

Pike Place Market Street Talk INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS COMPILED BY RICK RUTABEGA

The Pike Place Market tends to be a hotbed of many things: retail, fish, crafts, shops, restaurants and ROMANCE. To recognize the special holiday on February 14 we asked the Market community:

What is your favorite Pike Place Market love story? Answers varied, Libby, Best Flowers, said, "I'm livin' it!"



Mark Monroe
Lowell's Restaurant

"There's just been too many over the years—it depends on who I want to embarrass, or *not* embarrass. Too many temporary romances. I just say, 'What ever happens at Lowell's stays at Lowell's.'"



Linda Hitchcock
Undercover Quilts

"I met my husband here. The first time I met him he came into my shop—he ran the former nearby bookstore, Shorey's (fourth generation) Books—and asked, 'so, where do you get the blankets?' I looked at him and said, 'they're *quilts!*...' But I did think he was cute so I asked the girl at the coffee shop to tell him to stop by my shop. He did. We went out for a romantic movie... my parents even liked him."



Emery Carl
Troubadour Extraordinaire
"I'm not sure mine is appropriate. [Wink]"



Travis Lee
Market Lover
in New Orleans

"It is my parents! They ran Dexter Galleries, in the Market, when they were married. In November, my sisters and I just threw them a 35th wedding Anniversary Surprise Party. It began near their former gallery then continued on at Lowells... and on at the Inn at the Market. Everyone who was at the first party was so happy to be there and many more friends, it was amazing!"



Walter Jakubowski
Pike Place Bar & Grill
"I don't really know... but in 2001, I did meet my girlfriend here. And we've been together ever since."



Michele Peterson
Market Foundation
"A favorite one I tell on the [Heritage] Ttour is about Peter & Mamie DeLaurenti. They met here in 1928. Mamie's mom Angelina Mustelo, originally from Abruzzi, Italy—opened a small shop in the Market's lower level, selling Italian cheese, butter, eggs and pasta. Mamie was the shop clerk. [A young] Peter Raymond DeLaurenti visited the shop each morning to get bread for the old Seattle French Bakery (later Gai's). The flirting led to their getting married in 1930, after the war the couple opened a shop of their own, Pete's Italian Grocery... later the shop became DeLaurenti's"



Dave and Cheryl Martin,
TaxiDog? PP Grocery Deli/Champion Building
"We met here, in 1967—downstairs, in the Jakk Corsaw Gallery, then up here. Another great love story is Bob and Louise, here at the Athenian. They had a real cool relationship—a real yin-and-yang—she is so nice and he really was the stern one. They bonded for years about Market issues and were able to create a viable restaurant, with an impressive menu that is still in use. Or, what about Gordy and Sandee, at the Pike Place Bar and Grill. There are so many. Things happen in the Market, no doubt about it."

JONKHEER continued from cover

west of Mount Vernon.

Seven days a week, from January through early June, "We bring to the Market our tulips, iris, hyacinths, grape musscari and live flowering branches of lilac, forsythia, hydrangea, viburnum and mock orange," said Ted Jonkheer, Jonkheer Greenhouses. "Early April through Mother's Day, we also bring our outdoor grown peonies, parrot tulips and French style tulips which are big, on three feet tall stems. "Also, in season, we'll have daffodils, calla lilies and spirea."

Bright floral colors from Jonkheer Greenhouses are savored during winter and early spring months when locally grown fresh flowers are scarce and growers use greenhouses and shade houses to protect early crops.

"We built each greenhouse ourselves and now also have shade houses," said Jonkheer. "Greenhouses are enclosed structures with heat, shade houses are open sided of mesh fabric that produce shade. "In the Northwest, hydrangeas, for example, are very light sensitive during winter week-on-week darkness," he said. "In March, on a brilliant sunny day, all the little leaves that haven't had sun will sunburn without protection and during summer, flower blossoms need protection from sunburn, which appears brown."

A riot of cut flower colors greet customers offered five solid color and two-tone variation tulips, irises in three colors, five antique color hydrangea, hyacinths in five colors and blue grape musscari.

"We have a big range of colors that include tulips in solid white, yellow, pink, purple and red plus two-tone variations; iris in blue, yellow and white; hydrangea in antique blues, white, lavenders, red and green; hyacinths in white, pink, blue, violet and a limited amount of red," said Jonkheer.

Among flowering branches, "We have lilacs, forsythia, white and some mint green viburnum or snowball and mock

orange, which looks like an orange blossom, white with a yellow eye," he said.

His helpful hints to make fresh flowers last: "Recut flower stems, place in fresh cold water out of the sunlight and don't mix daffodils with other flowers," said Jonkheer. "Daffodils emit a substance through the bottom of the stem which causes other flowers to die.

"For wood type flowering branches, smash the bottom of the stem to help them drink and put them in fresh cold water, too."

According to U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics, tulips are the third most popular fresh cut flower in the U.S., with Washington State ranked among the top ten floriculture states. The heart of Washington State wholesale tulip growing is the Skagit Valley delta, with favorable soil and climate conditions that echo world tulip producer, The Netherlands, where over 400 years ago tulips were introduced from Turkey.

Jonkheer, born in The Netherlands and raised in the U.S., reflects the deep Dutch roots found among Skagit Valley flower growers. He and Aretta raised their three daughters on the family farm "where we now have another generation farming, our youngest daughter Ginger who lives in the original 1902 farmhouse," he said. "Our 15-year-old grandson Troy, who's Ginger's boy, will be at the Market with us only on Saturdays because he's still in school."

In 1963, the Jonkheers bought a dairy farm, begun in 1902, from the second generation of the family that originally cleared the land. "We bought the farm in 1963, and by about 1969, we had converted the operation over to the flower business," said Jonkheer.

The farm set-up includes the original farmhouse, barn, pump house and garage. "The barn, which we still use to pack flowers in, has 10-inch by 10-inch and 12-inch by 12-inch hand hewn beams above the floor, with cement piers underneath on

which cedar trees 65 feet long split lengthwise were laid on which to put floor decking," he explained.

Jonkheer credits the repeat Market customers for his success. He claims most of the customers are repeat customers who live or work, shop or eat downtown. He adds, "you can set your watch by many of them with their regular flower buying. We also love Market visitors and can pack their flowers for airplane flights home."

In fact, pleased visitors have generated sales from California and Texas. "When visitors return home, they place flower orders," he said. "For example, after a Market purchase, a studio called us for flowers for the Love Boat (television) production."

Jonkheer Greenhouses also provides flowers for special events. "We provide flowers for weddings, banquets, conventions, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and fundraisers," said Jonkheer. "Recently, we provided a large volume of flowers for a Montessori school fundraiser in Twisp, Wash."

"We ask special event sale inquiries 15 days in advance with flower pick up at our farm," he said. "And, farm tours organized by the Market PDA (Preservation and Development Authority) are available to resident and visitor, alike."

Whether a single bouquet or flowers for a special event, "We hope that our flowers will bring some beauty and joy into our customers' day and lives," said Jonkheer. "We are here seven days a week to serve."

For more information, visit Jonkheer Greenhouses day stall near the Desimone Bridge in the North Arcade or telephone (800) 927-9313.

**Larry
Fosberg's
Valentines
Day
Joke
Corner**



What kind of flowers do you never give a girl on Valentines Day?

-Cauliflowers

What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentines Day?

-I am stuck on you.

What did on oar say to the other?

- "Can I interest you in a little row-mance."

Did you hear about the romance in the tropical fish tank?

-It was guppy love.

What do you call two birds in love?

-Tweet-hearts

What did the boy squirrel say to the girl squirrel on Valentines Day?

- "I'm nuts about you."

The girl squirrel replied, "Your *nut* so bad yourself."