Before there was a Farmers Market... In the 1880s, Arthur Fremont Gilmore buys a large tract of land in the Los Angeles area on which he and his family run a successful dairy farm.

At the turn of the century, the Gilmores, drilling for water, find oil. Gilmore Oil and the A.F. Gilmore Company are off and running. By 1905, oil rigs replace the dairy herd and operate until the 1920s when new zoning laws ban large-scale drilling in residential areas.

In July 18 vendors, including 12 farmers, park on Gilmore property, selling their goods to local housewives. Vendors pay 50 cents a day in rent. The idea is so successful that, by fall, Farmers Market has permanent stalls and shops, restaurants and special events. The first Fall Festival is held in October 1934—an annual event that continues to this day.

Gilmore Stadium opens in 1934. With grandstand seating for 18,000, it hosts car races, rodeos, boxing and football until its closing in 1950.

Gilmore Field opens in 1939. One of the most intimate baseball diamonds ever built, it was the home to the Hollywood Stars team, owned by real stars including C.B. DeMille and Barbara Stanwyck. In 1958, when the Brooklyn Dodgers moved to Los Angeles, it was torn down.

The Gilmore Company sells a portion of its land. Gilmore Stadium is razed to make way for CBS Television City, Commerce expands with the opening of Gilmore Bank in 1955. Farmers Market is a celebrity hot spot with special appearances by numerous Hollywood stars such as President Eisenhower and The Beatles.

In 1991, the Los Angeles City Council declares Farmers Market a Historic Cultural Monument. In 2002, a newly-completed expansion welcomes new merchants to the Market Plaza, North Market and The Grove. In 2014, Farmers Market opens another location at Los Angeles International Airport Terminal 5, bringing a taste of the Market to hungry travelers.

The corner of Third and Fairfax continues to serve as L.A.’s favorite place for groceries, dining and socializing. Still home to many multi-generational, family-owned businesses, the Farmers Market welcomes longtime and new visitors alike.