

Inventory of the

Duck Soup Coup
DeKalb, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 344

INTRODUCTION

Dennis Corbin donated the Duck Soup Coup business records to the Regional History Center on June 4, 2015. Additional records were donated in February 2016.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection. Approximately 0.5 linear feet of material is receiving conservation treatment.

Linear feet of shelf space: 7
Number of containers: 6 + 1 OV folder; 6 digital files (909 MB)
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 344

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection contains the business records of the Duck Soup Coup Co-op of DeKalb, IL from 1974-2015, when the store closed. The records consist primarily of the company's administrative, financial, personnel, and membership records. Also included are meeting minutes, newsletters, and photographs as well as advertising and marketing records and documents regarding business partnerships and example business models from other health food co-op organizations.

Researchers should note the presence of material related to special events, festivals, and fairs from DeKalb, Sycamore, and the surrounding communities, which Duck Soup Coup was highly dedicated to serving.

Arrangement is by loosely by record type and then chronological order.

Generic Ads for Northern Star (4), 2004-2005 and Owner Manuals for August 1999 and November 2002 are contained on 3.5" floppy disks (box 4). The files have been copied from the disks to V:\ARCHIVES\RCElectronicArchives\RC 344 Duck Soup Coup. Researchers may access the electronic files in the Center's reading room.

Duck Soup Coup Spec Tape in the 1996 Adverting folder is on cassette.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Founded in 1974 by the restaurant staff of Juicy John Pink's, Duck Soup Coup was a consumer cooperative, member operated whole foods outlet store that sold natural, organic, and specialty foods and other everyday items. Once a members-only organization, its members voted to open up to the public in 1990. By 1986, Duck Soup Coup grew to be the largest food co-op in the state of Illinois.

Duck Soup Coup, who prided itself on being a mom-and-pop operation, modeled its business structure on a reformed version of the guidelines of the 1844 Rochdale Plan established by the Rochdale Weavers' Guild in England, which was recognized as the first co-op organization. These principles advocate for a cooperative business that is democratically managed by its working and voluntary members, makes products available in bulk, provides member benefits and discounts, limits store operation expenses to the bare minimum in order to afford additional goods and services to members and customers, and supports continuing education and the overall cooperative movement.

Duck Soup Coup was located at 129 E. Hillcrest Drive for 40 years until the members of the store voted for its closure in the spring of 2015. The Co-op closed due to major fiscal losses occurred in the previous year that led to outstanding debt and the inability to pay for approved loans.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Co-operative (Co-op)
DeKalb, Illinois
Duck Soup Coup

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Introduction to Duck Soup Coup, February 1986
	2	By laws, 1976, 1980-1989
	3	Owner Manuals, 1994, 1996-2002
	4	Planning Committee, 1985-1986
	5	Transition, 1987-1989
	6	Transition Committee, 1989
	7-13	Board Minutes, 1987-2015
	14	Board of Director Training
	15	Non-for-Profit Annual Report, State and County, 1989
	16	Future Goals, Priorities, and General Improvement Plans, 1989-1990
	17	Bennis/Nanus Notes
	18	Agreements and Accounts, 1987-1988
	19	Store Lease, March 1990- February 1993
	20	Building Loans, Surveys, and Plans, 2001
	21	Commercial Lease, November, 2003
	22	Legal Documents, GM Evaluation, Letter, and Development, 2006
	23	Manager Contract, Board Member Guide, and Community Consulting Group
	24	League of Women Voters Parliamentary Procedures, March 30, 1984
	25	Cash Drawer Statements and Company Drafts, 1989
	26	Price Comparisons, 1989
	27	Ledger, Sales and Equity, 1989-1991
	28	Operations and Cash Loans, 1990
	29	Budget, Asset, and Income Statements, 2003-2012
	30	Invoice, Pricing, Receiving, Booking, and Computer Notes
	31	Personnel Manual
	32	Personnel, 1989
	33	Staff Meeting, February 14, 1989
	34	Member Worker Policy and Contracts
	35	Member Labor Guidelines, November 28, 1989
	36	Member Labor Information, 1996
	37	Employment Applications
	38	Management, 1985
	39	Manager Evaluation, 1987
	40	Supervisory Skills
	41	Assistant Coordinator Position, 1983
	42	Worker Orientation, 1994-2012

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
2	1	Membership Fee Records, 1978-1989
	2-12	Memberships, 1982-1986, 1988-2014
	13	New Members, 1989-2008
	14	Member Orientation, 1989
	15	Member Committees ,1989-1990
	16	Member Survey Analysis, 1988
	17	Member Equity, 1989-1997, 2008
	18	Member Coupons, 1999, 2002, 2007
	19	Membership Cards
3	1-2	Membership Cards, 2012-2013
	3	General Meeting Minutes, 1982-1983; Agenda Announcements, 1996-2010
	4	Member Day, August 17, 1991
	5-13	Newsletters, 1975-1998, 200-2009, 2012, no date
	14	Food Notes, circa 2002
	15	Deli Menus
	16	Item and Price tags
	Box A-C	Employee and Membership Cards
4	1	DSC Cook Book
	2	Recipes
	3	Customer Receipts, 2012
	4	DSC vs. Janet Razbadouski, 1989-1991
	5	Correspondence, 1992-1996
	6	Correspondence and Research, 1998-2009
	7-15	Event Calendars, 2005-2014
	16	Corn and Pumpkin Fest, 1990-1993
	17	Arts and Crafts Sale, 1992-1993, 1997
	18	Alternative Energy Fair, 2003-2005
	19	Renewable Energy Fair, 2007-2009
	20	Soup making instructions
	21	Photographs of storefront construction, circa 1990
	22	Publicity and Merchandising, 1989, 1993, 1997
	23-38	Advertising, 1994-2013, no date
		North Farm:
	39	Board of Directors Minutes, 1989-1990
5	1	Finance Committee, 1989
	2	Planning Session, 1989
	3	Education Committee, 1989
	4	Retail Store, 1989-1993

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	5
5	5	Bloomberg Prairie General Membership Meeting, August 1992-1993	
	6	Cooperative Grocer, August 1987-October 1990	
	7	Cooperatives information and news, 1989-1991	
	8	Co-op America Business Network, 1994-1995	
	9	Food Stamp Regulations, 1988	
	10	DeKalb County Disposal Rates, 1989-1990	
	11	"Health businesses in DeKalb County work to maintain New Year's resolution boon" in <i>Daily Chronicle</i> , January 4, 2015	
6 OV		Duck Soup Coup pot holder Duck Soup Coup ceramic plaque Public Auction notice poster "What's In The Oak Cooler?" sign Season's Greetings posters (4) "What Is Fair Trade?" display poster "Sustainability In The Classroom" poster Duck Soup Coup sign	
OV Drawer 35		Remodel Project display poster "Health Of People Go Organic" display poster Certificates (11)	
	1		