

# Liveries were parking lots in horse-and-buggy days

Shoppers, store owners and hotel guests, like their counterparts today, all needed places to park when they went to downtown Boulder. In the horse-and-buggy days, hitching posts were sufficient for quick stops, but liveries (both corrals and stables) were necessary for longer stays.

Many county residents traveled long distances in horse-drawn vehicles from their homes in the mountains or on the plains. When those from outlying areas (or visitors to the city) stayed overnight, they needed to stable their horses. If their drivers were in town for only a few hours, they left the rigs in corrals. In either place, tired and hungry horses were fed and watered while their owners shopped and conducted business in town.

Boulder's early day parking lots were conveniently located along the perimeter of the commercial district, now the Pearl Street Mall. The largest "lot" was the Talmage and

Lilly Livery on the east side of 15th Street between Pearl and Spruce streets. Besides short-term parking, an adjoining stable offered fresh horses to teamsters driving stage coaches and freight wagons between Boulder and Ward, Eldora and Caribou.

Overnight travelers often boarded their horses in stables connected with individual hotels. One of the earliest stables was the

Colorado Barn (adjacent to the no-longer-standing Colorado House Hotel), on the west side of 13th Street between Pearl and Spruce streets. The barn/livery stable was replaced in 1913 with the Boulder Auto Garage, now the location of RedFish New Orleans Brewhouse.

Another early corral was the Capitol Livery, on the site of the city's parking garage at Spruce and 11th streets. The hay loft was a favorite play area for boys anxious to earn a nickel hauling a pail of beer from nearby saloons.



**SILVIA PETTEM**  
*Boulder County History*



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**Two stagecoaches** were pulled up in front of the Telephone Stables and Lyman's Tally Ho Stable when this photo was taken in 1894. The office of the Boulder News was on the right.

The Daily Camera's parking lot covers the former location of the Telephone Stables as well as Lyman's Tally Ho Stable. To the west, also on Pearl Street, was the Omnibus Stable, which housed a 16-passenger vehicle pulled by four white horses. In the late 1870s, when the railroad reached Pearl and 31st

streets, the "bus" met incoming trains and transported passengers to various hotels.

Livery stables also rented out horses and vehicles, with or without drivers, just like the chauffeured limousines and rental cars of today. When undertaker John Trezise took over the operation of the Stone Barn

Livery, on the southwest corner of Walnut and 13th streets, he was known for cornering the university trade with his handsome carriages, matched dapple-gray horses, and drivers in top hats.

The beginning of the end for liveries came in 1899 with the advent of the electric streetcar. Although county residents still brought their horses into town, those in Boulder rode the new public transportation. In 1902, the first automobile drove down Pearl Street.

A decade later, the automobile era was in full swing, and most horses were put out to pasture. Before the Stone Barn was torn down, it was remodeled into Watts-Hardy Dairy. Other stables and corrals were converted into garages, service stations and parking lots. The livery days were over, but parking in downtown Boulder remains.

*Silvia Pettem's history column appears every Thursday in the Daily Camera. Write her at the Daily Camera, P. O. Box 591, Boulder, CO 80306, or e-mail [pettem@earthlink.net](mailto:pettem@earthlink.net).*