Copper Country Dairy Records
MS-418
Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Russell, revised by Rachael Bussert

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit
June 25, 2014
Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
12/22/2010
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Summary Information

Repository: Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

Creator: Copper Country Dairy, Inc..

Title: Copper Country Dairy Records

Date [bulk]: Bulk, 1931-1988

Date [inclusive]: 1898, 1900; 1931-1988

Extent: 1.35 cubic feet 4 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize folder

Language: English

Language of Material: English

Mixed materials [Folder]: 47 O

Mixed materials [Box]: 1-4

Abstract: Records, 1898-1988, of the Copper Country Dairy, Inc. of Dollar Bay, Michigan. Includes deeds and construction plans, financial records, inventory lists, distribution documents, marketing data and operational data as well as bankruptcy and closing documents and an embossing stamp. Also includes some records from the Copper Country Cheese Co-op, Inc.

Preferred Citation: 

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Historical Note

The articles of incorporation for the Copper Country Dairy was signed on November 25, 1938 by nine dairy farmers in the Traprock River Valley including Erick Karvakko, Oiva W. Niemi, Matt Koski, John Latva, Albert Koskela, Emil Waarala, Edward R. Willmers, Andrew Bylkas, and Charles Aittama. The Dairy purchased the Schulte Brothers Store in Dollar Bay in 1939 where it continued operations until it moved into a more modern building in Dollar Bay in 1954. The dairy experienced the beginning of a long line of financial problems in 1977. The Copper Country Dairy claimed that its prices were being undercut by three large national dairies-Hawthorne-Melody, Fremont Foods, and Borden. A lawsuit was filed against the three major dairies by Hancock attorney, Andrew Wisti. The dairy’s problems continued in 1979 when the members of the Copper Country Dairy Employees Association went on strike. The wage dispute lasted from November 2 through November 14. In 1984 the dairy could no longer afford to pay its producers and fifty-sixty of its producers pulled out of the cooperative that year. It was due to the loss of so many of its producers that the Copper Country Dairy lost its license and bonding from the Michigan Department of Agriculture that same year. The Copper Country Dairy also did not have a permit for discharging its waste into a lagoon behind the dairy nor did it have a permit to haul its whey waste for application to agricultural fields. In July, 1985 the Dairy was managed by Dr. Jack McEowen, head of the Emergency Management Assistance Team for Agri-Business of the Cooperative Extension Office. The Copper Country Dairy ended operations on September 24, 1985 and filed for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy on September 30, 1985 at the Marquette Bankruptcy Court (Superior Signal, 2007, 3-5).

Collection Scope and Content Summary

Deeds and construction plans, financial records, inventory lists, distribution documents, marketing data and operational data as well as bankruptcy and closing documents and an embossing stamp. Also includes some records from the Copper Country Cheese Co-op, Inc.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into two series:

Administrative Information

Publication Information
Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections 12/22/2010

Revision Description
This collection was processed during the NHPRC grant funded Detailed Processing Project. 5/07/2013

Conditions Governing Access
Available for use in the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections. A small number of the folders contain sensitive employee information. Access to these records is at the discretion of the University Archivist.

Conditions Governing Use
Various copying restrictions apply. Guidelines are available from Michigan Technological University Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
One page box containing records created by and relating to the Copper Country Dairy such as titles, deeds, bankruptcy records, invoices, income tax returns, mortgage, insurance, and court records as well as a Copper Country Dairy stamp was donated to the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections by Kenneth Smith on September 10, 1989. Also included in this gift were records created by the Copper Country Cheese Cooperative.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

• Copper Country Cheese Co-op, Inc..
• Copper Country Dairy, Inc..
Genre(s)

- Deeds
- Financial records
- Inventories
- Records (Documents)

Geographic Name(s)

- Upper Peninsula (Mich.)

Subject(s)

- Cooperative societies--Michigan
- Dairy farms
## Collection Inventory

**Series I, General Business Records 1898, 1900; 1931-1988 (Bulk, 1931-1988)**

### Scope and Content Summary

Included in this series are warranty deeds, titles, vehicle registrations, tax records, inventory lists, marketing and operational data, construction contracts, blueprints of Clark Village, and an embossing stamp.

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<td>Copper Country Cheese Co-operative Bylaws 1931</td>
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<td>Articles of Incorporation and Amendments 1937-1939; 1955-1967</td>
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<td>Warranty Deeds and Titles 1948-1972; 1984</td>
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<td>Agreements 1939-1960; 1971</td>
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<td>American Dairy Association of Michigan 1943</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction Plans and Contracts 1953, 1962, 1975</td>
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<td>Land O' Lakes and U.P. Development Bureau Memberships 1956, 1972</td>
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Copper Country Dairy Employees Association Contract 1973 1 9

Bank Transaction and Loan Records 1939; 1949-1980 1 10

**Conditions Governing Access**

Some of the material in this folder contains sensitive employee information. Access is at the discretion of the University Archivist.

Bank Loan and Transaction Records 1941-1966; 1986-1988 1 11

Bank Loan and Transaction Records 1959-1984 1 12

Exemplification of Record, Arthur Pikkarainen 12/07/1972 1 13

Tax Records 1/2 1942; 1951-1970 2 1

Tax Records 2/2 1942-1972 2 2


Inventory and Operating Lists; Vehicle Registrations 1969-1988 2 4

Vender Settlement Contracts 1981-1982 2 5

Pension Records 1986-1988 2 6

Copper Country Dairy Interim Report 8/15/1985 2 7
### Series II, Bankruptcy Records

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<th>Marketing and Operating Data 1983-1985</th>
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<td>General Financial Records 1948; 1974-1985</td>
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<td>General Business Records 1985</td>
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- **Osceola Township, Sec.33, T.55 N.-R. 33 W. (Village of Clark) Undated**
- **Osceola Township, Sec.33, T. 55 N.-R. 33 W. (Village of Clark) Undated**
- **Plat of the Village of Clark Undated**

#### Scope and Content Summary

This series contains bankruptcy and closing records.

#### Conditions Governing Access

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Bankruptcy/ Closing Documents 1985-1988