



Yvonne Gill-Davis, owner of Tweeny's Cafe, 280 S. Woodward, Birmingham, shops for groceries at Royal Oak Farmers Market.



Healthy green beans bring a smile to this shopper's face as she nears the end of a productive trip.

Shopping a headache for you?

Restaurateur shops for 700

Story: ETHEL SIMMONS  
Photos: DICK KELLEY  
You have to get up early in the morning to shop with Yvonne Gill-Davis, proprietor of Tweeny's Cafe in Birmingham.

On Friday, Ms. Gill-Davis arrived at the Royal Oak Farmers Market, where she promptly confiscated a flabber cart and began buying the vegetables for 700 partygoers. Gleaming, home-grown Michigan vegetables were piled high on farmer's stands when the market opened. Vendors who know Ms. Gill-Davis don't flinch when she orders big grocery bagfuls of individual vegetables.

Only the young girls who sometimes fill in for the regulars are taken by surprise. "They're flabbergasted," she explained.

BY THE TIME Ms. Gill-Davis was finished shopping, about an hour later, the entire cart was filled with delicious fresh produce. She pulled the cart merrily along, between stops at the farmer's stalls. At each stop, she provided a running commentary on the shiny and/or leaty attractions. In some instances, she asked the vendor about a vegetable she didn't recognize, and she broke open a lemon cucumber to taste it.

Once Ms. Gill-Davis herself seemed flabbergasted, when another woman shopper whisked away the only two small cartons of Chinese sugar peas on the counter.

Ms. Gill-Davis had just been sampling and describing the peas when the incident occurred. "I can't believe that lady whipped those

peas from underneath my eyes!" she exclaimed.

According to Ms. Gill-Davis, the Chinese peas are a new hybrid and hard to come by.

CHEERFULLY GOING on to other things, Tweeny's owner and chef extraordinaire exulted over Swiss chard. At a table heaped with all kinds of greens, she cornered the supply of chard.

She bought two bagfuls and said that the chard would be great to wrap and poach fish within. "I'm going to put poached fish on tonight's dinner menu," she said.

Throughout the market, she gathered the vegetables to be served with dips at a party she was catering on Saturday (Aug. 18), for the Graphic Artists Guild at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Most of the vegetables displayed looked like they had been scrubbed until their faces shone. But Ms. Gill-Davis commented favorably on some carrots that bore much evidence of "good black dirt."

The very first stall, from the Oliver Farm in Mt. Clemens, yielded a half-bushel basket of green beans, six eggplants, 12 peppers, six cucumbers, 12 bunches of radishes, and six bunches of green onions, or scallions.

This is a favorite stop, Ms. Gill-Davis said, and all the above items which she purchased from "Fran" totaled \$17.75.

MS. GILL-DAVIS divides her purchasing for Tweeny's among the Royal Oak Farmers Market, the Pontiac Farmers Market, and the

Eastern Market in downtown Detroit. She said the prices are not that much less than in a supermarket but that the real difference is in the quality.

That same night (Friday), she was going to close Tweeny's to throw a 75th birthday party at the cafe for Count Basie, following his jazz concert at Meadow Brook Music Festival.

"I guess Count Basie gets Michigan potatoes," she said, stopping to buy some red new potatoes. The potatoes would be oven-roasted "to go with his prime rib."

"Two dollars for potatoes for the

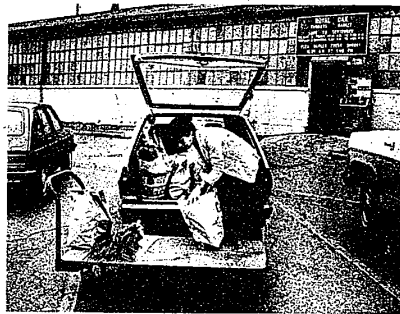
Count and his Band," Ms. Gill-Davis said with a grin.

ALTHOUGH COUNT Basie and his band aren't scheduled to play at the Tweeny's party, she referred to his band facetiously in talking about a recent dispute with the City of Birmingham over an entertainment license for the cafe.

The city challenged her offering "cabaret" entertainment on Friday nights, although Tweeny's presently offers music on other nights.

"I can't have six mimes" (whom she wanted to have appear at the

(Continued on page 3D)



And then it's "home again, home again" as Ms. Gill-Davis loads the vegetables into the car.

Bloomfield Hills man heads for New York stage

By LAURI DAILEY

Some people have to wait a lifetime to see their career dreams become a reality.

But, at 23, Jeffrey Dreisbach, of Bloomfield Hills, is already seeing signs of fame and fortune in his life. With an all-American appeal, blond hair and blue eyes, Dreisbach has studied theater in London and appeared in television commercials. He is currently appearing in Radio City Music Hall's summer production, "A Summer in New York."

Dreisbach has been interested in acting, singing and dancing ever since he can remember. He began acting in junior high school and had the lead in several Andover High School musicals. After graduating from Andover in 1974, Dreisbach enrolled at Central Michigan University with a theater scholarship.

"I WASN'T satisfied there. I only stayed for a year and a half," Dreis-

bach said. "I knew it wasn't right for me."

Unsure of his schooling plans, Dreisbach jumped at an opportunity to study theater in London for six months.

"It was one of the best experiences in my life," he said. "To live in a foreign country and to study there was fantastic."

When he grew tired of subway rides and Buckingham Palace, Dreisbach returned to the U.S. to further his education. After searching through college catalogs, he finally decided on Wayne State University and sent his transcripts there.

"Wayne has one of the best theater departments in the country," he said. "It is a tremendous school."

Dreisbach performed with the undergraduate theater department at Wayne State and graduated in 1978 with a bachelor of fine arts, a professional degree in theater.

Dreisbach began by applying for summer jobs throughout the U.S. He

spent a summer working at Orleans Arena Theatre at Cape Cod, where he performed in three different shows. He also worked at Greenfield Village in a vaudeville show during the summer of 1978.

Disney World, Alvaro's dinner theater in Detroit and Henry Ford Museum are other places where Dreisbach has performed.

Dreisbach lives alone in a third floor apartment in downtown Manhattan. Although he enjoys being around people, he cherishes his moments alone.

COMING FROM a family with eight kids, I didn't get much time alone," Dreisbach said.

"It is important for me to be alone and totally secluded at times," he said.

An actor's life is a difficult one, according to Dreisbach, and he has to learn to cope with rejection.

"You have to be able to deal with rejection," Dreisbach said. Every audi-

tion and interview is like applying for a lifetime job."

Dreisbach made the flight from Bloomfield Hills to the lights of New York City in February 1979. He was unemployed and had no definite plans.

He began by finding a part-time job at an answering service and auditioned for commercials during his spare time. Then, after seeing an ad in an actor's trade magazine, he auditioned for one of 24 spots in Radio City's summer production. The ad read, "You must be youthful, and be able to sing and dance."

Dreisbach seemed to fit the brief description and was willing to give it a try. More than 1,000 youthful singers and dancers auditioned for 24 spots.

After eliminating candidates one by one, Dreisbach stood on stage at the end.

"The last part of the audition was where we were told to make an entrance for eight measures, stay on stage for eight measures and exit for eight measures," Dreisbach said. "We

could do anything we wanted on stage."

According to Dreisbach, anything and everything was exactly what he saw. There were songs, dances, obscenities and jokes. But, Dreisbach slipped into his tap shoes and for eight bars, he dazzled them.

THERE ARE more than 100 cast members, including the Rockettes. Dreisbach is a part of the New Yorkers, a singing, dancing group of 12 men and 12 women.

"We introduce the show and close it," he said. "We're like a chorus."

The show has been running since its opening on June 1.

"The show has been a huge success," Dreisbach said. "We have been selling out most every performance."

"I love standing in front of 6,000 people and seeing people smile back at me," Dreisbach said. "To me, that is the greatest thrill."

For now, Dreisbach is enjoying strutting his stuff on the New York

stage at Radio City, but he hopes to go into more serious acting later.

IN ADDITION TO his job at Radio City, Dreisbach is averaging 3-4 auditions for commercials a week.

"There is good money in commercials, and that's how lots of actors survive," he said.

The New York City extravaganza has given Dreisbach a lot of good exposure, and he will be sad to see the show end in September.

"My goal used to be to become famous, to be a star, but now I just want to be consistently working and to be respected in the field," Dreisbach said. "But, being a star wouldn't be bad either."

Dreisbach just completed filming a movie with George Burns and Art Carney, entitled, "Going Out in Style." It will air in December.

"ONE OF THE greatest moments of (Continued on page 4D)