Scallions? Salmon? Salami? They all seem a bit more special when bought at Pike Place Market. Is it the food or the faces behind the food that make it so? Those celebrating the Market’s centennial mention the people — farmers, fishmongers, counter clerks — as what they cherish most about the place. After all, they are the ones who pare the produce, toss the fish and cut the cold cuts.

Faces of the Market

1943: Private First Class C.L. Rhodes of Seattle considers buying a salami from a Market meat shop staffed by Lana Merlino. — Photo from Seattle Times archive

Circa 1918: Solomon (Sam) Calvo, left, and Fred August stand in front of Waterfront Fish and Oyster Co. in Pike Place Market. — Photo from University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections

1930: Theresa Di Martino, who sold fresh vegetables at the Market, was known as “the lady of the wheelbarrow” to customers and others who frequented the Market. — Photo from Seattle Times archive

1963: Leija (Curly) Hanada of Riverton washes bunches of scallions to be sold at his produce stall inside the Market’s main arcade. — Photo by Josef Scaylea, Seattle Times archive

1955: Nancy Manzo, part of an Italian family that has sold produce at the Market for 98 of its 100 years, arranges radishes before displaying them. — Photo from Seattle Times archive

1971: When this photo was taken, Amadeo Martinez was in his 45th year of selling produce at the Market — and the Market’s future was in jeopardy. Like so many farmers whose livelihood depended on the Market, he opposed a proposal to demolish the Market and put up high rises. “If they want to tear down the Market and put up high rise, they are not friends of the Market,” he said. — Photo by Rex O’Hobson, Seattle Times archive

1990: Fishmongers are among the most prominent faces in photos of the Market taken by tourists. This photo, however, was shot for the newspaper. — Photo by Ann Guy, Seattle Times archive

Fourth in a series of six photo pages