

NEWARK FINISHES GARAGE AT PARK

Underground Structure to Accommodate 1,030 Cars

By **MILTON HONIG**

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NEWARK, July 29—Newark will open its \$5,600,000 underground garage for 1,030 cars in Military Park Wednesday thirty-two years after it was first proposed.

Frank Grad, who heads Frank Grad & Sons, architects and engineers, suggested the project in 1929 to a business group to solve what was even then considered a downtown parking problem.

Enthusiasm for the garage fluctuated over the years, but the idea took hold about seven years ago. The project finally took root in City Hall when Mayor Leo P. Carlin appointed a committee to advise the city on parking problems. Pasqual Guerieri, now chairman of the Newark Parking Authority, headed the committee.

The three-level garage, which was started Aug. 4, 1959, will be operated by the Parking Authority. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held Tuesday at the garage, which is in the heart of downtown.

Park Area Restored

The garage is under 3.3 of the park's 5.9 acres, with its roof four feet beneath the surface. Hundreds of trees and thousands of shrubs have been used in restoring the park area which in Colonial days was used as a drill field.

The subterranean, reinforced concrete structure has a total gross floor area of 432,929 square feet, 278,370 of which will be available for parking. The Terminal Construction Corporation of Wood-Bridge, N. J., is the general contractor.

There are two entrance ramps, one on Broad Street and the other on Park Place; an exit ramp on Park Place, and an exit-entrance ramp on Park Place north. Ticket-dispensing machines are at the entrance ramps, and toll booths at the exits.

The garage will be open at all times. Motorists will park their own cars. Elevators and stairways provide access to the street. The first tier of the structure has a waiting room, offices and lounge.

Rates Start at 30c

The rates, set by the authority and approved by the City Council, will be 30 cents for the first hour or part thereof; 20 cents for each additional hour or part, up to a maximum of \$1 between 8 A. M. and 6 P. M.

Other rates are: \$1.25 for twenty-four hours, 75 cents for night parking between 6 P. M. and midnight; \$1 from 6 P. M. to 8 A. M., and a monthly rate of \$20 for daytime use only with permission to leave or enter without restriction.

The garage's exhaust system provides for ten complete air changes an hour.

The structure was financed by bonds issued by the parking authority and bought by four local banks. The repayment of the principal and interest is guaranteed by the city.

City officials and business leaders expect the new facility to spur an improvement program for the downtown section.