

Class of 1931 – Maurice Dixon Dunn.



Co-founder of the Pic-Pac and Giant Foods grocery chains with his brother Tommy. The brothers learned the retail grocery business from Clarence Saunders, of Piggly Wiggly fame, while young boys. They worked in the grocery business until World War II started. Maurice then joined the Navy, and Tommy the Army. They saved their service pay to go into business for themselves. Mr. Dunn and his brother Tommy built their business on quality and service, and actually set a national record for “highest grocery sales per square foot.” In 1953, at the grand opening of their 2nd store at Lamar and Airways, a then not so well known, Elvis Presley was featured singing to the biggest crowd that he had yet in his young career had performed to. It was at the Lamar and Airways store that they come up with the innovation of the checker calling out the prices of the merchandise, as it was being checked, instilling confidence in the customer. Pic-Pac was also the first grocery store to give Quality Stamps with food purchases. In all, the Dunn brothers opened ten Pic-Pac’s before an exchange of stock with Malone and Hyde, which was the largest grocery store deal in Memphis history. Maurice often recalled “that the reason they kept opening stores, was because they had to keep

promoting their exceptional employees,” his son, Karl said. They then went on to open the Giant Food stores which they ran for Malone and Hyde until their retirement.