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Remembrance of groceries past

One stop shopping -- it's become the American way. Need milk? Prescriptions? Videos? Flowers? Just head to the local supermarket. We answer to the names of Shaw's, Super Stop & Shop and Market Basket. More than a century ago, people trekked to the A&P. Read on to learn where Americans have filled their baskets over the past century.

In 1859, The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company (A&P) was founded.

By 1914, four Safeway stores were operating in the United States. They were founded in Maryland with the merger of Marion Skaggs' stores and Sam Seelig Co.

Clarence Saunders opened the first Piggly Wiggly store in Memphis, Tenn. and patented the first self-service grocery retailing system in 1918.

In 1930, the first King Kullen store opened in New York. It was widely regarded as the first supermarket. The same claim is made by the 1920s-era Ralphs stores in Los Angeles.

By 1937, the A&P began consolidating its 15,000 small stores into supermarkets.

Ten years later in 1947, Lucky opened its first full-scale supermarket in San Leandro, Calif.

By 1955, supermarkets were responsible for 60 percent of American grocery sales.

Kroger's first "Super Store" opened in Ohio in 1972.

Twenty-seven years ago in 1975, the A&P closed half of its 3,500 stores. The company would put out many markets in the coming years under different names such as Sav-a-Center, Super Fresh, Food Emporium, and others.

source: www.groceteria.net

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