



The Fortnightly Club Collection MS-009

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country
Historical Collections

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Summary Information

Repository:	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Title:	The Fortnightly Club Collection
ID:	MS-009
Date [inclusive]:	1937-2018
Physical Description:	1.35 Cubic Feet 3 manuscript boxes (legal size)
Language of the Material:	English
Mixed Materials [box]:	1-3
Abstract:	Collection, 1937-2018, of the Fortnightly Club in Hancock, Michigan, originally a religious study group for young married couples that has evolved into an education and social group.

Preferred Citation

MS-009, The Fortnightly Club Collection, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

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Biography

The Fortnightly Club was organized in Hancock in November 1937 and is still in existence. It seems to bear no obvious relation to a Home Fortnightly Club founded in Calumet in 1902 (see constitution and annual programs at F574.C2 H6). The Fortnightly Club was organized in 1937 by Rev. Fred Clark of the First Congregation Church of Hancock and its early decades of activity reflect its design as a religious study group for young married couples, particularly those with young children. Early versions of the Club's constitution describe a group "organized to encourage sociability among the young married people of the district, to improve our knowledge in certain fields of learning and to demonstrate the practical aspect of religious experience." These early constitutions also include articles specifying a group of no more than 30 "young married people", two-thirds of whom must have membership in the church, and allowing for the expulsion of members living "contrary to the standards of Christian living

generally accepted by society." In these early years Rev. Clark presented talks on religious subjects alternating with other speakers and social meetings. Meetings were held every two weeks (hence the name) at the church or in members' homes, and announcements were printed in the church bulletin as well as the Saturday church update in the Houghton Daily Mining Gazette.

By the late 1950's, the group's religious orientation began to fade. The revised constitution of 1959 ended public announcements of Club meetings and changed the membership articles deleting the words "young" and requiring only half of the active members to be "affiliated" with the Congregational Church. By 1972, "Christian living" language was dropped, meetings were no longer held at the church and future meetings were announced by the Club president or the host couple. A document prepared for the Club's fiftieth anniversary celebration in 1987 indicated that many members were faculty of Michigan Technological University, though lawyers, doctors and Isle Royale rangers had been members in an effort to keep the group from becoming a MTU faculty organization.

With the constitution of 1990, meetings were set at the first and third Wednesday of each month and active membership drawn "primarily" from married couples. Total Club membership has never exceeded thirty members. The educational part of the Club's meetings have included, talks, lectures, panel discussions, book reviews, slides, movies, and discussions concerning directed study. The Club has continued its traditional Christmas parties, white elephant gift exchanges, and annual spring picnics, though other activities, like Twelfth Night dinners and Guest Meetings, have fallen into disuse.

The Fortnightly Club Collection charts the evolution of one Copper Country social organization through a number of incarnations. Throughout its history, however, the Club's stated goals to encourage sociability and improve knowledge have continued. The collection provides insight to Club members, to local community activities, and to their perspectives on the contemporary issues of the times.

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Collection Scope and Content Summary

Collection, 1937-2018, of the Fortnightly Club in Hancock, Michigan, originally a religious study group for young married couples that has evolved into an education and social group. Includes a history of the club, constitutions, and minutes with attachments.

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Arrangement

MS-009 has been arranged into two series, which have each been further arranged chronologically. The two series consist of:

1. Club History, 1937-1962; 1988-1997
2. Minutes, 1937-2018

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

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Conditions Governing Use

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Controlled Access Headings

- Rosters
- Histories
- Bylaws (Administrative records)
- Minutes

- Hancock (Mich.)
- Education -- Societies, etc.

Collection Inventory

Series I, Club History, 1937-1962; 1988-2017, (1937-1990)

Language of the Material: English.

Scope and Contents

This series contains club histories, reports and letters from anniversary celebrations, the Fortnightly Club Constitution, and revisions to the constitution.

Title/Description	Instances	
History of the Fortnightly Club, 1937-1958; 1994	box 1	folder 1
Fortnightly Club Constitutions, 1943-1990	box 1	folder 2
25th Anniversary, November 7, 1962	box 1	folder 3
50th Anniversary, May 4, 1988	box 1	folder 4
60th Anniversary, November 19, 1997	box 1	folder 5
MTU Archives paperwork, 2016-2017	box 3	folder 23

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Series II, Minutes, 1937-2018

Language of the Material: English.

Scope and Contents

Documents found in this series include meeting minutes with attachments consisting of correspondence, invoices, election ballots, and membership lists.

Title/Description	Instances	
Minutes, 1937-1940	box 1	folder 6
Minutes, 1940-1945	box 1	folder 7
Minutes, 1946-1951	box 1	folder 8
Minutes, 1951-1955	box 1	folder 9
Minutes, 1955-1958	box 1	folder 10
Minutes, 1958-1961	box 2	folder 1
Minutes, 1961-1962	box 2	folder 2

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Minutes, 1962-1963	box 2	folder 3
Minutes, 1963-1964	box 2	folder 4
Minutes, 1964-1965	box 2	folder 5
Minutes, 1965-1966	box 2	folder 6
Minutes, 1966-1967	box 2	folder 7
Minutes, 1967-1970	box 2	folder 8
Minutes, 1970-1975	box 2	folder 9
Minutes, 1975-1978	box 2	folder 10
Minutes, 1978-1979	box 2	folder 11
Minutes, 1980-1981	box 2	folder 12
Minutes, 1981-1982	box 2	folder 13
Minutes, 1982-1983	box 2	folder 14
Minutes, 1983-1984	box 2	folder 15
Minutes, 1984-1985	box 2	folder 16
Minutes, 1985-1986	box 2	folder 17
Minutes, 1986-1987	box 2	folder 18
Minutes, 1987-1988	box 2	folder 19
Minutes, 1988-1989	box 2	folder 20
Minutes, 1989-1990	box 2	folder 21
Minutes, 1990-1991	box 2	folder 22
Minutes, 1991-1992	box 3	folder 1
Minutes, 1992-1993	box 3	folder 2
Minutes, 1993-1994	box 3	folder 3
Minutes, 1994-1995	box 3	folder 4
Minutes, 1995-1996	box 3	folder 5
Minutes, 1996-1997	box 3	folder 6
Minutes, 1997-1998	box 3	folder 7
Minutes, 1998-1999	box 3	folder 8
Minutes, 1999-2000	box 3	folder 9
Minutes, 2000-2001	box 3	folder 10
Minutes, 2001-2002	box 3	folder 11
Minutes, 2002-2003	box 3	folder 12

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Minutes, 2003-2004	box 3	folder 13
Minutes, 2004-2005	box 3	folder 14
Minutes and member list, 4/02/2008- 2/03/2010	box 3	folder 15
Minutes, 2008-2012	box 3	folder 16
Minutes, 2011-2017	box 3	folder 17-20
Minutes and rosters, 2013-2014	box 3	folder 21
Minutes and rosters, 2017-2018	box 3	folder 22

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