

MOTOR NEWS

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Did Norsemen Discover North America?

CHICAGO, A thousand years ago, when this continent was hidden in darkness and the roads of the ocean led mostly to an unknown death in the shadow of the great waves, certain low, black ships with gaily painted sails crept westward from northern Europe to see what lay beyond the mysterious sunset rim of the Atlantic.

Just what happened to these hardy voyagers is not definitely known. It is believed, however, that they reached North America and established colonies there.

And now a twentieth century American, Donald B. MacMillan, is going north to find out. Within the coming year he expects to have definite proof that the Norsemen discovered and settled North America nearly 500 years before Columbus.

For Field Museum MacMillan leaves Wiscasset, Me., in his schooner Bowdoin on June 19. He is making his trip under the auspices of the Field Museum here, with Frederick Rawson, Chicago millionaire, financing it.

"Our operations will carry us to a point about 70 degrees north latitude," MacMillan says. "This will bring us about 300 miles beyond the arctic circle. For three months we will work in and about Labrador, Baffin Island, South Greenland and Ellesmere Island."

It is in this territory that MacMillan expects to find proof of early Norse settlers. Particularly is this true of Labrador.

The old Norse sagas tell of a land beyond the ocean that was colonized by daring voyagers. It is MacMillan's belief that this land included not only Greenland, which the Norsemen are known



to have reached, but part of the North American continent.

He hopes not only to find such things as weapons, grave stones, buildings and the like; it is his belief that there exists hidden away in this wild land remnants of a tribe of Norse settlers; people who can be identified as actual descendants of these pre-Columbian colonists.

If he succeeds he will add one more bit of evidence to the great daring and skilled seamanship of those semi-barbaric sea rovers

of the ninth and tenth centuries, A. D.

The average Norse ship measured about 100 feet in length, bore a single mast and carried some twenty pairs of oars. The central part of the boat was decked, and on this deck the rowers sat, each on his own sea chest which contained his belongings. At each end of the boat there was a short raised deck, underneath which there were living quarters for the ship's officers. The seamen worked and slept

in the open. They could not "go below," as there was no space under the amidships deck. At night, or in stormy weather, a sort of tent-like covering of canvas was stretched over them.

Couldn't Cook Food

On long voyages everyone ate cold food; these early ships had no galleys and no cooks. The Norse sea captains had no compasses, steering solely by the stars.

These ships had high bows and sterns, carved usually into dragon heads and tails. The big mainsail was usually made of wool, generally gaily painted in big vertical stripes. Each rower went armed, hanging his shield over the side.

MacMillan, incidentally, plans to do a little northern Labrador colonizing on his own hook.

"For 18 years I've been running back and forth," he says, "but this summer I'm going to pick a site up there to build an entire community as a permanent base which I will keep open for five years. In 1927 I want to try again for the north pole and I want to make this base my headquarters, so that I can send back for supplies and still remain on top of the world."

Purchased Star Four Sport Touring—

Low and Panzer report the sale of a Star four sport touring to S. W. Meadows at Butte Falls.

Purchased Star Four Coupe—

L. V. Vough, of Phoenix, has purchased a Star four coupe of Low and Panzer of the Oak street garage.

Purchased Landau Sedan—

The Automotive Shop reports the sale of a new Landau Sedan to George Spencer.

Purchased Star Six Coach—

Low and Panzer of the Oak

street garage report the sale of a six Star coach to C. D. Shack of Ashland.



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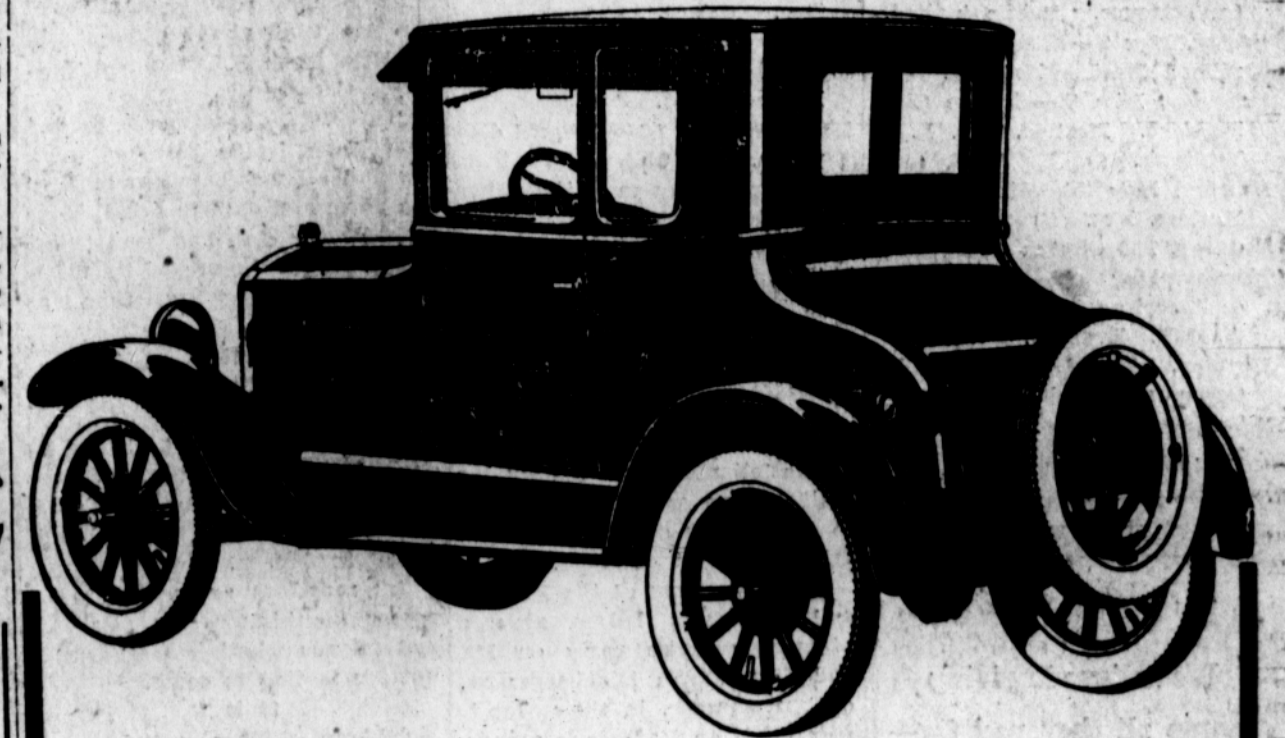
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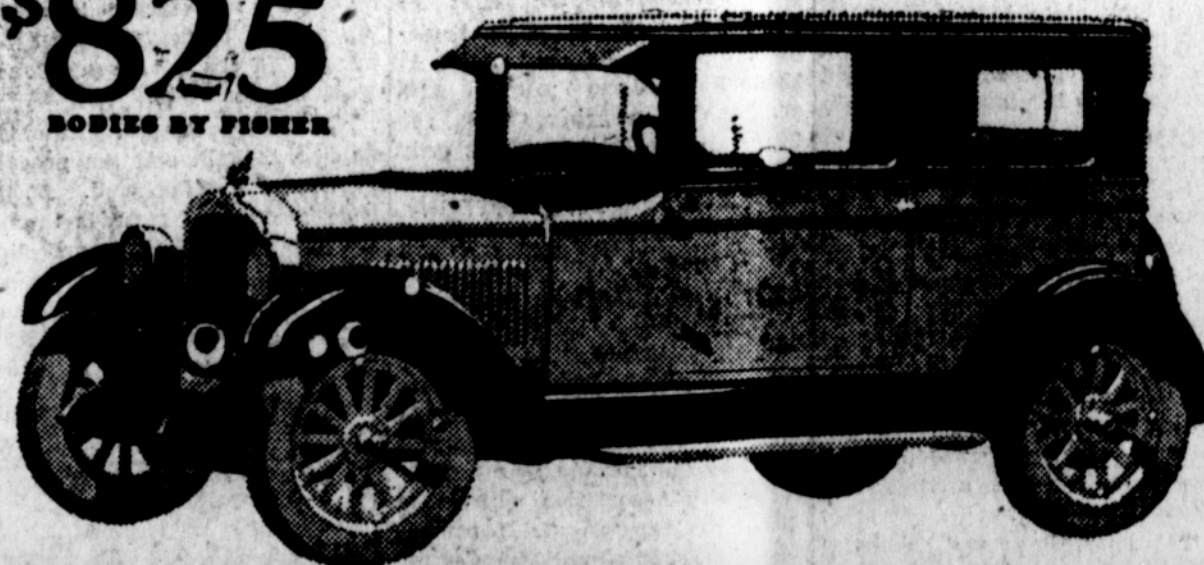
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