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# Keweenaw Cooperative Inc. Collection MS-596

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Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country  
Historical Collections

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Houghton 49931

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
<b>Title:</b>	Keweenaw Cooperative Inc. Collection
<b>ID:</b>	MS-596
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1973-2009
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1974-1989
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4.46 Cubic Feet 7 manuscript boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Mixed Materials [box]:</b>	1-7
<b>Abstract:</b>	Collection, 1973-2009, of material from the Keweenaw Cooperative Inc. of Hancock, Michigan. Includes minutes and correspondence of the Board of Directors, minutes from general membership meetings, newsletters, land contract for the storefront, recordings of annual picnics and photographs.

### Preferred Citation

MS-596, Keweenaw Cooperative Inc. Collection, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

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## Biography

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Keweenaw Cooperative Inc. in Hancock, Michigan started in 1973 as a pre-order bulk-buying club that operated out of the back room of Funkey's Karma Cafe—a Houghton restaurant specializing in natural foods. These efforts were in response to the lack of availability of natural and organic foods in the Copper Country at that time. The Co-op grew quickly, outlived the restaurant, and soon moved to a small retail space on Minnesota Avenue in Hancock, where bulk foods continued to be offered, and volunteer labor kept it going. In 1981 the Co-op bought a small building at 1027 Ethel Avenue, but outgrew the space after a few years and

purchased a larger building in the same neighborhood. On May 13, 1986, the Co-op opened at the current location, 1035 Ethel Avenue, as a full-line grocery store, featuring a variety of natural and organic groceries, as well as mindfully chosen conventional products, gourmet foods, delicatessen specialties, and an extensive array of quality bulk foods. In September 2007 the Co-op paid the mortgage off and the Co-op now owns the building. In 2010, by vote of the Membership, the Co-op reincorporated as a true cooperative. This change created a true Member-Ownership by requiring Member-Owners to own a share of Co-op Common stock (Membership Stock). By increasing the Member-Owners' economic participation and investment, the Co-op created a stronger and more financially sound business (from "Our History," <http://www.keweenaw.coop/history.php>, accessed Jan. 2010). The Keweenaw Co-op is the only market in the Western Upper Peninsula offering goods and services that appeal to consumers who have a meaningful sense of environmental and social responsibility and incorporate those values into their buying decisions.

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## Collection Scope and Content Summary

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Material from the Keweenaw Cooperative Inc. of Hancock, Michigan. Includes minutes and correspondence of the Board of Directors, minutes from general membership meetings, minutes, and other various records from the Common Health Warehouse Co-op Association, newsletters, land contract for the storefront, recordings of the Co-op/SAC/ARC Picnics and the Keweenaw Co-op Radio Show, and publications from other co-ops.

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## Arrangement

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The Keweenaw Cooperative, Inc. Collection is arranged into eleven series: 1. Bylaws and Motions, 2. Board of Directors, 3. General Membership Minutes, 4. Committees, Boards, and Groups, 5. Financial and Legal Documents, 6. Operational Documents, 7. Public Relations and Programming, 8. Marketing Studies, 9. Co-op Associations and North American Co-ops, 10. Publications and 11. Audio.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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Houghton 49931

[copper@mtu.edu](mailto:copper@mtu.edu)

URL: <http://www.lib.mtu.edu/mtuarchives/>

### Conditions Governing Access

Available for use in the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections.

### Conditions Governing Use

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

### Acquisition

Three reels of audio tape recording the events of the Co-op SAC Arc Picnic were created through funding provided by the Michigan Technological University J. Robert Van Pelt and John and Ruanne Opie Library and donated to the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections on Oct 7, 1980 with additional tapes donated in 1981. There have been fourteen additional accessions to the collection from multiple donors since the initial donation. Nine donations that included office files, audio tapes, Motions, minutes, correspondence, office files, and newsletters, and the original land contract were received from James Spence from the period of 1980 to 2007. Another donation was made by Mark Yeager in 1986 consisting of Surveys and questionnaires, board minutes, food safety and inspection material, bylaws, book keeping material, CWHCA notes from 1976 through 1984. Updated office files, 1988-1990 were donated by Susan Burach in 1990.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Archival Materials

Documentation relating to the relationship between Keweenaw Cooperative, Inc. and Superior Foods Cooperative Inc. may be found in this repository in MS-143: Superior Foods Cooperative Inc. Records.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Surveys (Documents)
- Audiocassettes
- Newsletters
- Minutes
- Bylaws (Administrative records)
- Keweenaw Peninsula (Mich.)
- Correspondence
- Cooperative societies -- Michigan
- Hancock (Mich.)

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series I, Bylaws and Motions, 1974-1985; 1992, 2000, (1974-1985)

#### Scope and Contents

This series contains the Keweenaw Cooperative's Bylaws and motions passed by the Board of Directors and the General membership.

Title/Description	Instances	
Bylaws, Circa 1976	box 1	folder 1
Proposed Bylaws, Circa 1981	box 1	folder 2
Bylaws Revision Notes, Circa 1981	box 1	folder 3
New Bylaws, 1981	box 1	folder 4
Bylaws, 1992, 2000	box 1	folder 5

Motions Red Notebook Key, Circa 1980	box 1	folder 6
Motions-Board of Directors, 1976-1985	box 1	folder 7
Motions-Bylaws, 1974-1982	box 1	folder 8
Motions- Truck Committee (Transportation), 1974-1976	box 1	folder 9
Motions- New Sources Committee, Circa 1976	box 1	folder 10
Motions- Secretary, 1974-1980	box 1	folder 11
Motions- Miscellaneous, 1974-1985	box 1	folder 12
Motions-Store Manager, 1976-1977	box 1	folder 13
motions- Work Credit, 1974-1985	box 1	folder 14
Motions- Communications Committee, 1974-1982	box 1	folder 15
Motions- Coordinator, 1975-1979	box 1	folder 16
Motions- Committees, 1975-1984	box 1	folder 17
Motions- The Store, 1974-1984	box 1	folder 18
Motions- Storefront Committee, 1975-1977	box 1	folder 19
Motions- Bookkeeper I, 1976-1980	box 1	folder 20
Motions- General Membership, 1974-1982	box 1	folder 21
Motions- Financial, 1974-1985	box 1	folder 22
Motions- Organizational Memberships &/or Sales, 1977-1980	box 1	folder 23
Motions- Orientation, 1977-1982	box 1	folder 24
Motions- CHWCA, 1977-1984	box 1	folder 25
Motions- Paid Workers I, 1977-1985	box 1	folder 26
Motions- Building Loan Board, 1984-1985	box 1	folder 27
Motions- Housing Coordinator, 1981	box 1	folder 28
Motions- Housing, 1981	box 1	folder 29
Black/Blue Notebook- Articles of Incorporation & Board of Directors Attendance, 1979-1980	box 1	folder 30

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## Series II, Board of Directors, 1973-1995; 2001

## Scope and Contents

Minutes and notes by board members from monthly and special meetings, as well as annual reports.

Title/Description	Instances	
Board of Directors Orientation, Circa 1980	box 1	folder 31
Board of Directors Minutes, 1973-1975	box 1	folder 32
Board of Directors Minutes, 1976	box 1	folder 33
Board of Directors Minutes, Jan 1977- Sep 1977	box 1	folder 34
Board of Directors Minutes, Oct 1977-Dec 1977	box 1	folder 35
Board of Directors Minutes, 1978	box 1	folder 36
Board of Directors Minutes, 1979	box 1	folder 37
Board of Directors Minutes, Jan 1980-Mar 1980	box 1	folder 38
Board of Directors Minutes, 4/24/1980-9/16/1980	box 1	folder 39
Board of Directors Minutes, 10/01/1980-12/18/1980	box 1	folder 40
Board of Directors Minutes, 2/15/1981-6/11/1981	box 1	folder 41
Board of Directors Minutes, 7/02/1981-12/14/1981	box 1	folder 42
Board of Directors Minutes, 1/25/1982-6/28/1982	box 1	folder 43
Board of Directors Minutes, 7/20/1982-3/29/1983	box 1	folder 44
Board of Directors Minutes, 4/26/1983-5/22/1984	box 1	folder 45
Board of Directors Minutes, 6/19/1984-12/12/1985	box 1	folder 46
Board of Directors Minutes, 1/21/1986-6/26/1986	box 1	folder 47
Board of Directors Minutes, 8/05/1986-11/18/1986	box 1	folder 48
Board of Directors Minutes, 12/16/1986-4/30/1987	box 1	folder 49
Board of Directors Minutes, 9/01/1987-12/32/1987	box 1	folder 50
Board of Directors Minutes, 2/03/1988-6/20/1988	box 2	folder 1
Board of Directors Minutes, 7/18/1988-11/28/1988	box 2	folder 2
Board of Directors Minutes, 1/18/1989-5/08-1989	box 2	folder 3
Board of Directors Minutes, 7/11/1989-12/09/1989	box 2	folder 4
Board of Directors Minutes, 1/06/1990-4/22/1990	box 2	folder 5
Board of Directors Minutes, 1/06/1990-4/22/1990	box 2	folder 5
Board of Directors Minutes, 5/02/1990-9/15/1990	box 2	folder 6
Board of Directors Minutes, 8/15/2001	box 2	folder 7
Annual Reports, 1993, 1995	box 2	folder 8



Board of Directors Notes, Mark Yeager, 1975-1976                      box 2                      folder 9

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## Series III, General Membership Minutes, 1974-1991; 1999, 2004, 2006

### Scope and Contents

Minutes and notes from the annual meetings of the General Membership.

Title/Description	Instances	
General Membership Meeting Minutes, Jan 1974- Oct 1978	box 2	folder 10
General Membership Meeting Minutes, 1980	box 2	folder 11
General Membership Meeting Minutes, Jan 1981-May 1981	box 2	folder 12
General Membership Meeting Minutes, 9/27/1981-3/20/1984	box 2	folder 13
General Membership Meeting Minutes, 11/13/1984	box 2	folder 14
General Membership Meeting Minutes, 3/26/1986-9/09/1986	box 2	folder 15
General Membership Meeting Minutes, 2/10/1987-11/07/1987	box 2	folder 16
General Membership Meeting Minutes and Agendas, 1988, 1991, 1999, 2004, 2006	box 2	folder 17

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## Series IV, Committees, Boards, and Groups, 1977-1986

### Scope and Contents

Minutes, reports, and research from committees, boards, and working groups within the co-op.

Title/Description	Instances	
Apothecary Committee, 1977-1981	box 2	folder 18
Baking Committee, 1981-1982	box 2	folder 19
Building Loan Board, 1981-1982	box 2	folder 20
Communication/ Education Committee, 1977, 1978, 1980	box 2	folder 21
Fundraising Committee, 1980-1981	box 2	folder 22
Food Policy and New Sources Committee, 1976-1981	box 2	folder 23
Personnel Committee Minutes, 1981-1983; 1986	box 2	folder 24

Personnel Committee Guidelines, 1980-1986	box 2	folder 25
Co-op Bank, 1980-1984	box 2	folder 26
Housing Co-op & Transportation, Undated	box 2	folder 27
Senior Citizens & Handicapped, 1980	box 2	folder 28
Program Study Group II, 1980	box 2	folder 29

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## Series V, Financial and Legal Documents, 1974-1983; 1989, 1990, 1995, (1974-1983)

### Scope and Contents

Budget material and financial statements as well as tax exemption applications, the lease for the Minnesota Street locations, and the sales agreement and land contract for the 1027 Ethel Street location.

Title/Description	Instances	
Capitalization, 1974	box 2	folder 30
C.E.T.A. Application, 1980-1981	box 2	folder 31
Store Improvements/ Deli/ Service and Produce Departments Equipment Needs, May 1990, Jun 1990	box 2	folder 32
Tax Exemption-IRS, 1980	box 2	folder 33
Lease, 7/06/1976	box 2	folder 34
Accounting, 1979-1980	box 2	folder 35
Accounting, 1982-1983	box 2	folder 36
Accounting, 1980	box 2	folder 37
Budget Material & Financial Statements, 1979, 1980, 1982	box 2	folder 38
Budget Material, 1980-1983	box 2	folder 39
Financial Statements and Reports, 1974-1982; 1989, 1995	box 2	folder 40
Land Contract, 1981, 1982	box 2	folder 41
Agreement of Sale, Ethel Property, 6/05/1981	box 2	folder 42
Sales Tax Exemption Application, Undated	box 2	folder 43

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## Series VI, Operational Documents, 1973-1984

## Scope and Contents

Documents concerning the daily operation of the store including order lists, work lists, member notes, correspondence, orientation material, paid staff reports and evaluations, and the Superior Foods Co-op membership transfer list.

Title/Description	Instances	
People's Warehouse Order Forms, 1973	box 2	folder 44
Master Order Lists, 1973-1974	box 2	folder 45
Work Lists, 1973-1974	box 2	folder 46
Member Notes, 1975-1977	box 2	folder 47
Correspondence, 1976; 1980-1982	box 2	folder 48
A Study of the Keweenaw Co-op Including Evaluation and Recommendations, 11/19/1976	box 2	folder 49
Accordion Folder "T", 1977-1980	box 2	folder 50
Paid Staff Reports, Apr 1977- Sep 1981	box 2	folder 51
Orientation, 1980-1982	box 2	folder 52
Food Inspection, 1980-1983	box 2	folder 53
Personnel Evaluation Forms, 1982, 1983	box 2	folder 54
Paid Staff Evaluations, 1983	box 2	folder 55
Superior Foods Membership Transfers, Undated	box 2	folder 56
KFC Black Binder- Bylaws, 1981	box 2	folder 57
KFC Black Binder- Finance, 1982-1983	box 2	folder 58
KFC Black Binder- General Membership Minutes, 1981-1983	box 2	folder 59
KFC Black Binder- Board of Directors, 1980-1984	box 2	folder 60
KFC Black Binder- Committee Reports, 1982	box 2	folder 61
KFC Black Binder- Board of Directors, Circa 1980	box 2	folder 62

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## Series VII, Public Relations and Programming, 1979-1983

### Scope and Contents

Notes and transcripts from the Keweenaw Co-op Radio Show, newspaper and magazine articles, and photographs, guest book, and other various documents relating to the Co-op SAC ARC Picnic.

Title/Description	Instances	
Radio Show Notes, 1979-1981	box 3	folder 1

Co-op Public Relations, 1981, 1983	box 3	folder 2
Co-op SAC ARC, 1980-1981	box 3	folder 3
Co-op SAC ARC Photographs, Sep 10, 1980	box 3	folder 4
2nd Annual olde Tyme Co-op Picnic Guest Book, Aug 16, 1981	box 3	folder 5
Keweenaw Co-op Tee Shirt, Undated	box 6	item 1
Co-op SAC ARC picnic ribbon, 1981	box 6	item 2

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## Series VIII, Marketing Studies, Circa 1977

### Scope and Contents

Membership and student surveys and reports concerning the goods and services provided by the Keweenaw Co-op.

Title/Description	Instances	
Marketing Research Paper, Undated	box 3	folder 6
Customer Survey, Undated	box 3	folder 7
Member Opinion Survey-Negative, Undated	box 3	folder 8
Member Opinion Surveys-Positive, Undated	box 3	folder 9
Member Opinion Survey, Undated	box 3	folder 10
Dorm Food Survey, 1977	box 3	folder 11

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## Series IX, Co-op Associations and North American Co-ops, 1973-1987

### Scope and Contents

Minutes, correspondence, reports, from the Common Health Warehouse Co-op Association Board of Directors (CHWCA) and General Membership as well as documents relating to the Keweenaw Co-op's CHWCA stock shares. Also found in this series is minutes, correspondence and other records from other co-ops in the Upper Midwest.

Title/Description	Instances	
Buying Clubs, 1977-1980	box 3	folder 12
Food Co-op Directories, 1977-1980	box 3	folder 13
Finnish-American Cooperative History, 1980, Undated	box 3	folder 14
Michigan Alliance of Cooperatives, 1981-1982	box 3	folder 15

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Cass Corridor Food Co-op, 1976-1979	box 3	folder 16
Superior Food Co-op, 1981	box 3	folder 17
Miscellaneous Co-ops, 1973, Undated	box 3	folder 18
Cooperative/ Alternative Community Publications, 1974-1981	box 3	folder 19
Cooperation in the North Country Scoop, 1980, 1982	box 3	folder 20
People's Warehouse, 1975, 1978	box 3	folder 21
MFOFC People's Warehouse Newsletter, Aug 1977-Spring 1979	box 3	folder 22
Common Health Warehouse Co-op Association Newsletter, Jul 1975; Feb 1976-Dec 1977	box 3	folder 23
Common Health Warehouse Co-op Association Newsletter, Mar 1978-Jun 1979	box 3	folder 24
Common Health Warehouse Co-op Association Newsletter, Jan 1980-Dec 1980	box 3	folder 25
Common Health Warehouse Co-op Association Newsletter, Mar 1981-Nov/ Dec 1982	box 3	folder 26
Common Health Warehouse Co-op Association Newsletter, May/ Jun 1983- Mar/Apr 1984	box 3	folder 27
CHWCA- Articles and Bylaws, 1984	box 3	folder 28
CHWCA- Information Referral and Exchange Services , 1983	box 3	folder 29
CHWCA- Board of Directors Minutes and Correspondence, 1976-1977	box 3	folder 30
Superior Region of CHWCA, 1982	box 3	folder 31
CHWCA Board of Directors Minutes and Correspondence, 1976-1983	box 4	folder 1
Energy Unlimited- CHWCA, Circa 1982	box 4	folder 2
CHWCA- General Membership Minutes, 1977-1983	box 4	folder 3
CHWCA Stock (1 of 2), 1976-1982	box 4	folder 4
CHWCA-Stock (2 of 2), 1982-1983	box 4	folder 5
CHWCA-Audit Reports, 1976-1977	box 4	folder 6
CHWCA-Financial & Income Statements, 1977-1984	box 4	folder 7
CHWCA-Miscellaneous Policy, Mailings, and Notes, Circa 1977	box 4	folder 8
Distributing Alliance of the Northcountry Cooperatives, 1977	box 4	folder 9
North American Students of Cooperation, 1976; 1980-1982	box 4	folder 10

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## Series X, Keweenaw Cooperative, Inc. Publications, 1974-1995; 2002-2009, (1974-1989)

### Scope and Contents

Publications created by the Keweenaw Co-op, Common Health Warehouse Co-op Association, North American Students of Cooperation, the Michigan Federation of Food Co-ops, and other Co-ops in the Upper Midwest.

Title/Description	Instances	
Co-op Cookbook Vol. 1, Dec 1974	box 4	folder 11
Circumspice Manuscript Format, Mar 1974-1975	box 4	folder 12
Circumspice, May 1975-Jul 1978	box 4	folder 13
Circumspice, Sep 1978-Spring 1980	box 4	folder 14
Circumspice, 1977-1984; 2002-2009	box 4	folder 15
Keweenaw Co-op Advertisements, Approximately 1976-1989	box 4	folder 16
Food Information Handouts, 1976-1979	box 4	folder 17
Information Sheets, Nov/Dec 1977-Jun 1984; 1991, 1995	box 4	folder 18
Keweenaw Co-op Pamphlets, Approximately 1976-1986; 2009	box 4	folder 19
Membership Mailings, 1975-1986; 1994	box 4	folder 20

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## Series XI, Audio, 1980-1985

### Scope and Contents

Audio reel to reel tapes and cassettes with recordings from the Co-op SAC ARC Picnics, the Keweenaw Co-op Radio Show, Food Day, Conscious Stomach, MSU Extension Office, and a cassette labeled, "Financial."

### Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

Researchers can listen to the audiocassettes on the cassette player in the Archives, however, patrons who wish to listen to the reel to reel recordings must make a request to the Archives for digital reformatting, which can be provided for a fee.

Title/Description	Instances	
Co-op/SAC/ARC Picnic Tape 1, 1980, Aug.10	box 6	reel 1

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Co-op/SAC/ARC Picnic Tape 2, 1980, Aug. 10	box 6	reel 2
Co-op/SAC/ARC Picnic Tape 3, 1980, Aug. 10	box 6	reel 3
Co-op/SAC/ARC Picnic Tape 1, 1981, Aug. 16	box 6	reel 4
Co-op/SAC/ARC Picnic Tape 2, 1981, Aug. 16	box 6	reel 5
K-Co-op 3/26/81 IA3, 1981, Mar. 26	box 7	item 1
KFC RS 3/26/81, 1981, Mar. 26	box 7	item 2
MSU Extension Service, Barb Koski, Maple Syrup, Master Canner, Weight Control, 1985, Dec. 13	box 7	item 3
Keweenaw Co-op 2/26/81 A01, 1981, Feb. 26	box 7	item 4
Food Day, 1980, Apr. 18	box 7	item 5
Conscious Stomach, 1980, Apr. 3	box 7	item 6
Dr. Bob Eslinger D.O. Health Hints, Undated	box 7	item 7
Financial, Undated	box 7	item 8
Keweenaw Co-op Jim Spence and Bob Olson Speaking Generally about the Co-op, 1985, Feb. 13	box 7	item 9
Co-op/SAC/ARC Picnic, David Halkola on "Finnish Immigrants and the Co-op Movement", 1980, Aug. 10	box 7	item 10
Co-op/SAC/ARC Picnic, 1981, Aug. 16	box 7	item 11
Keweenaw Co-op Radio Show, Michigan State Extension Service, Superior Foods Co-op, 1981, Feb. 14	box 7	item 12
Keweenaw Co-op Radio Show: Andre Tovane, Food Day, Protein Complimenting, Orientation Classes, Vitamin B-12, Circumspice, Conscious Stomach, Food Day, May GMM, Bylaws, New Building, 1981/04/02, 1981/04/23	box 7	item 13
Keweenaw Co-op Radio Show: Loan Program, Bake Sale, Colby Cheese, Raffle info, Pancake Breakfast, Jun. 1981	box 7	item 14
Keweenaw Co-op Radio Show IA14, 1981, Aug. 6	box 7	item 15
Keweenaw Co-op Radio Show, 1981, Sep. 24	box 7	folder 16
Keweenaw Co-op Radio, Jensen, Eslinger, 1982, Feb. 10	box 7	item 17

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