

Coupon caper: \$276 worth of groceries for \$3.98



For a grand total of \$3.98, Diane Bartsch bought 23 bags of groceries during a recent shopping spree in Livonia. Here, she parks the second of three carts she filled before final check-out.

'Heavenly sounds' lead off OCC's jazz series

Saturday, Jan. 14, the Wallace Smith Performing Arts Theatre presents the first of three 1984 Jazz concerts, "Heavenly sounds of the Bess Bonnier Quartet."

In February, the Smith Theatre will present Larry Nozoro; and in March, Ursula Walker and the Buddy Budson Trio.

Led by Bonnier, one of the most highly respected jazz performers in the area, the Bess Bonnier Quartet features the work of Danny Jordan, Tom Brown and Gene Parker. Showtime is 8:30 p.m.

Jordan is one of the finest bassists in the Detroit area. His versatility and

style complement the group. Brown's sensitivity to jazz and support for vocal performers makes him one of the area's favorite jazz drummers. Parker is a featured reed instrument performer, who also offers considerable talent on the vibraphone. Bonnier's repertoire spans every aspect of jazz, popular music and the classics.

Tickets for the jazz events are \$6 at the door; \$5 in advance, and \$4 for students and older persons. For ticket reservations, call 471-7700. The box office is in the Smith Theatre on the Orchard Ridge Campus, Orchard Lake Road and I-696. Hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

By Marie McGee
staff writer

STORE PERSONNEL at Danny's market at Farmington and Six Mile won't forget Diane Bartsch for awhile.

The Milford resident slipped into the store recently, bought 23 bags of groceries (three carts overflowing) worth \$276.81 and spent a whopping \$3.98.

Bartsch — if you haven't already guessed — is a couponer.

And a careful one. The fact that she was shopping in Livonia is evidence of how close attention she pays to what's happening on the supermarket scene.

DANNY'S, SHE notes, is the only market that currently doubles the \$1 coupon.

Bartsch is a divorced mother of two young daughters and grew up in Farmington. She got into serious couponing several years ago when she was laid off from her \$400-a-week secretarial job — just before Christmas.

"I knew I had to do something," she recalls. "I couldn't cut such things as my rent. The only place was in food."

Bartsch has become so successful in the art of couponing that she now does it full time, more or less. In addition to clipping and filling the labels of all name brands, she edits a pocket-sized newsletter called "Dollars and Dimes" that lists every offer available through coupons.

PEOPLE ARE throwing money away every day, she says, because they

are not aware of the refunds major brands offer. Last year, for instance, she said, she collected \$4,000 in refunds.

Some time or other during the course of a year, she said, name brand food companies will have a refund. Some are as high as \$5. Tide detergent labels, for instance, are worth a \$1. Bartsch added that if the offer isn't at least a \$1, she doesn't bother with it.

Organization is the key to couponing, she said. Every day she scans the newspapers and files away the offers in an unfancy shoebox-size container. And she saves every label she can get her hands on. When it comes time to go shopping — that's about every two months — she packs up the box and begins her wheeling and dealing.

"IT'S FUN," she smiles. "It's like they're paying me to buy their groceries."

So far, she has about 500 subscribers for her newsletter that costs \$11 for a yearly subscription. Most of them are in Michigan, but she has some in every state in the U.S. including Alaska. To subscribe, write "Dollars and Dimes," P. O. Box 239, Wixom 48098.



Diane Bartsch gives coupons to Danny cashier Kathy Filipek for validation.

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