

March 2020

DES MOINES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HISTORYGRAM

DesMoinesHistoricalSociety.org

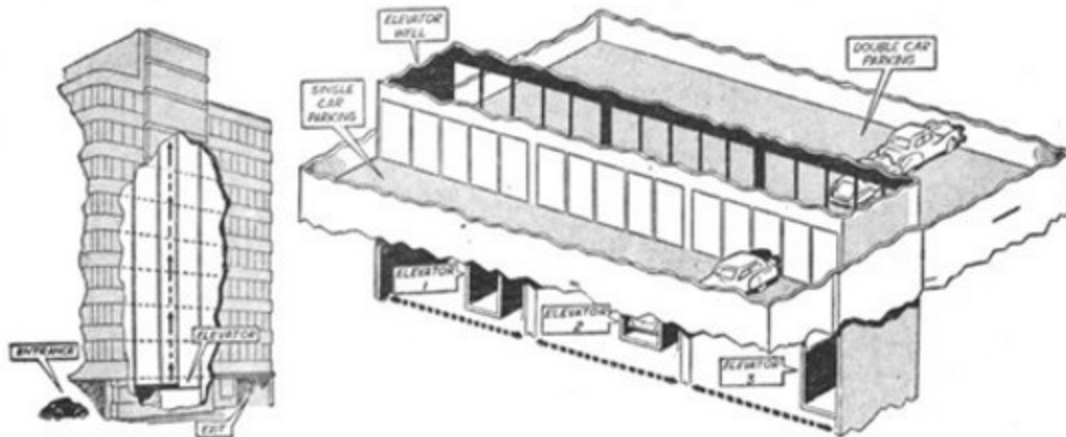
Parking Garage With Elevators First of Its Kind in the World

Ad - Photo, drawings, and info from the Register December 2, 1951. There will be space for 430 more autos in downtown Des Moines beginning next Monday when Des Moines' new \$600,000 elevator parking garage at Fourth and Locust streets is expected to open. Its designer, V. C. Bowser, says it is the only building of its type in the world. Three elevators (which also can move laterally) will whisk cars to eight floors. National Garages, Inc. of Detroit, Mich., who is leasing the garage from the city, will charge these fees: 30 cents for first hour, 40 cents for



two hours, 50 cents for three hours, 60 cents for four hours, 75 cents for five hours, and \$1 for all-day parking from 8 a. m. to 6 p. m. and \$1 for all night parking from 6 p. m. to 8 a. m.

This photo looks at the broad, Fourth street side of the building—the side from which motorists will enter. They will drive their autos out exits on Locust street into an alley. The large solid section running down the center of the building is the space which contains the buildings three elevators. Scaffolding visible here was used for cleaning nearly 2,000 window panes in the building. To provide for their cleaning twice a year, a fund of \$2,000 has been set up. The garage was built where the Observatory Building stood on the SW corner of 4th and Locust. Capitol Square replaced it.



These two drawings show how the three elevators will work. Each elevator may move from its loading position upward eight floors, and sideward to any of 10 (five on each side) gates leading to parking spaces on each floor. A record of where each car is parked is kept on electrically controlled panels located in central office and in each elevator. As floor-plan drawing shows, cars will be parked two deep (long-time parkers to be in rear) on west side of building and one deep on east side of building.