Postscript: Auto Livery

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Photographs / Images: Overland automobiles in Merna, Nebraska (Solomon Butcher photograph, 1910)
Motorists display the latest Overland automobiles in this circa 1910 Solomon Butcher photo of the O. W. Parr and X. D. Johnson Auto Livery in Merna, Nebraska. Willys-Overland was a prominent early auto manufacturer, though today the company is mostly remembered for building military jeeps starting in World War II.

The transition from horse power to automobiles saw old concepts pressed into new use. Cars only gradually grew away from their early "horseless carriage" appearance, and Parr and Johnson used the familiar word "livery"—conjuring horses and stables—where "car rental" would appear today. But times were changing. In the car on the right, a woman is in the driver's seat. She could drive, but couldn't vote. That too would change in a few more years.

DAVID L. BRISTOW, EDITOR