

Script for Children's Tours

Opening Warm-up

- If they have already done the tour, ask them about some of the things they saw – favorite thing, weirdest thing, etc.

How the Market Started

The curb market was built in 1919 – back then it was called the municipal market. It was built because all of the women who had moved into the big city from their farms no longer had anywhere to buy their fresh fruits and vegetables.

Back then, City Hall didn't want the market to be built, but the women got together and fought city hall, and then this building got built in what used to be the exact center of the City of Atlanta.

Back then, it was a big open-air market. Does anyone know what that means? That means that it had no real walls – it was kind of like a big tent that was held up by all of these wooden pillars.

Well, as a lot of things do in Atlanta, the market burned down. So in 1923, the current building was built and the market re-opened for business in 1924.

Segregation

Things went very well for the market, but there was one thing that needed to change. Do any of you know what the word *segregation* means? It means that certain people were not allowed to shop inside of the market (in the air conditioning) because of the color of their skin. Instead they had to shop outside at stalls that were set up on the curb. Now, we all know that that is a very bad thing. And luckily, it's not like that anymore. Now, everyone is welcome to shop at the market anytime they want!

But, as you all will learn we cannot forget our history or it will repeat itself. That's one reason why the Municipal Market changed its name to the Sweet Auburn Curb Market. That way, we will always remember that there used to be a time when people were treated unfairly and we will not let that happen again.

Fun Facts

There are some other fun facts about the curb market!

- We used to sell live chickens in the basement. You could come down here, pick out your chicken, then go shopping. When you came back, the chicken's neck had been wrung, and it was plucked and ready to be cooked for dinner.

- Have any of you seen pre-packaged meat at the grocery store...you know, like hamburger meat that is already weighed and priced? Well, folklore tells us that that all started here at the curb market. You see, the butchers used to be so busy that people had to wait a long time to get their fresh meats in the style and weight that they wanted. Well, some of the butchers here realized that most people wanted the same things – a pound of ground beef, a half pound of pork chops, etc So, when they weren't busy, they went ahead and cut up the meats, packaged them, placed a label on them that had the weight and the price, and put them in a cooler so that people could just walk up and pick out what they wanted! The whole idea of pre-packaged meats just may have started right here where you are standing!

Health and Fun

That's it for the history part! Now, how many of you kids eat fruits and vegetables every day? You know it's very important! So we have a little present for all of you: There are some games and most importantly, there is a piece of fruit in every bag! So enjoy this and come back to see us soon!