

*New charm for an old*



# Boston landmark



---

## A beautiful new tree-lined mall for Fanueil Hall Marketplace

In the city of Boston, tradition is almost taken for granted. Yet in late August, 1976, an event was staged that brought new excitement and a resurgence of interest in Boston's downtown area that is unique to the city.

Exactly 150 years to the day it first opened, the Marketplace at Fanueil Hall re-opened. It had taken more than 10 years of planning, design and development by various agencies, departments and the Rouse Company of Baltimore to restore the buildings which house the marketplace adjacent to Boston's famous Fanueil Hall.

Inside the original buildings, the Rouse Company has provided space for vendors of all kinds of food-stuffs, offices, restaurants and shops. Outside, between the two buildings and leading to the steps of Fanueil Hall itself ("where it all began" 200 years ago), a new pedestrian mall beautifies the area. In fact, some 25 shade trees, benches and seating, plus romantic gaslights make the mall an attractive haven for visitors throughout the day and evening.

It took Frost and Higgins — specialists in tree care for almost a century — to get the large trees moved and installed before opening night. And because of the historical significance of opening night — 150 years to the day of the original opening — installing the trees was almost as dramatic as the rebuilding of the entire project.

To illustrate: Of the 25 trees to be emplaced, 22 are honey locusts. With 7-10" diameter trunks, each tree with root ball weighed about 15,000 pounds. Because of the extreme heat of New England's late August, the trees were moved entirely at night. This meant over-the-

road hauling from New York State, where they were grown. After the ten-hour ride from New York, the trees were thoroughly watered at Frost and Higgins' main yard in suburban Burlington, Mass.

The next night, the trees were trucked into Boston and installed during darkness. Under normal conditions, moving and installing the trees would have been a delicate operation. Complicating the task was, naturally, a heat wave, plus a severe lack of rainfall during the entire moving period, as well as the mounting pressure of that deadline.

The deadline was important because the trees had to be in place prior to cobblestone paving, which was the last step before opening. As the first ten trees were installed, there was another problem. The excitement of the new Marketplace was becoming contagious. While the trees were being gingerly moved into place by a massive specially designed tree crane, cameramen and reporters from Boston's TV stations and newspapers were running around, through and over the site for "dramatic shots" for the late news and next-morning editions.

But in spite of the TV cameras (complete with hot lights) and the hundreds of workmen swarming throughout the project to complete it on-time, the trees were installed . . . one full week ahead of the official deadline.

The installation required six nights of labor, working from dusk (about 9:00 PM) until almost dawn. But when the new Fanueil Hall Marketplace opened, 22 Honey locusts and three little leaf Lindens were standing proudly in their new home. It is expected that these shade trees will grow to mature heights of about 35 feet each. □