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# AN ANALYSIS OF FOOD ARTICLES AND FOOD ADVANTISING IN EIGHT CALLOTED METROFOLITAN DAILY NEWSTAPERS

by

Catherine B. Love

### A PACSLAM PAPER

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Michigan State University
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#### ACTING VE : DOM: NTO

The suther wishes to express sincere appreciation to Dr. Kenward L. Atkin who give the initial impetus and direction for this study; to Dr. Mason M. Miller for guidance and encouragement in the completion of the manuscript; to Dr. Mary L. Gephart and Dean Jeanette A. Lee for their constructive criticism, cooperation, and interest. Acknowledgment is also extended to the writer's colleagues for their continuous interest and support.

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#### CHAPTER I

#### INTRODUCTION

Lack of communication between the retailer and the consumer is one of the major problems in present-day market structure. Current trends indicate that this gap will widen as society becomes more urban, markets more complex, and the variety of goods and services increases. Continuing decline in personal salesmanship and contact has forced consumers, knowingly or unknowingly, to look to other sources for information and assistance in buying.

Newspapers are a major communication medium between the retailer and consumer and are potentially at least a good source of buying information. The purpose of this study is to investigate the content of food advertising and food feature articles in a selection of metropolitan daily papers. Specifically, the objectives are:

- 1. To measure and compare the space allocated to food advertising and to articles about food.
- To analyse the content of the articles to determine the scope of the subject matter covered.

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3. To examine the extent to which advertising and article content are mutually supportive and/or complementary.

Background to the iroblem

Renewed interest in improving and expanding consumer information and education has come about since the end of World War II. Circumstances evolving from rapidly changing markets, product growth, and time required to shop have given impetus to the trend.

The complexity and wide range of goods is illustrated by the fact that a giant supermarket or discount house may carry as many as 20,000 different items. 1

According to a recent United States Department of Agriculture release, consumers shop in supermarkets that stock on the average from 6,000 to 8,000 items, compared with only 500 items 50 years earlier. For example, of the 135 kinds and cuts of meat available, selection may often be made from as many as 85 cuts in a single store.2

While this research is focused on food, a similar

Raymond W. Hoecker and Dale Anderson, "The Modern Supermarket - America's Trademark," Agricultural Mareeting, United States Department of Agriculture, -ashington, D. C., Ney 1965, p. 18.

<sup>2</sup> Superabundance at the Supermarket, " Food and Home Notes, United States Department of Agriculture, December 4, 1963, p. 4.

range of choice is as apparent among household fabrics and clothing. In addition to the natural fibers, once easily identifiable, there are 16 major types of man-made fibers, each available under a variety of manufacturers trade names. Further variability comes from numerous combinations and blends of the fibers, as well as the finishes applied to the fabrics.

These examples of food and fiver variability illustrate the necessity for consumers to have continual access to reliable sources of information before shopping. Improved communications between retailer and consumer would contribute to increased consumer satisfaction and in turn would benefit retailers since a satisfied customer is one basis for business success.

# Importance of Consumer Information and Lducation

In an analysis of consumer buying problems prior to the product explosion of the post-world-war-II era, Margaret Reid, professor of economics, Iowa State University, observed:

The major defect in the information concerning goods is its incompleteness.... Dince buying is an ever present problem and practical questions arise from day to day, considerable attention in consumer education needs to be given to sources

Samerican Home Economies Textile handbook, 1965.

of information. To be satisfactory they must be readily accessible, easily understood and easily reliable as a guide.

Consumer buying competence will come with better soquaintance with the product and the market, and also from changing merchandising practices so that it is easier to exercise wisdom in deciding what and where to buy."

In a discussion of appropriate approaches to consumers' problems, Gwen Dymers of the Department of Household Aconomics and Management, Cornell University, outlined nine goals for consumer education. Two of these, pertinent to this study, suggest that efforts to educate consumers should include: standards of quality communicated to the purchasing public in nontechnical language, and a knowledge of sources of information about products.

Management and Professor of Conomics, Iowa State University proposed special roles for families that require attention in relation to their consumption. One of the proposals suggests a need to: "Capitalize on the potentials of the processes of demand creation (advertising,

Margaret G. Reid, Consumers and the Market, New York, F. S. Crofts and Co., 1942, p. 100.

<sup>51</sup>bid., p. 109.

Gwen J. Bymers, "Consumer Education and the Home Economist," Journal of Home Economics, May 1965, p. 327.

etc.)...to choose products to be bought which are in keeping with the needs of the ultimate family users." In commenting on this point further, Liston advocated that families learn to use and be appreciative of advertising. One concluded that "scadesic teaching, continuing education, and mass-media communications have a gigantic task of helping families as consumers to be aware of, interested in, and active...as consumers in a dynamic and abundant or high-level consumption society."

Both private and public institutions concerned with the dissemination of consumer buying and marketing information rely increasingly on wass wedia to reach expanding audiences. Although the tendency has been for radio and television coverage to grow in recent years, newspapers continue to be the most important source of local warketing information. Local retailers are the major purchasers of newspaper space for advertising purposes. Since the end of world II, their expenditures for newspaper advertising have risen from #120 million to \$3.7 billion in 1962. Of this amount, \$2.9 billion was spent by local advertisers. According to the editors of Advertising

<sup>7</sup> Margaret 1. Liston, "Dynamics of Consumption," paper presented at the Conference on Mobility, Iowa State University, September 1963, p. 20.

<sup>8&</sup>quot;Advertising Finally Tops 12 Billion, " Frinters Ink. February 15, 1965, p. 5.

Age, the American public pays more than one billion dollars a year to purchase copies of newspapers. To other medium derives that much support from the public.

#### Review of Related Studies

Many consumer behavior studies have dealt with the kinds of product information desired by potential shoppers; others have focused on the media preferred for the dissemination of this information.

James Bayton 10 found that certain values and motivations operated in urban homemakers' minds as they thought about meal planning and grocery shopping. Some economic aspect such as getting a good buy, saving money, or cost of food was most frequently mentioned. Desire to provide adequate health and nutrition for the family and how to tell quality were mentioned as the next most important considerations.

Eigher income homemakers with more education were more interested in knowing how to get the best quality for the money. They also were more concerned with the nutritional aspects than were the ones with low income and less education. The latter, as well as older

<sup>9&</sup>quot;The world of Advertising." Advertising Age. special edition, Jenuary 15, 1963, p. 62.

<sup>10</sup> James F. Bayton, "An Exploratory Study of the Marketing Information Program for Consumers," Mational Analysts, Inc., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 1958.

shoppers, listed as important the need to save money and keep within a budget. Younger shoppers wanted to know how to compare prices in order to get the best buy.

Bayton further observed that lack of familiarity with products, high price, and the inability to recognize quality were barriers to buying some foods. Heats and fresh produce were mentioned most frequently as topics where more information would be helpful.

Bayton found that more persons (59 percent)
preferred newspapers to other media for marketing and
buying information. Only 13 percent named television
as the favorite source for food information, compared
with 9 percent for radio. It was pointed out that the
low-income and lower educated urban homemakers were those
who favored radio for food information.

In contrast, one phase of Julia Shank's 1 study in a small coal mining community was concerned with the communication channels used for food buying information. Of the 94 households, 71 were on some form of public assistance. Only four of the households' heads were employed. The rest were either unemployed or retired. Sixty percent said that newspapers were used most often for obtaining food information, though 90 percent of the

Il Julia Shank, "The Nutritive Intoke of and Information Media Used by a Group of Food Stamp Recipients," Fennsylvania State University, 1964.

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households had television and radio. Shank's findings auggest that newspapers have potential as a means of communication for this kind of information to low-income families.

In a study to evaluate the coverage of the Fichigen Marketing Information for Consumers releases, Raysond E. Borton found that more than half of the persons contacted in 8 of the 11 newspaper surveys had read the release at some time. He further reported that information in the release had reached twice as many people through newspaper as by either radio or television. 12

As part of the Michigan evaluation series, Mary

J. Holmes investigated homemakers' knowledge of food buying and their attitudes toward food information. The
found that commonly accepted food buying terms used in
regards to quality, grades, or standards were frequently
misunderstood. Her conclusion was that these terms, if
included in food information, must be defined or explained. 13

<sup>12</sup> Raymond N. Borton and James D. Shaffer, "The Audiences for Information Releases by the Michigan Marketing Information agents through Newspaper, Television and madio," Article 41-3, Department of Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University, August 1958.

<sup>13</sup> Mary 3. Holmes, "Some Implications of Level of Enowledge and Opinions of Michigan Romanahers About Food Buying," Master's Thesis, Michigan State University, 1958.

Following a content analysis of Michigan releases. Farcia F. Gillespie reported that the most useful types of information related to the current market situation and buying guide information. Emphasis in this latter respect, she concluded, should be on guides that focus on selection according to kind, size, and quality of food. 14

In 1963, John B. moberts published a report of a regional study involving more than 7,200 women in 114 different southern urban areas. One phase determined the communication channels used and attempted to find out if food shoppers associated specific buying decisions with any of these. Mighty-three percent reported buying specific items because of grocery store advertisements in newspapers. Roberts reported that education level was a more discriminating factor than income. College-trained women were twice as responsive to grocery store advertisements as were those with under four years of schooling. Frice was given first as the main reason for referring to newspaper sources. 15

heleeres of Marketing Information for Consumers,"
Master's Thesis, Michigan State University, 1958.

<sup>15</sup> John S. Hoberts, "Sources of Information and Food Buying Decisions," Southern Cooperative Sories Bulletin 85, University of Kentucky, Agricultural Experiment Station, April 1983, pp. 21-23.

This review, though not exhaustive, cutlines the dimensions of the problem under study. It shows that:

(1) consumers use newspapers more than other sources for marketing and buying information; (2) they associate specific purchases with advertisements; and, (3) they have a variety of needs for information.

These latter needs include information on judging quality and comparing prices. Delecting mest and fresh produce have been indicated as specific areas where more information is desired.

#### CHALL & II

#### STUDY BESIGN

A selection of eight metropolitan daily newspapers provided the raw data. An attempt was made to
choose newspapers from different market areas and those
that had a circulation of 150,000 or ever. The papers
selected included:

Newsparers	Circulation 1
Atlanta Constitution	202,635
Denver lost	181,788
Detroit Free Tress	<b>5</b> 09 <b>,</b> 2 <b>5</b> 3
haness City lines	243,308
Los Angeles limes	757,096
louisville Courier-Journal	220,140
Ailwaukee Journal	353,657
iniledelyhis Bulletin	709,751

while it was recognized that the papers varied considerably in the number of pages, it was felt that because of the exploratory nature of this study, size would not be considered a significant variable.

<sup>1565.</sup> 

classification, there are 242 major metropolitan food market areas in the United States. The papers chosen served 8 of the top 35 food market areas, based on volume of sales. These areas, according to the classification, ranged in rank from second for los Angeles to thirty-fifth for the louisville area. Together, the papers circulate in urban areas that represented almost a 37 billion food market, or 12 percent of the metropolitan food store sales in 1362. Dec Appendix A for listing of each market area.

# Time Periods

Although it was recognised that any time period would have sufficed, two one-week periods from June 23 to June 29, 1963, and from July 16 to July 22, 1963, were chosen because supplies of fresh fruits and vegetables are generally larger during the summer months. It was also a time that was most convenient for acquiring the necessary data. Because of difficulties in obtaining issues of the Milwaukes Journal for the established June dates, the period from June 20 to June 27, 1963 was substituted.

All issues for the two one-week poriods were reviewed. Those containing food advertising and/or food

<sup>2&</sup>lt;sub>1514</sub>.

erticles were retained for the analysis. Because two papers published no Sunday issues, 108 issues were accumulated. Of this number, 53 contained either articles or advertising, or a combination of the two, leaving 55 issues to be discarded.

Content analysis was used to investigate both articles and advertising. The intention was to describe what categories of food information are swallable for potential food shoppers via these newspapers. Procedure involved in the study included both measurement of space and elassification of subject matter.

# Brace Measurement

Advertising was recorded according to the proportion of space allocated on a given page. Only food advertisements occupying at least one-fourth of a page were tabulated.

Because of the difference in length of articles, the column inch, a space one column wide and one inch deep, was decided on as a manageable unit of measure. Included in the space measurement were illustrations and headlines accompanying the articles. Reprints of food articles in Appendix B show how the column inch was used as the recording unit.

For purpose of comparing the exount of space

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allocated to advertising with the space occupied by articles, 170 column inches was set to represent a standard page even though slight variations in page sizes existed among the papers.

# Subject Matter Content

The analysis focused on two broad categories—
fresh mests and produce. These categories were picked
because they: (1) represent the two single largest
consumer food expenditures; (2) require rapid turnover
to prevent loss of money for the retailer; (5) have less
label information than processed foods; and (4) are
designated by consumers as areas where more information
would be helpful.

Items in the two broad areas of fresh mests and produce were recorded according to their prominence in advertisements. Prominence in this sense pertained to items that stood out or attracted the attention of the reader. These were designated by (1) placement on the page; (2) size of print; and/or, (3) use of illustration or art work. An example of this classification technique is reproduced in Appendix C.

In 1963, fresh meets, poultry, and fish accounted for 16.5 percent of grocery store sales; fresh fruits and vegetables, for 10.5 percent. Food Topics, Annual Survey of Consumer Expenditures, December 1963.

# Categories for Article Classification

Subject matter categories were developed to describe the content of the articles. These categories were developed from (1) a preliminary review of a representative number of articles from the different papers, and (2) categories used in previous consumer studies. Kine broad classifications or themes encompassing 23 subdivisions evolved. These included:

1. Preparation

Standard or Regular
Sourmet - Historical, Estimality Foods
Basic Cooking Principle or Tip
Personality Features
Readers\* Axchange Service

- 2. Menus
- 5. Health

Rutrition
Diet, Calories
Food Values
Research

4. Buying Guides

Amount to Buy Cost Comparisons Guides to Quality, Grade, Size Criteria for Choosing

5. Care

Handling efter Furchase Type of Storage or Length of Time

6. Management

Time Money Quick and Lasy Techniques

- 7. Marketing Functions
  New Products and New Processes
  Production and Distribution Aspects
- 3. Supply
  Seasonality
  Availability
  Harketing Forcest
- 9. Miscellaneous

the food articles were read and classified according to the foregoing categories. Content emphasis and titles were abstracted for each article. Special notations were made when an article included information about or featured fresh meats and produce. This latter information was needed to show to what extent advertising and article content were complementary and/or mutually supportive.

Because of the nature of the subject of food, some articles included more than one category. When this was the case, the subject matter was recorded in more than one classification. The purpose of categories was to tabulate the frequency of reference made to a subject, not necessarily the length or depth to which a topic was discussed.

#### CHAIT R III

#### WINDINGS.

The first section of this chapter presents

physical characteristics of the food sections in the

newspapers studied, including the number of issues

containing either food advertising or food articles and

how these compared by day of the week and among papers.

Also included are amounts of space allocated to

advertising and articles and the comparison of these.

The subject matter content of the articles and its relationship to advertising are included in the second section.

#### SICTION I

Inysical Characteristics of the Food Pages

# Aumber of Issues Containing Advertising and inticles

Forty-six, or 42.6 percent, of the 108 newspapers contained some food advertising. Thirty-four, or 31.5 percent, contained at least one article about food. The frequency of advertisements and articles by day of the week for the individual papers is tabulated in Appendix D. These frequencies are given for issues of all papers together, by days, in Table 1.

TABLE 1. -- Number and percentage of issues containing food advertising and articles, classified by day of the week for two one-week periods, June and July 1963

		Number of	f Issues	
	Adve	rtising	ÁY	ticles
Dey	N	36	M	%
Sunday	4	8.7	4	11.8
Konday	9	19.6	5	14.7
Tuesday	1	2.2	1	2.9
Wednesday	8	17.4	6	17.6
Thursday	13	28 <b>.2</b>	13	38.3
Friday	6	13.0	4	11.8
Saturday	5	10.9	1	2.9
Total	46	100.0	34	100.0

The highest percentage of food advertising appeared in the Thursday issues. Twenty-eight percent, or 13 issues, contained such advertising (see Table 1). Monday ranked second with 19.8 percent, while wednesday was third with 17.4 percent. Only one (2.2 percent) of the Tuesday issues contained advertising.

Thursday was also the most popular day for publishing food articles. Thirteen, or 38.3 percent, of the Thursday issues featured one or more food articles. ...dnesday was second with 17.6 percent, followed by Monday with 14.7 percent. Only one of the Tuesday and Saturday issues contained articles. Clearly, then, advertising and food articles tended to appear on the same days out

of each week and to appear in roughly the same proportion of issues each day.

More issues of the <u>Langes City Times</u> contained food advertising than did any of the other papers (see Table 2). Sine out of 12 issues featured some food advertisement. The <u>Denver Fost</u> and the <u>Filwaukse Journal</u> were second. Each had 7 out of 14 issues with food advertising. The median for all papers was 5 issues, or 10.9 percent of the total. The <u>Atlanta Constitution</u> ranked lowest with only 5 issues containing food advertising for the period analyzed.

TABLE 2.—Number and percentage of issues containing food advertising and articles, classified for each newspaper for two one-week periods, June and July 1963

		humber o	f Issue	6
	Adve	rtising	Ar	ticles
geasbaber	n	*	N	76
Atlanta Constitution	3	6.5	4	11.8
Denver Fost	7	15.2	3	8.8
Detroit Free Press	5	10.9	8	23.5
Kansas City Times	9	19.5	6	17.6
Los Angeles Times	5	10.9	2	5.9
Louisville Courier-J.	5	10.9	4	11.8
Filwaukee Journal	7	15.2	2	5.9
Fhiladelphia Bulletin	5	10.9	5	14.7
Total	46	100.0	34	100.0

More issues of the <u>Detroit Free Frees</u> contained food articles than any of the other papers (see Table 2).

Sight of the 12 issues published some form of food article. It was interesting to note that the <u>Farges</u>

<u>City Times</u>, which published no Junday issue, ranked second in total number of issues with articles. Jix of the 12 issues contained some form of food article.

The <u>Los Angeles Times</u> and the <u>Filwaukee Journal</u> were lowest, with only two issues each containing articles for the two one-week periods.

# Inges of Food Advertising

The number of pages of advertising for each day of the week was consistent with the number of issues containing advertising for the papers studied. As was noted with issues, Thursday was also the outstanding day for pages. Fifty-nine and one half percent, or 144 pages of advertising, was recorded for this day (see Table 3).

The most significant difference noted was that even though honday was second in number of issues containing siverticing, it was third in number of pages with 32 pages (13.5 percent), outranked by wednesday with 36 pages (14.8 percent). Only one-fourth of a page of advertising was tabulated for Tuesday.

The Milwoukee Journal ranked first with 51 pages.

TABLE 3.--Number of pages, column inches and percentage used for food advertising in selected newspapers, classified by day of the week for two one-week periods, June and July, 1963

		food Adverti	sing
Day	No. of inges	Column Inches*	Fercentage of Total
Sunday	4.00	680.0	1.6
Rondey	32.50	5,575.0	13.5
Tuesday	0.25	42.5	0.1
wednesday	36₊0	6,120.0	14.8
Thursday	144.30	24,450.0	53.5
Friday	18.25	3,120.5	7.6
saturday	7.25	1,232.5	2.9
Total	242.25	41,182.5	100.0

<sup>\*170</sup> column inches used to represent a standard page.

or 21.2 percent of the total pages of food advertising for the period studied (see Table 4). The <u>Ransos City</u>

<u>Times</u> with 55 pages, or 18.8 percent, and the <u>Penyer</u>

<u>Pert</u> with 32 pages, or 13.3 percent, ranked second and third, respectively. The <u>Petroit Free Press</u>, the <u>los</u>

<u>Angeles Times</u>, and the <u>chiladelphia Sullatin</u> were lowest, averaging about 20 pages each, or 8.3 percent of the total sample.

Table 5 shows that the number of pages of advertiseing published in each of the two weeks was relatively consistent. No change in the amount of edvertising occurred in the issues of the Kenses City Times. Four of the papers had less advertising in July than in June. Three had more

TABLE 4.-Number of pages, column inches, and percentages of food advertising, classified in selected newspaper for two one-week periods, June and July, 1963

	ľ	ood Advertici	10.5
Heashaber	No. of Fages	Column Inches	lercentage of lotal
Atlanta Constitution	25.50	4,845.0	11.8
Denver lost	32.25	5,482.5	13.3
Detroit Free Frees	20.50	3,485.0	8.5
Eanses City Times	45.50	7.735.0	18.8
Los Angeles Times	20.00	3,400.0	8.2
Louisville Courier-J.	25.00	4,250.0	10.3
Milwaukee Journal	51.25	8,712.5	21.2
Philadelphia Eulletin	19.25	3,272.5	7.9
Total	242.25	41,182.5	100.0

<sup>\*170</sup> column inches used to represent a standard page.

TABLE 5.-Humber of pages and percentage difference in food advertising for one week in June, compared with one week in July, 1965

	Humber (	eeges le	Y*
Memshaber	June	July	Percentage Difference
Atlanta Constitution	12.75	15.75	+ 23
Denver Fest	11.50	20.75	<b>63</b> +
Detroit Free Fress	11.50	9.00	- 21
Kansas City Times	22.75	22.75	0
Los Angeles Times	10.25	9.75	- 4
Louisville Courier-J.	11.50	13.50	+ 17
Milweukee Journal	20.75	24.50	- 8
Philadelphia Journal	10.75	8.50	- 20
Total	117.75	124.50	+ 5

advertising in July than June. The exceptionally high range of nine pages noted in the <u>Denver lost</u> may have been a reflection of the paper's policy concerning food information during a week that preceded a holiday. Unbether or not this paper changed the regular day for publishing food advertising during the following week was not investigated.

# Column Inches of Articles

Seventy-four percent of the article column inches was published in the Thursday issues (see Table 6).

"ednesday with 10 percent was second highest, followed by Sunday which accounted for 7 percent of the total space given to food articles. The lowest number of column inches was recorded from Tuesday and Saturday issues.

Each of these days accounted for less than one percent of the space occupied by articles.

# Comparison of Advertising Space and Article Space

There was a high correlation (.81) in the renking of days of the week and the amount of space occupied by articles and advertising (see Table 7). Tuesday, wednesday, Thursday, and Friday issues ranked similarly. The percentages of space in Saturday, Sunday, and Monday issues were less ordered.

<sup>1</sup> Thursday, July 4.

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TABLE 6.-Column inches and percentage of food articles classified by day of the week for two one-week periods,
June and July, 1963

	Colum	n Inches
Day	Number	lercentage
Sunday	416.25	7.2
Monday	125.00	2.0
Tuesday	19.00	0.3
wednesday	573.75	10.0
Thursday	4,287.75	74.2
Friday	312.75	5.5
Saturday	45.50	0.8
Total	5,760.00	100.0

TABLE 7 .-- Rank and percentage comparison of food advertising and article space by day of the week, for two one-week periods, June and July, 1963

	Advertis	ing	Artic	l e
Day	fercentage	Rank	rercentage	Renk
Sunday	1.6	6	7.2	3
Konday	13.5	3	2.0	5
Tuesday	0.1	7	0.3	7
Vednesday	14.8	2	10.0	2
Thursday	59.5	1	74.2	1
Friday	7.6	4	5.5	4
Saturday	2.9	5	0.8	6
Total	100.0		100.0	

Rank order correlation - .81

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As shown in Table 8, the space allocated to articles veried considerably among the individual papers. Two papers, the <u>Denver Fost</u> and <u>Louisville Courier-Journal</u>, each had less than 175 column inches, which was slightly more than one page for the two weeks. Two papers, the <u>Los Angeles Times</u> and the <u>Filwaukee Journal</u>, published ever 1,100 column inches during the same time period. The <u>Filwaukee Journal</u> accounted for 27.3 percent, the equivalent of 9.3 pages; the <u>Los Angeles Times</u> for 19.7 percent er 6.7 pages. These two papers had ranked lowest in number of issues containing articles (see Table 2) yet highest in space allocated to articles.

TABLE 8.-Number and percentage of column inches of food articles, classified by newspaper for two one-week periods. June and July, 1963

	Column	Inches
Sewspaper	Number	iercentage
Atlanta Constitution	897.25	15.5
Denver Fest	160.50	2.8
Detroit Free Press	795.00	13.8
Eanses City Times	218.75	5.8
Los Angeles Times	1,141.00	19.7
Louisville Courier-J.	171.50	3.0
Kilwaukee Journal	1,578.50	27.3
Fhiladelphia Bulletin	817.50	14.1
Total	5,780.00	100.0

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## Estationship of Article Lyace to kurber of Isbues Containing Articles

A comparison of article space with number of issues publishing articles revealed an inverse relation—ship between the two (see Table 9). Inus the higher the rank in number of issues with articles, the lower the rank in amount of the article space.

TABLE 9.-Rank relationship of amount of article space to number of issues containing food articles in selected newspapers for two one-week periods, June and July, 1965

	hank	
Kewspaper	Number of Issues with Articles	Amount of Article Space
Detroit Free Iress	1.0	5
Renses City Times	2.0	6
Philadelphia Bulletin	3.0	4
Atlanta Constitution	4.5	3
Louisville Courier-J.	4.5	7
Denver lost	6.0	8
Los Angeles Times	7.5	2
Milwaukee Journal	7.5	1

rho - -.60

The <u>Filweukee Journal</u> ranked first smong the papers in the amount of both advertising and article space—showing 6 percent more article space (see Table 10). The <u>Kanses City Times</u>, with the second highest amount of advertising (18.8 percent), ranked sixth in

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Angeles Times. An 11.5 percent difference in article space over advertising space was recorded. There appeared to be no consistent pattern of the proportion of space given to advertising to that occupied by articles in the papers studied.

TIBLE 10.--Comparison of advertising and article space by percentage and rank, and percentage difference for selected newspapers for two one-week periods, June and July, 1963

	A	iv.	Ar	t.	Diff.	in %
newspaper	九	Kank	*	Hank	Adv.	Art.
Milwaukee Journal	21.2	1	27.3	1		6.1
Rensas City Times	18.8	5	3.8	ઠ	15.0	
Denver Post	13.3	3	2.8	8	10.5	
Atlanta Constitution	11.8	4	15.5	3		3.7
Louisville Courier-J.	10.3	5	3.0	7	7.3	
Detroit Free Fress	8.5	6	13.8	5		5.3
Los Angeles Times	8.2	7	19.7	2		11.5
Fhiladelphia Bulletin	7.9	8	14.1	4		6.2

rbo - .51

Total advertising published in the eight papers exceeded article space by seven to one (see Table 11). The amounts for both advertising and articles were found to be relatively consistent for each of the time periods. Advertising reflected a 1.9 percent increase in July; articles, a 1.9 percent decrease. Over-all, more food

information (810 column inches) was published in July than in June. 1

TABLE 11.-- Total number of column inches of food advertising and articles for two one-week periods, June and July, 1963

	Advertis	ing	Artic	les	Total
Month	Column Inches	%	Column Inches	%	Column Inches
June	20,017.5	86.7	3,058.5	13.5	23,076.0
July	21,165.0	88.6	2,721.5	11.4	25,886.5
Total	41,182.5	87.7	5,780.0	12.3	46,962.5

#### Comparison of Ferket Size and Circulation with Advertising and Article Space

As might be expected, the size of the market and circulation of the papers were highly related. Eigh food sales in a market area tended to correspond to size of circulation for the paper (see Table 12). It was further observed that the three markets highest in volume food sales ranked lowest in the percentage of advertising. These findings suggest the hypothesis that the more metropolitan in character a newspaper becomes, the less will be the emphasis given to newspaper food advertising.

The percentage of space occupied by articles, compared with market size and newspaper circulation, revealed no patterned relationship.

Calculated from data tabulated in Table 11.

TABLE 12. -- Comparison of ranks in size of food market serviced and circulation of paper with ranks in parcentage of advertising and article space in selected newspapers during two one-week periods, June and July, 1965

		Ranl	<b>S</b>	
City	bise of food Market Gerviced	Circulation of Faper	Fercentage of adv.	
Los Angeles	1	1	6	2
Philadelphia	2	2	6	4
Detroit	3	3	6	4
Milwaukee	4	4	1	1
Kanses	5	5	2	5
Atlanta	6	7	4	3
Denver	7	8	3	6
Louisville	8	6	5	5

# Summary of Findings

The investigation of the characteristics of food pages in eight metropolitan daily newspapers for a two-week period revealed some important differences, as well as similarities, in the number of issues containing food information and in the amounts of advertising and article space.

Cf the 108 issues accumulated for the two weeks, half carried food information. Forty-six issues featured food advertising, while 34 contained at least one food article. Thursday issues were outstanding for both

articles and advertising, although some food information was carried each day.

Reasurement of column inches for the total amount published on each day of the week disclosed a high correlation (.81) between advertising space and article space. Tuesday, wednesday, Thursday, and Friday issues ranked similarly in both articles and advertising. Sunday, Monday, and Saturday issues were less ordered.

Sifty-nine and one-half percent of the column inches of advertising for the eight papers was published on Thursday, 14.8 percent on Wednesday and 14.5 percent on Konday.

Seventy-four percent of the column inches of articles was printed in Thursday issues. -ednesday ranked second with 10 percent. Less than one percent of article space was found in Tuesday and Saturday issues.

of the total column inches of food information published, 88 percent was advertising and 12 percent was food articles. No consistent pattern in the proportion of advertising and article space was observed smon3 the papers. Three papers had from 7 to 15 percent more of the total advertising than articles. Five papers carried from 4 to 12 percent more of the article than advertising space.

Fapers with the largest circulation serviced geographic areas that reflected relatively high food

makes. However, as circulation and sales increased, advertising space declined. Although los Angeles, Ihiladelphia, and letroit were represent tive of the largest food markets, papers for these are a showed somewhat lower amounts of advertising. No similar pattern was found with circulation, food sales, or saticle space.

when repers were compared individually on the number of issues publishing food information and the amount of advertising and articles, the following was found:

of their issues. The Annexe City Times published mine issues with savertusing; the penver lost and the Eilweukee Journel for tured advertising in seven issues. Four papers had advertising in five issues. Only three issues of the Atlanta Constitution had advertising.

None of the papers had less than 19 process of food advertising for the two weeks. Three papers had over 30 pages each. The <u>Filwaukee Journal</u> ranked first with 51 pages followed by the <u>kansas City Times</u> with 45 pages, the <u>Denver Fost</u> with 32 pages, the <u>Atlanta Constitution</u> with 28 pages, and the <u>Louisville Courier-Journal</u> with 25 pages. The <u>letroit Free iress</u>, <u>los inseles Times</u>, and the <u>ibiladelphia Sulletin</u> each had less than 25 pages of advertising.

Showing less patterning that advertising, the number of issues with food satisfies ranged from a high of digit for the <u>etreit free coars</u> to two insues each for the <u>lilwourse Journal</u> and <u>los inveics lives</u>.

elderably. The <u>liberable Journal</u> and <u>los Angeles Times</u> published over 1,100 column inches; the <u>Seaver rest</u> and <u>louisville Jourier-Journal</u> e on had less than 175 column inches.

There was an inverse relationship between the number of issues with articles and total article space. The <u>Petroit Grestances</u>, <u>hander Sity Times</u>, and <u>thiredelable Bullatin</u>, highest in issues carrying food articles, ranged lowest in space given the articles. The <u>los preles Times</u> and <u>hilwayes Journal</u>, ranking lowest in issues with articles, were highest in article space.

The over-all picture augments that a morked degree of patterning was present in the publication of food information. This does not, however, discount the importance of the individuality observed in some of the papers in their space allotments to food feature writing and advertising.

#### BECTION II

# Subject Matter Content

The subject matter content of the articles and its relationship to advertising content are analyzed in this section.

# Classification of articles

The classification is a tabulation of the number of references to a category, not the extent to which a topic was discussed. In this context, a one-column-inch filler carries as much weight as an article occupying considerably more space.

It was recognized that newspaper discussions about food are not generally restricted to clear-out subject matter lines and that a topic would frequently encompass more than one category. An article highlighting supply might, for example, include guides for selecting a product. Then this occurred, each category was counted.

The author read and classified the articles according to estegories or themes outlined in Chapter II, page 15. In the majority of cases, the titles themselves were sufficient for classifying the material. Some examples representative of the categories are included in the following list of titles and excerpts from the food articles:

# 1. Preparation

- "Camping Along the Way"
- "Dining Afloat Requires Flanning"
- "Bints Help Bride Tlan farty"
- "A Corny Subject is the fost logular Cne"
- "All Lorean... For Ice Cream in July Beat"
- "Chicken Contest Proves Exciting"
- "Crebmeat Flavors Cold Vichyssoise"
- "American Tourists won by Greek Food"
- "Exotic Coconut Funch is Luau Taste Hesser"
- "Agyptian Student Describes Arabian Meal"
- "Gourmet Dessert Tops Off Menu"
- "Desserts Lead Requests This week"
- "Readers Request Assorted Recipes"
- "Between Meighbors: let Recipes Exchanged"

#### 2. Menus

- "Confor Menu Ideks"
- "A Menu Tailored for Two"
- "Suggested Menus for Next Week"
- "Delicious Menus for the Entire Week"

#### 3. Sealth

- "Even Safflower Calories Count"
- "Calorie Guide Lists Fruits and Vegetables"
- "Selection, Not Money, Brings a Proper Diet"
- "Greater Understanding of Pesticides"
- "Food Values Similar for All Einds of Bread"

# 4. Buying Guides

- "Rib Eye Muscle Scores in Steak"
- "What to Expect in Beef Carcass"
- "How to Judge if a Feach is Ripe"
- "Can Homenaker Stretch Dollars Spent for Feat?"
- "How Huch Fork to Buy...Today's budget-minded shoppers leave nothing to luck when selecting pork if they know how much to buy"

#### 5. Care

"Cpen Door Won't Hurt Frozen Food"

## 6. Management

- "Week's Best Buys"
- "Shopping List, Flanning Cuts Food Budget"
- "Fruit Mixture Provides Color at Low Cost"
- "Fack Sandwich for Breakfest on Notor Trip"
- "Camping Along the Way...Plan Absed...Keep Henu Limple"
- "Dining Afloat Requires Flanning...Select Utensils, Food with Gare"

# 7. Nerketing Functions

- "New Products on the Merket"
- "Fowder Process Converts Crange Juice"
- "Freeze-Dried Chicken Rates with Testers"
- "Grocery Manufacturers Predict Future Froducts"
- "Berry Business Blooms on Flantations in Jersey"
- "Food fersonnel Learn P's and Q's" (Food Distribution rogram at University of Southern California.) "Some of the market problems which the consumer may

not think about—but which affect her shopping—ere store layout, flow of traffic, profit systems, fancy and dietetic foods, handling fruzen foods, future of new foods...coms mur wisnes."

# 8. uggly

"Blusberries Upark Dessert"

"Lotatoes Move up in . rice"

"Juidez to Fetter Marbeques"

"Nectarines from Colifornia"

"Joed steam fuys ... if you'll Chew"

"hore green Vegetables Joming from New Jersey"

"Norvet Tips: Gook-Out Birds are wonderful buys now"

"Head Lettuce Remains High: Other Vegetables Cost less"

### 9. Fiscellaneous

"Thermostot Fesns Unit Hill Shut Cff"

"Utensils standardized to sit Consumer Needs"

"hursi Chile Offered Challenge" (Sesture atory of former seace corps worker now home economics research assistant.)

# Number and distribution of Ostegories

The distribution and classification of article subject matter content are shown in Table 13. Of the 209 articles, 25% references were identified and recorded into nine categories. Total references for the individual papers ranged from a high of 59 for the <u>Milwaukee Journal</u> to a low of six for the <u>Peaver Fost</u>. The redian was 32.

TABLE 13. -- Humber and distribution of subject matter categories in selected newspapers for two ene-week periods, June and July, 1963

						H			H		
				Subject		Matter	Categori	ortes	_		
Kovepser	Furber of Articles Classi-	Froetator	snue <b>g</b>	<b>4\$</b> ∫e•H	mobino antqua	earen	<b>ង្គល់ខ</b> ុង មាន	Saltasarell esoltosuv	Ligan	sno sus [] sos []	Letol
Atlanta Constitution	<b>3</b>	42	4	100	2	~	7	-	~	,	2
Benver Post	9	W	~	•		•	1	-4		•	9
Detroit free Frees	28	8	*	n	4	m		œ	N	•	ä
Zanses City Times	12	2		***	~	•	•	N	<b>~</b> i	•	13
Los Angeles Times	<b>4</b> 2	33	ŧ	æ	-1	~	m	æ	ŧ	•	64
Louisville Courier-J.	7	Š	•	-4	1	•	•	-	•	•	~
Eilvaukee Journal	94	ጸ	-	6	C4	•	<b>~</b>	ø	N	4	23
Philadelphia Bulletin	22	61	~	1	~	•	•	N	N	•	X
Totals	503	159	13	25	11	9	6	17	6	•	253

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All categories were listed at least once in the Atlanta Constitution. The Detroit Free Frees published articles that included all categories except Management; the Filwaukee Journal covered everything except Care. Two categories—Menus and Jupply-were omitted in issues of the Los Angeles Times. The Denver Post and the Louisville Courier-Journal e ch excluded six of the categories.

As might be expected, the classification revealed a high concentration in the preparation category. Of the total 253 categories, 159 (62.3 percent) fell under this classification (see Table 14). Second highest, yet showing a snarp decline, was Health with 25 references, or 9.9 percent. Marketing Sunctions, though low

TABLE 14. -- Sumber and percentage of each category for selected newspapers for two one-week periods, June and July, 1963

Category	Humber	Fercentage
Preparation	159	62.8
ilealth	25	9.9
Merketing Functions	17	6.7
l'enus	13	5.1
Buying Guides	11	4.3
Supply	9	3.6
Management	9	3.6
Care	6	2.4
Miscellaneous	4	1.6
Total	253	100.0

in comparison with Frequestion, ranked third with 17, or 6.7 percent of the total. Only 4.3 percent was recorded under Buying Guides, while the remaining categories—Supply, Management, Care, and Miscellaneous—each fell below 4 percent.

# Comperison of Preparation Category with all Cther Categories

The proportionately higher number in the Preparation category called for a comparison of this category with the combined totals of the remaining eight cate-gories.

As shown in Table 15, all other categories accounted for 37.2 percent of the 253 categories, compared with 62.8 percent for Preparation.

The highest proportion of "other" subject categories was published in issues of the <u>Milwaukee Journal</u>;

29, or 30.9 percent, of the 94 recorded. Next were the <u>Detroit Frie Frees</u> and the <u>Los Angeles Times</u> with 19.2 and 17 percent, respectively. The <u>Atlanta Constitution</u>, which had been first in Preparation, ranked fourth in All Cther. These four newspapers—the <u>Atlanta Constitution</u>, <u>Los Angeles Times</u>, <u>Filwaukee Journal</u>, and the <u>Detroit Free Press</u>—each with the widest renge in subject matter (see Isble 13), ranked highest in the All Cther category, and also were the first four newspapers in the Freparation category. Lowest in Preparation and All Cther category

were the Louisvill Courier-Journal and the weaver lost.

Table 15.--Number and percentage in preparation category compared with All Ctner extegory for selected newspapers for two one-week periods, June and July, 1965

Bewspaper	Ireparation		All Other		lotal	
	K	*	K	Ä	N	Ä
Atlanta Constitution	42	25.4	13	13.8	55	21.7
Denver lost	3	1.9	3	3.2	6	2.4
Detroit Free Free	20	12.6	13	19.2	33	15.0
Hansus City Times	7	4.4	6	6.4	13	5.1
Los Angeles Tires	33	20 <b>.</b> 8	15	17.0	49	19.4
Louisville Courier-J.	5	3.1	2	2.1	7	2.8
Milwoukee Journal	30	18.9	2)	30.9	59	23.3
itiledelphie Bulletin	19	11.)	7	7.4	26	10.3
Total	159	100.0	94	100.0	253	100.0
Tercentage of Total		62.8		37.2		

in total categories, the hansesCityTimes and Louisville Courier-Journal had no designated food editor (see Appendix A). It was also noted that these two newspapers had no specific portion labeled as food pages or section as observed in the other papers.

Comparable rankings among the papers suggest that a relationship existed between the attention given to food preparation and recipes and the coverage of other categories. Newspapers focusing most on preparation tended to include a wider variety of related subjects.

To give some indication of the significance a newspaper places on other types of consumer information about food, a comparison of Preparation with the combined totals of the other categories is presented in Table 15.

TABLE 16.-Comparison of Preparation and All Other category by individual paper, for selected newspapers, for two one-week periods, June and July, 1963

Newspaper	Irere	ration	All Cther	
	A	*	ħ	*
Atlanta Constitution	42	76.4	13	23.6
Denver Rost	3	50.0	3	50.0
Detroit Free Fress	20	52.6	18	47.4
Eansos City Times	7	53.8	6	46.2
Los Angeles Times	33	67.3	16	32.7
Louisville Courier-J.	5	71.4	2	28.6
Milwsukee Journal	30	50.8	29	49.2
lhiladelphia Bulletin	19	73.1	7	26.9

This comparison, however, has import noe only if the newspaper is relatively high in all categories. For the five newspapers leading in total column inches of food articles—the Atlanta Constitution, Detroit Free Ireas,

Los appeles Times, Filwoukee Journal, and the Ibiladelphia Bulletin (see Table 8)—the proportion of All (ther ranged from 23.6 to 49.2 percent. The three papers with smaller over-all totals—Lenver Foot, Mancas City Times, and

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Louisville Courier-Journal (see Table 8)-had about the same percentage range (28.6 to 50) in the All Other category. Thus, regardless of the preponderance of food preparation information in a newspaper, about an equal proportion of attention was focused on related food topics.

# Breskdown of Preparation Category: Standard and Courset

Because of the predominance of material under treparation, this category was broken down further into two classifications—standard and gourset (see Table 17).

IABLE 17.--Number and percentage of Preparation category items classified standard or gourset for selected newspapers for two one-week periods, June and July, 1963

geacheter	ireparation				
	St	enderd	Gou	Gourmet	
	8	%	N	*	
Atlanta Constitution	33	25.2	9	32.4	
Denver Post	3	2.3	0	0.0	
Detroit Free Frees	16	12.2	4	14.3	
Kansas City Times	7	2.3	0	0.0	
los Angeles Times	28	21.4	5	17.8	
Louisville Courier-J.	4	3.1	1	3.6	
Milwaukee Journal	22	16.8	8	23.6	
Fhiladelphia Bulletin	18	13.7	1	3.6	
Total	131	100.0	28	100.0	
Fercentage of Total	82.	4	17.6	i	

The purpose was to find out what emphasis was being given to gourset, or unusual types of food preparation, as opposed to common or standard fore. Courset referred to those techniques or recipes specifically inferring exotic and unusual foods or to those that have prestige or foreign appeal. It was found that titles of the articles were usually sufficient to designate the breakdown. Examples of these are:

# Standard or Regular

- "Doll Up Homely Vegetables"
- "Iced Cooky Mix Fakes "Es in a Hurry"
- "Do Not wash Rice Before, After Cooking"
- "Melon Dessert Takes Crange Whip Topping"
- "Indians Had Corn First but We Had it Better"

# Courmet

- "Grecian Fare is Good Food"
- "Japanese Customs Linhance Meals"
- "Gourmet in a Minute: Fianist Prepares Fusical Chicken"
- ".xetic Face-Changers for Cur Cutdoor Chefs"
- "Kabob Cookery Entices Cutioor Chef"
- "Lumberjack Cooking lakes on sarty kirs for Actor"
- "Rich Souffle Makes JFA's Diet Go ifft!"
- "Venezuelan Family Cites Country's Foods"

Cf the 159 tabulations for Treparation, 82.4 percent was classified as standard and 17.6 percent as gourset.

The highest percentage (32.4) of the gournet articles appeared in the Atlanta Constitution, while 28.6 percent was recorded in the Milwaukee Journal. The Los Angeles Times and the Petroit Free bress followed with 17.8 percent and 14.5 percent, respectively. With the exception of the Miladelphia Bulletin, which was comparatively low for gourset, papers publishing the higher percentages of gournet articles also renked highest in percentages of standard fore articles.

In order to ascertain the importance an individual paper placed on gourset type of foods, the ireparation estagory was further analysed for each newspaper (see Table 18). The percentage devoted to gourset ranged from a high of 25.7 percent for the <u>Filwaukse Journal</u> to mothing for the <u>Derver Fost</u> and the <u>Kanssa City Times</u>. The <u>Atlanta Constitution</u>, <u>Petroit Free Frees</u> and the <u>Louisville Courier-Journal</u> each devoted 20 percent of their Freparation category to gourset foods. With the exception of the <u>Louisville Courier-Journal</u>, the newspapers with the higher percentages of gourset also showed the highest percentage in standard types of food preparation.

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These percentages, however, are confusing because of variation in space allocated to food preparation when the newspapers are compared. For example, the Louisville Courier-Journal had a total of five-yet only one, or 20 percent of this amount, was classified as gourset; 80 percent was standard. On the other hand, the Atlanta Constitution had a total of 42 in the Preparation eategory, 21.4 percent of which was considered as gourset.

TABLE 18.--Number and percentage of Freparation category items classified standard or gourset by individual newspaper for two one-week periods, June and July, 1963

Newspaper	Freparation				
	St	andard	Gourmet		
	N	*	B	%	
Atlanta Constitution	53	78.6	9	21.4	
Denver Post	3	100.0	0	0.0	
Detroit Free Frees	16	80.0	4	20.0	
Kansas City Times	7	100.0	0	0.0	
Los Angeles Times	23	84.8	5	15.2	
Louisville Courier-J.	4	80.0	1	20.0	
Milweukee Journal	22	73.3	8	26.7	
Philadelphia Bulletin	18	94.7	1	5.3	

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# Relationship of Space: ironaration to All Cther Estagory

Ireparation category ranged from 142 column inches (5 percent) for the <u>Denver Fest</u> to 1,174 column inches (24.9 percent) for the <u>Milwaukee Journal</u>. At the same time, the combined All Cther category ranged from less than 10 column inches (one percent) in the <u>Louisville</u> <u>Courier-Journal</u> to 404 column inches (38.5 percent) in the <u>Milwaukee Journal</u>. This observation concurred with the <u>Pilwaukee Journal</u>. This observation concurred with the previous analysis of the frequency of categories as shown in Table 15. In both instances, newspapers

TABLE 19.-The relationship of total column inches of Freparation category to total column inches of All Cther category for selected newspapers, two one-week periods, June and July, 1963

	Propera	tion	All Other	
Kewspaper	Column Inches	3	Column	*
Atlanta Constitution	825.50	17.4	71.75	6.8
Denver Fost	142.50	3.0	18.00	1.7
Detroit Free Frees	611.25	13.0	133.75	17.5
Laneas City Times	171.75	3.6	47.00	4.5
Los Angeles Times	881.25	18.6	259.75	24.8
Louisville Courier-J.	161.75	3.4	9.75	1.0
Milwaukee Journal	1,174.50	24.9	404.00	38.5
Philadelphia Bulletin	763.25	16.1	54.25	5.2
Total	4,731.75	100.0	1,048.25	100.0

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assounting for the highest number of references made to food preparation and related food topics also accounted for correspondingly high amounts of total food article space.

# Analysis of Article Centent and Advertising Support

Cas of the primary purposes of this study was to find out to what extent subject matter content of the articles paralleled advertised features. Such a comparison would give some indication of the scope and atrength of food pages as sources of communication between retailers and consumers. As was pointed out, fresh meats and produce provided the unit for comparison.

of the 209 articles, 119 (56.9 percent) discussed at least one fresh product (see Table 20). The percentage of articles referring to fresh meets and produce ranged from 21.8 percent for the Atlanta Constitution to 2.5 percent for the Louisville Courier-Journal. Five of the newspapers accounted for over 12 percent each, while the remaining three were below 8 percent. The median was 15.8 percent.

Come indication of the extent article content ecordinated with advertising is presented in Table 21. Of the 119 references that pertained to some type of information about fresh mests or produce, 106 (89 percent) were supported by at lesst one advertisement in

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TABLE 20.--Rumber of food articles, out of total food articles, referring to fresh meets and produce, for two one-week periods for selected newspapers, June and July 1963

	Number	#T	rences to
yeastsber	of Articles	E	**
Atlanta Constitution	46	26	21.8
Denver Fost	6	4	3.4
Detroit Free Tress	28	18	15.1
Kenses City Times	12	9	7.6
Los Angeles Times	42	24	20.2
Louisville Courier-J.	7	3	2.5
Milwaukee Journal	46	20	16.8
Fhiladelphia Bulletin	22	15	12.6
Total	209	119	100.0
Percentage of Total		56.9	•

the same issue. Cnly 13 (10.9 percent) of the references discussed a fresh food that was not featured in advertising. These foods in their fresh form in most cases were out of season, or not at their peak supply in June and July by traditional marketing atandards, and/or were not predominently advertised in the issue where the article appeared. Some of these foods were oranges, grapefruit, eranberries, perk, smelt, halibut steaks, shrimp, coconut milk, and duckling.

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TABLE 21.-- The relationship between references to fresh ments and produce in articles and advertising support to fresh ments and produce for selected newspapers, two one-week periods. June and July, 1963

	No. Ref.	Sup	corted by	y rdv	erticing
	to Fresh Rest and	-	Yes		持o
Newspaper	Produce	K	%	Ħ	*
Atlanta Constitution	26	23	21.7	3	23.1
Desver Toat	4	4	3.8	0	0.0
Detroit Free Frese	18	15	15.1	2	15.4
Hensks City Times	9	6	5.7	3	23.1
Los Angeles Times	24	22	20.7	2	15.4
Louisville Courier-J.	3	3	2.8	0	0.0
Milwaukee Journal	20	18	17.0	2	15.4
Philadelphia Bulletin	15	14	13.2	1	7.7
Total	119	106	100.0	13	100.0

Hone of the newspapers made more than three references to fresh meats and produce that were not supported by advertising (see Table 21). Articles complemented by advertising varied from 21.7 percent in the Atlanta Constitution to 2.8 percent in the Louisville Courier-Journal.

The relative position of subject matter and its compatability with advertising are summarized in Table 22. Rank comparisons of the two major subject matter divisions, Preparation and the All Cther category, with advertising disclosed that high relationships within

these areas existed for the individual papers. For example, the Atlanta Constitution, followed by the Los Angeles Times, ranked highest in the Preparation category, in number of references to fresh meats and produce, and in their mutual support from advertising. The Filmaukee Journal and the Detroit Free Tress, in the top positions for the proportion of articles covering other food marketing and buying information, ranked third and fourth in article content that was compatible with advertising. At the lower end of the array, content and advertising ranks for the Denver Fost, the Louisville Courier-Journal, and the Espace City Times were highly related.

TABLE 22.--Rank comparison of article content with mutual support from advertising for selected newspapers, two one-week periods, June and July, 1963

			Rank	
Reasbaber	Frepa- ration	All Other	Articles Referring to Fresh Items	Articles Supported by Ad- vertising
Atlanta Constitution	1	4	1	1
Denver Fost	8	7	7	7
Detroit Free Frees	4	2	4	4
Kansas City Times	6	6	6	6
Los Angeles Times	. 2	3	2	2
Louisville Courier-J.	7	8	8	8
Ellwaukee Journal	3	1	3	3
Fhiladelphia Bulletin	5	5	5	5

### Summery of Findings

The foregoing analysis of the article content showed that although each of the nine estegories was represented, considerable varietion existed among them when individual papers were examined.

The following estegories were used for classifying the articles: Freparation, Menus, Realth, Buying
Guides, Care, Management, Marketing Functions, Supply,
and Miscellaneous.

In the 209 articles accumulated, 255 references or theses were identified which lent themselves to the elassifications. Preparation accounted for almost 65 percent. The remaining eight estegories together accounted for 57 percent which was divided as follows: Health, 9.9 percent; Marketing Functions, 7 percent; Menus, 5 percent; Buying Guides, 4 percent; Supply, 4 percent; Management, 4 percent; Care, 2 percent; and Miscellaneous, 2 percent.

Purtner analysis of Preparation showed that 82 percent was concerned with standard food topics pertaining to preparation and recipes, while 15 percent focused on gourset. Six of the papers included gourset food information.

In addition to the categorisation of all article content, a comparison of articles with advertising,

limited to fresh mests and produce, was made. A high proportion of the article scatent within this context paralleled advectised features.

cae hundred and mineteen (57 percent) of the 209 articles referred to, or discussed a fresh product. Of this number, 106 (89 percent) were mutually supported by at least one advertisement appearing in the same issue. Only 13 (11 percent) of the articles discussing fresh items were not accompanied by supporting advertising. None of the papers had more than three articles that did not parallel advertised features.

When the papers were studied individually, wide variations were noted in the inclusion of the estegories and in the emphasis given them. Over-all, total categories for the two weeks ranged from a high of 59 for the <u>Filw-ukee Journal</u> to a low of six for the <u>Senver</u> Fost. The median for all papers was 32.

The Atlanta Constitution, Los Angeles Times,

Detroit Free Fress, and Milwaukee Journal accounted for

from 14 to 31 percent of the total related information

elassified as "All Other"; the Louisville Courier—

Journal, Denver Fost, Kenses City Times and Philadelphia

Bulletin accounted for from 2 to 7 percent.

In general, papers carrying frequent references to food preparation were more likely to include information

related to the All Other sategory. These papers also tended to earry more of the articles emphasizing fresh mests and produce. When the articles with references to the from items were compared with advertising, there was a marked tendency for them to be autually supportive and complementary to each other.

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#### SUPPLIED CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this study was to investigate the content of food advertising and food feature articles in a delection of metropolitan daily newspapers. A review of consumer behavior and marketing studies revealed that newspapers are the most frequently used source for food buying information and that consumers desire some comprehensive information. Related literature pointed out that lack of communication between the retailer and consumer is one of the sajer problems in present-day market structure. The review further revealed that today's complex as rates make it necessary that information presented for consumers be expanded or improved.

Escause newspapers are a major communication modium between the retailer and consumer, the specific objectives of the study were: (1) to messure the space allocated to food advertising and articles and to show the relationship of each to the other; (2) to analyze food article content in order to determine the scope of subject matter; and, (3) to ascentain the extent to

which food advertising and article content are mutually supportive and/or complementary.

Light newspapers—the Atlanta Constitution,

Denver Post, Detroit Free Frees, Fanses City Times, Los

Angeles Times, Louisville Courier-Journal, Filwaukee

Journal, and the Philadelphia Bulletin—were selected

for the study. Issues for two one-week periods in June
and July 1963 provided the raw data.

the country and had a circulation of 150,000 or over.

The newspapers served eight of the top 35 food market areas in the United States. Together they circulate in urban areas that represented a 27 billion food market, or 12 percent of the 1362 food store sales in the 242 major metropolitan food market areas.

content analysis was used to describe both food article and advertising information available for potential food shoppers. Procedure included both measurement of space and categorization of subject matter. Advertising was recorded according to the propertion of space allocated on a page. Culy those advertisements occupying at least one-fourth of a page were counted. The column inch was used to measure article space plus accompanying titles and illustrations.

Nine categories were established for classifying the article content: Freparation, Menus, Health, Buying

Guides, Care, Management, Marketing Functions, Supply, and Miscellaneous. The frequency of reference to each category was tabulated. When an article included more than one category, each was counted.

Because of their economic importance to consumers and retailers, fresh meats and produce provided the basis for examining the extent advertising and food feature writing were mutually supportive and/or complementary.

#### Findings

#### Thysical Characteristics

The analysis of the general space characteristics of food pages revealed some important similarities as well as wide diversities. One-half of the 108 issues contained some food information. Forty-three percent featured advertising, while 52 percent published at least one article. Advertisements or articles were published in one or more papers on each day of the week. As was expected, Thursday issues were the most outstanding for both advertising and articles. Monday and Wednesday issues were next in importance, with Tuesday and Saturday issues were ranking lowest.

Seventy-four percent of the column inches of erticles was printed on Thursday; 10 percent on Wednesday; and 7 percent on Saturday. In comparison, 60 percent of edvertising space was featured on Thursday; 15 purcent

on Wednesday, and 14 percent on Monday. The observation that Monday ranked third in advertising space, and second in issues containing advertising, documents a trend away from the emphasis that has traditionally been given to end-of-the-week shopping. Also implied in this observation is that changes in advertising policies tend to reflect similar changes in editorial matter.

There was a high correlation between the number of daily issues with advertising and articles and amount of space allotted to each. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday ranked similarly in these aspects.

Article space varied considerably among the news-papers-from 160 column inches to more than 1,500 column inches.

There was an inverse relationship in the number of issues with articles and the amount of article space among the papers. For example, two papers—the Betroit Free Frees and Kennas City Times—highest in number of issues with articles, ranked in the lower half regarding space given to those articles. On the other hand, the two papers accounting for the largest proportion of food article space—the Filwaukee Journal and Ios Angeles Times—concentrated the articles in one weekly issue.

None of the papers had less than 19 pages of food

Edvertising for the two weeks. Three papers—the Filwsukee Journal, kansas City Times, and Leaver lost—had from 32 to 51 pages each. Considerable stability was reflected in the amount of advertising in that all but one of the papers published approximately the same number of pages each week.

by seven to one. No consistent pattern in amounts was observed among the papers. Of the total sample, three papers accounted for from 7 to 15 percent more of the advertising them articles. Five papers accounted for from 4 to 12 percent more of the total article apace than advertising space.

paper and circulation increased, the proportion of space given to food advertising declined. The Los Anceles Times, the Philadelphia Bulletin, and Letroit Free Aress, representing the largest markets, ranked lowest in the amount of advertising. It would appear that only food stores with units throughout the area considered newspaper advertising profitable. Also, circulation of these papers is more likely to be statewide or regional.

No pattern was found regarding the relationship of food sales and circulation to the amount of article space. For example, the Los Angeles Times, which served the largest market area, was second highest in article

space. The wide variations, or lack of any patterned relationships, may be attributed to editorial policies of individual papers, controlled somewhat by the presence or absence of a food editor, the paper's policy regarding reporting consumer information, and the extent to which there is consumer descend for such information.

### Article Content

The analysis of article content revealed that although each of the nine categories (see page 15) was represented exong the total issues, considerable variations existed in the different categories and exong the individual papers. One category accounted for almost twice the combined totals of the remaining eight. Cixty—three percent was classified as Preparation, compared with only 37 percent for the other categories. In this latter group, the categories, in order of importance, were: Easith, Marketing Functions, Manua, Buying Guides, Supply, Care, Management, and Miscellaneous.

from 59 for the <u>Filwaukee Journal</u> to six for the <u>Denver</u>

Fost. The median for all papers was 32.

Except for Miscellaneous, each category was tabilitied at least once in the Atlanta Constitution.

Menus and Supply were omitted in the Log Angeles Times.

Six categories were excluded in the Denver Fost and

Louisville Courier-Journal. The Filesukee Journal accounted for the only entries in Miscellaneous. Jix of the papers included gourset food information.

nentioned or discussed from meat or produce. Of this number, 39 percent was complementary with or lent mutual support to advertising. Of the fresh items discussed, only 11 percent was not a entioned in same-issue advertising. These latter items were foods considered to be out of season by traditional merketing standards. On this basis, none of the papers had more than three articles that were not supported by advertising.

placed on any category other than food preparation and recipes. High concentration in this area suggests that the newspapers studied consider this approach, supplemented somewhat by advertising, as an adequate means for communicating with potential food shoppers. Howepapers may also feel that dissemination of additional food—related topics, or other phases of consumer information, is beyond the scope of their responsibilities and that repetitive and/or seemingly basic buying guides would be an unsophisticated approach lacking in readership appeal.

It is also conceivable that retailing, advertising agoncies, or trade associations supplying newspapers

with syndicated food articles may not be fully aware of expressed consumer needs for specific help in buying. These groups may also feel that a wider range in subject matter would not be economically feasible. Or it may be possible that the different segments of business feel that the economic aspects and complexities of production, processing, and marketing hold little interest for readers.

### Conclusions and Implications

The analysis has revealed some striking differences as well as consistent relationships between food advertising and articles when the papers were aggregated. While no attempt was made to account for why these differences occur, it would seem appropriate to advance the following rationals.

The proportionately larger amount of food advertising than food articles may be considered reasonable since newspapers rely heavily on advertising revenue for financial support. The stability maintained in the amount of advertising for each of the two time periods indicates the degree to which food advertising is institutionalised. Since food supplies and consumer demand do not usually reflect sudden changes, advertising in turn would have little justification for showing wide fluctuations within a short period of time.

Consumer solutions might make specific attempts
to coordinate the content of news releases with concurrent seriet offerings. Information shout items
advertised chala provide a basis for consumers to better
understand the sarrest situation, to evaluate advertisaing, and to enalyze products in light of specific sants;
thereby, facilitating consumer decision making.

In preparing seterial, adjectors need to recognize that their relevant are in competition with three developed by conserved firms. With the letter, parhers publicity and selling one primary motives. This suggests that adjectional releases, in order to compete, need to have similar appeal as well as provide factual information.

It would also seek important that educators work sore closely with foot and women's page editors in previding consumer information. For example, worshops or
conferences with representatives from business, newspager, admostion, and consumer groups as participants
eight be initiated. Triancy objectives of such programs
would be: (1) to increase swareness of the need to
educate consumers; (2) to charify the respective role
and responsibilities for each of the participating groups;
and (3) to explore methods by which consumer behavior
and astheting research findings right be implemented
in proctical approachs to consumer problems.

# Recommendations for Further Study

The conclusions of this content analysis raise several questions and suggest the following areas for further research:

- 1. Study the policy of newsperers toward food information. What importance is placed on the food editorial matter? What is a paper's concept of subjects and topics that interest readers? Is it possible within the operational framework of a newspaper to better coordinate advertising with food article content? How necessary is it that these support each other?
- 2. Study the attitude of retailers and advertieers concerning the inclusion of specific buying guides.

  What would be the merits of a breader approach to publishing food information? How useful would it be to have more knowledgeable consumers?
- 3. Analyse readers' responses to article content and advertising. To what extent does one or the other motivate or influence shopping decisions? In what way does the article content raise level of knowledge? Do readers consider recipes per se as an adequate source for buying information?
- 4. Analyze the original sources of the background releases and materials used in writing the articles. Do

they represent the food categories studied? Of what educational walue is the material?

while it is recognized that generalizations from this research are somewhat limited because of the size of the sample, it is seen as making a contribution to understanding the relationship of mass communication to a specific area of consumer choice. With the increased emphasis on rational decision-making regarding food, as well as in other areas of consumer goods, there is no doubt that continued and more sophisticated research will be increasingly important in the future.

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APPLINDICKS

AFFENDIX A
SLINGTED METRO AREA DAILY NEWSTAPUR CIRCULATIONS,
FOOD STORE DALES, INCREMENSE OF U.S., AND RANK

January 1, 1962 to January 1, 1963

City	Semple Reper Circulation	Food Sales (\$000)	% of U.S.	Food Sale: Rank
Los Angeles	757,096	2,696,135	4.6850	2
Fhiladelphia	709.751	1,420,701	2.4687	. 4
Detroit	509,256	1,246,278	2.1656	5
hilwaukee	353,657	423,188	0.7354	19
Kansas City	243,308*	355,918	0.6185	22
Atlanta	202,635	311,126	0.5406	25
Denver	181,788	503,874	0.5280	27
Louisville	220,140*	221,975	0.3857	35
Total	3,177,631	6,979,195	12,1275	
Total Food St 242 Metropo	ore Sales in litum Areas	40,551,529	70.4649	
Total Food St	ore Sales	57,548,518	100.0000	

<sup>\*</sup>No designated food editor or food section.



13/2 Supply

#### Potatoes Move Up In Price

## Good Steak Buys ... If You'll Chew

#### Week's Best Buys

Buring gude Prop



Rib Eye Muscle Scores in Steak

## Drep. 14 ed MY BEST RECIPE

Corned Beef Base of Salad



"This is one of those salasis which teated before one can get excited to the country of the country the receipt, says Mrs. Receipt, says Mrs. And the country the receipt says Mrs. Salas I package lemon-flavored gelatin 12 cups not water 1 cup mayornasie 1 12-oc. can comed beef, dieed 1 cup dieed celery 1½ tablespoons minced onion

DESSERT CREAM WITH FRUIT SAUCE

# Gourmet Dessert Tops Off Menu 202 Prep.



APLENDIX D

ISSUES OF SELECTED NESPATERS CONTAINED ADVISTIBLE AND ARTICLES FOR THE THE CHARACTER RESIDENCE IN JUNE AND JULY, 1963

	Susd	3	Mond	3	Tuesday	John	- Seday	Thur	eda,	Priday	3	Seturda	3.623	Tot	H
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Atlanta Constitution	1	2						8	2					*	4
Denver Post	~		M			8	~	~	~	-				~	.۵
Detroit Free Fress			N	~	٦ ٦		~		~	~	8			\$	-0.
Kansus City Times			N	~		~	N	N	N	~	~	8	~	σ	-0
Los Angeles Times			~			<b>н</b>		~	~			<b>~</b>		8	_01
Louisville Courier-J.			~				~	~	~		~	N		5	
Milweukee Journal		-	*			~		~	N	4				~	-DL
Ihiladelphia Bulletia	8	2		7		2	2	-4						~	Δ.
Total	*	*	6	2	1 1	80	9	13	13	9	4	~	-	\$	*
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AGa:	ILLUBTRATIONS:	
TLACUM TER	TOTAL:	

AL P	PHISICAL PACTORS	-	FLACESLET	W.L.W.	.	COL	COLUMN INCHES	5.3 1.2 1.2	CATSGCRY	RELATIONS TO PARTHED PROMOTIONS
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MICHIGAN STATE UNBYERSITY COLLEGE OF HOME COMMONICS EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN





Problem--M.S. 1965

Love, Catherine B.

An Analysis of Food Articles and Food Advertising in Eight Selected Metropolitan Daily Newspapers

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF HOME ECONOMICS EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

