

MINNESOTA FOOD COOPERATIVES:

An Inventory of Their Records at the Minnesota Historical Society

Manuscripts Collection

OVERVIEW

- Creator:** Olsen, Kris (Kristoffer Edward), 1946-1998, collector.
- Title:** Minnesota food cooperatives records.
- Dates:** 1970-1998.
- Abstract:** Newsletters, membership rosters, correspondence, newspaper clippings, flyers, and some administrative records from various food cooperatives in Minnesota, particularly in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, from 1970 through the 1990s. There are also a few files on area worker cooperatives, housing cooperatives, and credit unions.
- Quantity:** 8.5 cu. ft. (9 boxes).
- Location:** See [Detailed Description](#) section for shelf locations.

HISTORY OF THE FOOD COOPERATIVES MOVEMENT IN MINNESOTA

In the summer of 1970 Susie Shroyer returned to the West Bank (Minneapolis, Minn.) from San Francisco, California. After her return Shroyer had the idea of opening a bulk foods cooperative like the one she experienced in San Francisco. What she needed was space at little or no cost. Diane Lynn Szostek, who had met Shroyer while visiting mutual friend David Krall in San Francisco during February of 1970, and Alvin Odermann volunteered their back porch and basement as a storage and distribution area and the use of their truck to haul goods from suppliers to their home at 616 20th Avenue South, Minneapolis.

The enterprise was dubbed the People's Pantry. Within a few weeks word of the pantry spread around the neighborhood and it gained popularity. The initial intent was not to operate a food buying club, but rather to maintain a stock and location where people could come and get what they needed at wholesale cost. In addition, the organizers of the pantry wanted to buy "natural food" at prices within their means. They were looking for economic and ideological independence from supermarket chain stores. As the pantry grew in popularity and volume, Shroyer envisioned stores where the work and effort were shared by many. The stores were to be neighborhood based and each neighborhood would have its own community store. Szostek began to write articles for Eddie Felien's underground newspaper *Hundred Flowers* to encourage other people to open their own neighborhood stores. Shroyer was also instrumental in the beginnings of the People's Company Bakery and People's Clothes cooperatives.

By fall 1970 Szostek and Odermann had asked the community to find another location for

the People's Pantry and it was decided that the pantry would move to the newly opened People's Center, where it stayed for only a few months. In winter 1971 the pantry moved again to the back room of Liberty House, the building in which *Hundred Flowers* was being published, on the corner of 6th Street and Cedar Avenue. Pantry organizers, with the help of the Community Union, sold \$2,000 of shares, received a \$1,000 non-interest loan, recruited volunteers, and incorporated as the North Country Co-op. After some resistance because of what it perceived as low cash assets, Augsburg College agreed to rent the storefront at 2129 Riverside Avenue and North Country Co-op opened in April 1971.

The North Country Co-op and its volunteer base inspired others to open community co-ops. Cooperative stores quickly blossomed around the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. North Country Co-op's business grew, and as other co-ops opened, they acted as a warehouse and purchasing agent for new co-ops. Among the early cooperatives were Selby Co-op (Saint Paul), Whole Foods Co-op (Minneapolis), Riverside Cafe (Minneapolis), People's Company Bakery (Minneapolis), and Seward Co-op (Minneapolis). Eventually the wholesale purchasing and storage needs of the local cooperatives outgrew North Country's resources and the function was split off to become the People's Warehouse. By 1975 there were twenty co-op stores in Minnesota; thirty if one counted co-ops in the area known loosely as the "Northcountry" (Minnesota, western Wisconsin, northern Iowa, eastern North Dakota, and eastern South Dakota).

A few issues have repeatedly plagued the "new wave" cooperatives movement. These are: wages and benefits for paid workers, the acceptability of reinvesting profit vs. the desirability of remaining profit-free, food policies revolving around unprocessed vs. processed foods, and a cooperative's role in larger political and economic agendas. Food policy and political agendas collided in the mid-1970s causing the co-op movement to polarize. Everyone agreed that the co-ops existed to serve "the community" or "the people;" the arguments were over which community, which people, and in what manner co-ops should serve. For some co-ops, their community was geographically defined; for some co-ops their community was only those shoppers interested in organic or whole foods; other co-ops focused on using food and the storefront for promoting social change, activism, and emphasis of the "working class plight." Some individuals in the co-op movement began concentrating on politics, particularly on Marxism-Leninism. This group evolved into the Co-op Organization (CO). Members of the CO, some of whom were organizers of the first co-ops, criticized the co-op movement for being unaware of class conflict and having settled into a "cultist contentment with selling pure food." They felt that the co-op community must turn toward a sustained anti-imperialist, anti-racist, and anti-capitalist struggle led by the working class, not by the "hippy counter-culture." The CO also claimed that the co-op community was too disorganized to be effective in pursuing this social-political struggle. The CO had members in many co-ops around the metropolitan area, however their membership was strongest at the Beanery Co-op (Minneapolis) and People's Warehouse (Minneapolis).

The conflict between the aims of the CO and the beliefs of other leaders in the co-op movement erupted in spring of 1975. The CO had adopted the structural principle of democratic centralism and a philosophical alliance with the "working class." Representatives of the CO came to the Policy Review Board (PRB) of the People's Warehouse, an entity that was governed by representatives from purchasing storefront co-ops, with a plan for restructuring the warehouse according to their formulation of democratic centralism. Because the PRB was the only means through which all co-ops met and communicated about policy and problems, restructuring the warehouse would cause a ripple of

restructuring throughout the co-op movement. In addition, their proposal broadened the food policy of the warehouse to allow canned foods, refined sugar products, and white flour products. The CO claimed that this change would widen the appeal of co-ops to the "working class." The PRB rejected the proposal, though a few members felt that some changes to the food policy were a good idea.

In response, the CO broke into and occupied the warehouse on the evening of May 5, 1975, announcing that they acted on behalf of the "working class." The CO attempted to seize the assets of the warehouse and succeeded in gaining control of the facility and products. However, in a quick action the majority of PRB voted the PRB members involved in the takeover off the board. This wrested access to the accounts away from the CO. Seward Co-op, North Country Co-op, and several others declared a boycott of the People's Warehouse and set up an ad hoc trucking agency to fill the role of the warehouse. Many co-ops followed suit. The Riverside Cafe, Our Daily Bread Bakery (Saint Paul), and Selby Co-op were largely allies of the CO and did not boycott the warehouse. Some co-ops, such as Powderhorn Co-op (Minneapolis), made attempts to mediate between the CO and the PRB. Individual members of the co-op community chose sides along the philosophical and political rift. Mill City Cooperative Foods (Minneapolis), Powderhorn Co-op, North Country Co-op, and the newly opened Bryant-Central Co-op (Minneapolis) had deep divisions of opinion within their membership.

Over the summer of 1975 the situation cooled, though the boycott was still observed by several large co-ops. A new co-op association, without the link to a particular store or warehouse, called the All Co-op Assembly (ACA) was formed to fill the role of the PRB. In fall 1975 a new warehouse was created to compete with the People's Warehouse and sell to those stores still upholding the boycott. The new warehouse was established as the Distributing Alliance of the Northcountry Cooperatives (DANCe). By winter 1975 the DANCe warehouse and the boycott had taken a toll on the resources of the CO and the People's Warehouse. The CO again began to openly criticize other co-op leaders, the new warehouse, and the integrity of the whole foods movement. Soon after the criticism started the CO attempted to use its members within co-ops to effect changes to the management--either a store's policies or its leaders.

Their efforts provided little success and in December 1975 the CO initiated a violent campaign to intimidate co-op membership and leaders. At Bryant-Central Co-op the coordinator who opposed the CO found his truck fire-bombed. On January 9, 1976 members of the CO assaulted and physically removed two workers from Seward Co-op and sent a contingent to march against Mill City Cooperative Foods in order to "claim it for the community." The co-op responded by calling on its own membership; approximately 200 people rallied to form a human blockade around the storefront to keep CO proponents out of the store. At North Country Co-op, six out of nine members of the leadership collective were part of the CO. These six railroaded a vote to lift the boycott on People's Warehouse. Their vote was overruled by a crowd of angry community residents and co-op members who stormed the store, installed a new cash register, and demanded that CO members leave the store. At Powderhorn Co-op, a storefront whose leadership was vested in the CO, non-CO co-op members staged their own break-in, changed the locks, and installed a new cash register, effectively negating the CO's control of the store. By summer 1976 the "co-op wars" were over. The ownership of the People's Warehouse had been returned to the Policy Review Board through court action. The assets were liquidated because the PRB had been effectively dissolved by the boycott and disagreements. The CO continued to operate several stores and one bakery but made no further attempts to

influence others.

The "co-op wars" had a debilitating effect on many co-ops. Less involved members and casual shoppers were frightened away by all the controversy and violence. Many stores faced deteriorating memberships, low sales, and bankruptcy. People who stayed within the movement became suspicious of radical politics, preferring to keep the focus on food. At the same time, other people had been forced to reexamine what they were trying to do with the co-ops, how the co-ops were organized, and who they wanted the co-ops to serve. By the late 1970s the co-op movement revived and flourished. In 1981 the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area had twenty-seven food co-ops, three co-op restaurants, three co-op bakeries, six co-op warehouses, three formal child care co-ops, seven housing co-ops, eight theater and dance collectives, one worker-owned clothing store, one worker-owned hardware store, four cooperative construction companies, one worker-owned print shop, one bicycle co-op, one electronics repair co-op, four co-op book stores, and one cooperative loan fund. Almost all of these were worker self-managed, though many had ill-defined channels for community input. The workers were still the first community a cooperative served; the outlying neighborhood came second.

The All Co-op Assembly (ACA), formed in 1975 as a response to the "co-op wars," was an alliance of co-ops who paid membership dues to belong. The agency never acted as a policy setting body for the storefronts; instead the ACA provided a forum for co-op people to talk with and learn from each other. The ACA put many of its resources into developing a network for anyone in the co-op movement, not just the store coordinators. It provided training, workshops on issues, and start-up assistance for new co-ops. The ACA took up publication of a monthly newspaper called *Scoop* to share news of interest to store coordinators. The recession of the early 1980s was hard on co-ops and on the ACA, since it relied on member dues for its income. As fewer and fewer co-ops survived, the resource pool of the ACA dropped. Under the leadership of Annie Young the ACA cut back its activities, focused on providing training and services for existing co-ops, and sought grants to replace its lost funding. Unfortunately, the ACA was at its most unstable at a time when co-ops most needed its help. Many people in the co-op movement resented ACA's inability to aid the co-ops it had helped found. Failing finances, low membership, and hard feelings led to the dissolution of the ACA in 1984.

The recession again caused co-ops to reevaluate their goals. Again the question became "were we selling whole foods or a new economic system? and how viable is that economic system?" In order to stay financially viable, many co-ops turned to a more capitalistic approach to managing their storefronts such as taking up advertising, in-store promotions, revamping food policies to add popular processed foods, and hiring experienced store managers. At the same time, the stores tried to keep the faith in their co-op roots, maintaining their member-worker base. Reevaluation led to further examination of how decisions were made in co-ops and underscored the real and legally binding responsibilities of members of the boards of directors. As the boards realized they had serious responsibilities in the eyes of the law, the leaders had to sort out what level of democracy could be used for decision making in a storefront. Such decisions required setting policies outlining the authority and accountability of paid staff and the status of volunteer staff. In the late 1980s and early 1990s a number of co-ops chose to follow what has been called a "consumer base" rather than a member-worker base. In this scenario, members pay a large membership fee rather than purchase stock in the store. As the members are not owners or employees, they do not vote on policies or have an obligation to work in the store. Since ownership and labor are no longer prerequisites of membership, the store is run by paid

employees, rather than member-workers. In addition, rather than discounts for member-workers a portion of the profit is returned to each member pro-rated by their volume of purchases. It was argued by some co-op leaders that this model is accessible to a broader range of people than the member-worker model. The premise is, essentially, that everyone needs to buy food; not everyone has time to work in the store.

In 1991 the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area had sixteen food co-ops, two co-op restaurants, one co-op bakery, two co-op warehouses, one child care co-op, two theater collectives, one cooperative construction company, one bicycle co-op, and one cooperative loan fund. At that time, only a handful were managed by worker collectives; the remainder had turned to a more streamlined, hierarchical structure. Even though there was a decline in the number of co-ops in the Twin Cities, the co-op movement is still viable and active in Minnesota. The movement has been plagued with controversy over politics, neighborhoods, pay, profit, capitalizations, and member involvement. Underneath these problems the movement is still engaged in a social dialogue about food issues: the quality of food, critique of industrial scale farming practices, federal agricultural policy, environmental degradation, and nutrition. The counter-culture of the 1960s, which laid the ground for the "new wave co-ops," affected the broader society's awareness of nutrition and food issues permanently.

Historical synopsis was compiled from information in this and related co-op collections.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

Newsletters, membership rosters, correspondence, newspaper clippings, flyers, and some administrative records from various food cooperatives in Minnesota, particularly in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, from 1970 through the 1990s. The materials were collected by Kris Olsen, an active member of the co-op movement. From 1975 to 1996 Olsen compiled an annual directory of Midwestern cooperatives, establishing Co-op Directory Services, Inc. to publish the directory. Much of the material in this collection was gathered in compiling the directory. There are files on a few area worker cooperatives, housing cooperatives, and credit unions. He also collected flyers, statements, manifestos, correspondence, clippings, and other materials pertaining to the "co-op wars" of 1975-1976.

Olsen was a member-owner of Seward Co-op and was elected as one of the store coordinators in the mid-1970s. Later he became an employee of the All Co-op Assembly, where his job was to provide advice and resources on founding and organizing co-ops. He helped establish co-ops around Minnesota and in western Wisconsin. In the course of this work he maintained a large file of articles on cooperative philosophies, food and health issues, and management issues and techniques for worker-owned organizations.

ARRANGEMENT

These documents are organized into the following sections:

Leadership and Organizational Entities

Issues Within the Co-op Movement
Food Cooperatives
Wholesalers
Credit Unions
Housing Cooperatives
Worker Cooperatives
Co-op Directories and History

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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[Indicate the cited item and/or series here]. Kris Olsen, collector, Minnesota Food Cooperatives Records. Minnesota Historical Society.

See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL ENTITIES, 1973-1996

Most of these organizations were created to provide a forum for communication between the leaders of individual co-ops; to centralize some purchasing efforts in order to gain lower wholesale prices; to share knowledge; to discuss problems; and to provide training or information on cooperative philosophies, business practices, legal issues, and volunteer-employee management. In the Twin Cities the catalyst to establishing the All Co-op Assembly (ACA) was the need to respond to the lack of communication between co-ops and the internal disorganization within individual co-ops, both of which were seen as fundamental problems that allowed the philosophical differences of co-op organizers of the mid-1970s to result in conflict.

The Co-op Organization (CO) was formed by individuals within the food co-op movement to promote the political aims of a pro-communist and proactive revolutionary group. The organization chose to push its political agenda into the goals of food cooperatives by making "food politics" a question of class, labor, and economics rather than a question of ecology, nutrition, and self-sufficiency. As a result, the ACA and Third Force were also

intended to examine the charges by the CO of class discrimination, community exclusivity, food policies out of touch with community wants, and to wrestle with the aims of the co-op movement beyond the boundaries of providing natural foods. Other organizations represented here filled specific niches or were designed for nationwide promotion of cooperative systems.

Location	Box
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145.C.9.2F

1

All Co-op Assembly (ACA):

Correspondence, flyers, financial records, and membership lists, 1973-1983. 17 folders.

Location	Box
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145.C.9.4F

2

Correspondence, flyers, financial records, and membership lists, 1984-1985. 2 folders.

Food Learning Center, 1978-1985. 2 folders.

Food Learning Center food fact sheets and bin signs, 1983-1985.

Financial Issues, July 1982.

Legal Issues, July 1982.

North Country Winter/Sprint Conference, March 9-11, 1979.

Organizing a Food Co-op, July 1983.

Origins & Legacies: The History of a Cooperative Movement, November 1977 and July 1982.

"October is Co-op Month" promotion, 1983.

Co-op Profile and Needs Assessment Survey Results, Fall 1980.

All Co-op Assembly newsletters [various titles; scattered issues], 1975-1981.

Newsgram newsletter, September 1982 - October 1983.

Upper Midwest Co-op Grocery Analysis by Retail Systems, Inc., May 11, 1982.

Alliance of Warehouses and Federations, 1980-1983.

Associated Cooperatives (Richmond, California), 1980.

Consumer Cooperative Alliance (CCA):

Correspondence, 1978-1984.

Co-op Information Project of the Consumer Cooperative Alliance, 1981.

Co-op America: Partners in Cooperation, 1993-1996.

Co-op Organization (CO):

Correspondence, flyers, manifestos, and statements,

1974-1979. 4 folders.

People's Front to Repress Police Repression, 1976-1977.

Flyers, pamphlets, and statements regarding Steven Bandriet, a nominal member of the CO and an employee of the People's Warehouse who tried to swindle the warehouse.

Location	Box
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145.C.9.1B	9
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P. W. Trial, [April 1976?]. 1 VHS cassette.

Filmed by the Co-op Organization at the Hennepin County Government Center during the trial "People's Warehouse vs. the Co-op Organization" over the break-in and takeover of the People's Warehouse on May 5, 1975. This was filmed in the HCGC lobby, courtyard, and on the sidewalk; there is no trial footage. Three representatives of the Co-op Organization, calling itself the Co-op Movement in this film, make statements against the management of the People's Warehouse, the Policy Review Board of People's Warehouse, Kris Olsen, Howard Hickman, Jim Otto, and others. The statements revolve around the political rhetoric of the CO: anti-capitalism, pro-commuism, working class struggle, and the reactionary tactics of co-op organizers, etc. One woman reads a statement of the CO's "legitimate demands" that the plaintiffs drop the case, pay the CO members' damages (legal fees), and the county announce a sale of the warehouse building and goods giving the CO first opportunity to buy the warehouse. Condition of the images is poor; there is color loss, image fade to white, graininess, and variable sound. Approximately 20 minutes.

Location	Box
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145.C.9.4F	2
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Anti-Co-op Organization literature, 1975-1976.

Third Force [Radical Caucus], 1975-1976.

Location	Box
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145.C.9.1B	9
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Twin Cities Natural Food Co-op Association, 1987-1995. 3 folders.

Includes Twin Cities Co-op Manager's Association items.

Location	Box
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147.J.17.4F	3
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Organic Growers and Buyers Association (OGBA):

Flyers, newsletters and miscellaneous

correspondence, 1974-1990.

Spring Proceedings of the 4th Annual Meeting of the North Country Eco-Agriculture Center and the Organic Growers and Buyers Association, March 8-9, 1975.

ISSUES WITHIN THE CO-OP MOVEMENT, CA. 1971-1998

Location	Box
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147.J.17.4F	3
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Co-op consolidation issue:

This issue focuses on a proposal to consolidate smaller co-ops under the management of a larger, more profitable co-op. The idea was that by pooling resources, members, purchasing, warehousing, and distribution, that all consolidated co-ops would gain from improved cash flow, lower prices, and cheaper resources. Members of individual co-ops could shop at all locations. The stores would keep their name and location but would likely give up management, purchasing, and bookkeeping to one entity.

Correspondence, discussion, and statements by co-op leaders, 1989-1991. 5 folders.

Co-op newsletter articles on consolidation, 1993.

Final proposal, [February?] - May 1993.

Co-op organizing and philosophies [articles], undated and 1973-1998. 8 folders.

Anarchy literature, undated and 1975.

Bulk foods issue, 1980-1984.

"Co-op wars" [takeover, politics, et cetera] newspaper clippings, 1975-1976.

Selby Co-op and march on Mill City, 1975 [January 9, 1976]. 1VHS cassette.

Cassette label reads "Selby Co-op and march on Mill City transferred from Super 8 films taken by Jan Nelson, 1975." The footage shows community members and co-op members gathing at Selby Co-op; cuts to show people outside pulling the plywood off the windows and doors; cuts again to show many people standing on the street in front Mill City's store front in winter and people walking en masse up an unidentified street. The CO's march on Mill City Cooperative Foods took place on January 9, 1976. There is no sound; approximately 6 minutes.

Cooperatives in the news [articles], undated and [ca. 1971-1998].

Health foods, whole foods, nutrition, and diet [articles], 1975-1996.

Location	Box
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146.K.16.4F	4	Union and cooperative rally songs, undated.
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FOOD COOPERATIVES, 1970-1996

Location	Box
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146.K.16.4F	4	12th Avenue People's Co-op (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1976-1978. Afton Village Co-op (Afton, Minn.), 1994. Anoka Food Co-op (Anoka, Minn.), 1988. Beanery (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1972-1976. Bluff Country Co-op (Winona, Minn.), 1989-1992. Bryant-Central Co-op (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1970-1996. Buffalo Family Foods (Buffalo, Minn.), 1993. Camden Community Natural Food Cooperative (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1994. Capitol City Cooperative (Saint Paul, Minn.), undated and 1981. Community Foods Cooperative (Mankato, Minn.), 1975-1980. Croix County Co-op (Lindstrom, Minn.), 1979-1980. Daily Bread Co-op (Fairmont, Minn.), 1982-1985. East Calhoun Co-op (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1977-1990. East Dakota Co-op (Sioux Falls, S.D.), undated. East Seventh People's Co-op (Saint Paul, Minn.), undated [1976?]. Ecology Co-op (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1970-1972. Elliot Park Buying Club (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1994-1995. Elliot Park Food Cooperative (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1980. Family Food Cooperative (Marshall, Minn.), [1973]-1986.
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Famine Foods Co-op (Winona, Minn.):

Correspondence, flyers, and newspaper clippings,
1974-1982.

Faminews newsletter, 1975-1983. 8 folders.

Gentle Sky Natural Foods (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1979.

Good Earth Food Co-op (Austin, Minn.), 1978-1983.

Good Earth Food Co-op (Saint Cloud, Minn.), 1991-
1994.

Good Food Buyers Co-op (Montevideo, Minn.), 1977-
1980.

Good Food Store (Rochester, Minn.), 1979-1980.

Good News Co-op (Cedar Rapids, Ia.), 1980.

Grand Forks Co-op (Grand Forks, N.D.), 1994.

Great River Food Co-op (Monticello, Minn.), undated.

Green Grass Co-op Grocery (Saint Paul, Minn.), 1975.

Hampden Park Foods (Saint Paul, Minn.), 1990-1993.

Healthy Horizons Food Co-op (Hibbing, Minn.), 1994-
1995.

Honey Bear Food Co-op (White Bear Lake, Minn.),
1996.

Indian Nutrition Store (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1974.

LaCrosse People's Food Co-op (LaCrosse, Wis.):

Board and membership meeting minutes, 1982-1983.

Bylaws, correspondence, and flyers, 1980-1982.

Financial records, 1981-1983

Currants: The People's Food Co-op Newsletter,
December 1981 - May 1983.

Lakewinds Natural Foods (Minnetonka, Minn.), 1989-
1998.

Linden Hills Co-op (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1976-1996.

Lengby Good Food Store (Lengby, Minn.), 1974.

Merri-Grove Community Foods (Saint Paul, Minn.),
1977-1981.

Mill City Cooperative Foods (Minneapolis, Minn.):

Articles of incorporation, bylaws, and meeting

reports, 1976-1980.

Correspondence, articles, and flyers, 1972-1978.

Financial records, 1976-1979.

Store front takeover on January 9, 1976, 1975-1976.

Mill City News newsletter, 1973-[1981?].

Mississippi Market (Saint Paul, Minn.), 1984-1994.

MOM'S [Minnesota Organic Merchandise Store] Food Co-op (Cambridge, Minn.), undated.

Natural Harvest Food Co-op (Virginia, Minn.), 1990-1995.

NBC Whole Foods, Inc. [New Brighton Co-op Foods] (Fridley, Minn.), 1980-1982.

New Ulm Food Co-op (New Ulm, Minn.), 1992-1996.

North End Food Co-op (Saint Paul, Minn.), 1976-1979.

Northeast Food Co-op (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1979-1992.

Northwoods Whole Food Co-op (Ely, Minn.), 1995-1996.

Park Natural Foods (Saint Louis Park, Minn.), 1990.

Park Pantry (Saint Louis Park, Minn.), 1982.

People's Pantry (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1970.

Location	Box
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145.C.8.2F	5
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Porta-Store [Mobile Food Cooperative] (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1974-1976.

Pomme de Terre Foods (Morris, Minn.), 1988.

Prairie Foods Co-op (Northfield, Minn.), 1983-1986.

Prairie Whole Foods Co-op, Inc. (Eden Prairie, Minn.), undated.

Rainbow Community Food Co-op (Circle Pines, Minn.), undated.

Saint Anthony Park [SAP] Foods, (Saint Paul, Minn.), 1972-1994.

Saint Cloud Organic Food Co-op (Saint Cloud, Minn.), 1974-1975.

Saint Luke's Food Co-op (Minnetonka, Minn.), 1987-1989.

Saint Peter Food Co-op (Saint Peter, Minn.), 1979-1991.

Selby Co-op (Saint Paul, Minn.), 1972-1975.

South East Co-op (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1976-1980.

Spiral Natural Foods Co-op Grocery (Hastings, Minn.), undated and 1980.

Sustenance Shoppe (Albert Lea, Minn.), 1973.

True Grits Grocery (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1970.

Valley Co-op, Inc. (Stillwater, Minn.), 1983-1994.

Valley Natural Foods (Burnsville, Minn.), undated.

Viola Natural Food Co-op (Viola, Minn.), 1982-1983.

Viroqua Food Co-op (Viroqua, Wis.), undated.

Wedge Co-op (Minneapolis, Minn.):

- Board of directors minutes and orientation packet, October 1979 - June 1981.
- Correspondence, reports, and newspaper clippings, 1976-1996.
- Financial records, 1979-1984. 2 folders.
- Wedge Community Co-op Newsletter*, September 1976 - November 1990. 2 folders.
- Wedgetarian Times* newsletter, October-December 1989.
- Zucchini Express* newsletter, September 1979 - September 1981.
- Early history 1974-1979, compilation May 1995.

West Bank Co-op (Minneapolis, Minn.):

- Board of directors and shareholders, 1977-1985.
- Correspondence, reports, and newspaper clippings, 1977-1992.
- Financial records, 1978-1982. 5 folders.
- Financial audits, 1979-1980.
- Flyers, undated and 1981-1985.
- Pharmacy acquisition, 1979-1980. 2 folders.
- West Bank Consumer* newsletter, July 1979 - June 1988.

Whole Earth Co-op (River Falls, WI), 1977-1985. 2 folders.

Whole Foods (Duluth, Minn.), 1987, 1995.

Whole Foods (Minneapolis, Minn.):

Board of directors, 1979-1984.

Correspondence, flyers, and newspaper clippings, 1972-1980.

Whole Foods Co-op Newsletter, February 1973 - February 1982.

Williamson Street Grocery Cooperative (Madison, Wis.), 1978-1985.

Winter Green Community Cooperative (Albert Lea, Minn.), 1975.

Photographs of co-op facilities, 1976-1979. 17 prints.

Mill City Cooperative Foods (Minneapolis, Minn.), [1975?] and 1977.

New Riverside Cafe (Minneapolis, Minn.), late 1970s.

North End Co-op (Saint Paul, Minn.), 1979.

People's Bakery equipment, undated.

People's Center (Minneapolis, Minn.), January 1977.

People's Warehouse truck, undated.

Red Star Apothecary (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1976.

SAP [Saint Anthony Park] Community Store (Saint Paul, Minn.), undated.

South East Co-op (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1978.

Photographs of co-op workers, organizers, and activists, 1975-1982. 34 prints.

Largely consists of group shots; there are a few snapshots of individuals. Among the many identified individuals are: Gail Irish, Barb Jensen, Michel Lavin, Terry Grieco, Frank Sigel, Howard Hickman, John Evans, Jan Nelson, Dave Gutknecht, Dave Olmscheld, Cynthia Olson, Su Phoenix, Susie Shroyer, Annie Young, Cy O'Neil, Kris Olsen, and Ellen Wersen.

WHOLESALEERS, 1971-1994**Location****Box**

145.C.8.3B

6

Blooming Prairie Natural Foods Cooperative Warehouse (Iowa City, Ia. and Minneapolis, Minn.):

Correspondence, 1981-1993.

Prairie News newsletter, 1982, 1988-1996. 9 folders.

Price guide, 1991-1993. 4 folders.

Price guide, 1993-1995. 3 folders.

Cheese Rustlers (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1980-1982.

Common Health Warehouse Cooperative Association
(Duluth, Minn.):

Correspondence, 1974-1996.

Newsletter, 1976-1978.

Common Press newsletter, 1982.

Common Health Press newsletter, 1991.

Location	Box
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145.C.8.5B	7
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Common Health Press newsletter, 1992-1993. 2 folders.

Common Health Extra newsletter, 1993-1994.

Store Managers' News newsletter, 1991.

Coulee Region Organic Produce Pool (LaFarge, Wis.),
1991.

Distributing Alliance of the Northcountry Cooperatives
(DANCe):

Correspondence, flyers, and membership lists, 1975-
1988. 12 folders.

Financial records, 1976-1987. 5 folders.

Location	Box
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145.C.8.6F	8
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Audit report, 1981.

Price lists, 1975-1987. 2 folders.

Full Circle Organic Growers Cooperative (Lake City,
Minn.), 1989-1994.

Happy Sun Rhubarb Trucking Farm (Evansville, Minn.),
1972-1973.

Great River Wholesale Co-op [Prairie Harvest Collective]
(Winona, Minn.):

Correspondence, 1973-1992.

Prairie Harvest Review newsletter, 1976.

Little Bear Trading Company (Cochrane, Wis.), 1980.

Melon Patch Herbs (Princeton, Minn.), 1991.

Our Daily Bread (Saint Paul, Minn.), 1975-1976.

People's Company Bakery (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1971-
1991.

People's Warehouse (Minneapolis, Minn.):

Articles of incorporation and bylaws, 1973-1976.

Correspondence, reports, and flyers, 1973-1976.

Financial records, 1973-1976.

Growers and manufacturers lists, 1971-1975.

Newsletters, 1974-1976.

Policy Review Board (PRB), 1974-1976. 2 folders.

Price lists, 1971-1976.

Takeover by Co-op Organization (CO), 1975-1976.
2 folders.

Red Saffron (Minneapolis, Minn.), ca. 1986-1987.

Red Star Apothecary (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1973-1976.

Red Star Herbs (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1977-1986.

Roots & Fruits Cooperative Produce (Minneapolis,
Minn.):

Correspondence, 1979-1997.

Newsletter, January 1993 - January 1997.

Wiscoy Valley Community Farm (Winona, Minn.), 1974.

CREDIT UNIONS, 1978-1992

Location	Box	
145.C.8.6F	8	National Consumer Cooperative Bank (Washington, D.C.), 1978-1992.
		South Minneapolis Community Federal Credit Union (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1978.
		Twin City Co-ops Credit Union (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1984.

HOUSING COOPERATIVES, 1974-1997

Location	Box	
145.C.8.6F	8	2615 Park Avenue South (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1997.
		Common Space (Minneapolis, Minn.):
		Correspondence and flyers, 1983-1985.
		"Training for Trainers" Steering Committee, 1983.
		Frogtown Family Lofts Artists Cooperative (Saint Paul, Minn.), 1992.
		Homestead Housing Center (Inver Grove Heights, Minn.), 1994.

Monterey Cohousing Community (Saint Louis Park, Minn.), [1992?]-1995.

West Bank Tenants Union (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1974-1975.

West Bank CDC and Brighton Development Corporation Property Management Company feasibility study and cost projections, 1984-1985.

WORKER COOPERATIVES, 1972-1997

Location	Box	
145.C.8.6F	8	Central Purchasing Services (Saint Paul, Minn.), 1991. Chronic Electronic Co-op (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1977-1980. Circle of the Witch: A Collective Feminist Theater (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1975. Commonplace Vegetarian Cooperative Restaurant and Catering Service (Saint Paul, Minn.), undated. Food and Land Resource Center (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1978. Freewheel Bike Co-op (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1972-1980. Handyman's Work Cooperative (Saint Paul, Minn.), undated. Haymarket Press (Minneapolis, Minn.), undated. Heartland Data Co-op (Minneapolis, Minn.), [ca. 1980?].
Location	Box	
145.C.9.1B	9	KFAI Fresh Air Radio 90.3 FM (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1990. Kickapoo Exchange (Gays Mills, Wis.), 1977. Mesaba Co-op Park (Hibbing, Minn.), 1988-1995. Northland Poster Collective (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1989-1991. Northwoods Pioneer Craft Cooperative Shop (Two Harbors, Minn.), undated. Oak Center General Store (Lake City, Minn.), 1991. People's Clothes (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1975-1979.

People's Power Project (Minneapolis, Minn.),
[1976?]-1977.

Pie In the Sky Cooperative Cafe (Winona, Minn.),
undated.

Red Star Repair Company (Minneapolis, Minn.), undated.

Red Willow Cooperative Cafe (River Falls, Wis.), 1978-
1980.

Riverside Cafe and New Riverside Cafe (Minneapolis,
Minn.), 1977-1997.

Solid Oak Carpentry Collective (Minneapolis, Minn.),
1972.

Southside Cooperative Daycare Center (Minneapolis,
Minn.), 1974-1975.

Sunrise Book Co-op (Saint Paul, Minn.), undated.

Whole Builders Cooperative (Minneapolis, Minn.), 1981.

Wolf Lake Refuge (McGregor, Minn.), [1980?].

Working Woman and Man Bookstore (Saint Paul, Minn.),
1979-1980.

CO-OP DIRECTORIES AND HISTORY, 1974-1996

Location	Box
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145.C.9.1B	9
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National Food Cooperative Directory, 1974-1980, 1987-
1996.

The national food co-op directories were published
by a number of sources, including: the Food Co-op
Project, the Co-op Directory Association, and the
Co-op News Network.

Co-op Directory Services, Inc.:

Under the direction of Kris Olsen, this entity
published the Minnesota, Twin Cities, and North
Country co-op directories. The directories (1975-
1996) are available in the Minnesota Historical
Society's serials collection, cataloged separately.

Correspondence, 1975-1980.

Kris Olsen: resume and correspondence, 1979-1980.

History:

[Kris Olsen's notes for compiling a co-op history],
[1993?].

"Kris on Co-ops" SCAN #307 by the American Lutheran Church Media Service, November 16, 1980. 1 audio tape cassette.

"Howard Hickman on Co-ops" SCAN #353 by the American Lutheran Church Media Service, undated. 1 audio tape cassette.

Co-op History Part I: Beginnings, April 17, 1991. 1 audio tape cassette.

Co-op History Part I: Co-op Wars, April 17, 1991. 1 audio tape cassette.

Co-op History Part I and II : Co-op Wars, April 17 and 23, 1991. 1 audio tape cassette.

Co-op History Part II, April 23, 1991. 1 audio tape cassette.

RELATED MATERIALS

The records of the North Country Co-op (Minneapolis, Minn.), the Seward Community Co-op (Minneapolis, Minn), and the Powderhorn Food Co-op (Minneapolis, Minn.) are also available in the Minnesota Historical Society manuscript collections, cataloged separately.

Newsletters from various Minnesota cooperatives are available in the Minnesota Historical Society serials collection, cataloged separately.

Ephemera and memorabilia pertaining to the co-op movement and a few individual co-ops are available in the Minnesota Historical Society Museum collections.

CATALOG HEADINGS

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

- Communism.
- Consumer cooperatives--Minnesota.
- Cooperative societies--Minnesota.
- Credit unions--Minnesota.
- Democratic centralism.
- Food industry and trade--Minnesota.
- Green movement--Minnesota.
- Grocery trade--Minnesota.
- Housing, Cooperative--Minnesota.
- Natural foods.
- Producer cooperatives--Minnesota.
- Social movements--Minnesota.
- Stores or stock-room keeping--Minnesota.

Subculture--Minnesota.

Places:

Minneapolis (Minn.).

Minnesota--Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

Saint Paul (Minn.).

Organizations:

All Co-op Assembly (Minneapolis, Minn.).

Co-op Organization (Minneapolis, Minn.).

Co-op Directory Services (Minneapolis, Minn.).

Distributing Alliance of the Northcountry Cooperatives (Minneapolis, Minn.).

People's Coop Movement (Minneapolis, Minn.).

People's Warehouse of the North Country (Minneapolis, Minn.).

Wedge Co-op (Minneapolis, Minn.).

West Bank Co-op (Minneapolis, Minn.).

Types of Documents:

Photographs.

Audio cassettes.

Videocassettes.