



[ca. 1898]



[ca. 2008]

## Digging up the last 50 years of Tom's Tavern history – and more

Salt has made its home on the historic corner of 11th and Pearl. The site of Tom's Tavern for over 40 years. Tom Eldridge — who opened Tom's Tavern in 1962 and joined Boulder's City Council in 1997 helped to shape downtown Boulder. He was genuine and always concerned about other people. He was also generous, respected and well loved by his family and the community. We are proud to be the stewards of Tom's Tavern and our goal is to honor his life long dedication to people and place.

We have a commitment at SALT and at COLTERRA in Niwot, where we grow some of our produce in the gardens surrounding the restaurant, to use locally produced and humanely raised product. It is our goal to try and be as responsible as we can to our surroundings and to support our neighbors. This commitment extends to the re-building of Tom's interior as well. Almost everything used in the interior was created from recycled and reclaimed materials,- much of which came from the original building.

Preserving and protecting this rich history of Tom's was a goal before we set foot in the building. The history starts with the physical building and original details dating back on this site for a century before Tom's first opened.

We wanted to keep that spirit alive and reuse as many of the elements from the building as possible. The original 100 year old joists were saved from the sagging kitchen floor, the glass from the old windows, the copper pipes, the brass bar railing, and the original 19th century tin ceiling stayed in different forms to keep the building and Tom's alive. The Salt Cellar was originally a mortuary, (special attention has been paid to the spirits) and then a storage space that has never been open to the public and was only accessed through a trap door behind the original bar for the last 60 years.

The 100 year old ponderosa pine floor joists were used in the replication of original historic entrance doors. They also got new life as the flooring, stairs and beautifully made community tables and kitchen pass. The old pane glass from Tom's windows was used in the metal (reclaimed boiler plate) and glass dividing wall in the entrance. The booths were reconstructed and upholstered. The tiles and counter tops in the rest rooms, interior doors and glass shelves through out the building came from our neighbors at Resource Reclaimed Building Materials. The tables are made from the old doors that were taken out of Casey Junior High during their resent remodel!

The original tin ceiling was discovered under the drop ceiling and in need of repair. David Bolduc of the Boulder Book Store came in one day to say that he had the same tile in his basement and generously shared 20 extra tiles to save the restoration!

All the furniture and kitchen equipment was purchased at auctions or donated to the cause!

Who did this massive work to protect, renew, rebuild and reclaim?

We call them: **The Salt Miners...** more about them . . . .

## The Salt Miners. . .

### **Joe Levy** fire meets iron

SALT was built upon Joe's shoulders! Everything functional and beautiful has benefited from Joe's magic touch and hard work! His creativity starts with the metal and glass sculptured wall piece that greets guests at the entrance. The glass from the original pane windows that dates back to decades before Tom's first opened. Joe created and built the "Still", our fountain that flows down our staircase that is crafted from original copper pipes from the building. Joe scavenged and assembled and created the rest of the metal functional artwork from the light fixtures to the ammo box in the men's bathroom from salvage yards, backyards and historic farms throughout and around Boulder County. Our outdoor railing and bar are hand fabricated from discarded oil field pipe. From the train rail "bar foot rest" from the Gold Bug mine to the light fixtures, his work is everywhere! Joe is the chief craftsman – artisan!

### **Nick Arnold** birdseye mill work

Boulder native and Boulder High grad, Nick was recommended to us by a fellow classmate and we are so thankful! Nick's appreciation for authentic, beautiful old materials and creating something lasting and exquisite from them is evident in all he does. He lovingly transformed our 100-year-old Ponderosa pine floor joists into the beautiful historic front and side doors, the entrance flooring, stair treads, our kitchen pass and the exceptional Harvest tables. The unique natural bar counters were crafted from local wood that Dan at TC Woods saved; his is a special pride expressed in harvesting windblown and naturally dying trees from around Boulder. We invite you to linger and enjoy the natural Walnut making the Mermaid Bar so special, and the Elm at the Fire Bar that make these unique places to set your glass. Thank you Dan for saving the generations of Nature's efforts and keeping all this beautiful wood from the chipper for us to enjoy every day! Another special Nick addition to SALT - the hand-crafted wooden trough sink in the hallway past the kitchen on the way to the washrooms. Nick has succeeded in making all his work a delight to the touch!

### **Jim Fugget** one call construction

Jim and Will slowly and respectfully took the old building apart saving all the treasures for the miners to re-use!

### **Derek Pine** pine construction

Derek and Jesse and Danny who are the real men in craftsmen!

### **Amory & Chris** western asset construction supervised the chaos!

### **Jess Webb** muralist and shadow box maker

Jess sang the mural to life and took all the little treasures Justin saved from Tom's basement and fashioned a shadow box on the east side of the building!

### **Virva** virvatuli lighting the queen of light

### **Anne and Nancy** both our fabulously talented mother's who attended to the details!

### **Pam Grace** coloured paint

A friend that helped us at Colterra, Pam crawled through the front window one day and offered her time and talent to paint the hallway with beautiful Venetian plaster. and the downstairs wash room in foils!

### **Drew Crossman** dream in color

Drew and team painstaking restored the tin ceiling and it all came to life!

### **Aaron Whitenbaugh** tile and flooring

who took all the tile and flooring from Resource and worked until it all really work.

### **Dave Query** restaurant guru always a generous friend with the BEST advice

### **Kevin Daly** mountain sun and southern sun generously shared pendant lights, equipment and furniture!

### **Rickard Clay** great eye, thank you!

### **Resource Reclaimed Building Materials**

invaluable partner in building SALT Mark you're awesome!

SALT was built with the talent and generosity of many friends! Thank you all !!!

Carol Vilate designer/owner  
Bradford Heap chef/owner

*Carol & Brad*