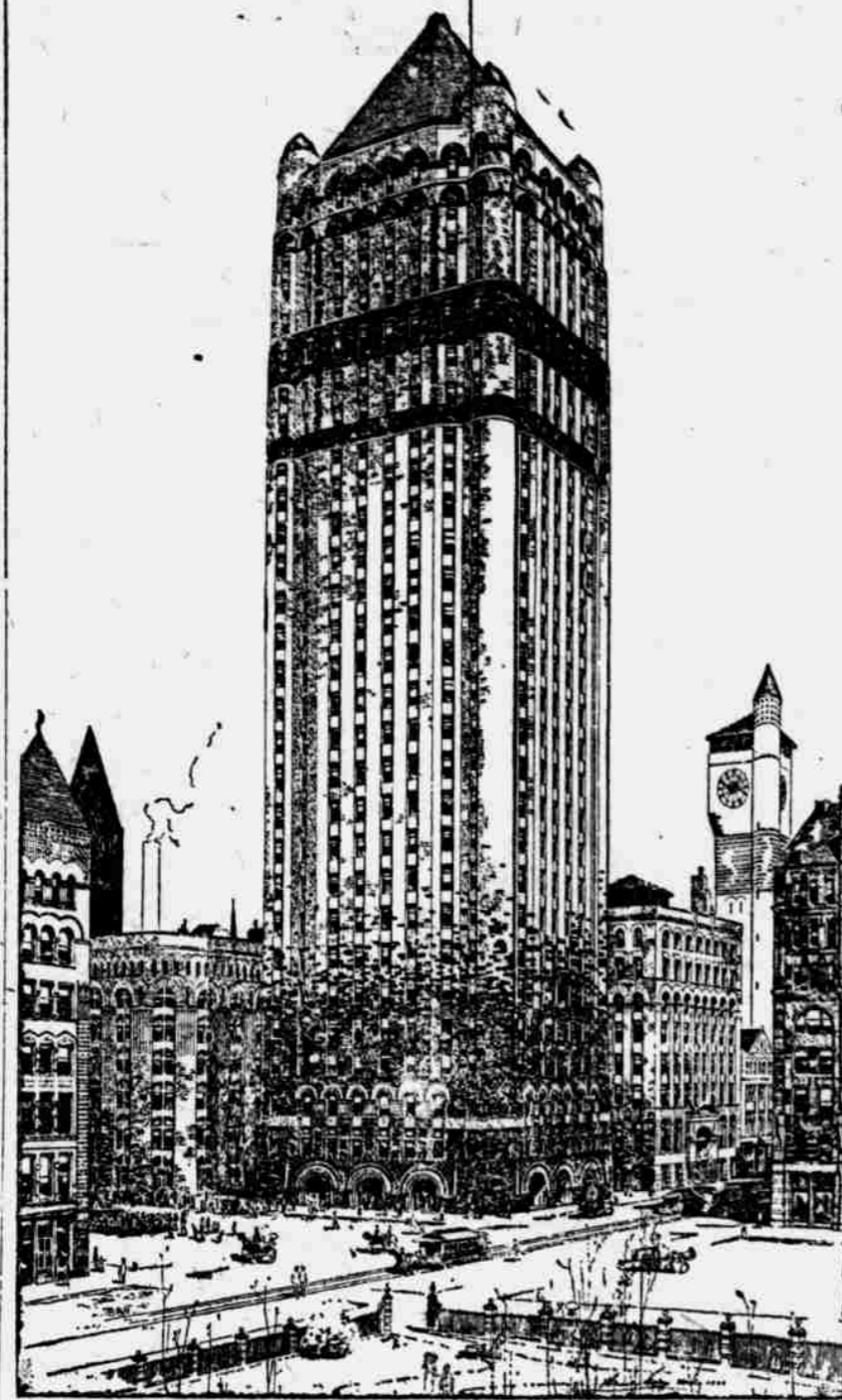
First High Building Planned by F. W. Fitzpatrick, Chief Architect of Bankers Realty Company.

Omaha will have an especial interest to delegates who will be here this week to attend the convention of the National Building Owners and Managers' association. This interest arises from the fact that the engineer who invented the skyscraper is an Omaha man. F. W. Fitzpatrick, chief architect of the Bankers Realty Investment company, is credited with being the inventor of the skyscraper. For years he was consulting architect for the government at Washington, and only last January came to the Bankers Realty Investment company. He is also credited with being responsible for the invention of the submerged tube for crossing rivers, and also for the mine-sweeping device used now by the English government. In a recent issue of the "Architect and Engineer of California" the early history of the skyscraper construction is summarized thus:

"It seems to be generally conceded that it was a necessity of the times, a natural and obvious step in the progress of building, and that no doubt many thought of the same solution of the problem at the same time. The patent office is full of coincident applications. "It is a fact that the first real skyscraper was built in Chicago by Colonel James, the leading architect of that time—1889. How much before that actual construction did he or anyone else conceive the scheme, history saith not. But we do know that as far back as 1864 F. W. Fitzpatrick (formerly of Washington, now of Omaha, always an original and resourceful thinker) was chief draftsman in Buffington's office in Minneapolis, and, with the assistance of a Swedish engineer named Strom, of the same office, designed an office building sixteen stories high, with cast iron columns and iron beams as a structural frame, with brick curtain walls supported at every floor—essentially skyscraper construction. They started the craft by writing about the thing and averring that they could build so up to twenty-five and even more stories. That particular building was not built that way. Neither the owners nor Mr. Buffington were quite sure enough of themselves or of Fitzpatrick to venture beyond the limits of masonry wall construction. "Some time later Harvey Ellis, who succeeded Fitzpatrick at Buffington's, made a most beautiful water color of a twenty-five-story structure. People marveled at it, wagged their heads and chortled that it couldn't be done. "Still, many years later, Buffington

Omaha Man is First to Design One Of the Modern Steel Skyscrapers

DESIGN BY FITZPATRICK 1865



started the profession by suing architects and owners right and left for infringement of a patent he held on such steel frame construction! History saith not how he got it. But there were scores of tall buildings up and it seemed much as if he would gather in many millions. Law suits were started, great excitement was aroused, then things quieted down and soon nothing more was heard of Buffington or his alleged patents. "The point I want to get clear is that our friend Fitzpatrick, young as

he was (21 in 1883) was among the very first to think of the scheme and certainly was the very first to write about it and exploit it and be laughed at for being a dreamer. "Incidentally he has been the first to think of a lot of other things, in building and other lines, for which others have been given credit—after those things became assured successes."

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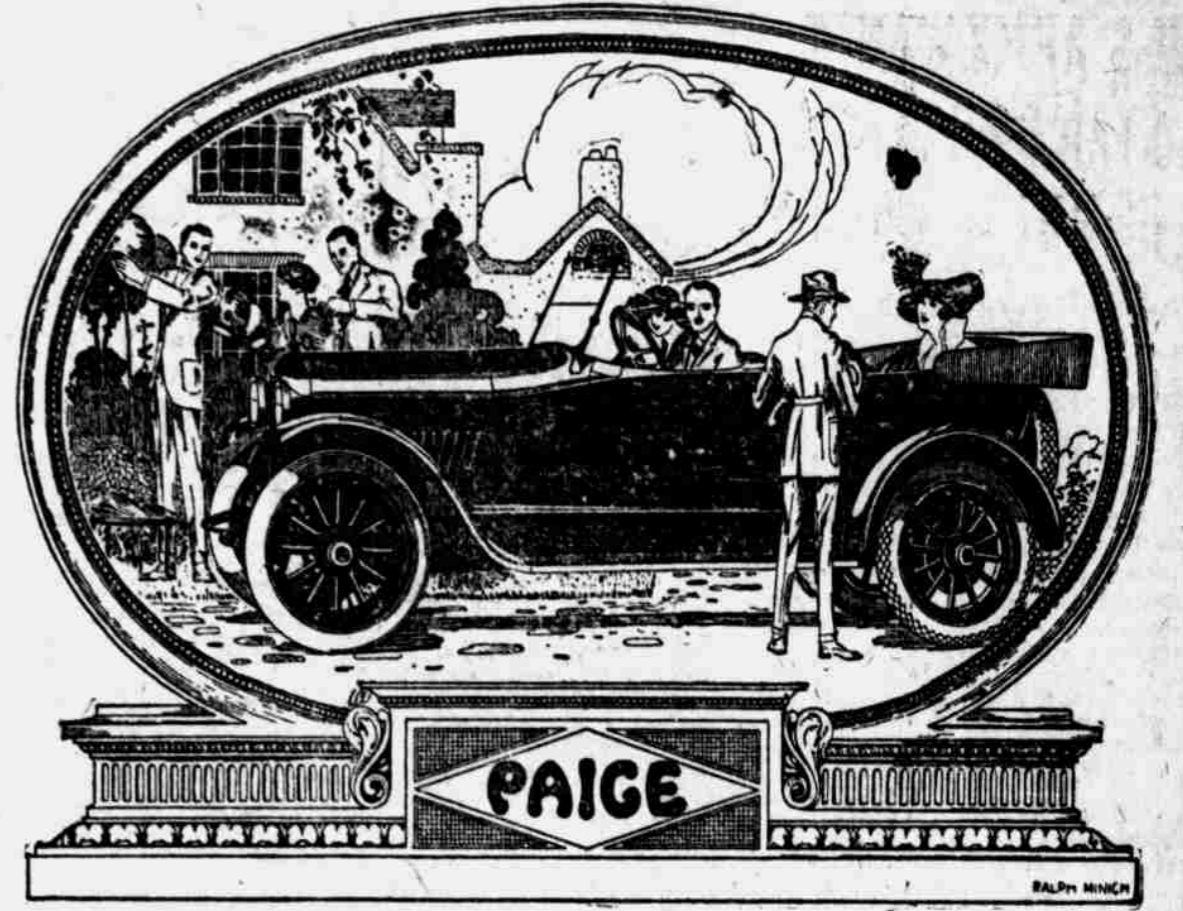
Studebaker Man Says Price of Auto Goes Up Soon and Will Not Be Cheaper for Long Time.

"The time for quick action is here," says E. R. Wilson, distributor of Studebaker cars, "and I urge all intending purchasers of a motor car to improve their time this week and place their order for a Studebaker. And this isn't a selfish proposition either. "On September 15, at the close of business, the prices of all Studebaker models will be increased. This gives intending buyers, and those who have just been 'putting it off,' only six more days in which to place their order at the old prices.

Shortage of Material. "The uncertainty of the market for steel, copper, brass, aluminum and all other metals, for leather, rubber and cotton, by reason of the government's demands for these materials in the successful prosecution of the war, not only means another rise in prices, but may produce a shortage of most and a scarcity of many raw materials for motor car construction. It is only natural, too, that the rise in prices will have a tendency to still further decrease buying and thus add to the production cost of each car. "Automobiles are not going to be cheaper at any time soon. I doubt very much if there will ever come a time again when cars can be bought at such low prices as right now. You probably will never have another opportunity to purchase an automobile of such power, size and quality as either the Studebaker Four or Six for so little money."

Noted Musician to Make Omaha His Future Home

W. A. Haberstro, basso cantante, of New York City, is a newcomer to Omaha and is opening a studio for voice culture, technique and coaching in the Securities building, with Vernon C. Bennett, pianist. Mr. Haberstro has been a student of music and voice since early youth and, although trained for law and admitted to the bar of New York state, he prefers singing and music as a vocation. He has studied with prominent teachers, among them being Baugert of Buffalo, N. Y.; Humphrey, Victor Capouli's first assistant, New York; Henry Lantz of Darmstadt, Germany, and William Shakespeare of London, England.



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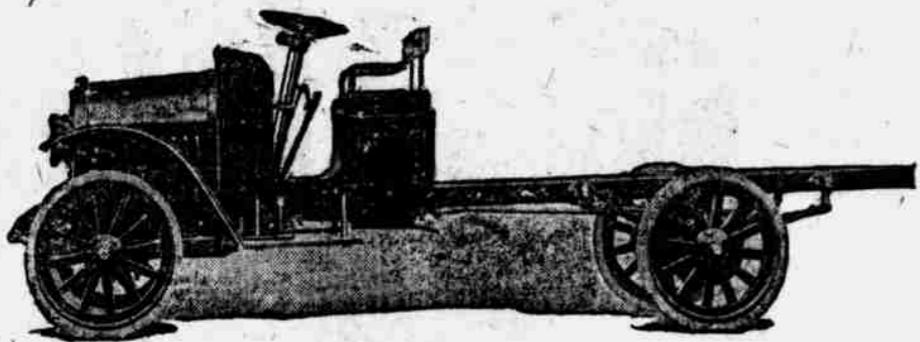
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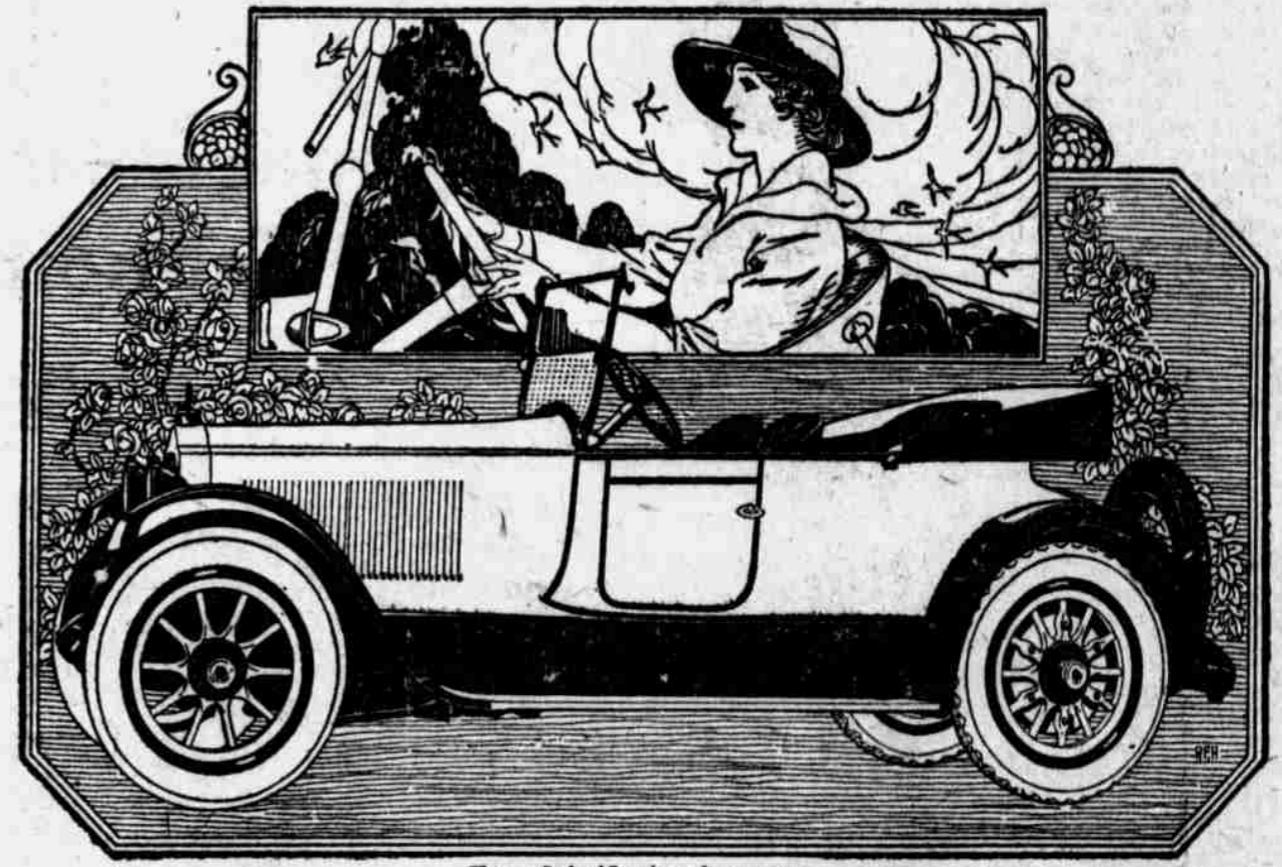
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