

Tips & Talk

Cheers for Chains

(See front cover)

"Last November, Shaw's advertised 'Buy any 5 items of P & G products and receive a \$10 Catalina coupon on your next order.' There were lots of \$2 through \$7 items and right in the middle of the ad were Pringles, \$1 a can. I read on Chit Chat that it was not working in certain areas, but on Saturday someone posted it was working in Massachusetts and since I live in Connecticut, it was close enough to give it a try. So off I went to Shaws, without any coupons, and thought I would try this deal.

"I put 15 canisters of Pringles in my cart along with two other \$5 items and a few items to be sure I went over \$10. I did the first 5 canisters and before I could total, out popped a \$10 coupon on my next order. I paid \$5 for this, totaled out, and started my second order. I used 5 more cans of Pringles and a package of \$4.99 ground turkey and a package of bars \$2.50 (used a 75¢ coupon doubled), and my order with the \$10 coupon was 99¢ and out popped another \$10 off my next order. This started a chain. I went every day and did it at least 3 times but decided to use a cashier instead of self checkout as you needed to call a manager to get the \$10 coupon to work.

"In the end I did 14 deals. I got 65 cans of Pringles, 3 tubes of Crest Pro Health (2/\$5), 2 packages of Mr. Clean sponges, 5 packages of ground turkey meat, 1 large bag of oranges, 5 packages of Caribou coffee bars, 2 Reynolds parchment papers, 2 Charmin 6-pack mega rolls, 7 Betty Crocker cookie mixes, 6 Pledge Duster Free, 7 Thai soups, 4 Planters cashews, and 1 can of Snow's minced clams.

"I did the deal 14 times. The total of all the

orders was \$212.92; I paid \$20.29 and still had two \$10 coupons off my next order, so I actually paid only 29¢ for all the groceries. Also, I just found on Michele's 'No Form' page a refund for \$5 Movie Tickets or DVD for \$10 in Pringles purchases. Wow! I gave all but 10 Pringles away to family and the 'Visiting Nurses' for Thanksgiving Baskets. What fun!"

Cheryl Modica, Middletown, CT



Organizing Tips

"When my kids saw a picture of their cousin in the June issue of *Refund Cents*, they said, 'We want to be in that magazine, too!' so I'm writing this article for them; hopefully, you will find it interesting and helpful as well.

"This picture is of my two oldest kids, T. J. and Heather, with our stash of FREE Malt-O-Meal cereal.

Tips & Talk is a forum column for reader letters, pictures, comments, and tips. Your letter is welcome! Please put your name and address on the back of all pictures. Send to: Tips & Talk, Refund Cents, Box 969, Bountiful, UT 84011. Thanks.

Safeway had the bags on sale for \$1, and I had a pile of coupons for 50¢ off any size MOM cereal. Since Safeway doubles coupons to \$1, that meant lots of FREE cereal. I had to go to two different Safeways to use all of my coupons, but I ended up getting 20 bags of cereal for free, free, free! They didn't have a lot of variety, so we got a lot of Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Heather's favorite. Safeway is generally good at accepting coupons, but I did have to be a little bit pushy with the cashiers to get them to accept all of the coupons at one time. It was worth it though.

"Fortunately, I live in a city where most of the grocery stores double



T. J. and Heather are hoping for a windfall of milk so they can enjoy their bags and bags of free Malt-O-Meal cereal.

coupons. This allows me to get great deals often. Reading *Centsible Chat* and emails from my states 'Good Deal Loop' also helps me find nice deals.

"Since I love to read about how other *Refund Cents* subscribers organize their coupons and rebates, I'm going to tell you how I do it. My sister thinks my methods are very outdated, but they work for me! First, I collect as many coupons and rebates as I can get. I subscribe to two newspapers myself, and I get three additional copies of the inserts from other family members—five copies is about as much as I can handle! I stash them in a basket in my kitchen along with any other coupons/rebates I find and cut them all when I have the time. Usually I clip them on Tuesdays so that I'm ready to shop on Wednesdays when the stores' new fliers come out in the newspaper. I clip every coupon (I know that sounds crazy to some people) and sort them into two piles, those I will use and those I will trade. Then I file my coupons. I use two Rubbermaid boxes that I bought from Michele a couple of years ago. Using index cards, I made my own categories so that I could file coupons under very specific categories. For example, I have separate index cards for General Mills, Kelloggs, Post, Malt-O-Meal, Quaker, etc, instead of just one category for cereal. This makes it so much easier to find coupons.

"I have a separate, smaller box for the coupons I plan to trade. When I send off a trade, I always stick in some of these coupons as extras. Once all of my coupons are clipped and filed, I look through the fliers for the three grocery stores I visit most often: Frys (Kroger-owned), Safeway and Bashas. I match coupons according to sales and go to town! Usually I can find at least one item a week that I can get for free. I do the same thing with Walgreens and CVS when I have the time and energy.

"I keep my rebate forms in the back of my coupon box so that I can find them easily. If I am working on a rebate, I stick the form, cash tapes, UPCs, etc into a business-sized envelope. I attach a sticky note to the envelope and write the name of the rebate and the expiration date. All of these envelopes go in my desk drawer; they are stacked

according to which rebate expires first. When I send out a rebate, I record it in a small notebook. When I receive the check or premium, I mark it off with a highlighter. I've kept this notebook for years, so I can look back at all of the money and items I've received from rebates. I also keep a deposit envelope from my bank in my desk drawer. When I receive a rebate check, I stick it into this envelope; when it is full, I deposit the checks into my personal checking account. I use this account for whatever I want since I've 'earned' the money that is in there. I've also had this account for several years, and I love looking back at my register to see how much I've accumulated from my little refunding hobby!

"I also have a small tin in my kitchen for qualifiers. I save the ones I know are valuable and chuck all the rest. When my tin is full, I sort the qualifiers into sandwich baggies and stick them in a Rubbermaid container. On an index card I record which qualifiers I have so that I know what I have and what I need to acquire through trades. I have a free website that I use for trading as well as the excellent trading boards on *RC*. I am a busy, stay-at-home mom, so I trade coupons only when I have the time and energy to do so.

"So these are my methods, however anal or outdated they may be! I have managed to save lots of money and stockpile enough toothpaste, soap, shampoo, etc, to stock my own pharmacy. Thanks, Michele, for the wonderful information I get from *RC*, and thanks to all of you readers (and writers) from whom I have gotten so much great advice over the years."

Susan Jensen, Mesa, AZ

Hobby Lobby—A Savings Paradise

"There are no double or triple coupons. No Catalinas, either. No 'blinkies' or senior discounts. But, oh my, what fun and what savings I find regularly at a totally different kind of store. In our part of the country, it's called Hobby Lobby.

"There have been many stories in *RC* about stockpiles of household and personal supplies. Michele has also alerted us to many fantastic

opportunities at Amazon.com. Readers have shared many exciting stories. I, too, have had some remarkable successes. Readers have heard about some of them.

"Times have changed, however, for me at least. Catalina coupons, if they exist at all, are 25 miles away, and as I write this, the price of gasoline is still rising. In addition, more and more coupons seem to relate to products my family and I rarely, if ever, use. I collected a few of the products, but garage sale shoppers didn't want them either. Hobby Lobby has filled the gap.

"Although its name implies a craft store, that's only the beginning. There are countless opportunities to save; and every time I enter the store, I discover another one. My introduction to Hobby Lobby really began several years ago when my daughter added 'Hobby Lobby Gift Card' to her Christmas wish list. She was home schooling and Hobby Lobby was her choice for buying school supplies.

"Shortly after Thanksgiving (not black Friday--I never shop then) I ventured into the store and asked if they sold gift cards. Of course they did, and my life has not been the same since. That first introduction changed the way I anticipate Christmas and birthdays. Like most *RC* readers, I have been accustomed to doubling coupons, matching them with sales, and hopefully finding a rebate which will provide a triple play. That remains, of course, a superb way to save, and I haven't 'thrown out the baby with the bath water.' I still scrutinize ads and pay very close attention to Michele's print and e-mail alerts. I also spend a delightful morning each December at Target's pre-Christmas Senior Day. After all, where else can a 'senior' receive a goody bag of fruit, samples, and coupons? A 10% discount and free gift wrapping are not too shabby, either.

"At Hobby Lobby you can, of course, find all the traditional craft and hobby supplies, but the extras are what make the store such an exciting place to shop. Home Accents undoubtedly top the list of those extras. In this category are hundreds, if not thousands, of gift and home products crafted from high quality materials. Savvy shoppers who 'play the game' carefully never pay full retail for anything.



“Hobby Lobby is well known for its discount ads which appear weekly in the newspaper and as handouts in the store. Almost every category rotates through a series of discounts, primarily ½ or ⅓ off. When my eight grandsons were younger, I watched Hobby Lobby ads consistently for birthday and Christmas gifts. I didn't keep a record, but I know I saved hundreds of dollars alone on half-price automobile and plane models kits.

“The best part of the Home Accents categories is the twice-a-year mark down promotion.. Two or three aisles in the store's front corner are devoted to the event which begins with 50% reductions and increases to 66% and finally 80%. The store posts a sign on the front door announcing the current discount. With Hobby Lobby's location in the same shopping center as Walgreens, I can easily drive by and check on the discount.

When the discount reaches 66%, I usually drop in to see what is remaining on the shelves. I rarely buy at 66%, however, unless there is only one of an item left and I desperately want it. My usual strategy is to wait until the sign says 80%. I then decide what, if anything, I can use this time around.

“As if all this were not enough, the store recently outdid itself. For years customers had to walk around the perimeter of the store to see cleared items hanging on the ends of the aisles. No longer. A 30-foot wall in the rear left corner of the store has been classified ‘Clearance.’ There are hundreds, probably thousands, of items with yellow clearance tags. There is so much to see and prices start at 50%.

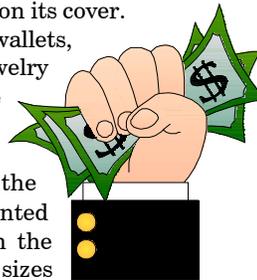
“One of the largest sections



Lee Longenecker looks like a real diva in these fun accessories found at a great price at Hobby Lobby.

attracted me immediately. I have a friend who belongs to a Red Hat Club. Hobby Lobby must have determined that the red hat craze had reached its peak because there were hundreds of red hats and red hat accessories. I found a dainty beaded red hat change purse and a journal with a red hat on its cover. I passed up scarves, wallets, feather boas, jewelry and jewelry boxes and much more including dozens of red hats.

“Another area of the store which I have frequented through the years has been the vast supply of t-shirts in all sizes and colors. I'm sure they are



intended for craft projects, but they are excellent quality, about half the price of comparable quality in a clothing store, and with eight growing grandsons, I considered them quite a find.

“Unless I am tied to a gift registry, when I need a gift I head for Hobby Lobby (or use something appropriate I have already found reduced by 80%). The store's supply of decorative pillows is unbeatable. If pillows are not currently discounted, then mirrors or clocks might be...or pottery or lamps or....You have to ‘see it to believe it.’ And the beauty is that in addition to all the novel finds available, Hobby Lobby is still a top notch source for craft, needlecraft and scrapbooking supplies, and where else can you shop with a background of delightful instrumental music? Oh, yes, and to keep up-to-date with today's electronic age, Hobby Lobby now posts a weekly cents-off Internet coupon. I guess they do take at least one coupon after all.

“This was supposed to be the end of the story, but I accidentally discovered that there is a bit more. Just before I was ready to mail this, I drove past Hobby Lobby enroute to Walgreens and a sign on the front door announced an

unexpected Home Accents sale. Walgreens could wait. I could at least take a look. Well, Hobby Lobby must have decided that red hats were really on the way out. There was the entire 'Red Hat' clearance display transferred to the discount aisle—right at the front. A customer standing next to me commented that she thought red hats were still 'in.' On an impulse, I donned one of the hats, added some accessories, and asked her if she would take my picture. As you can see, she did. I will be checking Hobby Lobby's front door for the 80% sign to appear once again. It may be awhile, but it will be well worth the wait."

Lee Longenecker, Longview, TX



Each of the gift certificates might be worth \$20 - \$40; and if you use a gift certificate at the check stand, change cannot be given back. Also most of the checkers do not know how to use the gift certificates so it is simply easier to cash the gift certificates into one gift card.

"My husband and I followed each other in the check stand, each of us using one coupon and our gift card. Of course the checking personal did not know how to use the coupon. When the manager arrived, he quickly keyed in the coupon and even commented what a great deal of saving money we were doing. Sadly, I noticed the manager keyed in our coupon himself (which was great), but he did not take the time to teach the employee. The next coupon shopper at Toys R Us will have to wait for a manager and use the manager's time to key a coupon, but that is retail and lack of training.

"As you can see from my sons' smiling faces, Rhoades and Victory loved their surprises from Toys R Us and I loved

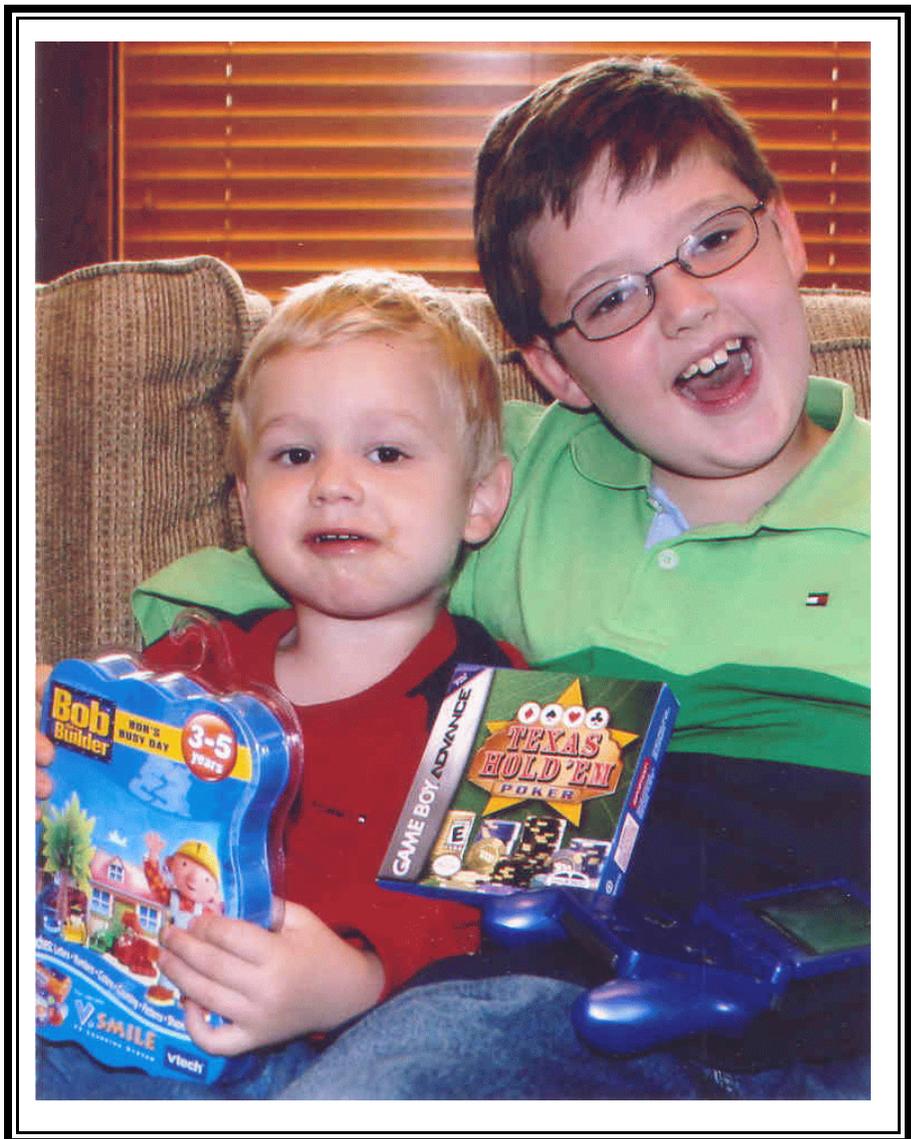
Smiles & Thanks to Refund Cents & Toys R Us

"Thank you to the wonderful posts on CENTSible Chat and to *Refund Cents!* I enjoy scanning the CENTSible posts each day. I was very excited when I saw a great post for '20% off one item' Internet coupons at Toys R Us. I knew my husband and I were going to Wichita, Kansas (without our children) that next weekend, so my wheels started turning on what kind of surprise I could bring home for my boys. I printed off two of the 20% off coupons--one for my husband and one for me. The coupons stated 'one per person' so I was doubly excited that we would be able to get two items with savings.

"On the appointed Saturday I had only a short amount of time to shop at Toys R Us. My family lives in a small town, located two hours from any major shopping stores. I know I miss a lot of the great savings deals that are posted on CENTSible Chat, but I am fortunate that my husband travels a great deal with his work, so I can tag along occasionally and enjoy my coupon savings hobby/obsession.

"Our two-year-old Victory received a V-Tech V-Smile for Christmas, so I selected a Bob the Builder 'Bob's Busy Day' learning game for him; 20% off retail price really made a difference in the price. Next, our-seven-year old Rhoades has a Game Boy Advance handheld system and he (and his dad) talk and play poker a lot. I found a Texas Hold 'em game that was perfect for Rhoades.

"To make the Toys R Us 20% off savings even better, my family has a Toys R Us credit card that we earn gift certificate money from each month. I try to use our Toys R Us credit card for everything I can and we earn a percent of what we charge each month. We receive the gift certificate money which is instant money at Toys R Us. When I go to a Toys R Us store, I take all my monthly gift certificates to the service desk and have the certificates all added to my gift card.



Victory and Rhoades Stewart think their mom is pretty cool to find deals on toys as well as groceries.

the 20% off saving coupon (thank you to CENTsible Chat) and the gift certificates from the monthly use of our credit card (thank you Toys R Us.) I really appreciate all the saving money posts on CENTsible Chat.”

Bernetta Stewart, Chanute, KS



Christmas and for my birthday, and I’ve used it sparingly and enjoyed every use, but two weeks ago, my luck changed.

“It was a Tuesday, and I hadn’t gotten to Centsible Chat since the week before. I also hadn’t gotten around to clipping my coupons from the Sunday inserts yet, so, as my boys were napping, I scrolled through Centsible Chat. I found a post that the Schick Intuition was on sale for \$3.99 at ShopRite. I also read that there had been a coupon for \$4 off one Intuition which made the razor FREE! I immediately ran to the kitchen where my two sets of inserts were waiting (my father-in-law graciously shares his inserts with me each week) and started leafing through. Lo and behold, there they were! I clipped my two \$4 coupons and put them in my purse. I knew my two-year-old and three-month-old would be taking a detour to ShopRite with me on our way to pick up their sister that afternoon. Then I headed to the computer and posted on RC Trading a request for multiples of the \$4 coupon. Within an hour, I had made deals for quite a few trades and felt confident that they would meet my needs and that I had enough. Normally, I only shop at the grocery store once a week. However, when there is something that I use that I can get for free, I will go as many times as necessary to get the maximum of the product. I live close enough that it’s not a gas drain to make multiple trips, so I don’t mind breaking my rule on free trips. I also am sure only to buy the products I am stocking up on. No need to spend extra money if you are going for frees!



“When the boys and I got to ShopRite, they were all out of the razors, so I got a rain check for four of the Intuitions.

I was pleased because I knew they’d restock and I could use my two coupons the next day and save the rain check for when the razors were no longer on sale. Sure enough, when I returned the next morning, they had been restocked and I was able to use my two coupons to get the razor bonanza started! On Thursday the coupons started arriving in the mail, and the boys and I headed back to ShopRite to cash in. (I also was using the 75¢ Breyer’s coupon to get half gallons of Breyer’s ice cream which was on sale for \$1.49)

“By the time Saturday arrived, I had used about half of the coupons. I was disappointed that the sale was over but pleased with my haul. So, on Sunday when I went to do my weekly shop, I was overjoyed to see that they had continued the sale on the Intuition razors for another week! The boys and I made a few more trips until we had used all of our coupons. Then I put out a post for four more coupons to use with my rain check which I will use this week.

“The final result of my Schick Intuition spree was 24 razors, which you can see with my daughter and son in the picture. As stated earlier, they

Intuition for Free

“Aside from being an avid couponer, I try to live as frugally as possible in everyday life. I am currently on maternity leave from my job as an 8th grade social studies teacher, and believe me when I tell you that the switch from two incomes to one has made us tighten up the purse strings even more than usual. However, we live simply and don’t have expensive tastes, so we have been able to manage the leave pretty well with only a modicum of discomfort.

“However, as frugal as we are, everyone has certain luxuries that they prefer whenever they are affordable. For me, that is the Schick Intuition razor. I love the fact that you don’t have to lather up with a separate product before you shave, and it leaves my legs feeling incredibly smooth. I received a free sample in the mail (that I found through Centsible Chat a year or two ago) and I fell in love with this razor. Imagine my dismay when I went to ShopRite to buy one and realized that they retailed for \$8.99. There was no way that I would be buying myself this razor as much as I loved it--\$8.99 can buy a lot of food for my family when using coupons combined with sales. I wasn’t going to waste it on one razor. Over the past year I’ve asked for the Intuition for



Even a luxury like a great razor can be acquired at an amazing price if you’re a sharp deal finder.

retailed for \$8.99 each. This would normally be a total of \$215.76 before tax. I did have to pay tax on these razors, so my grand total for all 24 razors was \$5.52! This is an approximate savings of \$210!!! This is a product that I use and love and I am thrilled. I will certainly be donating some of these razors and sharing them with my friends and family. I'm just so excited! I'll definitely be more on top of keeping up with Centsible Chat from now on!"

Amy Bozza, Morris Plains, NJ

at 50¢ each! I gave one away to a friend at work since I knew that she liked that spicier type of fragrance.

"All of the items pictured on the table cost me mere pennies, thanks to sales and coupons.

"My niece, sisters, my mom and I also found a great deal on Cheerios cereals. The local Fareway store ran an ad with a coupon for \$6/3 boxes. By adding a few \$1 off of 2 manufacturers' coupons, we were able to get Honey Nut Cheerios for 50¢/box. I stocked up at this sale as my son is fond of this type of cereal. You should have seen the grocery clerks at the checkout! They were amazed at how cheap we were getting the cereal. As usual we were laughing our heads off. I just love this hobby! It is also a great way to have fun with your family members when you are able to 'scrounge up' some good deals like these.

"My sister Susan and her family recently moved about 75 miles away and I miss her a lot, but I'm hoping that we can meet in the middle soon for another fun shopping day. Happy shopping everyone!"

Barbara Ehrig, Reinbeck, IA

The Shoppers

"What you see pictured is the result of a couple of shopping trips I made. One was with my mother, Joan, and the other trip was with my sister, Susan. The stores we shopped at included Wal-Mart, Target, the Dollar Store, Walgreens and Hy-Vee.

"I call my sister 'THE QUEEN,' and I want her to see in print that I really mean that. She knows how to stretch a dollar better than anyone I know except for our mother Joan.

"We bought the Ortega products using the \$1 off of 2 coupons. All of the taco seasoning packets were free. The taco sauces and enchilada sauces were 50¢ or so each. The Garnier hairspray was a FAR at Walgreens as well as the Colgate Luminous toothpaste. The Crest Whitening Expressions was TMF with a form.

"My sister was able to trade for some great Kraft coupons and she was willing to share with me. These coupons were for \$5 off when you bought Velveeta and three other participating Kraft products; hence the 11 boxes of Velveeta and the 44 boxes of Jello pudding and Jello gelatin. Sometimes we made money on this deal (depending on whether we bought the gelatin or the pudding). We shared our bounty with friends, family members and a local food pantry.

"At the Dollar Store my mom and I found, among other things, a clearance sale on Intimate cologne for women. Years ago this was a popular fragrance and I always liked it, so I bought several of the bottles that we found. They were priced



Barbara may call her sister the family's coupon 'Queen,' but she is certainly giving her sister a run for the title.

Propel and Gatorade Catalinas

"I spotted in the Cub grocery ad that if you purchased 5 Propel or 5 Gatorade you would receive at checkout a Catalina for \$5 off your next order. The Propel was on sale for 69¢ each and the Gatorade was 99¢ each. Since Cub Foods is 40 miles away, we stopped to try the deal on our way to a wedding. No problems except I couldn't reach all the Propel on the top

back of the shelf. Oh well, I'll get lots next time. Big mistake because when I got back to Cub later in the week a limit of 10 sign had been posted on the Propel and the shelf was completely empty. I found an employee to confirm there was no Propel left anywhere in the store. Gatorade was not a problem as they had an additional display on an end cap by Dairy. I was able to fill the shopping cart with 50 Gatorade this time plus had 30 Propel from the first trip.

"The next week Smart Source had a rebate of \$5 on each \$15 you buy of many products. Propel and Gatorade happened to be listed and I still had my cash register receipts.

"The groceries in my picture total \$106.81 for which I paid \$18.72. This is after the Catalina rebates, high value coupons and free coupons. I simply lined up 5 Gatorade or 5 Propel plus items for overage on the checkout counter; the checker had no problem with giving me many \$5 off next order coupons. I used the Propel overage on things we needed: rice, bread, bacon, grapefruit, and sunflower seeds. Welch's grape juice was used for the \$4 frozen food month refund. The Edwards Pie was from a BIGIF refund offer.

With Minnesota's record breaking heat spells this summer, both the Propel and Gatorade have come in handy many times--sent to work with truck driver husband, used at 2 teenage grandsons' ball games, taken camping, and offered as a cool drink after lawn mowing. The lesson learned: get full amount you want or will need on the first try because you may not get a second chance. Also, I've been alerted to other great



Judy Klepsa really hit a great overage deal with Catalinas. She only paid \$18.72 for \$106.81 in groceries.

Catalina deals by checking the MN Good Deal Alert board at least once a day."

Judy Klepsa, Brook Park, MN

A Wedding at the Right Price

"Having been a couponer and RC subscriber since I got married almost four years ago, I figured it was my responsibility to teach my younger sister Laura, a bride-to-be, how to save some money. My motto is 'Life is Expensive Enough--Why Pay More Than You Have To?' Her wedding was April 22, 2006 here in Kansas. She and her husband, Bret, left the reception headed toward Arizona, where he had a job and lived for the past year. She asked me to be her matron-of-honor, so I was lucky enough to be able to spend lots of time helping plan the wedding with her and our mom. I had forgotten how much time, energy, and money get invested into weddings. Luckily, my coupon and refunding sense came in very handy for this occasion.

"My sister wanted punch for the reception made of Sprite, Diet Sprite, and white apple juice. The ice rings were to be made of the apple juice with Dole frozen berries in them. When the ice ring melts, the berries float and change the color of the punch to a burgundy color. The color was perfect since her colors were burgundy and light yellow. We had to go shopping for the punch ingredients. I took her to Wichita to get a lot of things. The first stop we made was Walgreens. I wanted to get in on the Benefiber deal using manufacturer and Easysaver coupons to get an overage. While we were there, we saw that Sprite was on sale for 79¢. Wow, were we excited. We cleared the shelves of the Benefiber and were able to get 6 bottles of Sprite for 23¢. We then went from Walgreens to Walgreens clearing their shelves and getting Sprite and Diet Sprite.

"Tragedy struck; I ran out of manufacturer coupons. I knew of a local Dillon's grocery store with a recycling trailer behind it. It was time to restock. My sister, being somewhat new at coupon digging, I figured would be embarrassed. As I was leaning in digging through what I could reach, I looked over at her and she said, 'I'm not doing that.' Even though I was finding a lot of coupon booklets, I was not finding the right coupons we needed. By the time I looked up to tell Laura, she had dived inside the trailer and was sitting on a huge pile of papers digging like a mad woman!!! I couldn't help but feel SO proud. After 15 minutes and a huge stack of inserts, I had to beg her to get out so we could go finish our shopping.

"We went to several more Walgreens and got the rest of our Sprite/Diet Sprite. While we were there, we found some Dr. Scholl's inserts (for the ball of your foot) that we had two manufacturers' coupons for and also used the coupon in the Walgreens weekly ad. We paid 39¢ each for 2 pairs of them. We both wore them at the wedding with our high heel shoes. (I'm certainly glad I didn't pay full price for them because my feet were killing me by the end of the day.) Then we went to Dillon's grocery store still needing to get the white apple juice. We did some grocery shopping while we were there and using the coupon overage, we were able to get 6 bottles of the juice for FREE!!!! What fun it was to get all the bottles of juice for free.



Everything about Laura's reasonably priced wedding was beautiful—especially the bride.

a percent off coupon to use that day. That week's coupon was for 40% off any one item which dropped the cake topper price significantly.



"We found her wedding dress at a bridal boutique in Wichita. Anyone who has been wedding dress shopping knows how hard it is to find the perfect dress. Well, she found a dress that fit perfectly and looked beautiful. The price tag said it was discontinued as of a few days before which cut the price of the dress to almost half. All of these deals just goes to show that she is a beginning bargain hunter.

"Everything about the wedding was beautiful. The cake and (free) punch tasted great. We couldn't keep our free punch deal a secret and told a lot of close friends and family about our shopping adventure. Those who knew me weren't a bit surprised but never would have guessed I had converted my sister so quickly."

Sarah Griesel, Howard, KS

All in a Day's Work

"My daughter and I were making our weekly shopping trip for a few good deals that we had heard of on Chit Chat. We never expected to find as much as we did.

"Our first stop was our local grocery store, Homeland. They double coupons up to \$1 but only one like c/o. We made several trips in and out and ended up with 1 Betty Crocker brownie mix (free after rebate), 22 boxes of Kellogg's cereal, 7 cans of Van Camps pork and beans, 2 A-1 marinades, 2 French's mustards, 1 Kikkoman teriyaki sauce, 4 Colgate toothpastes, 3 J&J baby soaps, 29 Edge shaving gels, 2 Dove deodorants, 3 Rave hair sprays, 1 Thermasilk, 1 Dove shampoo, 16 Suave shampoo, 22 toothbrushes, 8 Sally Hansen nail polishes, 9

"When we got to my house, we unloaded all the 2-liters, juice, Benefiber, and Dr.Scholl's inserts and took a picture. We couldn't get all our Sprite/Diet Sprite in the picture; but as you can see, she is one happy and thrifty bride. My husband came home to our giant stockpile and couldn't help but laugh. Laura was telling him the story and all he could do was shake his head in disbelief.

"My coupons sense came in handy at Michael's craft store too. Laura had found a wedding cake topper there that she wanted. I live about 60 miles from the nearest Michael's, so I don't receive their weekly ad (which usually contains a percent off coupon) in my paper. However, I knew if you went into their store and told them you don't get their ad, they will give you



Doing coupons and rebates together has brought Diana and her daughter a lot closer.

Cover Girl nail polishes, 12 Cover Girl lipsticks, 14 Cover Girl eye shadows, 4 Cover Girl blushes, 6 Cover Girl mascaras, 3 Cover Girl eye liners, 2 Cover Girl concealers and 2 Cover Girl foundations.

“Our next stop was all 5 of our CVSs. We got 12 Sally Hansen nail polishes, 2 Vaseline Intensive Care lotions, 12 Kotex, 6 Stayfree, 6 Carefree, 3 Softsoap body washes, 2 Herbal Essence shampoos, 2 Listerines (free after rebate), 12 Nips hard candies, 34 Take 5's (apply to Hershey t-shirts), 8 Dum-Dums, 2 Herbal Essence gel, 1 Pez, 8 Twizzlers, 3 Hershey kisses, 6 Kit Kats, 2 Starburst jelly beans, 2 Mary Janes candy, 3 Life Savers, 5 Liquid ice mints and 10 Maybelline mascaras.

“Our last stop was Wal-Mart where we picked up 7 Gillette complete shave gels. We figured our total before coupons was \$775.31. After coupons and rebates--\$15.73!! We were so excited. You know that feeling you get...hands are sweaty, heart is pounding and you are hyperventilating. Well, that is how we both felt. We give a lot to family and friends who just don't know how we do it. Most of the candy will be used for Halloween. My daughter and I have been doing this together for almost 3 years, and it really has made us a lot closer. Thanks *RC*; we love this hobby!”

Diana Farley, Guthrie, OK