

\* THE ORIGINAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE \*

T. Domoto	B. Kawashima	T. S. Saito	K. Iki
F. T. Konno	T. Shima	A. J. Kajioka	N. Kurita
F. Tsuchiya	T. Nishizaki	M. Naruse	

\* FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS\*

M. Naruse, Pres.	I. Hamamoto
S. Fujino, Vice.	J. Yuzawa
S. Hashioka, Treas.	J. Hikido
A. Inaba, Sec.	K. Umekubo
T. Nishizaki	

\* SECOND BOARD OF DIRECTORS \*

M. Naruse, Pres.	I. Hamamoto
S. Fujino, Vice.	J. Yuzawa
J. Hikido, Treas.	S. Usui
A. Inaba, Sec.	K. Umekubo
T. Nishizaki	

\* PRESENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS \*

K. Koda, Pres.	A. Inaba, Sec.	N. Kurita
K. Umekubo, Vice.	T. Nishizaki	H. Takata
J. Hikido, Treas.	K. Nozawa	S. Kuramoto

\* AUDITING COMMITTEE \*

Tomoharu Kakehi  
Tokuyoshi Kawasaki  
Yoshiaki Matsuda

\* MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE \*

Toyaji Konno  
Giichi Mitani  
Tatsuhiko Miyamoto

\* EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE\*

T. Terami	T. Miyamoto
T. Konno	Rev. Yamaka
G. Mitani	S. Kamiya
Rev. Shirakawa	Rev. Yonemura

\* BUSINESS COMMITTEE\*

M. Sorizawa	T. Tokunaga	S. Kurihara	G. Sakiyama
K. Ono	R. Kanda	N. Yamane	S. Yamasaki
H. Akaki	K. Takemura	M. Tsurumoto	G. Oikawa
K. Hayashi	M. Kashiwabara	T. Uyeda	M. Oi
R. Shoji	K. Kono	T. Furukawa	M. Naruse
J. Koshachi	T. Tanaka	R. Kaneko	J. Tamura
E. Habu	S. Hirami	G. Katagiri	O. Murakami



# AMACHE CO-OP HISTORY

Our Consumer Cooperative began as a temporary community enterprises late in August of 1942. The first sales were a few cases of pop sold from a pop stand immediately after delivery from Lamar, Colorado by W. Ray Johnson, Head of the Community Activities Division. Rapidly, with the aid of credit from many suppliers, the business expanded to meet the many needs of the center people. Sales in September, 1942, the first month of business were \$11,124.85 and they exceeded \$17,000 in October.

In November an organization and incorporation committee was named by the Community Council to organize and incorporate a bona fide consumer cooperative to assume the assets and liabilities of the temporary enterprises. Frank Tsuchiya headed this committee.

On the first day of December, 1942, this committee, under the direction of E. H. Runcorn, WRA Advisor, began a serious and careful study of the history, principles, and business practices of consumer cooperation in order that all the facts might be intelligently presented and supplied in the organization of a true cooperative in this center.

By January, 1943, tentative by-laws had been prepared and presented in both languages, and the Articles of Incorporation were properly drawn up. In February, the organization committee was thoroughly prepared, and in teams of two men each, with the help of 29 block managers, conducted a ten day charter membership drive which brought in nearly \$25,000 of initial capital from nearly 2,500 charter members. F. T. Konno was chairman of this most successful membership drive.

In March, the Co-op members elected a board of directors of nine members namely, Matsushi Naruse, president; ~~Shintani~~ ~~Shintani~~, ~~Sec-president~~; Shunichi Hashioka, treasurer; Akira Inaba, secretary; Tomotaro Nishizaki, Iwazo Hamamoto, Tamasaburo Yuzawa, James Hikido, and Koshiro Umekubo, and membership and auditing committees of three members each. This new board named Ken Shintani, variety store manager, as general manager of the newly organized Amache Consumer Enterprises, as of April 1, 1943. At the same time the script system of recording sales for patronage savings was initiated.

The business volume had by this time climbed to more than \$40,000 per month so that by the close of the fiscal year, ~~the volume reached~~ the volume reached \$362,000 with a net gain of more than \$42,000 including \$2,000 in patronage savings from Consumer Cooperative Association, our Co-op wholesale then in North Kansas City, Missouri.

Patronage savings of 10% of sales and also 6% interest on membership capital were voted by the members on the recommendation of the board of directors.

On October first in a Co-op conference in Chicago, delegates from our Co-operative united with delegates from other center cooperatives in organizing Cooperative buying agency with offices to be opened in the Empire State Building in New York City. Our own George Morey, formerly our assistant general manager, was elected head buyer.

In December, 1943, Dr. T. Miyamoto had been appointed by the board of directors to serve as the educational director. His duties were to educate our members and our employees of our Co-op principles and to give a business training course to our employees.

In January, 1944, the enterprises had occupied our new special Co-op building built for and rented to us by the W.R.A. Our sales department and service departments were hitting their stride and a more ambitious program of



education and services was planned by the management.

In March, 1944, the board had accepted the resignation submitted by Ken Shintani, our general manager. His plan for relocation had necessitated his resignation from his position. At the same time S. Ota and H. T. Tomio had been appointed as our general manager and assistant general manager respectively.

In April, the second conference of the Federation of Center Business Enterprises had been held in Amache. At this convention, Federation of Center Business Enterprises was duly organized with its article and by-laws having T. Kawasaki re-elected as the executive secretary.

In the meantime the business itself had gone ahead by leaps and bounds. Beauty Shop, Tailor Shop, Photo Service Dept., and American Railway Express Traveler's Checks and Money Order Department had been opened to serve the center people.

In July 16, 1944, our scrip book system was entirely discontinued in order to eliminate unnecessary administrative expenses involved; at the same time cash register receipts system for recording sales for patronage savings was resumed. At this time S. Ota had been able to dispose most of our dead stocks through the efficient aid of our assistant general manager, H. T. Tomio.

On August 23, 1944, the Co-op members elected the new board of directors consisting of Keisaburo Koda, president; Koshiro Umekubo, vice-president; Akira Inaba, secretary; James Hikido, treasurer; Tomotaro Nishizaki, Kenjiro Nozawa, Nobuhei Kurita, Hajime Takata, and Satoru Kuramoto. The following was adopted by this board as their operating policy: (A) To reduce the merchandise inventory to the minimum allowance permitted to keep running. (B) To pass full information to the business committee in order to fulfill their duties. (C) To utilize the Co-op news efficiently by giving full information on activities of the Co-op for the promotion of the cooperative idea.

S. Ota, our general manager, had to leave his position in order to relocate in the near future. H. T. Tomio and M. Nakawatase had been appointed to serve as general manager and assistant general manager respectively.

The third convention of the Center Business Enterprises had been held at the Gila Relocation Center on Dec. 4, 1944. Our Amache Co-op sent three delegates, James Hikido, Akira Inaba, and H. T. Tomio. The subjects which were discussed at the convention were mostly in connection with the liquidation matters.

On December 30, 1944, the regular membership meeting had been held at the high school auditorium. At this meeting, proposal, repurchase of membership certificates in excess of one to a member, and paying no interest on outstanding certificates from Sept. 1, 1944, was unanimously approved by the Co-op members. After the meeting, the Amache Co-op celebrated the 100th anniversary of Rochdale Co-op which was sponsored by our educational committee.

While 6% interest for the period of last fiscal year on the outstanding membership certificates amounted to \$1159.25, the patronage refund paid to its members amounted to \$46,308.57. This was possible not because of an excessive margin of profit, but because of the executive ability of management and the industry and care with which each employees fulfilled his duties.



# HISTORY OF CONSUMERS COOPERATION

The weavers of the city of Rochdale, England, were in desperate straits. Again and again they tried to get more wages, but their employers disregarded their pleas entirely. After they tried everything in vain, twenty-eight hungry weavers of Rochdale decided to start into business for themselves.

These "pioneers" knew that it took capital to achieve ownership so they set themselves to saving a penny here, a shilling there. They saved for a solid year and had gotten together \$140.00. With this amount they opened a grocery store on the night of December 21, 1844, which was located in an old warehouse basement on a street called Toad Lane.

Their store operated for the first time on Rochdale Co-op principles. It proved to be very successful. By the end of the first year others had been persuaded to become a part of this new endeavor.

The membership had grown to 74 and the capital to \$900. The first year's business totaled to \$3,500 and the net profit was \$160. Three years later there were 1,850 members and its capital was \$75,000. That year the business totaled to \$400,000. In 1850, these "pioneers" purchased a flour mill; in 1852, they began the manufacture of shoes. In 1855, they began a "Manufacturing Society" for cotton and wool weaving. In 1894, the "Equitable Society of Rochdale Pioneers" celebrated its Golden Jubilee. By that time, the membership was 12,000 and the annual volume of business was \$1,500,000.

By 1863 there were 426 similar cooperative societies in England. These societies organized to help each other, creating the "Cooperative Wholesale Society". At first the wholesale society did nothing but buy in the wholesale market the things needed by the societies engaged in retailing. At the end of ten years the volume of business had grown so great that it was desirable to start manufacturing. First came a jam factory, then a soap factory, a shoe factory, etc., until in 1939 the total volume of cooperative retail trade was more than \$1,200,000,000,000.

The movement begun by the Rochdale Pioneers is today world-wide. It is found in practically every country of the globe and is growing daily. Outside of England the strongest developments are found in the Scandinavian countries.

Moves toward cooperation between cooperators of various lands began in 1884 when the French Cooperators sent greetings to the British Cooperative Congress. In 1892, an organization known as the International Cooperative Alliance was formed.

In 1934, the International Cooperative Alliance met in London. At this meeting delegates from thirty-five nations were present. In 1937, Parisian Cooperators acted as hosts to a like assemblage. At this meeting the final steps were taken in the establishment of a functioning international cooperative wholesale. Shortly thereafter, the International Cooperative Trading Agency set up its offices in London and began routing goods back and forth between cooperators of many nations. The International Cooperative Alliance presents some 75,000,000 families in the world.

Rochdale Cooperation first came to America as a part of Old World culture. Emigrant groups from Finland and Bohemia played a very large part in its early beginnings. The Finns settled in Massachusetts, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Northern Michigan. The Bohemians in Ohio immediately established successful Consumers Cooperative Societies. In 1917, seventeen organizations in Minnesota and Wisconsin set up the Central Cooperative Exchange which is



now known as the Central Cooperative Wholesale. It had 118 local affiliated associations with a total membership of more than 40,000 families.

The influx of Finlanders and Bohemians left its mark not only in Wisconsin and Minnesota but also to some degree in the Central West and on the Atlantic seaboard. The Cooperative Trading Co. at Waukegan, Illinois had become one of the nation's largest and most aggressive urban organization.

The most important Bohemian cooperatives were established in Dillonvale and Cleveland, Ohio and at Chicago, Illinois. The largest and most important of these is the New Cooperative Co. of Dillonvale with an annual business volume of more than \$6,000,000,000. During 1945, the Central States Cooperatives, Inc., was formed in Chicago.

On the eastern seaboard Finnish societies were established in Massachusetts, in 1908, and New Jersey, in 1909. Following the World War a cooperative housing movement got underway in New York which resulted in the \$5,000,000 in apartment building. Two federations have been set up in this area; the Eastern Cooperative League and The Eastern Cooperative Wholesale. In 1940, the wholesale had 138 member retails representing 20,000 families.

In 1915, the first effective effort to unite the scattered cooperatives of the nation into a federal organization resulted in the establishment of the Cooperative League of the United States of America.

Hard times hit rural Americans in the early twenties, and the Rockdale Cooperative handling farm supplies began to dot the country. The Farmers Union Exchange and The Grange Wholesale were the first distinctly agricultural cooperatives to join the national league. Rural consumers were beginning to feel that they had common cause with their urban neighbors.

In 1921, the first cooperative was formed for the distribution of gasoline, kerosene, and oil. Three years later Union Oil Co. of North Kansas City, now called the Consumers Cooperative Association, was organized to render a like service in that area. In 1940, it built the first cooperatively owned refinery in the U.S. and bought in the first cooperatively owned oil well.

In 1933, seven regional cooperative wholesales formed a central buying committee called National Cooperatives. During the first year of operations members of National Cooperatives purchase 150,000,000 gallons of gasoline, 3,500,000 gallons of lubricating oil, 25,000,000 pounds of grease, and over \$500,000 worth of tires.

Cooperation is on the march in America. This is revealed by the statistics of the business volume. It is also shown by the recent extension into the field of manufacturing. Within the past few years cooperators have built fertilizer factories, feedmills, oil blending plants, refineries, pipe line paint factories, barn equipment plants, and even a farm machinery plant for building of tractors. Some of the wholesales are operating their own transport truck systems which roar over the highways carrying merchandise from factory to wholesale to retail outlet.

No one knows the exact number of American families affiliated with the cooperatives but figure is estimated at more than 2,000,000. The total business probably exceeds \$600,000,000.00.



## OUR ROCHESTER CO-OP PRINCIPLES

### 1. UNIVERSALITY

Without regard to class, creed, or color, we invite all consumers to unite in the promotion of brotherhood on the business level.

### 2. DEMOCRACY

Within this all-inclusive consumer circle we are building economic democracy by means of the principle of one member - one vote only.

### 3. EQUITY

Justice is a watchword for every true cooperative. Good quality, honest weight, competitive prices, and patronage savings for all; special favors to no one. Interest on capital is limited. And working conditions are kept as fair as is possible.

### 4. ECONOMY

Prevailing market prices and cash trade are included in our policy. We seek to supply goods and services at the lowest possible cost consistent with the building of adequate reserves for any emergency; we seek to do this by means of patronage refunds and efficient management rather than by a cut-rate policy resulting in cut-throat competition.

### 5. PUBLICITY

Appreciation and understanding of cooperation are rather to be promoted than blind acceptance of the higher costs of advertising and high pressure salesmanship. Periodical audits, quarterly reports, and continuous cooperative education are essential.

### 6. UNITY

Each for all and all for each is our slogan. We are neutral on other issues. Dollars are economic ballots. We vote daily for a stronger Co-op, bigger wholesales, and more co-op factories.

### 7. LIBERTY

Coercion plays no proper role in a cooperative. Our members join or withdraw at will. Let us unite to build, promote, and preserve such freedom.