



Almost every type of fruit and vegetable imaginable can be found daily at the City Market. Many shoppers feel these homegrown varieties are fresher than store-bought.

To Market, To Market

By CHRISTINE RANDALL
Staff Reporter

"Yes, ma'am, come on over and buy something from me now."
"Take a good look at my stand — that's all I want you to do."

"Yes, ma'am, come on down and buy a little something from me."

The cries ring out from dawn until dusk at the City Market as fruit and vegetable vendors entice shoppers to purchase their produce.

For at least one group of these merchants, the business is all in the family.

Virginia Smalls has been bringing homegrown vegetables to market for more than 40 years.

"I started coming with my grandparents when I was 9," she explains. "And I've been here ever since."

Now the matriarch of the family, Mrs. Smalls has seven children and assorted in-laws helping with the enterprise.

"I was raised at the Market," her 23-year-old son Nathaniel points out. "I've been coming here with Mama since I was two feet tall."

Now that he's grown, though, he has broken away from her somewhat and offers string beans, okra, tomatoes and other produce at a table about 40 yards away.

"Except for some of the fruit, everything we



Swedish visitors Ulla Grenehult and Stig Karlsson pause to check out Virginia Smalls' selection of red, ... tomatoes.



Staff
Photos
By
Jordan



Edena Gailliard, one of Mrs. Smalls' seven children, gets into the act also. Here she arranges an assortment of fresh peaches to catch the shopper's eye.



Little Donzell Gailliard, 3, is the youngest member of the Smalls family helping out at the Market. At left, 16-year-old Aliciah Smalls serves C. Howard and Ann Sheridan, tourists from Easton, Md.