The earliest days

The Pike Street-Pike Place bend was almost always chaotic as farmers brought horse-drawn wagons full of fresh fruits and vegetables to sell. Adding to the congestion, automobiles were beginning to mingle among the buggies and buyers. This photo, which looks north across Pike Place, preludes the building of the $10,000 arcade of covered stalls that opened in early 1911, but shows that vendors understood the benefit of awnings to protect their goods, themselves and their customers from the elements.

— Photo from The Seattle Times archive