

PIKE PLACE AT 100

Images of Our Market

1939

Together in tough times

This photo shows the Market on the eve of its 32nd anniversary celebration in 1939 — after the worst years of the Great Depression. The mood of the Market during the era was described by authors Alice Shorett and Murray Morgan in their 1982 book, “The Pike Place Market”:

“A strange exuberance suffuses the recollections of many old-timers when they talk about depression days at the Market. They acknowledge suffering and misery, but what wells up in memory is the sense of community, the blurring of distinctions between races and nationalities, between seller and customer.”

The anniversary was “celebrated by 125 regular and 500 farmer tenants” and marked the completion of an extensive modernization project, according to the original newspaper photo caption. The Market’s neon clock and Public Market Center sign, which have become symbols of Seattle, both were installed in 1927.

— Photo from *The Seattle Times* archives

Third in a series of six photo pages

For historical photo galleries and to purchase Seattle Times images of the Pike Place Market: seattletimes.com/pikeplacemarket

