

Keweenaw Cooperative Inc. Collection

MS-596

Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Russell, revised by Rachael Bussert.



Funding for the arrangement and description of this collection was provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

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

1/25/2010

1400 Townsend Drive

Houghton, Michigan, 49931

906-487-2505

copper@mtu.edu

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Summary Information

Repository	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Creator	Keweenaw Cooperative Inc..
Title	Keweenaw Cooperative Inc. Collection
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1974-1989
Date [inclusive]	1973-2009
Extent	4.46 cubic feet 7 manuscript boxes
Language	English
Language of Material	English
Mixed materials [Box]	1-7
Abstract	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.

Biography

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.

Collection Scope and Content Summary

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.

Arrangement

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.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections 1/25/2010

Revision Description

This collection was processed during the NHPRC funded Detailed Processing project. 8/02/2012

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.

Related Materials

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.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Common Health Warehouse Cooperative Association.
- Keweenaw Cooperative Inc..

Genre(s)

- Audiocassettes
- Bylaws (Administrative records)
- Correspondence
- Minutes
- Newsletters
- Surveys (Documents)

Geographic Name(s)

- Hancock (Mich.)
- Keweenaw Peninsula (Mich.)

Subject(s)

- Cooperative societies--Michigan

Series I, Bylaws and Motions

Collection Inventory

Series I, Bylaws and Motions 1974-1985; 1992, 2000 (Bulk, 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.

	Box	Folder
Bylaws Circa 1976	1	1
Proposed Bylaws Circa 1981	1	2
Bylaws Revision Notes Circa 1981	1	3
New Bylaws 1981	1	4
Bylaws 1992, 2000	1	5
Motions Red Notebook Key Circa 1980	1	6
Motions-Board of Directors 1976-1985	1	7
Motions-Bylaws 1974-1982	1	8

Series I, Bylaws and Motions

Motions- Truck Committee (Transportation) 1974-1976	1	9
Motions- New Sources Committee Circa 1976	1	10
Motions- Secretary 1974-1980	1	11
Motions- Miscellaneous 1974-1985	1	12
Motions-Store Manager 1976-1977	1	13
motions- Work Credit 1974-1985	1	14
Motions- Communications Committee 1974-1982	1	15
Motions- Coordinator 1975-1979	1	16
Motions- Committees 1975-1984	1	17
Motions- The Store 1974-1984	1	18
Motions- Storefront Committee 1975-1977	1	19
Motions- Bookkeeper I 1976-1980	1	20
Motions- General Membership 1974-1982	1	21
Motions- Financial 1974-1985	1	22

Series II, Board of Directors

Motions- Organizational Memberships &/or Sales 1977-1980	1	23
Motions- Orientation 1977-1982	1	24
Motions- CHWCA 1977-1984	1	25
Motions- Paid Workers I 1977-1985	1	26
Motions- Building Loan Board 1984-1985	1	27
Motions- Housing Coordinator 1981	1	28
Motions- Housing 1981	1	29
Black/Blue Notebook- Articles of Incorporation & Board of Directors Attendance 1979-1980	1	30

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.

	Box	Folder
Board of Directors Orientation Circa 1980	1	31
Board of Directors Minutes 1973-1975	1	32

Series II, Board of Directors

Board of Directors Minutes 1976	1	33
Board of Directors Minutes Jan 1977- Sep 1977	1	34
Board of Directors Minutes Oct 1977-Dec 1977	1	35
Board of Directors Minutes 1978	1	36
Board of Directors Minutes 1979	1	37
Board of Directors Minutes Jan 1980-Mar 1980	1	38
Board of Directors Minutes 4/24/1980-9/16/1980	1	39
Board of Directors Minutes 10/01/1980-12/18/1980	1	40
Board of Directors Minutes 2/15/1981-6/11/1981	1	41
Board of Directors Minutes 7/02/1981-12/14/1981	1	42
Board of Directors Minutes 1/25/1982-6/28/1982	1	43
Board of Directors Minutes 7/20/1982-3/29/1983	1	44
Board of Directors Minutes 4/26/1983-5/22/1984	1	45
Board of Directors Minutes 6/19/1984-12/12/1985	1	46

Series II, Board of Directors

Board of Directors Minutes 1/21/1986-6/26/1986	1	47
Board of Directors Minutes 8/05/1986-11/18/1986	1	48
Board of Directors Minutes 12/16/1986-4/30/1987	1	49
Board of Directors Minutes 9/01/1987-12/32/1987	1	50
Board of Directors Minutes 2/03/1988-6/20/1988	2	1
Board of Directors Minutes 7/18/1988-11/28/1988	2	2
Board of Directors Minutes 1/18/1989-5/08-1989	2	3
Board of Directors Minutes 7/11/1989-12/09/1989	2	4
Board of Directors Minutes 1/06/1990-4/22/1990	2	5
Board of Directors Minutes 1/06/1990-4/22/1990	2	5
Board of Directors Minutes 5/02/1990-9/15/1990	2	6
Board of Directors Minutes 8/15/2001	2	7
Annual Reports 1993, 1995	2	8
Board of Directors Notes, Mark Yeager 1975-1976	2	9

Series III, General Membership Minutes**Series III, General Membership Minutes 1974-1991; 1999, 2004, 2006****Scope and Contents**

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

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

Series IV, Committees, Boards, and Groups 1977-1986**Scope and Contents**

Series V, Financial and Legal Documents

Minutes, reports, and research from committees, boards, and working groups within the co-op.		
	Box	Folder
Apothecary Committee 1977-1981	2	18
Baking Committee 1981-1982	2	19
Building Loan Board 1981-1982	2	20
Communication/ Education Committee 1977, 1978, 1980	2	21
Fundraising Committee 1980-1981	2	22
Food Policy and New Sources Committee 1976-1981	2	23
Personnel Committee Minutes 1981-1983; 1986	2	24
Personnel Committee Guidelines 1980-1986	2	25
Co-op Bank 1980-1984	2	26
Housing Co-op & Transportation Undated	2	27
Senior Citizens & Handicapped 1980	2	28
Program Study Group II 1980	2	29
Series V, Financial and Legal Documents 1974-1983; 1989, 1990, 1995 (Bulk, 1974-1983)		

Series V, Financial and Legal Documents

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.

	Box	Folder
Capitalization 1974	2	30
C.E.T.A. Application 1980-1981	2	31
Store Improvements/ Deli/ Service and Produce Departments Equipment Needs May 1990, Jun 1990	2	32
Tax Exemption-IRS 1980	2	33
Lease 7/06/1976	2	34
Accounting 1979-1980	2	35
Accounting 1982-1983	2	36
Accounting 1980	2	37
Budget Material & Financial Statements 1979, 1980, 1982	2	38
Budget Material 1980-1983	2	39
Financial Statements and Reports 1974-1982; 1989, 1995	2	40

Series VI, Operational Documents

Land Contract 1981, 1982	2	41
Agreement of Sale, Ethel Property 6/05/1981	2	42
Sales Tax Exemption Application Undated	2	43

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.

	Box	Folder
People's Warehouse Order Forms 1973	2	44
Master Order Lists 1973-1974	2	45
Work Lists 1973-1974	2	46
Member Notes 1975-1977	2	47
Correspondence 1976; 1980-1982	2	48
A Study of the Keweenaw Co-op Including Evaluation and Recommendations 11/19/1976	2	49

Series VII, Public Relations and Programming

Accordian Folder "T" 1977-1980	2	50
Paid Staff Reports Apr 1977- Sep 1981	2	51
Orientation 1980-1982	2	52
Food Inspection 1980-1983	2	53
Personnel Evaluation Forms 1982, 1983	2	54
Paid Staff Evaluations 1983	2	55
Superior Foods Membership Transfers Undated	2	56
KFC Black Binder- Bylaws 1981	2	57
KFC Black Binder- Finance 1982-1983	2	58
KFC Black Binder- General Membership Minutes 1981-1983	2	59
KFC Black Binder- Board of Directors 1980-1984	2	60
KFC Black Binder- Committee Reports 1982	2	61
KFC Black Binder- Board of Directors Circa 1980	2	62
Series VII, Public Relations and Programming 1979-1983		

Series VIII, Marketing Studies

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.

	Box	Folder
Radio Show Notes 1979-1981	3	1
Co-op Public Relations 1981, 1983	3	2
Co-op SAC ARC 1980	3	3
Co-op SAC ARC Photographs Sep 10, 1980	3	4
2nd Annual olde Tyme Co-op Picnic Guest Book Aug 16, 1981	3	5
	Box	Item
Keweenaw Co-op Tee Shirt Undated	6	1

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.

	Box	Folder
Marketing Research Paper Undated	3	6

Series IX, Co-op Associations and North American Co-ops

Customer Survey Undated	3	7
Member Opinion Survey-Negative Undated	3	8
Member Opinion Surveys-Positive Undated	3	9
Member Opinion Survey Undated	3	10
Dorm Food Survey 1977	3	11

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.

	Box	Folder
Buying Clubs 1977-1980	3	12
Food Co-op Directories 1977-1980	3	13
Finnish-American Cooperative History 1980, Undated	3	14
Michigan Alliance of Cooperatives 1981-1982	3	15

Series IX, Co-op Associations and North American Co-ops

Cass Corridor Food Co-op 1976-1979	3	16
Superior Food Co-op 1981	3	17
Miscellaneous Co-ops 1973, Undated	3	18
Cooperative/ Alternative Community Publications 1974-1981	3	19
Cooperation in the North Country Scoop 1980, 1982	3	20
People's Warehouse 1975, 1978	3	21
MFOFC People's Warehouse Newsletter Aug 1977-Spring 1979	3	22
Common Health Warehouse Co-op Association Newsletter Jul 1975; Feb 1976-Dec 1977	3	23
Common Health Warehouse Co-op Association Newsletter Mar 1978-Jun 1979	3	24
Common Health Warehouse Co-op Association Newsletter Jan 1980-Dec 1980	3	25
Common Health Warehouse Co-op Association Newsletter Mar 1981-Nov/ Dec 1982	3	26
Common Health Warehouse Co-op Association Newsletter May/ Jun 1983- Mar/Apr 1984	3	27

Series IX, Co-op Associations and North American Co-ops

CHWCA- Articles and Bylaws 1984	3	28
CHWCA- Information Referral and Exchange Services 1983	3	29
CHWCA- Board of Directors Minutes and Correspondence 1976-1977	3	30
Superior Region of CHWCA 1982	3	31
CHWCA Board of Directors Minutes and Correspondence 1976-1983	4	1
Energy Unlimited- CHWCA Circa 1982	4	2
CHWCA- General Membership Minutes 1977-1983	4	3
CHWCA Stock (1 of 2) 1976-1982	4	4
CHWCA-Stock (2 of 2) 1982-1983	4	5
CHWCA-Audit Reports 1976-1977	4	6
CHWCA-Financial & Income Statements 1977-1984	4	7
CHWCA-Miscellaneous Policy, Mailings, and Notes Circa 1977	4	8
Distributing Alliance of the Northcountry Cooperatives 1977	4	9
North American Students of Cooperation 1976; 1980-1982	4	10

Series X, Keweenaw Cooperative, Inc. Publications

Series X, Keweenaw Cooperative, Inc. Publications 1974-1995; 2002-2009 (Bulk, 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.

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

Series XI, Audio

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.

	Box	Reel
Co-op/SAC/ARC Picnic Tape 1 1980, Aug.10	6	1
Co-op/SAC/ARC Picnic Tape 2 1980, Aug. 10	6	2
Co-op/SAC/ARC Picnic Tape 3 1980, Aug. 10	6	3
Co-op/SAC/ARC Picnic Tape 1 1981, Aug. 16	6	4
Co-op/SAC/ARC Picnic Tape 2 1981, Aug. 16	6	5
	Box	Item
K-Co-op 3/26/81 IA3 1981, Mar. 26	7	1
KFC RS 3/26/81 1981, Mar. 26	7	2

Series XI, Audio

MSU Extension Service, Barb Koski, Maple Syrup, Master Canner, Weight Control 1985, Dec. 13	7	3
Keweenaw Co-op 2/26/81 A01 1981, Feb. 26	7	4
Food Day 1980, Apr. 18	7	5
Conscious Stomach 1980, Apr. 3	7	6
Dr. Bob Eslinger D.O. Health Hints Undated	7	7
Financial Undated	7	8
Keweenaw Co-op Jim Spence and Bob Olson Speaking Generally about the Co-op 1985, Feb. 13	7	9
Co-op/SAC/ARC Picnic, David Halkola on "Finnish Immigrants and the Co-op Movement" 1980, Aug. 10	7	10
Co-op/SAC/ARC Picnic 1981, Aug. 16	7	11
Keweenaw Co-op Radio Show, Michigan State Extension Service, Superior Foods Co-op 1981, Feb. 14	7	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	7	13

Series XI, Audio

Keweenaw Co-op Radio Show: Loan Program, Bake Sale, Colby Cheese, Raffle info, Pancake Breakfast Jun. 1981	7	14
Keweenaw Co-op Radio Show IA14 1981, Aug. 6	7	15
	Box	Folder
Keweenaw Co-op Radio Show 1981, Sep. 24	7	16
	Box	Item
Keweenaw Co-op Radio, Jensen, Eslinger 1982, Feb. 10	7	17