

Inventory of the

**DeKalb Milk Consumers Association**  
DeKalb, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

**RC 15**

## INTRODUCTION

The records of the Milk Consumers Association, Inc. were donated by Mr. Howard Eychaner, a former president of the Association, to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on April 6, 1978.

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.

Linear Feet of Shelf Space: 4  
Number of Containers: 5 boxes  
Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
Collection 15

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records contained in this collection document the activities of the Milk Consumers Association Incorporated, of DeKalb, Illinois. The materials reflect on Association business from 1922 through its 1966 dissolution, with the bulk of the materials covering the years 1950-1966.

Types of records include minutes (1950-1965), correspondence, bills, payroll records, I.R.S. materials, banking records, monthly balance sheets, hauling routes, stock inventories, stock certificates, and final dissolution shares. Additionally, there are share purchase books that record sales for most of the years between 1922 and 1952.

Although the minutes (1950-1965) provide an excellent source of information concerning the growth and development of the Association and there are records of share sales throughout the years 1920-1950, this collection lacks records which would closely scrutinize the business in its formative and middle years, 1917-1949.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The DeKalb Milk Consumers Association was founded in 1917 by a group of Finns from the local area. The original shop was located in the basement of a grocery store called the Finnish Mercantile Company. Initially individual members, i.e. , those who had bought one share at ten dollars cost, would come to the store and pick up the milk they needed. Eventually delivery service was introduced and the Co-op grew rapidly.

The original dairy purchased raw milk from area farmers, poured it through screens and separated out impurities. Between 1926 and 1930 the Association enlarged and modernized its facilities and introduced butter and cottage cheese to its product line. In later years, cream, 2% milk, and skim milk were also added.

In 1956 the Milk Association incorporated to protect individuals against liabilities. By the early 1960's the Co-op was becoming less Finn-dominated and more involved with local competition (Meadow Gold) and federal regulations. In 1963-1964 the Co-op decided to become a delivery service only and began to buy its products from the Pure Milk Association (Dairy Lanes) of Wisconsin.

Increasing difficulties with finances, personnel, competition and federal/state enforced regulations forced the Milk Consumers Cooperative to sell out to the Muller Pinehurst Company in 1966.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Consumerism  
Dairying  
Dairying Cooperatives  
DeKalb County  
DeKalb Milk Consumers Association  
Finnish Americans  
Immigrants, Finnish

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
1	1	Land Deed and Titles, 1927, 1966	
	2	Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, 1956	
	3-7	Minutes, 1950-1965	
	8	Correspondence, 1943, 1958-1971	
	9	List of Shareholders and Board Members, (1952-1963)	
	10-13	Share Purchase Books, (1922-1948)	
	14	Monthly Profit/Loss Balance Sheets, 1960-1962	
	15	Accounting and Balance Sheets, 1963-1965	
	16	Accounts Payable, 1965	
	17	Accounts Receivable, 1966-1967	
	18	Market Value Appraisal, 1965	
	19	Bank Records, 1963-1969	
	20	Payroll, 1965	
	21	Illinois Unemployment Compensation, 1965	
	22	Internal Revenue Service Materials, 1964-1966	
	23	Collection Agencies, 1962-1965	
	24	Union Contract, 1965	
	25	Insurance, 1965	
	26	Supply Invoices, 1964	
	27	Inventories, 1962, 1965	
	2	1	Production, Supply, Inspection Records, 1962-1964
		2-6	Bills and Invoices, 1963-1966
		7	Truck Purchase, 1965
		8	Hauling Routes, 1962-1964
		9-17	Stock Certificates, #1-868, 1928-1956
		18	Indemnification Notices, 1957
	3	1	Dissolution and Sale File 1966
2		Muller-Pinehurst Sale, 1966	
3-6		Dissolution Proxies, 1966	
7-8		Dissolution, Shares Not Paid, #1-693	
9-15		Dissolution, Shares Paid, #1-708	
16		Photographs, (2), 1956	
17		Accounts Payable Ledger, 1964-1965	
18		Liabilities Income Ledger, 1965	
4	1 volume	Monthly Expense Accounts, 1958-1963	
	1 volume	Receipts/Disbursements Ledger, 1965-1966	
5		Card File of Shareholders Names, n.d.	
		Corporate Seal Desk Press [Located with Artifacts]	