AN EMPIRICAL CASE STUDY OF GUSTOMER FLOW PATTERNS AS AN APPROACH IN DETERMINING OPTIMUM MERCHANDISE LAYOUT

Thesis for the Degree of M. A.
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
Peter J. Braschess, Jr.
1958

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AN EMPIRICAL CASE STUDY OF CUSTOMER FLOW PATTERNS AS AN APPROACH IN DETERMINING OPTIMUM MERCHANDISE LAYOUT

bу

Peter J. Braschoss, Jr.

AN ABSTRACT

Submitted to the College of Business and Public Service of Michigan State University of Agriculture and Applied Science in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

Department of Marketing and Transportation Administration

Curriculum in Food Distribution

1958

Approved: . A. Jrans

The writer has prepared this thesis to present a research technique which could be used to investigate the shopping patterns and reactions of shoppers in retail food markets. Conducting customer flow patterns is not new in marketing research. Informally, at least, anyone observing customer actions over a period of time for the purpose of improving layout is conducting this type of study. The main difficulty, without some predetermined methodology, is that the study generally results in data which the observer uses to prove his thinking rather than allowing the facts to stimulate thinking.

A flow pattern is a written record of the course and reactions of one shopping unit from the time of entering the store until physically leaving with the selected merchandise. Flow pattern analysis then, is the study of this data compiled, in order to effect improved merchandising and/or physical layout.

The outlet chosen for the study was Kroger Store #G-224, in Lansing, Michigan, and was selected because of the highly competitive nature of the area. In addition to a large Wrigley supermarket within the Frandor Shopping Center, The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, Market Basket, Schmidt's, various independents, and other Kroger units operate in direct competition with the outlet studied.

The material for the project was the result of personal observations of two hundred shoppers over a two week period. Although few generalizations can be made, as every store presents different problems, it does show the results which can be obtained in other outlets by using a similar technique.

In today's great boon towards motivation research, attempts have been made to probe the consumer mind for hidden feelings and emotions. "What is more important than what people say they do is what they actually do." The author feels that observed actions, movements, and purchases in the particular store shopped by the consumer can contribute valuable data in approaching merchandise layout.

The technique is not proported as an answer to all merchandising and layout problems which the industry faces, but as another method of gathering internal data for intelligent decision-making. As Zimmerman has said, "There is no formula for the perfect layout."²

²M. M. Zimmerman, <u>The Super Market</u> (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1955), p. 181.

"The Food Distribution program at Michigan State University is under the sponsorship of the National Association of Food Chains."

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То

My Parents

Peter and Catherine Braschoss, Sr.

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He gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Mr. Earl Brown of the Agricultural Extension Service at Michigan State University, the staff, and others connected with the department.

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The study could not have been done without the permission and cooperation of The Kroger Co., Mr. H. Arville Ferguson, Grand Rapids Division, Grocery Merchandiser; Mr. Norman Otto, General Store Manager, and his staff at Kroger Store #G-224, Lansing, Michigan.

A study of this kind is the result of many people's efforts. To all my colleagues at Michigan State University, Peggy Curry and Ann Brown for suggestions and clerical assistance go thanks. To Herman and Marge Baechle with

whom I spent many pleasant hours throughout the year, go a special debt of gratitude.

Finally, the author would like to express his sincere thanks to the following members of The Grand Union Company--Mr. Lloyd W. Moseley, Vice President in Charge of Personnel; Mr. Charles W. Garratt, Regional Personnel Manager; Mr. Daniel Minich, Division Personnel Manager, and all other members of the company, for providing the author the opportunity of attending Michigan State University. It is hoped by the author that he may live up to the expectations of these men and prove worthy of their faith in him.



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CHAPTEF I

INTFODUCTION

Brief History of Fesearch

In the early thirties two food distribution bombshells burst in the New York City area with the opening, in 1930, of King Kullen, followed in 1932 by the opening of Big Pear. So propitious was the moment--economically and psychologically--for the appearance of a new system of mass distribution, that the opening of these two unique markets was hailed as a new phenomenon. The history of the supermarket industry is generally reckoned from that time. 1

As the industry grew operators began to seek new ideas and information to help them improve upon their methods. They visualized that the supermarket would become big business, that it would require financing, centralized management, and organization. Research into methods and trends became more than a word—it became a basis for change and expansion.²

In addition to studying methods and statistics, the operator began appraising his barnlike building and set

¹M. M. Zimmerman, <u>The Super Market</u> (New York: McGraw Hill Book Company, 1955), p. 16.

²<u>Ibid</u>., p. 117.

out to find sources of modern fixtures, shelving, and equipment. Alert to anything that could help improve his position, the operator recognized that the time had come to face-lift his old markets and build new ones. He was no longer hesitant about making investments in new buildings and equipment, because he was satisfied that Mrs. Consumer had accepted his retailing system for her shopping. Newly won successes resulted in building more markets across the nation.

Early quests for basic facts took the form of operators making trips and visiting fellow operators in other cities to see what they were doing. Men like William Applebaum and Sidney Rabb have been instrumental in gathering data which has normative application in the industry.

Progressive Grocer magazine has conducted store orientated studies in Ohio and Minnesota which are reputed to be guideposts for supermarket operators. The 1955

Foodtown Study³ analyzed in detail the sales of eleven midwestern stores and two eastern outlets to discover some insights into product-profit contributions, margins versus movement, space allocations, and stockturns. Recently the

³Foodtown Study, A reprint from Progressive Grocer, January, 1955.

Super Valu Study was published with essentially the same information in greater detail. The second work touched upon customer feelings and attitudes and brought the 1955 statistics up to date. A cooperative group was used, specifically six stores for a period of twelve weeks. Although these studies contain valuable information, they are not complete in the solution of supermarket merchandise layout problems. Just as store sizes differ, so also do the types and brands of merchandise.

Flow pattern analysis may be defined as the study of compiled shopping data in order to effect improved merchandising and/or physical layout. This study should be a valuable tool in selecting or planning the type of layout which would appeal to the greatest number of customers.

Outlook for the future. In today's great boon towards motivation research attempts have been made to probe the consumer mind for hidden feelings and emotions. Dichter and Martineau have been successful in ascertaining some forces behind human actions. Many magazines and advertising agencies retain psychiatrists and continually investigate unknown areas to develop new ways to induce purchasing. "What is more important than what people say

⁴Super Valu Study, A reprint from Progressive Grocer, January, 1958.

they do is what they actually do." The author has the feeling that actions, movements, and purchases in the particular store shopped by the customer can contribute valuable data in approaching the vexing problem of determining optimum merchandise layout.

Scope

As one looks at retail food stores one fact stands out--that each outlet is different in many ways. There are differences in physical layout, merchandise layout, space allocation, et cetera, the list could go on and on. In the end, however, it will be the customer who finally decides which is most desirable. This is indicated by where the customers go in the store, what items they most frequently handle, or purchase, and how thoroughly they shop the store. The methodology presented in Chapter II can be applied to individual outlets regardless of their differences. Because they are store orientated they are precisely applicable to the test outlet.

They will prove advantageous when:

- 1. Store sales are felt to be low or falling off.
- 2. A remodel of an existing store is planned.
- Planning new units (after many local store surveys are analyzed).

⁵Winston L. Brembeck and William S. Howell, <u>Peruasion</u> (New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1955), p. 32.

The scope of this analysis, therefore, is unlimited and over a period of time should serve as an extremely useful tool for food merchandising.

Purpose of the Project

Research in the food industry has been looked upon with some skepticism. Companies in the past received little cooperation in the field and the statistics they uncovered had limited cumulative application. Recently statistical analysis has received widespread publicity and greater attention by leading food companies.

This study develops a methodology for conducting flow analysis by management groups rather than to set standards for generalizations. The technique is not purported as an answer to all merchandising and layout problems which the industry faces minimizing customer shopping frustration and maximizing net profit, but as another method of gathering internal data for intelligent decisionmaking) As Zimmerman has said, "There is no formula for the perfect layout." 6

⁶Zimmerman, <u>op. cit</u>., p.181.

CHAPTER II

METHODOLOGY FOR CONDUCTING AND COMPILING FLOW PATTERNS

History of Flow Patterns

Conducting customer flow patterns is not new in marketing research. Informally, at least, anyone watching customer actions over a period of time for the purpose of changing merchandise layout is conducting this type of study. The main difficulty, without some predetermined methodology, is that the study generally results in data which the observer uses to prove his thinking rather than allowing the facts to stimulate thinking.

Mr. Earl Brown and Mr. Michael Wood of the Agricultural Extension Service at Michigan State University developed a methodology for this type of analysis. Their procedures have been used in several studies prepared for Michigan retailers which resulted in increasing profits and effecting various economies of handling and allocation.

Mr. Herman F. Baechle of The Kroger Co. working on this research project, and the author, felt that past studies contained the following disadvantages:

1. The product and departmental breakdowns were not detailed enough to be of value to the chain supermarket operator.

- 2. For each flow analysis study sixty flow patterns were observed. The flow patterns which did not seem "representative" were eliminated.
- 3. Limited supplementary data was recorded--areas of interest, such as time in check lanes, extent of services, et cetera, was not included.
- 4. Few important terms were defined. For example, doubt existed in the observers minds as to what constituted a "pass."

In the July 1958 issue of <u>Progressive Grocer</u>, Mr. Clifford Haskell, Vice President of Alpha Beta Food Markets, Incorporated, discusses the method of traffic flow studies used by this chain in 1954. Again the information received was scanty, but did point to the value of such studies and the need for more effective methodology. Two men were assigned to view from the shoplifting mirror and follow with pencil the exact course of as many customers as possible from the time they entered the front door until they checked out. They checked 116 customers in the course of the study and not one customer traveled every aisle. "No customer saw all the merchandise that we so proudly displayed. High profit impulse items were located in low traffic aisles."

Clifford Haskell, "Follow That Woman," <u>Progressive</u> Grocer, Vol. 37, No. 7 (July, 1958), 84.

^{2&}lt;sub>Ibid</sub>.

Definition of Terms

Before proceeding any further in this study, it is necessary, in order to eliminate the problem of semantics, to define some of the basic terms:

Flow pattern. A flow pattern is a written record of one shopping unit's course and reactions from the time of entering until physically taking charge of the selected merchandise.

<u>Purchase</u>. A purchase includes all items that a customer ultimately purchases.

<u>Handle</u>. A handle includes items which are picked up, but not purchased by the customer.

Pass. A pass is determined by the path of the shopper on the flow pattern. A designated area receives a pass if the shopper could have noticed that area at any point on the shopping tour.

Not pass. A not pass is the difference between total possible passes and total actual passes.

Shopping unit. A shopping unit is made up of one or more persons who tour the outlet employing one main bascart for homogeneous consumption.

Flow pattern analysis. Flow pattern analysis is the study of the compiled data in order to effect improved merchandising and/or physical layout.

Preparation of Flow Sheets

This section will describe the methods and factors included in the flow sheets and generally point out areas where certain adaptations could be made in order to bring out other desirable facts for analysis.

Mr. Earl Brown of the Agricultural Extension Service aided Mr. Herman Baechle and the author in this work by pointing out weaknesses in the flow sheets used in analyzing Michigan Food Stores.

Two factors should be kept in mind when constructing a flow pattern worksheet:

- Information should lend itself to general classification in order to facilitate tabulation and still retain the desired detail.
- 2. Since personal interviews tend to change shopping habits, all data should be gathered by following customers at an inconspicuous distance. Further amplification of this point will be made later in this chapter under the section "Following the Shopping Unit."

The first step in constructing a flow pattern worksheet is to measure the selling area, including all gondolas, aisles, and displays. Many times a construction blueprint is available to obtain the dimensions from, and thereby eliminates the need to measure. Figures should be drawn to a convenient scale for reproduction.

Since the observor must physically follow and record the customer actions, the flow pattern breakdown should be reproduced on 8-1/2" x 11" paper and placed on a clipboard. Sufficient copies should be available so that one sheet can be used for each flow.

The sheets used in this study included 136 product and product group designations. Line number six, the green rack, was later divided into eleven classifications to represent individual produce items (see Exhibit B). Check lanes were numbered with Roman numerals. In the Braschoss and Baechle Method (B&B Method) as the authors have named it, the meat department items were written out so as to insure accurate recording during peak periods. Enough space was provided for the appropriate supplemental data to be recorded. These included:

- 1. <u>Day--</u>This was provided for general reference and to aid filing.
- 2. <u>Time</u>--This space was provided to record time spent in the store.
- 3. Shopper(s)--or "shopping unit" were classified: male, female, more than one female, more than one male, male and female, female and children,

- male and children, and miscellaneous to include all other units (example M--F--B--G).
- 4. <u>List--</u>This classification was included in order to evaluate the influence of a list on merchandise selection.
- 5. Amount -- Total amount of purchases was recorded in the space designated with no attempt to record departmental breakdown sales.
- 6. $\underline{X} = \underline{Purchase}$ --This was defined earlier in the chapter and should be marked as precisely as possible within the designated classification.
- 7. $0 = \underline{\text{Handle}}$ -From earlier treatment the handles were very significant to the over-all shopping tour in the outlet.
- 8. ---- Designated the movement of customer through the store without a shopping cart.
- 9. Designated the movement of a customer through the store with a shopping cart.
- 10. \underline{W} --Symbolized the services of weighing, cutting, or wrapping either in the produce or meat departments.
- 11. \underline{E} --Symbolized employees performing a service in grocery department, including the bottle return.
- 12. <u>Off</u>--Symbolized the manager of office personnel performing a service.

- 13. Time Spent Checking Out--The time the customer entered the check lanes subtracted from the time the customer left the check lanes.
- 14. Remarks -- Space to record any unusual happenings which may be of interest for further investigations.

Following the Shopping Unit

Flow pattern analysis, in order to serve as a merchandise layout guide, should be performed in at least one
store for at least one week. A minimum of one hundred
flows adds support to the findings. After a brief orientation, any person familiar with supermarkets could be
employed to gather the raw data.

The B&B technique is applicable to most retail food outlets. Since what the customer does in the store is important, store volume and physical layout will not impair the over-all effectiveness.

In studies of this kind the problem of bias is sometimes present. Since all bias cannot be eliminated, it should be controlled wherever possible.

What areas of bias can arise? And, what can be done to control them?

First, the area of time may inject some degree of bias. Since the study is run full-time the general method of controlling bias would be to record flows in proportion to the busy hours of the day.

Second, the question of how many should be run on specific days during the week. Average daily volumes
divided by the total sample will provide a method of determining the answer.

Third, the recording of <u>actions</u> in the store by the observer might differ if the various information desired is not clearly defined and properly carried out through training of those gathering raw data. The definitions and methodology should provide many of these answers.

Fourth, probably the area in which most studies are statistically weak is that of <u>customer</u> "<u>selection</u>" or randomness. The probability calculations underlying statistical acceptance sampling assume that samples are drawn at random. That is, each article in a lot is assumed to have an equal chance to be selected in the sample.*

The nature of variation in random samples is described by the theory of sampling (based on all possible samples), which shows that large samples selected at random are representative of the universe. The relevant principle can be stated as follows:

In most large samples selected at random, each statistical measure of the sample (e.g., average or proportion) closely approximates the corresponding measure of the universe, even when the sample is a small part of the universe.

Richard D. Irwin, Inc., 1954), p. 88.

*The limitation of having two observers made it necessary to begin the unit selection process anew after each flow pattern was recorded.

William Spur, Lester Kellogg, and John Smith, Business and Economic Statistics (Homewood, Illinois: Richard D. Trwin, Inc., 1954), p. 88.

Often there are practical difficulties in the way of random selection of a sample. If it is practicable to assign a different number to each item in the lot, chance devices can be used to determine the items to select. 4 The method used by the B&B team was drawing balls from a bowl which will be described in detail in Chapter III. Published tables of random numbers are available to choose the items for the sample. 5

The well-trained observer should follow the shopping unit around the store using the statistical methods mentioned, keeping in mind the desired goals. Care must be taken so that the subject is not aware they are being "followed." Following too closely tends to alter the tour and the reverse finds the observer without many important facts.

The question could be raised as to whether it is advisable to ask basic questions of the customer before or after the shopping tour. Questions beforehand tend to seriously effect their actions while in the store. Some of the people suspected they were followed. Questions at the end would, therefore, confirm their suspicions and oftentimes cause poor customer relations. Since clipboards were

⁴Eugene L. Grant, Statistical Quality Control (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1952), p. 389.

⁵J. M. Juran, Quality Control Handbook (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1951), pp. 420-421.

carried, the B&B team members were frequently mistaken for employees. This was advantageous. If other supplementary information is desired it could be gathered at other times rather than seriously effecting the flow analysis or causing ill-will among the clientele.

Compiling the Data

Raw data recorded on the flow pattern worksheets in the method presented was tabulated manually. Large sheets of paper marked off in sections with appropriate columns for passes, handles, and purchases serve well where the observer plans to use the data only once. One member called individual passes, handles, et cetera, while the other formally compiled the data. The individual item totals were gathered bi-weekly so that advertising effectiveness could be analyzed. Resulting figures could be tabulated to high-light specific areas of interest. International Business Machines (IBM) systems could be worked out for this work, but for the needs of this study on the limited scale the cost would have been prohibitive.

Some of the more important totals were:

- 1. Passes
- 2. Not passes
- 3. Handles
- 4. Purchases
- 5. Per cent of passes

- 6. Per cent of purchases
 - 7. Total purchases
 - 8. Average purchase
 - 9. Average time in store
- 10. Average checkout time
- 11. Per cent of checkout time to total time
- 12. Departmental breakdown of services
- 13. Number of shoppers not using services
- 14. Checklane used
- 15. Carryout versus parcel pickups
- 16. Types of shopping units

The data could be grouped into daily, semi-weekly, or weekly totals, et cetera, depending on the detail required (see Exhibit C, sections 1-4). Other figures could be calculated tesides the ones shown in Exhibit C.

Analysis

After compiling the data the next step is analysis. Key store personnel could gather the basic data and send it in to division headquarters for analysis. The results would give top merchandising and planning management a tetter picture of the outlet from which they could evaluate the merchandise layout.

Since this study was concerned mainly with the grocery areas, the following will not apply in some respects to perishables. However, ideas are offered which may be used throughout the entire store.

Individual flow analysis is not the complete solution to merchandising problems, but indicates factors which need further consideration.

The compiled data could be analyzed so that:

- Extremely high and low pass and purchase areas could be pin-pointed on a blank flow pattern worksheet for a graphic presentation.
- 2. High profit items could be plotted on the same chart.
- 3. Any areas where handles were very noticeable could be plotted.
- 4. Items that required repeated stocking because of high stock turnover could be plotted.
- 5. The average tour of the shopping unit around the outlet could then be drawn in.
- 6. Anything which occurs enough times to make it significant to the over-all picture could be indicated.

The result would be a flow pattern worksheet marked with all pertinent data giving top management concise information with which to appraise the layout.

Applications

The B&B method is almost unlimited in its applications.

This type of store oriented research could prove to be a useful tool for food chain management.

Conditions resulting from shopper activities are listed as follows:

- 1. High handles combined with low purchases could indicate a need for more closely appraising price, variety, or competition in the shopping areas for the product or product group.
- Low purchases could indicate a need for relocation, recombination, or elimination of items.
- 3. Low passes in certain aisles could indicate physical barriers obstructing movement, frequent congestion, or possibly lack of aggressive merchandising.
- 4. Low end and special display purchases could indicate poor location, eye catching qualities, or buy appeal.
- 5. Low passes and purchases of advertised items could indicate a need for a closer look at the ads, location in store, or possibly, competitive pricing.
- 6. Lengthy shopping tours combined with high demandand low impulse goods sales could indicate that the shopper was not exposed to many impulse items.
- 7. High percentage of total store time spent in check lanes could indicate a need for timing when opening check lanes, checker training, or possibly more bag boys during the peak periods.

- 8. Many times high pilferage could indicate blind areas in physical layout—this can be graphically brought out by the B&B method.
- 9. Demonstrations, often times felt to add interest to store merchandising, should be judged not only on their own merit but also on their effect on other items nearby.
- 13. The long gondola layouts of today have the advantage of cross-merchandising-demand items across from demand items, with impulse items across from impulse items. For example, baking needs with a non-food peg rack above and sugar with kitchen utensils across the aisle from it.

This list was not intended to be complete, but to point out some of the shopper activities which might be observed.

Limitations

Flow analysis, if properly used, points to factors which need further consideration. The main danger is that this technique will become the all inclusive answer rather than an approach to scientific merchandise management.

There are several recognized limitations. In order not to weight the study or add qualitative judgments the method, for the present at least, should remain as stated.

A pass is recorded where a customer could have noticed an area at any point on the shopping tour. Since

the observer is following the customer without asking any questions, this is the only way to eliminate the qualitative bias of "thinking" what the shopping unit really did. A pass is recorded only once even if the shopper travels by the designated section more than one time. This method tends to record passes possibly a little lower than they really are.

Handles include items which are picked up but not purchased by the customer. Only one handle is tabulated regardless of the number of selections and returns made in a designated area. This was one way to tabulate the results, keeping in mind that each individual shopping unit should remain equal regardless of units handled or purchased.

Quantity <u>purchases</u> for one customer should receive only one mark on the final tally sheet per designated area. As with handles, the results tend to make some sections look low in relation to passes. The same method of compiling was used for customer services. Maximum number of services per customer in the four categories considered was one for each department.

In the B&B method the in-store recording was performed on flow analysis worksheets. All multiple purchases, handles, double-backs, and unusual actions by customers were noted, literally everything that was done by the subject. These individual sheets were kept in daily packs and could be referred to when the need arose. The results

or totals show trends and the worksheets temper certain of the figures. Only through working with this type of study for a period of time, and following up over-all recommendations, will the researcher become proficient.

Summary

The author has attempted to present the B&B method showing how it has application to merchandising management. A study of this type becomes more effective as it is worked with extensively. As with any research, there are limitations and bias; to disregard them would be fallacious. The job became one of trying to control these conditions and still retain the over-all effectiveness of the method.

Since every store presents a different climate of problems little attempt was made to generalize, but rather to set down as clearly as possible the basic areas of methodology.

CHAPTER III

THE STORE USED FOR THE STUDY

This chapter describes the Greater Lansing shopping area, relates facts on the Frandor Shopping Center, and lists the reasons for using Kroger Store #3-224 for the study.

The Greater Lansing Area

Lansing, the state capital of Michigan, has a population of almost 200,000 people in the highly industrialized confines of the shopping area. Such factories as the Oldsmobile Division of General Motors Corporation, the Peo Motors, Inc., Duplex Truck Company, Motor Wheel Corporation, Duo-Therm Corporation Division of Motor Wheel Corporation, John Bean Division of Food Machinery and Chemical Corporation, and others, employ approximately 32,000 people. The industrial workers in Lonsing averaged nearly \$100.00 per week during 1953; in addition to this, the industrial payroll is augmented by that of the State Government, employing over 6,000 persons who received over twenty million dollars in salaries and wages annually, and the Michigan State University payroll having over 4,000 persons receiving

in excess of twelve million dollars annually. Greater Lansing, according to the Consumers' Markets Standard Rate and Data Service, Incorporated, had a spendable income of \$365,401,000 or \$6,687.00 per household in 1954.2

In addition to this, there are over twenty thousand students enrolled at Michigan State University, representing every state in the nation and more than fifty foreign countries. Building projects now under way include a city of 456 modern apartments for married students.

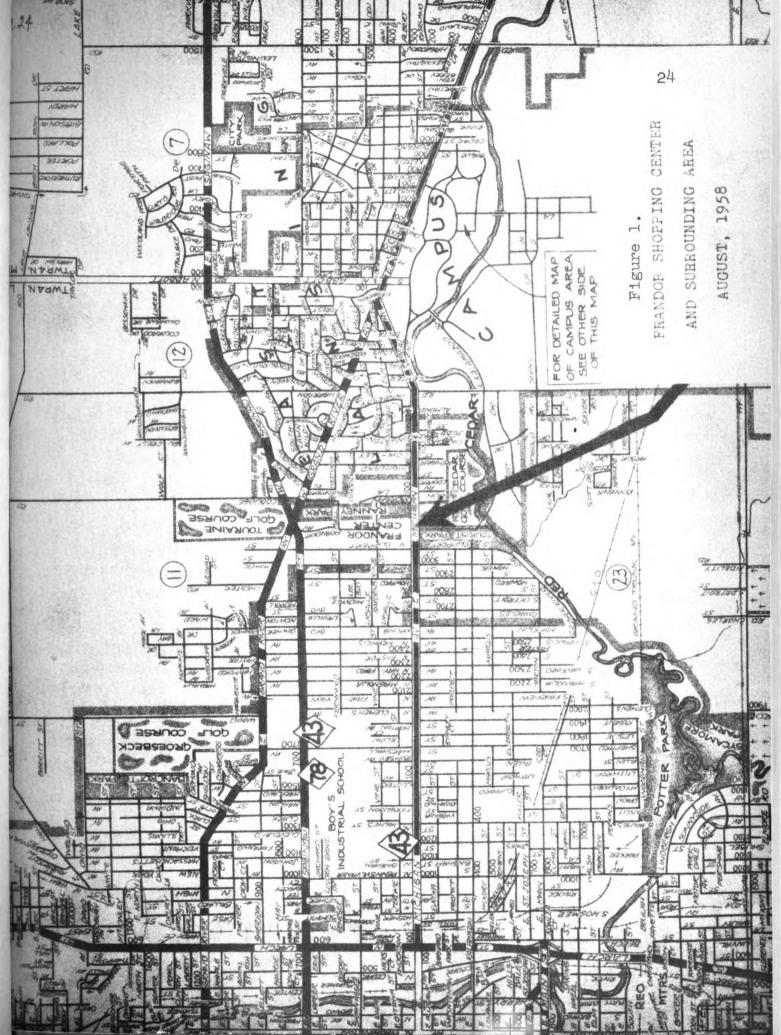
Frandor Shopping Center

Due to its geographic location and its excellent wholesale and retail establishments, Lansing is the shopping center of Central Michigan. Frandor Shopping Center is conveniently located halfway between Lansing and East Lansing. It is bounded on the North by East Saginaw Street (M-78) and East Grand Piver Avenue (US-16), and on the East by Panny Park, on the South by East Michigan (M-43), and on the West by Clippert Street (see Fig. 1, page 24).

The Frandor Shopping Center comprises fifty-five acres of land, on which fifty stores are built. Five thousand cars can be parked in its confines.

¹Frandor Shopping Center Brochure, Lansing, Michigan, 1956.

^{2&}lt;sub>Ibid</sub>.



Some of the retail stores within the Frandor Shopping Center include:

Sears, Roebuck and Company--regional size, hard and soft goods store

Federal's--department store

Howard Johnson--restaurant

- S. S. Kresge Company -- hardware and variety store
- A. S. Beck Company -- shoe store

Thom McAnn--shoe store

F. W. Woolworth--hardware and variety store

Kroger--food store

Wrigley--food store

Shoppers from central Michigan travel to the Frandor Shopping Center to make many of their major purchases. Kroger Store #G-224 is situated in the middle of the center--one of the real "finds" in supermarket locations.

Kroger Store #G-224

The B&B team was confronted with the question--which store to use for the research project?

A representative outlet was required to permit the team to follow customers around the store for a two week period. The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company (A&P) has a strict policy of not permitting any information to be divulged except in extreme cases from division headquarters. National Market Basket would permit asking questions, but not following customers. Schmidt's, a local five-store chain

of modern supermarkets, offered little challenge since many surveys have been conducted in their outlets. Small chains would have consented but then it was felt that to really test the method it was necessary to study a large, modern supermarket.

The main reasons for selecting Kroger Store #G-224 were the following:

- 1. Frandor Shopping Center offered a store close to the campus so that travel time and inconvenience was minimized. Since extensive pretesting, two full weeks of recording customer flows, and postanalysis were necessary, this proximity became one of the major factors in the decision.
- 2. These studies required complete cooperation of management and all personnel. Under store manager, Mr. Norman "Bud" Otto and District Manager Mr. Lou Smith, the observers were given complete freedom and the "crew" was most cooperative--this was an important consideration.
- 3. Frandor shoppers varied from factory workers to college professors. The study of the contrasting shopping groups was a fascinating experience.
- 4. All advertising for Kroger stores in the Lansing area is placed in the <u>Lansing State Journal</u> on Mondays and Wednesdays.

5. The store presented somewhat of a challenge in that there was a possible need for improvement.

The Kroger Co. operates four outlets in Greater
Lansing: East, North, South, and the Shopping Center.
After selecting the Frandor outlet, the observers contacted
The Kroger Company's Grand Papids Division office and
secured from Mr. H. Arville Ferguson, Grocery Merchandiser,
a blueprint of the store layout. This blueprint eliminated
the task of measuring all gondolas in the selling area.

Flow pattern observations were conducted from Monday, July 21, to Saturday, August 2, 1958. This period was used because it is relatively free from seasonal fluctuations. Each observer followed one customer from start to finish. As mentioned in Chapter II, a table of random numbers were used (see Exhibit D). It was constructed by numbering balls and placing them in a bowl. After each selection the ball was replaced, so that each number had an equal chance of being selected. The number to be run on the specific days was obtained in relation to volume. One hundred flows were run each week.

Compiling the data into a form for analysis was done as follows: Working on large sectioned sheets of paper, the observers laboriously went through each individual flow worksheet. The task was then to compile the bi-weekly, weekly, and grand totals along with many desired percentages and sundry data. Michigan State University maintains a

statistical workshop on the campus equipped with modern calculators. Without automatic equipment this study would have taken considerably longer.

Some may question the value of a two week study. Although findings were similar, the second week added support to the original material, and secondly, one is never absolutely sure until additional flows are recorded that the first week was sufficient. This is not meant to infer that a two week study is not helpful or absolutely essential in other research projects of this type.

Various figures and exhibits which appear within this volume are provided because they play a vital part in visualizing the location, findings, advertising copy, layout, and breakdowns. The reader, it is hoped, will become very familiar with the store's "expression" to its customers by carefully considering the material presented in this project.

CHAPTER IV

GENERAL FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter includes a detailed analysis of the data gathered over the two week study from July 21 to August 2, 1958. No attempt was made to make recommendations for the backroom or storage areas. However, some of the changes in merchandise layout will naturally assume differences in handling and stocking from the present practices. Exhibit E, No. 1 shows the layout of selling area prior to doing the study.

The author confined his remarks to the grocery department including: the front end, special and end displays, bakery, frozen foods, non-foods, et cetera. Mr. Herman F. Baechle discussed the perishable departments under the title, "An empirical Case Study of Customer Flow Patterns As An Approach In Determining Optimum Perishable Merchandise Layout."

No attempt was made to offer this analysis as the correct method, since it is impossible for even the most

Herman F. Baechle, "An Empirical Case Study of Customer Flow Patterns As An Approach In Determining Optimum Perishable Merchandise Layout" (unpublished Master's thesis, Food Distribution Curriculum, Department of Marketing and Transportation Administration, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, 1958).

experienced merchandising people to be absolutely certain of layout, location, or allocation.

The Frandor Store was divided into 136 product and product group designations. The discussion will begin at the first designation and analyze major areas of interest as they arise. The results of the recommendations, as the B&B team saw them, will appear as Exhibit E. No. 2.

The Front End

Findings. Before considering the first classification let us consider the Kroger Store front and the first impression the customer was confronted with after parking her automobile. Large signs proclaimed the giving of Top Value stamps, Kroger's label saving plan, and various promotions going on at the time. In all the time the B&B team spent at the store very few of these window posters were changed. When walking past the store, throughout the entire length of the front window it was impossible to see the selling area except for the back of displays or several produce tables directly in the sun.

The tables in this section were adapted from Exhibit C, Section No. 3 (grand totals based on two hundred shopping units). Item numbers were analyzed in a consecutive order except where intermediate designations are considered by the author's colleague under "Perishables" or grouped differently for clearer analysis.

Table I shows that every shopper passed the four classifications at the front end of the store, but when passes and handles were considered the picture changes. The coke machine served no purpose at its present location, since no one purchased or even handled a coke. People entering could not notice the designation because after they passed through the "magic doors" the machine was out of sight. When leaving, customers concentrated on moving their groceries to the parcel pickup area rather than stopping for a soft drink.

TABLE I

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WHO PASSED AND PURCHASED IN
THE FRONT END IN KROGER STORE #G-2241

No.	Designation	Not Passed	Passed	Handled	Purchased	% Purchased	% Passed
1	Coke Machine	0	200	0	Э	0.0	100.0
2	Front Displays	Э	200	1	47	23.5	100.0
15	Bakery Specials	Э	200	5	9	4.5	100.0
16	Picnic Supplies	Э	200	4	25	12.5	100.0

 $^{^{1}}$ Based on 200 shopping units from July 21--August 2, 1958.

Front displays were in the form of cut cases piled on full cases. Reserve stock was behind the thirty foot front

stack and extended back to the windows. In the two week period of the study, the only change made was to replace some of the faster moving products with weekly ad items. The area lacked the orderly appearance and shopping interest due to lack of "creative merchandising and seasonal tie-ins." Creative merchandising may be defined as that little extra touch which gives an item eye appeal and buy appeal.

One hundred per cent of the shopping units passed the bakery special table. The study revealed that only 4.5 per cent or 9 actually made purchases. Five additional people handled some baked goods. There were indications, therefore, which question whether shoppers were ready to buy bakery items at this point in the store, if the price actually signified a special, and if this table warranted its present permanent location.

Item #16 has been designated picnic supplies. It includes such things as wooden utensils, napkins, paper plates, six-pak beer, and wraps. Four shoppers handled them and 25 or 12.5 per cent purchased from this designation. There were no indications in this area of the seasonal tie-in for summertime picnics. Of those that noticed the product, a large percentage ultimately purchased.

Recommendations.

1. In keeping with the general architecture of the Frandor Shopping Center, the Kroger Store has pleasant eye

- appeal. The writer feels that large window signs should be used only occasionally for special promotions or announce-ments. The present practice served to cheapen the appearance instead of permitting those passing to view the selling area.
- 2. From the findings, the coke machine in its present location did not indicate it was returning sufficient profit dollars. The recommendation, therefore, is to move it back to the corner of the store where a special beer display is presently located (Item #131) (see Exhibit A).
- 3. Front end displays should not be a storage area for reserve stock. With most of the window signs removed the present condition would look unattractive. Closer ordering for specials and constant dressing up is necessary in order to give the customer the impression of stockturn. The recommendation is to put wire "dump" displays across this area and keep them filled.
- 4. Near to the Kroger location is a custom bakery carrying a complete line of pies, cakes, rolls, and cookies. Competition is on a basis of price since convenience is not a major factor. It is therefore recommended that the bakery special table be used only when merchandising an item that has price appeal or seasonal appeal and not as a permanent display table.

The Glass Section

Findings. Of the total possible passes the survey revealed that only 38.5 per—cent of all customers passed this high profit area. Considering that almost half of these people purchased when they passed peanut butter, jelly, and preserves there is a definite need for a change in the physical layout or relocation of this product group to a higher "pass area" in the store (see Table II).

TABLE II

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WHO PASSED AND PURCHASED IN THE GLASS SECTION IN KROGER STORE #G-2241

No.	Designation	Not Passed	Passed	Handled	Purchased	% Purchased	% Passed
17	Jellies and Preserves ²	123	. 77	4	30	15.0	38.5
18	Pickles and Olives	113	87	0	22	11.0	43.5
19	Condiments	50	150	2	32	16.0	75.0
20	Dressings and Oils ²	44	156	1	35	17.5	78.0

¹Based on 200 shopping units from July 21--August 2, 1958.

²Special and end displays are not included.

Pickles and olives received a higher percentage of passes with 43.5 per cent, but were purchased by 11 per cent. High handles coupled with few purchases, sometimes indicates an item is incorrectly priced. In fact, this study showed not one of the 87 shopping units which passed this designation handled them.

Condiments were passed by 75.0 per cent of the shoppers and purchased by 16.07. During the second week of the study some items in this product group were on sale so the purchase looked higher than normal. Dressings and oils received about the same customer reaction with 78 per cent passes and 17.5 per cent purchases.

Recommendations. In his suggestions for the "Perishables," Mr. Baechle recommended a complete remodel of the Produce department² (see Exhibit E, No. 1). This change should result in a greater amount of traffic through the Glass Section. It is also possible to move glass to a more heavily traveled area and replace it with demand items.

Beverages

<u>Findings</u>. This classification is one of the major profit areas in the average outlet since the number of passes for beverages generally is high. Store #G-224 is no exception.

²Baechle, <u>op. cit</u>.

Tea, chocolate, and coffee sections are directly across from the dairy department. Passes as shown in Table III are extremely high, but only 7 per cent of the customers out of 200 purchased from the chocolate product group. Coffee received the highest per cent of purchases in the section with 22.5 per cent.

TABLE III

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WHO PASSED AND PURCHASED BEVERAGES IN KROGER STORE #G-2241

No.	Designation	Not Passed	Passed	Handled	Purchased	% Purchased	% Passed
23 24 25 53 56 57	Tea Chocolate ² Coffee Wine ² Beer ² Beverages (soft drinks)	18 21 17 101 100 96	182 179 183 99 100 104	001115	15 75 45 13 27	732 63 13	91.5 89.5 91.5 91.5 91.5 52.0

¹Based on 200 shopping units from July 21--August 2, 1958.

²Special and end beverage display are not included.

Wine sales indicated a need for further consideration.

Only 49 per cent of the shopping units passed the designation with one person handling and one purchasing. Indications are that the variety might be limited to a few brands, or possibly the shopping habits of the customers are such that they do not normally buy wine in grocery stores.

Beer sales were split into four areas. Designation #56 showed the highest sales figures. The other three will be discussed under the section "Special and End Displays." Of 200 shopping units, 13 customers purchased beer from the shelf out of the 100 passing by. All sales from this area are individual units or in six-pak quantity.

Soft drinks were passed by 52 per cent of the people with 13.5 per cent purchasing. Since this product group offered excellent profit returns during the warm weather months, indications are that it should be located in additional places in the store.

Recommendations.

- 1. Remove one of the coffee grinders since it presently is not operating and three machines are not necessary for the store volume.
- 2. The shelf stock on wine should be moved between beer and soft drinks. (See Exhibit A, Items #56 and #57.)
- 3. Make soft drink specials part of the seasonal promotional area (item #16) mentioned earlier in this chapter. The combination for this time of year would include potato chips, wooden utensils, paper plates, wraps, and soft drinks.

Household and Laundry Supplies

<u>Findings</u>. This section carries some of the highest margins in the grocery department. The average margin is

over 25 per cent on sales. In store #G-224 most of the items generally classified under this heading are in one aisle. For ease of understanding, various other products and product groups will be included in Table IV. One unique feature about this store is a "blind aisle" in which these products are located (see Exhibit E, No. 1).

On the average, 50 per cent of all customers shop down through the aisle after passing the dairy department. Soap powders were purchased by 18 per cent of the shopping units. Cleansers were passed by 51 per cent of the shopping units with 14.5 per cent of total units purchasing. Across the aisle from these two product groups are the household items and waxes. They include mops, brooms, furniture polish, simonize, et cetera. Items #41 and #42, 50.5 per cent of all customers passed and 6.5 per cent purchased. When coupled with the high markup on these two items, the area represents excellent return.

Soaps were purchased by 15.5 per cent and passed by 50.5 per cent of the total shopping units. Picnic supplies, foil and waxed paper, paper towels, and toilet tissue were purchased by 8.0, 7.5, 6.5, and 20.5 per cent, respectively. Average passes for the four product designations was calulated at 47 per cent. Toilet tissue indicated drawing power when almost one-half of the shoppers that passed the designation purchased.

TABLE IV

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WHO PASSED AND PURCHASED HOUSEHOLD AND LAUNDRY PRODUCTS IN KROGER #G-2241

						 	
No.	Designation	Not Passed	Passed	Handled	Purchased	% Purchased	% Passed
26	Soap powders ²	87	113	Э	36	18.0	56.5
27	Cleansers	98	102	1	29	14.5	51.0
28	Soaps	99	101	Э	31	15.5	50.5
29	Picnic sup- plies	100	97	Э	16	8.5	48.5
30	Foil and waxed paper	104	96	2	15	7 . 5	48.၁
31	Paper towels	104	96	1	13	6.5	48.0
32	Toilet tissues	112	88	1	41	23.5	44.5
38	Gadget rack	99	101	17	13	6.5	50.5
41	Household items	96	104	2	12	6.0	52.0
42	Waxes and polishes	102	98	1	15	7.5	49.0
43	Bleaches	100	100	0	26	13.0	50.0

¹Based on 200 shopping units from July 21--August 2, 1958.

 $^{^2{\}mbox{\rm Special}}$ and end displays are not included in the figures.

After analyzing the correlation between the type of product, the number of handles and purchases, and price in relation to competition, the facts indicate the percentage of handles to be high when:

- 1. The product can be readily seen through the package or package window.
- 2. The product is considered by the average shopping unit to be an impulse rather than a demand item. Generally these product designations do not appear on shopping lists.
- 3. The product is attractive but does not satisfy the customers need at the time--curiosity.

Across the aisle from these demand items is the gadget rack. Fifty-one per cent of the total number of shopping units passed this designation. However, out of 101 shoppers to pass this designation, 30 stopped to either handle or purchase items indicating a definite interest. There were 17 handles and 13 purchases.

Recommendations.

1. As mentioned previously in Chapter II, the Frandor Shopping Center has within its confines branches of several large department, variety, hardware, and drug stores. Is it possible to sell non-food lines, including gadget rack items profitably, in such a climate? The study indicated that 15 per cent of all shopping units either purchased or handled

items from this designation. Slow moving items should be eliminated in order to insure that the rack looks interesting at all times.

2. Stocking of toilet tissue during busy hours created a repeated bottleneck in this heavily traveled area. Since tissue boxes take up considerable space the shelves in this area should be stocked during the slack periods late in the afternoon.

Dried Foods, Pet Foods, Health and Beauty Aids

<u>Findings</u>. As the writer procedes through the various designations in the outlet some are grouped because of their location in a particular aisle or section classification.

Of the total shopping units that passed rice and the two dried bean designations the percentage was recorded at 4.5, 5.0, and 7.0 per cent, respectively (see Table V). These product groups generally fall into the range expected for this type of item.

Spaghetti and macaroni products were about the same on passes, but the purchases were 11 per cent or 23 out of the total shopping units. Inspection of the section indicated that the variety of brands and sizes carried was limited.

Health and beauty aids showed 5 handles and 28 passes out of the 106 shopping units that passed the designation.

Kroger carries a fairly complete stock of these items, but indications are that variety and completeness are factors vital to health and beauty aid merchandising.

TABLE V

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WHO PASSED AND PURCHASED DRIED FOODS, PET FOODS, AND HEALTH AND BEAUTY AIDS IN KROGER STORE #G-2241

		Passed	рe	рe	sed	าลรeċ	g o
No.	Designation	Not Pa	Passed	Handled	Purchased	% Purchase	% Passed
45	Dried beans	94	106	2	10	5.0	53.0
46	Rice	95	105	၁	9	4.5	52.5
47	Dried beans	95	105	0	14=	7.0	52.0
48	Spaghetti and macaroni	94	106	Ç	23	11.5	53.0
49	Health and beauty aids ²	94	106	5	28	14.0	53.0
52 	Pet Foods ²	97	103	1	15	7.5	51.5

¹Based on 200 shopping units from July 21--August 2, 1958.

Across the aisle from this designation are the Pet Foods. During the two week study, 7.5 per cent of the shoppers purchased and 51.5 per cent passed the designation

 $^{^{2}}$ Special and end displays are not included in the figures.

out of 200 shopping units. Most of the major brands were stocked and several rows were carried on all varieties. A complete gondola and an end display were employed to merchandise the product group. Customers shopped back and forth, and indicated from their actions, that possibly the product designation contained too much variety. For example, in several instances the shopper picked up items and walked to another product on the shelf to compare the price and the contents.

A complete gondola, with the exception of a limited area for wine, was employed to merchandise the Pet Foods.

An end display adjacent to this designation was stocked with fifteen cases of Rival dog food during the two week period of the study.

Recommendations.

1. Health and Beauty Aid sales indicated good customer acceptance. Kroger Store #G-224 employed the full length of the gondola to merchandise this product designation. Several retail outlets in the Frandor Shopping Center carry a very complete line of products; but it seemed to the author that the customers were noticeably influenced by the handling of some cosmetics stocked. For example, several shoppers handled and later purchased from a lipstick rack.

In order to get more variety into the designation, existing stock should be moved since the products have been stacked to add second rows only where necessary.

Moving sanitary napkins to a location next to toilet tissue would give more room for additional varieties.

The addition of another shelf would permit stocking greater varieties and eliminate the practice of piling two and three high.

2. From Exhibit E, No. 1, the reader can see that the Household and Laundry Supply is a blind aisle. This area is adjacent to checkstand VII which is used only during rush periods. Magazines, soft goods, stationery, and comic books are located there with ample space to pass through an opening to leave the store without going through the checklanes. Several of the key store personnel were questioned about whether or not they had noticed any shopping units leaving the store by this route. They all seemed to agree that a few used this area for a hasty exit.

Considering that the products presently filling the location are generally high on per cent of pilferage the recommendation is, first, to build permanent shelving which would eliminate this "escape route." Second, move all pet food to these shelves since the per cent of passes was about the same and all related items could then be grouped together. Note the change on Exhibit E. No. 2.

		; !

This would suggest relocating magazines, comic books, and stationery. This will be discussed later under the section entitled "Non-Foods and Soft Goods." The resulting location would soon become familiar to the customer at that point on her tour.

Crackers, Cookies, Cereals, and Candy

<u>Findings</u>. This section covers one complete aisle and part of another gondola due to the proximity of location.

Potato chips and pretzles are located in a high customer pass area. From Table VI it is evident that 57.5 per cent traveled by it, having 2 handles and 5.5 per cent purchases. It must be remembered that potato chips are in three locations in this outlet: in the front end with picnic supplies, on a large end rack across from the lower end of the meat case, and the shelf designation. Generally, the movement for this season is excellent with a direct delivery insuring proper stocking and freshness control.

Cracker and cookie figures indicated about the same number of purchases, 35 and 32, respectively. Crackers do not take up a full gondola while the cookie section does. However, when considering per cent of passes, indications were that 57 per cent passed crackers while 48 per cent passed cookies.

TABLE VI

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WHO PASSED AND PURCHASED CRACKERS,

COOKIES, AND CANDY IN KROGER STORE #G-2241

No.	Designation	Not Passed	Passed	Handled	Purchased	% Purchased	% Passed
59	Potato chips and pretzles ²	85	115	2	11	5.5	57.5
60	Crackers	8 6	114.	1	35	17.5	57.0
61	Cookies	104	96	4	32	16.0	48.0
63	Candy	106	94	3	16	8.0	47.0
66	Cereals	78	122	3	67	33.5	61.0
72	Candy ²	98	102	၁	13	6.5	51.0
73 ———	Nuts ²	111	87	<u> </u>	5	2.5	44.5

¹Based on 200 shopping units from July 21--August 2, 1958.

²Special and end displays are not included in the

figures.

Candy appears in many locations throughout the outlet. Besides being stocked in the racks on the checklanes, candy is on display on the shelves and an end display. Table VI shows this designation to have 47 per cent as the average per cent of passes for the shelf stock. Where the full side of a gondola is used the per cent of purchase is up to 8 per cent in comparison to 6.5 per cent for designation

#72 which occupies three-quarters of the shelf footage (see Exhibit A).

The highest per cent of purchases for grocery items was recorded for cereals. Over one-third of the 122 shopping units that passed this designation purchased. From the observations made of the shoppers in this area, little time was spent looking for desired items.

Nuts appeared on the regular shelves and also on an end display in a nearby area. The findings showed that 5 out of 87 passing the designation purchased, with no handles recorded for the two week study.

Recommendations. Most of the product groups mentioned above were merchandised properly. Periodic discussion with and observation of direct salesmen should insure that freshness and variety is maintained in the future.

The author questions the over-all variety of the candy designation. Items appeared to be given extra rows or as in some cases extra shelves. An order book versus shelf stock comparison should be made to insure that all possible varieties and sizes that can be moved are carried in stock.

Cooking Needs, Bread, and Bread Products

Findings. The results on Table VII indicate that the average per cent of customers passing the first three

designations was 51.3. Purchases in these product groups varied greatly. Baking needs showed 5 per cent of the shopping units purchased in contrast to 11.5 for sugar and 8.5 for salt.

TABLE VII

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WHO PASSED AND PURCHASED COOKING NEEDS, BREAD, AND BREAD PRODUCTS IN KROGER STORE

#G-2241

No.	Designation	Not Passed	Passed	Handled	Purchased	% Purchased	Passed
68	Baking needs	98	102	1	13	5.0	51.0
69	Sugar	98	102	2	23	11.5	51.0
70	Salt	94	136	1	17	8.5	53.0
71	Spices	89	111	3	19	9.5	55.5
74	Bread ²	64	136	5	48	24.0	68.0
75	Rolls	52	148	5	34	17.3	74.0
77	Pancake and pie mixes	89	111	3	4	2.0	55.5
78	Flour	92	108	3	19	9.5	54.0
79	Cake mixes	9 6	104	3	11	5.5	52.0
84	Bread ²	69	131	5	36	18.0	65.5
85 	Pastries	70	130	4	13	6.5	65.0

¹Based on 200 shopping units from July 21--August 2, 1958.

²Special and end displays are not included in the figures.

Kroger carries an unusually large selection of spices and seasonings. From this rack 19 customers purchased and 3 handled out of the possible 111 shoppers to pass the product group designation.

Bread and bread products were divided into four separate classifications. The reason for the division of bread was to analyze more closely from which side of this gondola most customers buy. On one side the flow study indicated that 68 per cent of the total shopping units passed and 24 per cent purchased with 5 handles; in comparison to the opposite side where 65.5 per cent of the total shopping units passed and only 18 per cent purchased with 4 handles. There were indications, therefore, that designation #74 was a more favorable merchandising location for bread than #84. Pastries and rolls showed the per cent of purchases as being 6.5 and 17.0 per cent, respectively. A custom bakery three shops away in the shopping center must be kept in mind when considering bread and bread products sales. However, with the excellent returns evidenced in Table VII, the author feels with increased merchandising effort, this group could add more profit dollars.

Flour, pancake, pie, and cake mixes showed 54 per cent of the shoppers passed the designation and 9.5 per cent, 2.0 per cent, and 5.5 per cent purchased, respectively. Most of these items have sales peaks in the cool weather months.

Recommendations.

- 1. Even though the Frandor Shopping Center has other stores selling pies, cakes, and rolls the facts on the bakery items indicated a strong desire to purchase not only power items but also impulse-type specialties. The Wrigley outlet in the shopping center uses an oven for merchandising pies. Ovens of this kind could favorably affect the sales of applicable items. From the results of the two week study recorded in Table VII, indications were that this clientele would look favorably upon innovation, especially in bakery specialties. The author recommends that the oven be located at designation #105 which was occupied with frozen food specials (see Exhibit A). This will be amplified later under the Frozen Food category.
- 2. Variety is extremely important to Mrs. Consumer when a bakery purchase is contemplated. Again, an order book versus shelf stock comparison should be made in order to insure that all profitable items are being carried.

Prepared and Baby Food Aisle

Findings. Items in this aisle have been grouped for ease of handling. The average customer flow was found to be the length of gondolas since the store's physical layout was made up of long aisles with only mid-section walk ways.

The reader is cautioned to remember when going over purchase figures of products and product groups that the

study made no attempt to quantify actions of the shopping units. For example, the purchase figure for Baby Food in Table VIII showed that 21 shoppers selected the items, not 21 units were sold.

TABLE VIII

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WHO PASSED AND PURCHASED PREPARED
AND BABY FOODS IN KROGER STORE #G-2241

No.	Designation	Not Passed	Passed	Handled	Purchased	% Purchased	% Passed
81	Baby food	95	105	2	21	10.5	52.5
82	Milk products	94	106	1	10	5.0	53.0
83	Syrups	92	108	1	6	3.0	54.0
89	Desserts	95	105	1	14	7.0	52.5
92	Canned fish	94	106	1	14	7.0	53.0
93	Canned meat ²	97	103	3	22	11.0	51.5
94	Canned soup	95	105	1	35	17.5	52.5

¹Based on 200 shopping units from July 21--August 2, 1958.

Out of 105 customers that passed the baby food designation, 21 purchased and 2 handled the items. There was approximately the same percentage of passes for milk

²Special and end displays are not included in the figures.

products as for baby food but the figures showed that the per cent of purchases were about one-half as high for the milk products.

Syrups showed 54.3 per cent passes with 3.3 per cent purchases in comparison to desserts with 52.5 passes but 7.3 purchases. A greater amount of shelf space was allocated to desserts and there was less seasonal sales fluctuation whereas syrup sales are highest in the cooler months and drop off sharply in the summer.

Canned fish figures looked about the same as those for desserts. Table VIII showed that 53.0 per cent of the shopping units passed the designation with 7.0 per cent recorded for purchases. Summer "cold meat" promotions helped the sales of canned meat which, with a lower per cent of passes (51.5 per cent) attained purchases from 11 per cent of the customers.

One of the higher figures in the entire grocery department was recorded for canned soups. Fifty-three per cent of the total shopping units passed the designation and 17.5 per cent of the total purchased from this product group.

Recommendations.

1. Several items in this aisle were promoted heavily with advertising campaigns. Whenever possible end- and dump-displays should be constructed of such products to take advantage of these sales builders.

2. Constant checks should be made on baby food salesmen to insure rotation, proper pricing, and allocation of
all items authorized by division headquarters. Many items
that are slow movers receive additional space to induce
shopper interest rather than answer the demand of the
customer.

Canned Fruits, Vegetables, Juices, and Miscellaneous Prepared Foods

Findings. Some of the designations included in this category received fairly good acceptance. Canned vegetables were stocked in various locations in the store. For the discussion here, designation #96 and #102 will be considered. Out of the total number of shopping units an average of 43 per cent of the customers passed these two locations. However, differences were noted when referring to the per cent of purchases on Table IX. Designation #96 showed 18 per cent whereas #102 indicated 8.0 per cent. Most of this difference was due to the fact the former extended the full length of a gondola in contrast to the latter which ran less than half the length of the gondola.

Canned juices received 12 per cent of total passes.

Indications were that when the customer did pass the location she purchased one-third of the time. In comparison to canned fruit where 45.8 per cent of the total shopping units passed, 9.5 per cent purchased.

TABLE IX

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WHO PASSED AND PURCHASED CANNED FRUITS, VEGETABLES, JUICES, AND MISCELLANEOUS PREPARED FOODS IN KROGER STORE #G-2241

No.	Designation	Not Passed	Passed	Handled	Purchased	% Purchased	A Passed
96	Canned vegetables ²	112	88	2	36	18.0	44.0
99	Canned juices ²	130	70	1	24	12.0	35.0
102	Canned vegetables ²	116	84	1	16	8.5	42.0
103	Baked beans ²	119	81	1	21	10.5	40.5
104	Prepared foods2	117	83	1	12	6.0	41.5
106	Canned fruit ²	103	97	0	19	9.5	48.5

¹Based on 200 shopping units from July 21--August 2, 1958.

Baked beans and prepared foods were stocked in the same aisle next to each other with the average number of passes indicated at 41 per cent of the total. Differences in per cent of purchases ranged from 10.5 per cent for the former to 6.0 per cent for the latter.

 $^{^2}$ Special and end displays are not included in the figures.

Recommendations. Indications for canned juices at first suggested that the product group be relocated to take advantage of higher per cent of customer passes. After considering various spots and respective margins versus turnover the author feels the present location would realize the maximum return. Additional sales could come from front end and dump displays filled with juices.

The Frozen Food Department

Findings. Mr. Herman F. Baechle, writing the "Perishable" analysis, and the author decided upon allocating twelve feet of frozen food space to the meat department for a delicatessen area to be included. Changes are, therefore, necessary to make the adjustment in the Frozen Food department.

Designation #105 is a large case used for featured frozen food items. Customers could see this designation from three sides. There were 18 customers or 9 per cent of the total shopping units who passed this designation and stopped to purchase. Handles were recorded at 4 which tends to indicate that possibly the price was out of line, or that the interest first created was lost due to the quality of the product (see Table X).

Ice cream passes were high with 46.5 per cent of the customers going by this designation; 9 per cent purchased and 2 per cent handled the product group.

TABLE X

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WHO PASSED AND PURCHASED THE FROZEN FOOD DEPARTMENT IN KROGER STORE #G-2241

No.	Designation	Not Passed	Passed	Handled	Purchased	% Purchased	% Passed
105	Frozen food specials	76	124	4	18	9.0	62.0
108	Ice cream	107	93	1	38	19.0	46.5
110	Frozen juices	98	102	2	33	16.5	51.0
111	Frozen pies	98	102	1	20	10.0	51.0
113	Frozen vege- tables	91	109	1	16	8.3	54.5
114	Frozen specialties	103	97	3	5	2.5	48.5
115	Frozen fruits	107	93	1	2	1.0	46.5

¹Based on 200 shopping units from July 21--August 2, 1958.

Fifty-one per cent of the shopping units passed and 16 per cent purchased frozen juices. Frozen pies showed the same results for passes but the per cent of purchases dropped to 10 per cent of the total shopping units.

Frozen vegetables were passed by 54.5 per cent of the total shopping units with total purchases dropping to 8.0 per cent. Frozen specialties and fruits received an

average of 47 per cent passes but Table X shows that per cent of purchases was only 2.5 per cent and 1.0 per cent, respectively.

Recommendations. Customers rarely buy what they can not see. When obliged to search for a particular product, they usually substitute, go without, or go somewhere else to buy. Here are eleven ways in which food chains throughout the country are maximizing dollar returns from frozen food space.

- Careful stacking of frozen products. Allow one full row for each fast moving item and two or three stacks within a row for slower items.
- 2. Maintaining orderly stacks at all times.
- 3. Avoiding duplication of products.
- 4. Allocating space according to seasonal demand.
- 5. Encouraging the sale of new products.
- 6. Using guides to product location.
- 7. Stringing packages for greater readability.
- 8. Using display solely for selling not for holding reserve stocks.
- 9. Proper pricing and prompt price changes to keep up with competition.
- 10. Dumping packages to create mass display effect and to save time in stocking.
- 11. Multiple-pricing.3

^{3&}quot;Ways Chains Build Sales per Linear Foot, "Chain Store Age, Vol. 34, No. 4 (April, 1958), 130-131.

One problem area in the Kroger store's frozen food department was the allocation of space according to seasonal demand and duplication.

- 1. In the specialities area three or four varieties of pizza pies were carried in the same sizes.
- 2. Only three kinds of fruits were ordered in the fruit sections with extra rows on each item.
- 3. A complete analysis of stock carried versus the items authorized on the order sheets should be performed.

Reference is made to Exhibit E, No. 2, the suggested drawing of store layout. Using the twelve feet of case space from the frozen food department, the B&B team moved all items towards the front of the outlet. Ice cream was felt to have greater salability in a new case across from the bakery products gondola. Here it would realize a higher number of passes and be closer to the center of the checkstand area.

As previously mentioned suggestions are for an oven to be located where designation #105, frozen specials, are presently. These products along with canned juices from the end of the main case are planned for the spot ice cream formerly held at designation #108. The specials on canned juices are recommended to be put in designation #100 presently being used for "TV dinners."

The additions and relocations have these advantages:

- 1. All similar product groups would be brought closer together for easier shopping.
- 2. The impact of weekly frozen food specials would draw shoppers past other impulse, high-profit selections.
- 3. Change would cause a close re-examination of allocation, duplication, and variety which should increase sales.
- 4. Ice cream relocation allows more space for the display of the canned juices.
- 5. The remodel should stimulate shopping interest to explore the innovated frozen food department.

Miscellaneous Items

<u>Findings</u>. This category was included in order to bring into focus three high profit product groups which are important to the grocery line but do not fit any specific heading.

Dietetics represent a high profit area for a store if the product group receives customer notice. The designation during the two week study was recorded at 31.5 per cent of passes and only 2 shopping units purchased out of a possible 63. Indications were that a limited number of customers passed the area, and of those, few purchased.

Of 96 customers to pass toppings and party foods, 3.5 per cent purchased. This was partially due to its

TABLE XI

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WHO PASSED AND PURCHASED MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS IN KROGER STORE #G-2241

No.	Designation	Not Passed	Passed	Handled	Purchased	$^{\it K}$ Purchased	A Passed
97	Dietetics	137	63	0	2	1.0	31.5
107	Toppings and party foods ²	104	96	0	7	3.5	48.0
112	Kool-Aid	85	115	1	12	6.0	57.5

 $^{^{1}\}mathrm{Based}$ on 200 shopping units from July 21--August 2, 1958.

location above the ice cream case and the natural tie-ins between the two.

Kool-Aid represented a high profit return for the outlet during the particular two week period of the study. Over half of the shoppers passed the designation and 12 out of 115 purchased.

Recommendations.

1. The dessert designation #89 was replaced by a new ice cream case in an earlier recommendation. Since desserts tend to cause customers to stop and purchase, the author recommends locating desserts and dietetics on the

 $^{^{2}}$ Stock above the dairy case is not included in the figures.

same gondola at designation #97 presently stocked exclusively with dietetics. Desserts would add traffic to the dietetics and the result would be a greater return for the store.

- 2. Toppings and party foods sold well above the ice cream case during the test study. In keeping with the new ice cream location this product group should be moved to the new designation (see Exhibit E, No. 2, #89). Under the section on "End Displays," a new location will be discussed for party goods.
- 3. Kool-Aid could be relocated to the top of the frozen juice case presently designated at #108.

Soft Goods and Non-Foods

Findings. Policy on this line is to only carry a limited number of items. Many times when special deals are available on a product group, they will place an order, but just on an in and out basis. The recommendations made in this section were, therefore, tempered by the over-all policy considerations.

One-fifth of the shopping units passed the magazine rack. This figure, although low, seemed more encouraging when coupled with the rather high per cent of purchases which the study revealed to be 6 per cent of the sample population (see Table XII).

TABLE XII

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WHO PASSED AND PURCHASED SOFT GOODS AND NON-FOODS IN KROGER STORE #G-2241

No.	Designation	Not Passed	Passed	Handled	Purchased	${\mathscr K}$ Purchased	% Passed
33	Magazines	160	40	4	12	6.0	20.0
34	Soft goods	107	93	7	2	1.0	46.5
35	Stationery	168	32	0	2	1.0	16.0
36	Comic books	98	102	3	3	1.5	51.0
37	Stocking rack ²	95	105	0	3	1.5	52.5
87	Soft goods	86	114	5	2	1.0	57.0
109	Records	145	55	2	1	•5	27.5

¹Based on 200 shopping units from July 21--August 2, 1958.

²End display at present.

Soft goods appeared in two different locations--one near the bakery gondola, and the other at the end of the blind aisle.

In both designations there were more handles recorded than purchases. The data indicated a need for further consideration.

Only 2 observed shoppers purchased stationery. This designation, the study revealed, was only passed by 32

shopping units. Comic books, however, showed the percentage of passes at 51 per cent and purchases were recorded at 1.5 per cent. Over half of the total shoppers passed the stocking rack, whereas only 27.5 per cent passed the record designation. Purchases were about the same, with 1.5 per cent shown for the former and .5 per cent for the latter.

Recommendations.

- l. In many instances, related product sales increase when similar items are stocked together. Designations #52 and #53, formerly stocked with pet foods and wine, could be remodeled to accomodate magazines, comic books, stocking rack, and records. This would locate all similar items across the aisle from the health and beauty aids. The proposed change would expose to these high profit lines over half of the shopping units. A complete picture of the new locations is shown on Exhibit E, No. 2.
- 2. Recommend that the dog food display #51, be eliminated to permit the construction of an end display of stationery items in its place. This item would tie-in naturally with the non-food items on that gondola.
- 3. Soft goods could be moved to one location, i.e., designation #34, without affecting the percentage of total passes. A consideration of this type should induce greater customer interest and sales.

End Displays

Findings. Store merchandisers are constantly asking themselves three questions: What should be put on display?, Where?, and How long to leave it up? The following figures should stimulate such questions in the minds of the management of Kroger Store #G-224.

Special displays are used primarily to increase sales. Food chains have found that such displays increase sales of virtually any item in the store. They account for about 7.5 per cent of direct sales store tests have shown and the buying atmosphere they create effects an estimated 20 per cent of total sales. 4

These displays also create price impression, establish customer confidence in quality of products, influence traffic patterns, and accomplish a number of other results.⁵

Table XIII indicated low percentages of purchases for almost every end display despite a high average per cent of passes. Kroger store #G-224 has a display on every possible end area. During the period of study there were few grocery displays that showed imagination.

^{4&}quot;1958 Display Manual," <u>Chain Store Age</u>, Vol. 34, No. 2 (February, 1958), 56.

⁵Ibid., p. 56.

TABLE XIII

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WHO PASSED AND PURCHASED FROM END DISPLAYS IN KROGER STORE #G-2241

No.	Designation	Not Passed	Passed	Handled	Purchased	% Purchased	% Passed
21	Pickles and catsup	2	198	0	1	•5	99.0
22 37 39 51 55 62	Tea and chocolate Stocking rack Toy rack Dog food Wine Wine	25790 94643	198 105 153 131 160 157	104021	532520	2.5 1.5 1.0 2.5 1.0	99.0 52.5 76.5 65.5 80.0 78.5
64 65 67	Carton cigarettes Candy Nuts Beer	58 39 37 22	142 161 163 178) 0 1 0	11 0 9 1	5.5 2.5 4.5	71.0 80.5 81.5 89.0
76 85	Coffee and marshmellows Basket of	37	163 168	1	1	.5	81.5
86	values Carton cigarettes	31 41	159	0	12 17	6.0 8.5	84.0 79.5
88 90 91 95 98 100	Tobaccos Pork and beans Tuna fish Potato chips Light bulbs TV frozen	88 48 44 46 70	112 152 156 154 130	0 1 1 2	1 0 13 14 3	.5 0.5 7.0 1.5	56.0 76.0 78.0 77.0 65.0
101	dinners Peanut butter	60 64	140 136	0	4 2	2.3	70.0 68.0

¹Based on 200 shopping units from July 21--August 2, 1958.

Recommendations.

- 1. Remove the eight displays not included in Kroger's original blue print. These include designation numbers 21, 37, 40, 55, 64, 76, 91, and 101. (See Exhibit E, No. 2, for revision.) This change would permit larger, more attractive displays to be built across the aisle, thus reducing shopper congestion. Other suggestions are:

 Locating party foods at designation #54 to fit in more closely with beverages; stocking tobaccos on the two cigarette racks; and moving canning supplies into designation #80 from the special display designation #118.
- 2. Careful planning and attractive construction is necessary to induce customers to buy from displays. There is a need at this outlet for an individual with abilities to carry out this task.

Special Displays

<u>Findings</u>. Special displays, by their definition, should create interest and induce purchasing. Table XIV indicated that few shopping units were motivated by such displays.

Hawaiian punch was displayed for a week and a half.
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of the first week the product

^{6&}quot;Fixture Plan," The Kroger Co., Store #G-224, Frandor Shopping Center, Lansing, Michigan, June 22, 1954, Sheet #1.

was sold by a demonstrator. Of 111 shopping units that passed the designation only 13 actually purchased, although many left cans around the store.

TABLE XIV

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WHO PASSED AND PURCHASED FROM SPECIAL DISPLAYS IN KROGER STORE #G-2241

No.	Designation	Not Passed	Passed	Handled	Purchased	% Purchased	% Passed
25-1/2	Hawaiian punch ²	24	111	3	13	9.6	82.5
50	Pet supply rack	78	122	3	1	.5	61.0
118	Canning supplies	142	58	0	3	1.5	29.0
131	Beer	70	130	1	0	0.0	65.0

¹Based on 200 shopping units from July 21--August 2, 1958.

²Based on 135 shopping units from July 21--August 2, 1958.

Pet supplies "attracted" one shopper out of a possible 122 who passed the designation. Canning supplies were sold to 3 shoppers and were passed by 29 per cent of the total customers. Beer, located in cases, next to the "bottle return" door was not purchased by one shopping unit in the sample.

Recommendations.

- 1. The demonstration caused serious bottlenecks and resulted in some customer irritation. Sales did not seem to warrant the result of making customers travel around the congestion thereby missing some product designations. This outlet lacked the space to effectively use demonstrations unless they would be able to work from behind cases.
- 2. Canning supplies could be moved to designation #80 for a tie-in fall promotion.
- 3. Earlier recommendations call for moving the coke machine in the corner of the outlet presently designated #131. Beer could be effectively sold in full case quantities by "bottle return" personnel. A wall sign could list the various case prices of beer and soda. A simple question like, "would you like a refill madam?," may increase sales. Clean, empty cases on display could also act as a reminder for purchasing beer and beverages.

Miscellaneous Facts

Findings. All data discussed in this section appears in detail in Exhibit C, Section 4 of the Appendix. Miscellaneous data recorded on flow analysis worksheet indicated:

Total dollar volume for the study	
Average dollar purchase	9.62
Per cent of shopping units who received	,
grocery service	13.5%
Per cent of shopping units who received	,
office service	5.0%

~

Per cent of customers who did not desire	•	
service		52.5%
Per cent of customer shopping without		
alist	•	74.0%
Average shopping time in the store		
(in minutes) \dots \dots \dots \dots	•	21.29
Average time spent standing in checklanes		_
(in minutes)	•	5.08
Per cent of shopping time spent in		
checklanes	•	23.86%
Per cent of customers who used the parcel		
pickup system		53.5%

Table XV showed that 56.5 per cent of the shopping units was comprised of at least one man and/or child. This fact indicated that a good deal of merchandising effort should be directed toward these two groups.

TABLE XV

PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN OF SHOPPING UNITS IN KROGER STORE #G-2241

Classification	Number	Percenta g e
Male alone	16	8.0
Female alone	72	36.0
More than one female	15	7.5
More than one male	2 .	1.0
Male and female	35]	17.5 ·
Female and children	31]	
Male and children	4	15.5
Other	25	2.0
TOTAL	200	100.0

 $^{^{1}}$ Covering the period from July 21 to August 2, 1958.

Table XVI shows that checklanes I and III were most frequently used by the customers during the period of the study. Seventy-two per cent of the shopping units passed through the first four checklanes.

The purchases of customers from checkstand racks and adjacent dump displays was also recorded. Eight customers out of 200 purchased from the area in checklane IV but only one customer purchased from checklane VII.

PERCENTAGE OF SHOPPING UNITS WHO PASSED AND PURCHASED IN THE CHECKLANES IN KROGER STORE #G-2241

Checklane	% Purchased	% Passed
I II IV V VI VI VI	3.5 3.5 2.5 4.0 3.0 1.5	20.5 16.0 20.0 16.0 12.5 9.0 6.0

¹Based on 200 shopping units from July 21--August 2, 1958.

Recommendations.

- 1. Direct more merchandising effort toward men and children.
- 2. Employ proper timing when opening checklanes and adding bagboys during peak periods:

3. Display and promote impulse merchandise to its fullest extent.

Summary

Kroger Store #G-224 is one of the highest volume stores in the Grand Rapids Division. Sales have never dropped below bonus figures. On the surface, an observer might feel that the outlet has the optimum merchandise layout. The question might be asked, "Is this outlet realizing the maximum return on the investment considering the ideal location?"

There are indications from the data presented that changes in merchandise layout are needed. Variety, duplication, and attractiveness are three areas that should be considered further.

The foregoing discussion is one approach in improving the sales figures through stockturns. It is not offered as the only answer to the never ending search for optimum merchandise layout.

CHAPTER V

RELATION OF THE FINDINGS TO ADVERTISING

This chapter will make some evaluations as to the relative effect of advertising on sales at Kroger Store #G-224. One of the major considerations in selecting this outlet for the test was that all newspaper advertising was run in the <u>Lansing State Journal</u> on Mondays and Wednesdays. This newspaper is published once a day on a seven-day week and is the only local newspaper. The circulation area includes Greater Lansing.

Since Kroger also employs a spot-radio campaign, and periodic handbills in the form of "bag stuffers," it is not possible to directly correlate advertising effectiveness to newspapers alone. However, the Lansing State Journal ads were an important medium used in Kroger sales promotion.

No attempt was made to qualify which department or particular item was most significant in attracting customers for the period covered. Herman F. Baechle found the perishable departments increased sales during promotion periods which sometimes effects the grocery department. 1

¹Baechle, op. cit., p. 53.

The chapter will be divided into four headings to correspond to the newspaper ads:

- 1. Monday July 21, 1958--covering July 21-23 versus July 28-30
- 2. Wednesday July 23, 1958--covering July 23-26 versus July 30-August 2
- 3. Monday July 28, 1958--covering July 28-30 versus July 21-23
- 4. Wednesday July 30, 1958--covering July 30-August 2 versus July 23-26.

Product group designations include other items not represented in ads. Since the shopping unit must locate the item on the shelf, sales of adjacent items may also be effected. Product designations which were advertised in comparative periods were not included in the tables since no logical analysis could be drawn.

Monday, July 21, 1958

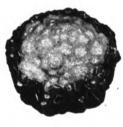
Figure 2 shows the Kroger ad which featured bacon, cauliflower, and fig bars. Table XVII was adopted from the data breakdowns in Exhibit C, Sections 1 and 2. The figures show the number of passes and purchases for the advertised product groups and the number of passes and purchases of the same product groups during a comparative period when they were not advertised. No attempt was made to tie-in special and end displays since what the shopping unit bought from the shelves was felt to contribute more to the overall profit picture.

CAT FOOD 2 Pool 3 Little Eittens and worsh year pet table o	IS-On, Case	27c
INSTANT COFFEE	6-Os. Jer	\$1.35
CO-ETS	4-Posk	25c
KAISER FOIL	Rell	43c
KARO SYRUP Prescribed for indext formulas by many ductors.	lý-Là. Bottio	25 c
MAZOLA OIL To make improduce of the finest value drougle.	Or .	79c
MAZOLA OIL Good for drop frying. Can be used ever again.	Gel.	\$2.59
KLIEN CHOCOLATE SPA		I FS
814 oz. 29		LLJ
814 OE. 296 Sweet-teach special? Surve 'ton in place of double summer.	C	
PRG. Sweet-tooth special! Serve 'one in place of door	C	
Sweet-teeth special? Serve 'em in place of declarament. BOSCO	C nert during	the long
Smootheasth special? Serve 'bus in place of done het reasser. BOSCO Chorester unde fountain treuts right at home. NU-SOFT	C nert during	37c 45c
Smoothmark appoint? Surve 'too in place of done het reasoner. BOSCO Chorester under fountain treats right at home. NU-SOFT Terrets and abouts stay soft and get classer. SALISBURY STEAKS	12-On. Jar	37c 45c 56c
Smoothmark apacial? Serve 'um in place of declar summer. BOSCO Checolete unde fountain treats right at bone. NU-SOFT Towerh and shorts stay soft and get cleaner. SALISBURY STEAKS Evy-coulded for a fast easy disear. Try them!	12-On. Jar Pint 16-On. Con	37c 45c 56c 19c
Sweet-tweeth apacient? Surve tom in place of doubles reasoner. BOSCO Concellete mode fountain treats right at home. NU-SOFT Towels and abouts very soft and get classor. SALISBURY STEAKS Kray-coulted for a feet easy disease. Try them? WATER MAID RICE The bests of many a fine meet or fish assertals. TETLEY TEA BAGS	12-On. Jer Pint 16-On. Con	37c 45c 56c 19c 67c
Sweet-tueth apaciel? Serve 'ton in place of douber summer. BOSCO Concellete node fountain treats right at home. NU-SOFT Terrols and abouts stay soft and get classor. SALISBURY STEAKS Krey-coulted for a feat easy disnor. Try thom? WATER MAID RICE The bests of many a fine meet or fish asserted. TETLEY TEA BAGS Since 18U and preferred by Real Ton Drinkers. MODESS	12-On. Jer Peet 14-On. Con 1-LA Pres 61-Ct. Pres	37c 45c 56c 19c 67c 45c 39c



Michigan large

WONZ WHITE





Cauliflower



Laurel Sliced Bacon

33c

39c

WILDROOT CREAM OIL

CHILI WITH BEANS

BROADCAST HASH

SLICED DRIED BEEF

PIGS FEET

BEEF- STEW



SAVE 19¢

COUPON

FIG BARS

TABLE XVII

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WHO PASSED AND PURCHASED ADVERTISED ITEMS IN KROGER STORE $\#G ext{-}22^{ extstyle 1}$

		Advertised	tised	Not Ad	Not Advertised
No.	Designation	Passed	Purchased	Passed	Purchased
10000000000000000000000000000000000000	Dressings and oils Tea Chocolate ² Coffee ² Foil and wax paper Towels Rice Health and beauty aids Pet foods ² Cookles Canned juices ² Prepared foods	 28888897 1111128888897 11111118	₩₩₩₩₩₩₩₩₩₩₩	3332 3332 1111 1451 7451	404901488648

 $^{
m l}$ Covering the period July 21-23 versus July 28-30, 1958, based on 35 shopping units. 2End and special displays are not included in the figures.

Columns three and four in Table XVII show the number of passes and purchases for the specified designations recorded for Monday--Wednesday of the first week (advertisd period). A similar set of figures was gathered for the same three days of the second week, which appear in columns five and six of the same table (not advertised).

Limited advertising effectiveness was noted from the data shown. In fact, more passes and purchases were recorded in many cases, for the second week. Figures for the perishable sections of the store showed that there were marked increases during the advertised period for most items during the two week study.²

Indications were that customers shopped the grocery department the same regardless of whether or not the ad "listed" the item.

Some observations made of Figure 2 include:

- 1. The ad was built around a meat and produce item.
- 2. Fig bars were the only grocery item which was featured.
- 3. All other items were listed in small print except for Wildroot cream oil and Kleins' spangles.

Wednesday, July 23, 1958.

Kroger mid-week ads are generally more complete and designed to build store-wide sales (see Figure 3). Thrifty

²Baechle, op. cit., p. 54.

Chuck Roast . 49°

Ground Beef . 49°







Peaches

2 hoods 2°C PEPPERS ea. 9c . head 9c

Lunch Meat 📰 39°

COUNTRY Butter

HUNGARIAN RING

YRRIFTY

TV SPECIALS SUGAR COOKIES " ...

POTATO CHIPS LUNCH MEATS



FECO ETERNA STAINLESS FLATWARE WITH THE KROGER LABEL-SAVINGS

26-Piece Set

ONLY \$6.90

with 13 Kreger Labels. Reg. Price \$10.95

coffee & 69°

VALUABLE COUPON 50 FREE TOP VALUE STAMPS With a \$5.00 or more purchase, excluding beer, wine or

SAVE 20c BUTTER

IVORY FLAKES IVORY SNOW

34c	OXYDOL large planter while it washes.	, 34c	DASH DETERGENT FOR PAGE	39c	
79c	TIDE The makers of S automatic washers recommend it.	77c	RAIN DROPS 26-on phg.	33c	Town House, baked by Hakman
41c	CHEER	, 77c	DIAPER SWEET	33C	
7°c	DREFT giant pl.	. 77c	PLANTERS PEANUTS	39c	FLOOR WAX
34c	JOY reg. can One small captul does a whole partial of dishes.	39c	NABISCO PRETZELS 11 per. pig.	29c	Con

FLUE DOT DUZ EAST LANSING KROGER

NORTH LANSING KROGER

SOUTH LANSING KROGER FRANDOR CENTER KROGER

Beef, peaches, luncheon meat, and lemonade were the featured items. Emphasis was placed on newspaper advertising by the use of coupons redeemable for merchandise.

There were a few differences between the figures for the advertised and non-advertised periods (see Table XVIII). Bakery products and lemonade indicated that shoppers were influenced by the ads. Twenty-eight purchased bakery products during the advertised period versus only 18 for the non-advertised. Frozen specials showed purchases were 15--2 respectively. The interest shown in lemonade might have increased sales for other frozen items if it were located in the main frozen food case.

Tea, crackers, wax, and polishes were purchased by fewer shopping units when they were advertised then when they were not advertised.

Few product groups were made up exclusively of the advertised item. Bread had a few brands and several varieties for the customer to select. The B&B technique was able to indicate marked differences between comparative periods in advertising effectiveness.

Monday, July 28, 1958

Ten pounds of sugar was advertised for 89 cents in the half page ad which appeared in the <u>Lansing State Journal</u> (see Figure 4). Four shopping units purchased during the period without advertising whereas only three purchased during the period of the advertising.

TABLE XVIII

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WHO PASSED AND PURCHASED ADVERTISED ITEMS IN KROGER STORE $\#G ext{-}224^1$

		Adver	Advertised	Not A	Not Advertised
No.	Designation	Passed	Purchased	Passed	Purchased
1033 1033 1033 1033 1033 1033 1033	Tea ² Coffee ² Waxes and Polishes Potato chips ² and pretzles Crackers Cookies Nuts ² Bread Baby foods Pastries Baked beans ² Frozen food specials	43 43 43 443 65 43 43 43 443 643 643 643 643 643 643 643	11 451 681 681 681 681 681 681 681 681 681 68	WN 4WWWWW 4550 WN 4WWWWW 4500	のこ とで の い い の な な な な な る よ と る ら る っ と 。 ら る っ と 。 と 。 と る と 。 と 。 と 。 と 。 と 。 と 。 と 。

 $^{
m l}$ Based on 65 shopping units covering the period July 23-26 versus July 30-August 2, 1958. 2End and special displays are not included in the figures.



East Landing Kroger

Morth Lausing Kroger

South Lausing Krogo

Frander Center Kreger

Figure 4. Kroger Ad--July 28, 1958

Although the ad broke the monotony of general listings there was no seasonal tie-in mentioned, i. e., sugar for the canning season coming up.

Wednesday, July 30, 1958

Table XIX shows the reactions for Thursday through Saturday of the second week versus the comparative period for the first week.

Shopping units were not greatly influenced by the Kroger advertising campaign.

The July 30th ad theme was changed from featuring perishables to emphasizing a grocery theme, "Dollar Sales" (see Figure 5). Since many of the items included in the ad were at the front end, these figures were analyzed into the shelf designations. Where specials appeared limited differences were noted.

Summary

This chapter was included to give the reader some notions of how the data might be used to appraise food advertising effectiveness. No attempt has been made to generalize or even make definite statements for the outlet under study. There were indications that the division should be aware of:

1. Advertised items which appeared on the shelves were not noticeably passed or purchased to an

TABLE XIX

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WHO PASSED AND PURCHASED ADVERTISED ITEMS IN KROGER STORE $\#G-22^{4}$

		Adveı	Advertised	Not A	Not Advertised
No.	Designation	Passed	Purchased	Passed	Purchased
1106298388899	19 Condiments ² 28 Soaps 38 Gadget rack 87 Soft goods 92 Canned fish 99 Canned juices ² 102 Canned vegetables ² 106 Canned fruit ² 111 Frozen pies	328 338 33 31 31	LU 7-84-04-12-1-980	7 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	111 122 133 130 130 130

Based on 65 shopping units covering the period July 20--August 2 versus July 23-26,1958.

2End and special displays are not included in the figures.



- increased extent versus a comparative non-advertised period.
- 2. There were no seasonal merchandising tie-ins between departments for the two week period.
- 3. Few "shelf-talkers" were used in the store to indicate featured items stocked on the shelves.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Summary

The purpose of this study was to present a research technique which could be used to investigate the shopping patterns and reactions of shoppers in retail food stores. The outlet chosen for study was Kroger Store #G-224, in Lansing, Michigan, and was selected because of the highly competitive nature of the area. In addition to a large Wrigley supermarket within the Frandor Shopping Center, The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, Market Basket, Schmidt's, various independents, and other Kroger units, operate in direct competition with the outlet studied. material for the project was the result of personal observations of two hundred shoppers over a two week period. Although few generalizations on the results of this study can be made, as every store presents different problems, it indicated the results which can be obtained in other outlets by using the same technique.

Some of the advantages to be realized are:

1. Written records are formed which illustrate the exact pattern which the customer traveled during the shopping tour.

- 2. Management may acquire a more realistic picture of shopping habits in an individual store. A more realistic basis is thereby obtained for elimination of the undesirable conditions and the possible incorporation of desirable conditions in other stores.
- 3. The effects of advertising may be more readily discernable. For example, when a certain advertised item fails to move in the amount anticipated, perhaps the item was displayed so as not to be readily seen or properly stocked.
- 4. Customer flow studies also give a good indication of checklane operations, the usage of customer services, and other important happenings in the store.

Although the customer flow studies performed by the B&B method are somewhat greater in detail than various other studies conducted in the past, it is realized that even greater detail is possible with the utilization of IBM equipment.

This study seems to reinforce many of the feelings of store personnel which gives indication the store group is alert to various disadvantageous conditions and changes should be favorably accepted by personnel and customers alike.

Findings

1. Due to the physical layout, all shopping units passed the front end designations. On the average

only 10 per cent purchased from the four product or product groups.

- 2. Most shoppers did not pass the jelly and preserve designation, but continued shopping straight ahead into the Produce department. In order to shop the complete glass section the customer had to double back on her tour.
- 3. Beverages, where located across from the Dairy department, was passed by over 85 per cent of the total shopping units. Only one customer purchased wine from the shelf stock.
- 4. Household and laundry supplies were passed by about half of the total shopping units.
- 5. Cereal was purchased by more shopping units than any other product designation in the grocery department during the study.
- 6. Items that showed low passes and handles were many times in the middle of seasonal slumps. For example, canned fruit and juice sales.
- 7. Sales of frozen food specials stocked in a separate case did not appreciably effect higher over-all frozen food sales or number of passes.
- 8. Figures indicated low percentages of purchases for almost every end display despite a high average per cent of passes.
- 9. The average dollar sale per customer observed for the two week period was \$9.62.

- 13. Fifty-seven per cent of the shopping units were comprised of at least one man and/or one child.
- 11. Twenty-four per cent of the average 21 minute shopping tour was taken up by standing in the checklanes.
- 12. Three-fourths of the customers did not use "lists" while shopping.

Recommendations

Chapter IV includes a number of recommendations and suggestions. Some of the most important of these are:

- 1. Remove large window signs except for special promotions or announcements.
- Use dump displays in the front end and keep them filled with merchandise in place of the cut case displays.
- 3. Remodel the Produce department to increase department sales and reflect increased profits for the glass section.
- 4. Install a bakery oven for fresh and frozen pastry products.
- 5. Install a new ice cream case and move to a more central location.
- 6. Employ the proper "timing" in checklane operation, in opening additional lanes or adding bag boys.
- 7. Direct more merchandising effort toward "man and child appeals."

- 8. Display and promote impulse merchandise to its fullest extent.
- 9. Strive to build end and special displays which represent a seasonal tie-in and/or "buy appeal."
- 1). Make an over-all check of the grocery department to insure that all saleable authorized items are being stocked.

Conclusion

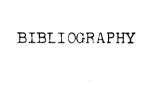
Supermarket operators endeavor to lay out their markets in such a way as to get the customers to pass as many displays as possible. Of course, the simplest way to effect this would probably be to erect one long corridor through which every customer would have to go in order to come out at the end. In that way, it would be possible to get the maximum exposure desired. Unfortunately, the properties on which supermarkets locate are not adaptable to such a plan. Therefore, the operator must use every imaginable device to get the biggest average sale possible from each customer. 1

Merchandise layout should be considered an important phase of operations in a supermarket. The customer desires an interesting, pleasant, and rewarding tour on which she finds all the items to fill her family's needs. Operators

¹Zimmerman, <u>op. cit</u>., p. 183.

must decide which items shall be most readily seen by the customer and how she can be persuaded to shop every section of the market. There is a tendency for shoppers to move to the right and/or the periphery of the store. It is for this reason that some operators design layouts and displays for the right side of the market to which customers gravitate as they enter. One of the reasons why it is so important to get exposure of all items to all customers is that two-thirds of the items that the average shopper takes out of the market are bought "on impulse." Unseen. therefore, unsold. Where the desires of the customer and the hopes of the operator intersect in theoretical merchandise layout, the optimum point has been reached. Consumer flow pattern analysis is an approach in solving this vexing problem. The B&B method is not purported as an answer to all merchandising and layout problems, but as another technique for gathering internal data for intelligent decision-making.

^{2&}lt;sub>Ibid</sub>.



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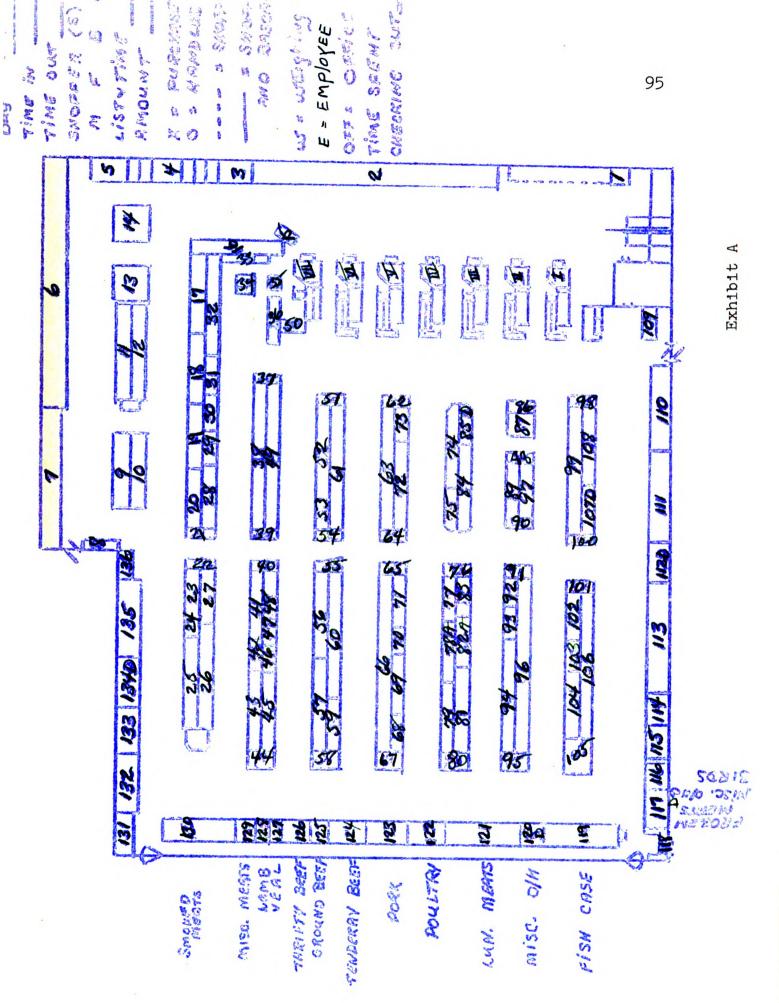
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	(Exhibit E, 1 and 2 are filed in the pocket in back of thesis.)	



TO STATE

4 SAMONTO

500

EXHIBIT B

AREA BREAKDOWN FOR TEST KROGER STORE #G-224, EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

```
1. Coke machine
    2. Front displays
       Bulb food and lawn seed
      Watermelon
 4-1/2 Strawberries
    5. Cantaloupe
       Green vegetables
           Celery
           Radishes
            Cucumbers
           Peppers
            Carrots
           Tomatoes
           Corn
           Lettuce
           Green Beans
           Miscellaneous
           Cabbage
      Potatoes
   8. Plant sundry rack
   9. Fresh fruits
   10. Fresh fruits
   11. Fresh citrus and onions
  12. Fresh citrus and onions
  13. Special produce table--plants
   14. Bananas
   15. Bakery specials
      Picnic supplies
   16.
   17. Jellies and preserves
   18.
      Pickles and olives
      Condiments
   19.
   20. Dressings and oils
   21.* ED--Pickles and catsup
   22.* ED--Tea and chocolate
   23. Tea
   24. Chocolate
   25. Coffee
25-1/2* SD--Hawaiian punch
   26. Soap powders
   27. Cleansers
   28. Soaps
                                    [*SD--Special Display
   29.
      Picnic supplies
                                    **ED--End Display]
   30. Foil and waxed paper
```

EXHIBIT B (Continued)

```
31.
     Towels
     Toilet tissues
32.
33.
    Magazines
34.
     Soft goods
35.
     Stationery
36.
     Comic books
37.**ED-Stocking rack
38.
     Gadget rack
39.**ED--Toy rack
40.**ED--Insecticides and dial soap
41.
     Household items
42.
     Waxes and polishes
43.
    Bleaches
44.
    IT-5--canned hams
45.
    Dried fruits
46.
    Rice
47.
    Dried beans
48. Spaghetti and macaroni
49. Health and beauty aids
50.* SD--Pet supply rack
51.**ED--Dog food
52.
    Pet foods
53.
     Wine
54.**ED--Wine
55.**ED--Wine
56. Beer
57. Beverages
58. IT-5 Bacon
59. Potato chips and pretzles
60. Crackers
61.
    Cookies
62.**ED--Carton cigarettes
63. Candy
64.**ED--Candy
65.**ED--Nuts
66. Cereals
67.**ED--Beer
68. Baking needs
69.
    Sugar
     Salt
70.
71.
     Spices
72.
     Candy
73.
     Nuts
74.
     Bread
     Rolls
76.**ED--Coffee and marshmellows
77. Pancake and pie mixes
78.
     Flour
```

Cake mixes

79.

EXHIBIT B (Continued)

```
80.**ED--Basket values 10 &
   81.
        Baby foods
  82A.
       Milk products
   83.
       Syrups
   84.
        Bread
   85.
       Pastries
   86.**Ed--Carton cigarettes
        Soft goods
   88.**ED--Tobaccos
   89. Desserts
   90.**ED--Pork and beans
   91.**ED--Tuna fish
   92.
        Canned fish
   93. Canned meat
   94. Canned soups
   95.**ED--Potato chips
   96. Canned vegetables
        Dietetics
   98.**ED--Light bulbs
  99. Canned juices 100.**ED--TV frozen dinners
  101.**ED--Peanut butter
  102.
        Canned vegetables
  103.
        Baked beans
  104. Prepared foods
  105.
       Frozen food specials
  106.
       Canned fruit
  107.
       Toppings and party foods
108.
        Ice cream
  109.
       Records
  110.
       Frozen juices
  111.
       Frozen pies
 112D.
       Kool Aid
  113.
        Frozen vegetables
        Frozen specialties
  114.
  115.
       Frozen fruits
  116.
        Turkeys, ducks, cacklebirds
        Frozen meats
  117.
  118.* SD--Canning supplies
  119.
        Fish case
  120.
        Canned miscellaneous meat, sauerkraut, and lard
  121.
       Lunchon meats
  122.
       Poultry
  123.
       Pork
  124.
       Tenderay Beef
  125.
       Ground Beef
  126.
       Thrifty Beef
  127.
        Veal
  128.
        Lamb
```

EXHIBIT B (Continued)

129. Miscellaneous meats

129A. Bologna special

Thick cut steaks and chops 129B.

130. Smoked meats

130-1/2 Oscar Mayer display 131.* SD--Beer

132. Milk

132-1/2 Butter

133. Eggs 133-1/2 Cottage cheese 134. Dairy specialties

135. Margarine 136. Cheese rack

EXHIBIT C--Section 1
FLOW STUDY TABULATION, WEEK OF JULY 21, 1958

:	Mc	n	-Tues	. – –W	ed.						Week '	Tota	 1
	Item No.	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased
4-1 6-Ce Ra Cu Pe Ca To Cor Le G. Mis Ca	1dcprmntBcb789012345	0000816455656566645672611221718007777	55557491009090999109839443348475588888 20000000000000000000000000000000	000121000000000000011110121200100000000	0604252355063905150535307347515003031	0000869999898878800736400023275100000	666665555555555555558291555323804566666 65555555555555555582915553238045666666666666666666666666666666666666	000200020001002000522034400011010013	0778694990621026910211475297714 43392	00006753444443344445308011244983107777	0000043576666677666657020998661279033333 1000043576666677666657020998661279033333	0003210200001004001633046520021010013	027128146241568149211060644677225333212191463213

EXHIBIT C--Section 1 (Continued)

	n	·Tues.	We	d.	Thurs.	Fri	S	at.	lst	t Week	Tot	al
Item No.	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased
67890123456789012345678901234 567890123456789012345678901234	250509462887033444901101752209088808390 222221222212222	105556193778522111654454803356587757265	010000132030610000110001100000012013000	523203410011100023002145112100654234010	245999835787667588839112729754311132829 2211222 231332212311331223139	310666725878998077264428368551244423736 33344433633334443355336443355	001010012000621110210003201111123101010	1202684741011702657051407024000286422370	44444575844690922792228949253399930119 44444575844690922792228949253399930119	715112818546410188318882161857711170991 9555554241555775449544882161857711170991	010010144030231110320004301111135114010	17128887151022802670053542036100830656380

EXHIBIT C--Section 1 (Continued)

Mo	n	Tues.	We	d.	Thur	sFr	lS	at.	lst	Week	Total	
Item No.	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	Not Pass	Pass	Handled Purchased	
65678901234567890123456789012345678901234 110010	9794442546711232119084301565098092380789333	286111130198442346571225090567563275876222	00000000012010000012020101101101000010	2101423106200203210221022011181501200421	9126664719394454067860915296888366425343 22222311 222 322111221 222 331311333	6439991846261101598795640369777299130212 5463334334554446333445445533335324355333	1000200003401121110210200000110101100100	5304639521412543852965205035006211320074	88100062553324441443223342144425636335555	2290004855005335145810630826230464906434 868555544678555855567866678555843&376444	7405052627612746062186207046187712520495 1000200003413131110330401011211202100110	

EXHIBIT C--Section 1 (Continued)

Mo	n	·Tues.	We	d.	Thur	sFr	1	Sat.	lst	. Week	Tota	1
Item No.	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased
105 106 107 108 109 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 121 122 123 124 125 129 129 129 130 131 133 134 135 136 Eggs Milk Butt. Cot.	172244333331134347000011233911100 - 9 - 608783	18 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 1	1001000011010402101131121-0-010100	11141622321001201151860141-4-0137649932	1833315986712241998433238390 - 5 - 911000	43331333333333323356666655555 6 4666666 433313333333333323356666655555 6 4666666	00001100010110211914151320 - 6 - 101110	18 530495711002004065441171-6-0397172506	35558554455556441111111212 1 319673	58657893264522112554591610 - 6 - 591437	10011100021120613015282441 -6 -111210	16 96 17 120 11 17 13 20 35 11 11 62 20 12 12 13 13 14 13 16 16 16 17 13 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16

EXHIBIT C--Section 1 (Continued)

Mo	on	lues.	. - - W∈	ed.	Thu	rsFi	ci	-Sat.	ls	t We e k	Tot	al
Checkstands	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased
I III IV V VI VI	29 24 34 27 32 30 34	6 11 8 3 5 1	1 0 1 1 0	1 2 1 0 1 1 0	5581860 5546556	10 10 17 4 7 9 5	1001000	1 0 1 2 0 0	84 780 870 879 94	16 22 20 13 10 136	2 . 0 1 2 1 0	2 3 1 3 1 0

EXHIBIT C--Section 2
FLOW STUDY TABULATION, WEEK OF JULY 28, 1958

Mon	[rues	-Wed	•	Thur	3. Fr	'i	Sat.	2n	d Weel	k Tot	al
Item No.	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased
1 2 3 4 / 6 - Cel. Radc. Pep. Corn.	0000	5555 - 599999999999998488444844648198	0100 1100000101010001000100000000000000	0614 - 74330241024520563417354234010160	00000 - 660 178 176 188 166 1634 4 11 174 2 2 2 2 2 6 2 11 2 0 0 7 1 7 - 17 - 17 - 17 - 17 - 17 - 17	55555 - 99878977999921148133333934355848 -	0000 M01010010040000000000000000000000000000	0848 -1983143481434087855717387200937 -	0000 - 7234 324 4 22 22 25 21 24 1 3 3 3 4 9 3 2 1 1 2 1 4 0 7 1 2 1 4 0 7 1 1 1 1 7 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	10000 - 3876786688888589869777617899889608 10000 - 3877777777777647779988918	0100 14010101MM0M000NM00NW0N40000000000	0452 183161675838860331964427006019430

EXHIBIT C--Section 2 (Continued)

	MonTuesWed. ThursFriS								 			===
Mo	n	Tues.	We		Thur	sFr	i		2n	d Week	Tota	
Item No.	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Д	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased
678901234567890123456789012345678901234	2467666716054623665300009748806113850000 1122221118806113850000	198999849501932990255556817759442705555	00000001000410000300000000010011000000	543221210210110114021213003000340257220	237890309377765143453327210154669884750 222233525222 222 222233 22 223131	528765256288890412102238345401996771805 44333331313335644464443443366335333435	000011002000100100100001000000013100000	1433655861001414572035793126020007359660	4494456015321388708753326958950772634750	616654095789702302357784152151338476350 554444141444885559555566 5 588558554748	000011303000510100400001000010004100000	1976876071211524686056996129020347506880

EXHIBIT C--Section 2 (Continued)

	MonTuesWed. ThursFriSat. 2nd Week Total											
Мо	n	Tues	Wed	•	Thur	sF	ciS		2n	d Week	Tot	al
Item No.	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased
56678901234567890123456789012345678901234 11010	8 15477166 13919878578746798309888536166778	27018819942678708781986725677770294998817	020000000000000000000000000000000000000	0102342417601311311615002014170910400153	1571187530186811900354332672108108844353	545844780254797446558201223983457457711202 5453333434553333533344533344577111202	010101300000000000000000000000000000000	2213085324201965833946015084007001522174	901884366927459668771121566098663490021 141444522144414443425552254425736336661	868555547785558555657444775557426377433 8685555547785558555657444775557426377433	030101300010000000000000000000000000000	. 233 1 5 3 1 2 7 7 3 1 8 0 2 12 7 6 1 4 4 15 5 1 0 1 7 0 9 8 1 1 7 7 9 1 1 9 2 2 2 2 2 7

EXHIBIT C--Section 2 (Continued)

Mor	1	Tues.	Wed	i.	Thur	sFr	i	Sat.	2n	d Week	Tot:	al
Item No.	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased
105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 129A 129A 130-1/2 131 132 133 134 135 136 Eggs Milk Butt. Cot. Ch.	11 16 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 1	14 0 19 14 3 2 7 2 2 2 1 1 2 1 6 9 7 1 1 1 2 1 2 1 8 2 8 0 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	1000110011000052121032100 - 010000200	0406071121002000052375100-0300440608845	333243322333343311211221-406008999	59194115598767000483434 1159557666 3232233332222133553555444 5554555	2000001100001422103111-111010000	2615068441001010952257013-4310815541391 11391	45556443445557442131111 21231112 41102267839123499475656464 - 133530222	9908843271987611635454646 - 977570888 54548655444255786888777 - 787689888	3000111111001053543135211 121010200	2012039562003010904522113-4610255149136 20139562003010914522113-4610255149136

EXHIBIT C--Section 2 (Continued)

Мо	n	Tues	We	d.	Thurs	sF	ri <u></u> -	-Sat	. 2nd Week Total				
Checkstands	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	
I III IV V VI VI	24 38 29 35 33 33	13 7 6 3 0 3	0000000	3012100	38 2 2 3 6 2 55 5 5 6 6	12 73 13 12 53	000000	ณ พ.พ.พ.พ. ษ	750 881 855 99	25 10 20 19 15 6	0000000	53 4 7 3 1	

EXHIBIT C--Section 3

FLOW STUDY TABULATION, GRAND TOTAL FOR TWO WEEK STUDY PERIOD, AND PERCENTAGES BY COMMODITY OR COMMODITY GROUP

		Gran	d Total —		% of Gra	nd Total
Item No.	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	% of Purchases	% of Passes
1 2 3 4 2 5	0000647687688556699422144583304228174 2154 1212	2000046344234625544413688966527706882931 166666666688966527706882931 16666666688966527706882931	0103250301014307001863068544021010013	07248293062155155759820977636950225155753	03628691.8629829960955500005555556 03628691.86298299609338634251667.27329	100.00.00.00.00.00.550.00.550.00.00.550.00.0

EXHIBIT C--Section 3 (Continued)

		Gr	and Total	% of Grand Total			
Item No.	Not Pass	Pas s	Handled	Purchased	% of Purchases	% of Passes	
678901234567890123456789012345678901234567	899344207885978620445544897103061564869782 111111111111111111111111111111111111	11017668032251324806655566213907049546241328 100998493000550908000002309650049546241328 110099849300000000000000000000000000000000	010021147030741210720005301121159214030130	3916531222333326256009438155120377152160971	18.15.0.0.0.5.5.0.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.5.5.5.5.0.0.0.5	5055000050055000000550000555000055000 6108884066120662903322331519080297781170119 5554444424155577545955555665487558554748868	

EXHIBIT C--Section 3 (Continued)

		Gra	nd Total		% of Grand Total				
Item No.	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	% of Purchases	% of Passes			
6690123456789012345678901234567890123456789012345678901234567890123456789	98849814279261542901685844975627000469763475 11170004619763475	102612968318495681094252663548300064134763 1108346100033511055000586374388829995 5	121300551333121154050101131120210111140012	10 217 193 193 194 191 121 1066 317 214 1034 225 44 24 261 218 218 218 218 218 218 218 218 218 21	0.5.5.5.5.0.0.5.0.5.5.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.5.0.5.0.5.5.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.5.0.5.0.5.5.0.5.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.5.0.5.0.5.0.5.0.5.0.5.0.5.0.5.0.5.0.5.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.5.0.5.0.5.0.5.0.5.0.5.0.5.0.5.0.5.0.5.0.0.0.5.0.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.0.5.0.0.0.5.0.0.0.5.0.0.0.5.0.0.0.5.0.0.0.5.0.0.0.5.0.0.0.5.0.0.0.5.0.0.0.5.0.0.0.5.0.0.0.0.5.0.0.0.0.5.0.0.0.5.0.0.0.0.5.0.0.0.0.0.0.5.0	00050500550055005005000550055000550055			

EXHIBIT C--Section 3 (Continued)

		Gra	nd Total	% of Grand Total				
Item No.	Not Pass	Pass	Handled	Purchased	% of Purchased	% of Passes		
110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 121 122 123 124 126 127 128 129 129 131 133 134 136 131 131 131 131 131 131 131 131 131	988513771288822020730301730498959808528 100111994353324542222721115668528 15668528	10259733982288080370709937706121558777378843212 109998500561775570709377061215184343211	2111311301384465345511811214102012110	320265203330415323424610679857658621 6221532140694317658621	16.0.0.5.5.5.0.0.5.5.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.0.5.5.0.0.0.0.0.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.0.5.5.0.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.0.5.5.0.5.5.0.5.0.5.5.0.5.0.5.0.5.5.0.5.0.5.5.0.0.5.0.5.0.0.5.0.5.0.5.0.0.5.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0.0.5.0	0005555500000005500500050555000500 51174766491194545685809675801020606296 55554444255787888877787878768999921211		

^{*}Roman numerals denotes passes, handles and purchases at checkstands.

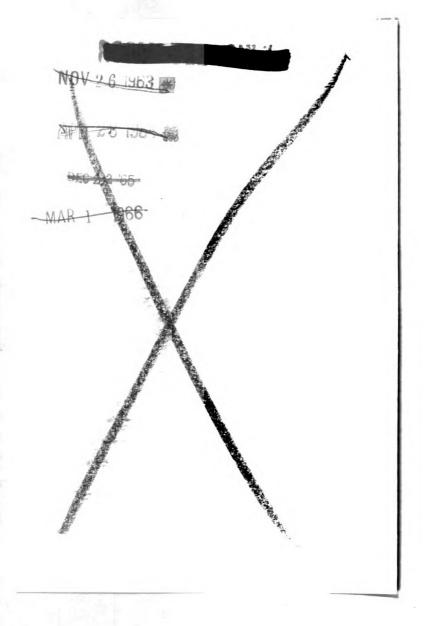
EXHIBIT C--Section 4

Items	M.T.W.	Th.F.S.	Total lst Week	M.T.W.	Th.F.S.	Total 2nd Week	Grand Total	% of Pur.
Total Purchases Avg. Purchases	\$269.95 7.75	\$736.06 11.75	\$1,006.01	\$286.99 8.44	\$630.49	\$917.48 9.27	\$1,923.49 9.62	
Services Meat Produce Grocery Office List	133 24 28 24	483 1128 333 433	23.0 0.04 0.05	00 00 10 08 10 08 10 08 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	4 H W W W W W W W W W W W W W W W W W W	788 488 488 488 488 488 488 488 488 488	118 107 148 148	13.00.0
Time in Store Time in Checklanes	17.97 es 4.37	24.10	21.98	16.76	22.56 6.35	20.58 5.06	21.29	(minutes)
ane	ck- 25.31	22.69	23.15	15.45	28.15	24.59	23.86	
Shoppers Male Female Female+ Male+ Male & Female Female & Chill Male & Chill Male & Chill Male out No Services Carry Out Parcel Pickups	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	24 3 3 3 8 3 8	36 36 17 10 11 55 55	44TTWVTV 0	3 1 ° 1 8 8 4 8 4 8 4 8 4 8 4 8 4 8 4 8 4 8	2 4 2 1 1 2 3 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8	16 172 33 31 103 103	882 111 1 24 2 50 20 1 1 1 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1

EXHIBIT D

TABLE OF RANDOM NUMBERS FOR SAMPLING OF KROGER STORE #G-224

			Num	ber o	f Cus	tomer	s Foll	.owed			
]	First	Week	:		Second Week					
Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Ths.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon. 16	Tues. 8	Wed.	Ths.	Fri.	Sat.
Number of shopping units allowed to pass before selecting unit to follow OLONOLALALACORD 1909 010	76008956	6 1 6 0 0 0 15 1 0 4 10	151325675300612172	804174 M5MOIO NG AMIO 04 OBINMBG AIT4 M57I	962547443956571415	<u>๑๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛</u>	1 950 158 1	264 2120884B	83074706344997878	154311692479039718398135742376	248296626754231544





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