

REGULAR CUSTOMER



**FIFTY YEARS PHOTOGRAPHING
THE MARKET**
PHOTOGRAPHS BY RON HAMMOND



1981

1 FIRST AVENUE AND DOWN TO THE COBBLESTONES

HAS THE APPEARANCE OF THE
MARKET CHANGED?

See for yourself Most of the changes are
beneath the surface. The buildings look much
the same at a glance but the plumbing and the
wiring and the earthquake resistance sure aren't
the same.



2012

2 MAIN ARCADE NORTH

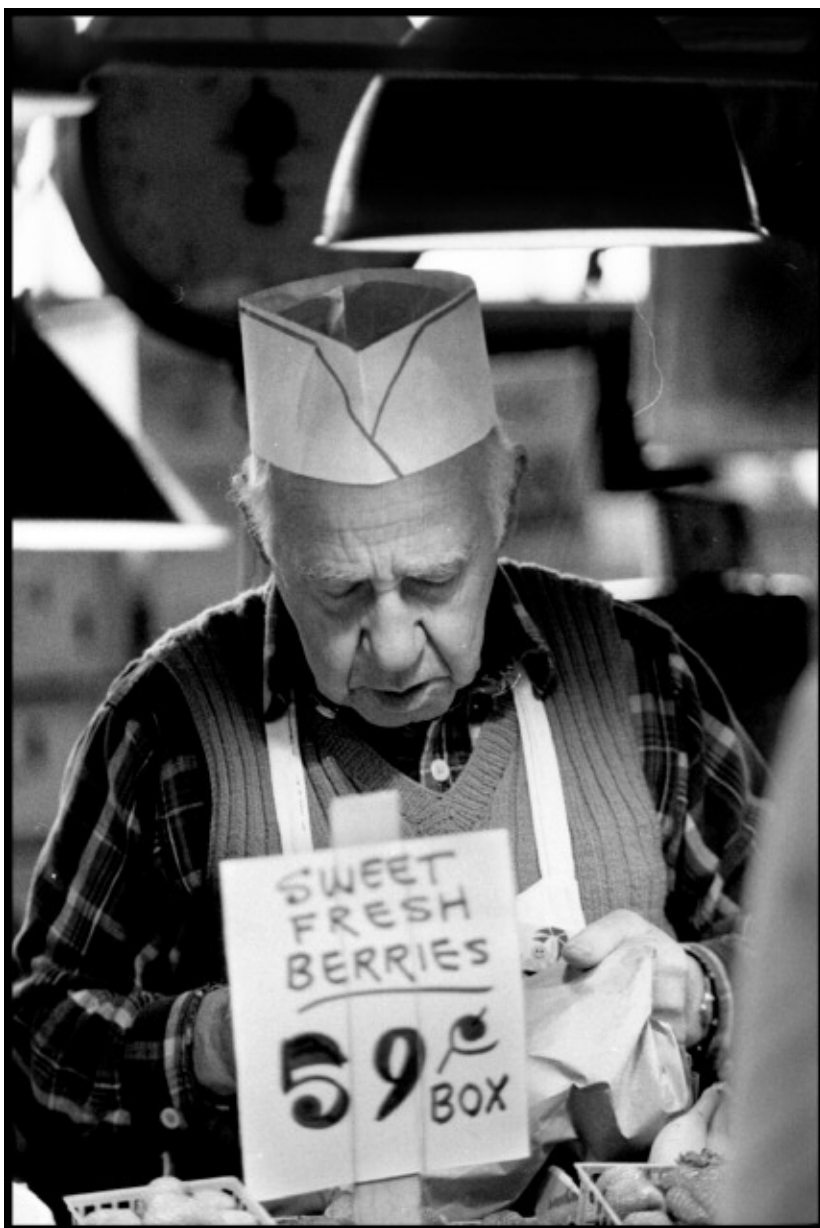
The north end of the main arcade is given over to arts and crafts vendors and, in season there are also many flower stalls. In good weather — and often even in bad — they spill over into the open-air stalls to the north and onto the cobblestones.

The entrance to the covered arcade is one of the favorite spots for buskers — this gentleman is one of the regulars. Buskers are required to move from place to place during the day so you see the same faces all over the market.



2006





1976 — Morris "Uncle Morrie" Manzo



1981 — Morris "Uncle Morrie" Manzo



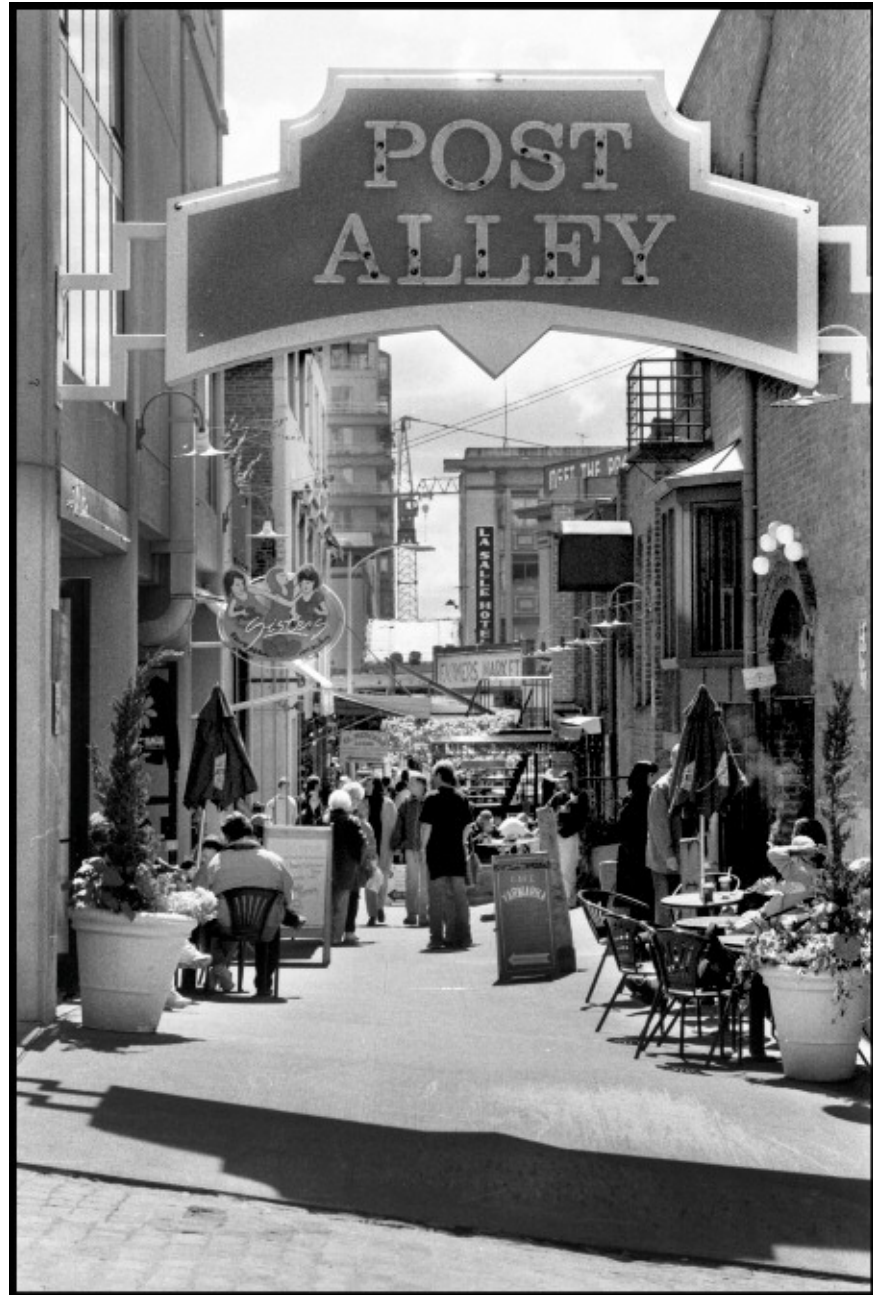
1976

6 POST ALLEY

Post Alley angles from Virginia Street on the north to the cobblestones and then continues under the south end of the market. In the grand tradition of Seattle streets it stops and starts several more times before reaching Yesler as Post Avenue.

Most of the action in the market, however, is between Pine Street and the cobblestones and in the maze of shops beside it in the Sanitary Market and Corner Market buildings.

Many of the shops and cafés that face on Post Alley have been spruced up and the foot traffic is intense on a nice day.



2000



2000

The open area at the foot of the ramp is surrounded by shops — some of which come and go but others have been there a long time.

Market Magic with its fortune tellers is one of the latter..

The fortune tellers fascinate me and always remind me of one of the chapters in Ray Bradbury's *Dandelion Wine*. I expect them to begin to write as I photograph them.



1999



1976 — Pete DeLaurenti



1976



1975



1975

Pinky was yet another of the market royalty. His reputation had him as a bit sticky-prickly — he wasn't but I'll bet that if you had tried to push him around he could be so.

Originally from Rhodes, Pinky spoke English, Greek, Ladino, Hebrew, Italian and Turkish.

Pinky had previously owned a larger stall on the main arcade. Sometime in the early 1970s Pinky closed his smaller stall and retired.

Retirement didn't suit him. He missed the vendors he had known for decades and the customers (such as we were) who were always glad to see him.

He came back to the market and *volunteered* at *Hasson Brother's* (now *Sosio's*) on the main arcade.





1993

And the fish do fly, usually (but not always) with uncanny accuracy.

The occasional miss is met with catcalls and howls of laughter from behind the counter.





1997

"I'll meet you under the clock." or *"I'll meet you at the pig."* You don't have to wander around the market for long to hear one of these. *"Under the clock"* or *"At the pig"* is the crossroads of the market — the place everybody knows, the best people-watching, the favorite of the buskers.

Rachel the Pig, Whidbey Island sculptor Georgia Gerber's model of an actual pig, is such a landmark that she must have been there forever — actually only since 1986.

Change donated to the piggy bank — that is not the entire volume of the pig — goes to support the social services provided by the *Pike Place Market Foundation's* work.



1963

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So back to the original question.

HAS THE APPEARANCE OF THE MARKET CHANGED?

It had to change. See for yourself. This is the earliest negative I have of the market — taken on the main arcade looking south. The open area in the background is now the craft area that juts out to the south. That area is known as the *Desimone Bridge* — there was, in fact, a sky bridge over Western Avenue at one time.

This part of the market was mostly derelict and in very bad repair. Parts of the main arcade on to the south were not much better. By the late 60s it was clear that the market was teetering on the edge of vanishing — physically and politically.

It didn't — in spite of a spirited attempt to demolish it and replace it with an upscale development that was thwarted by a dedicated group of activists, *The Friends of the Market*, led by environmentalist, architect and artist Victor Steinbrueck. Declared a national historic district in 1971, it has survived several infrastructure and cosmetic renovations and now is likely good to go for another 50 years.

No, the market doesn't look like it did 50 years ago. No, a lot of the market royalty and colorful characters are gone but a few new ones are growing up there. There are a lot fewer farmers and a whole lot more crafts and tourists but the but the flavor and spirit are still the same.

I'm glad.