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Sonoma County Library
6135 State Farm Drive
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URL: https://sonomalibrary.org
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Overview of the Collection

Title: Petaluma Cooperative Creamery records
Date (inclusive): 1914-1974
Date (bulk): (bulk, 1928-1974)
Identification: SPC.00026
Physical Description: 1.08 linear foot, 1 record storage box
Language of Material: Materials are in English.
Repository: Petaluma History Room, Petaluma Regional Library
100 Fairgrounds Drive
Petaluma, CA,
URL: https://www.sonomalibrary.org/locations/petaluma-history-room
Email: petalumahistory@sonomalibrary.org
Phone: 707 763-9801

Abstract: Official records of the Petaluma Cooperative Creamery from 1914 through 1974.

Biography/Organization History

The Petaluma Cooperative Creamery was founded by 33 Petaluma area dairy farmers led by Silvio Gambinoni in 1913 to
serve a booming San Francisco butter market. Meanwhile, Sonoma County dairy farmers needed a steady market for the
milk and cream they produced. The new co-op built a plant at 619 Western Avenue, in Petaluma. In 1916, the Petaluma
Cooperative Creamery began distributing Clover-brand dairy products in the Petaluma area. Soon, Clover products began
showing up all over the North Bay. In 1929, the Creamery began bottling milk under the Clover brand, later adding cottage
cheese to the brand line and in 1969, adopting Clo the Cow as the Clover mascot. In 1974, the Creamery changed its name
to California Cooperative Creamery. A year later, a massive fire destroyed the milk processing and bottling operations, and
the cooler; the co-op decided not to immediately rebuild the facility and Gene Benedetti, along with a group of employees,
purchased the wholesale operation business from Cal Co-op and Stornetta's Dairy in Sonoma in August of 1977, forming
Clover Stornetta Farms, Inc. The Creamery continued operations as California Gold, producing cheese and butter and
processing milk. The plant was closed again in 2004 after being absorbed by Dairy Farmers of America, but Larry Peters,
owner of Spring Hill Dairy, purchased the creamery, renamed it the Petaluma Creamery, and added new product lines and a
retail operation. (Sources: Tesconi, Tim. Petaluma Creamery turns 100 and still keeps churning, Sonoma County Farm
Bureau News, Sept. 1, 2013; Espinosa, Dyan. Still churning after all these years, Argus-Courier, Sept. 18, 2013; Clover

Scope and Contents

Business records.

Access Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection.

Corporate Names
Petaluma Cooperative Creamery
Stornetta Dairies
Clover Stornetta Inc.

Topical Terms
Creameries--California--Petaluma
Business enterprises--California--Petaluma
Cream industry--California--Petaluma
Dairy products--California--Petaluma--Cooperative marketing
Cooperative societies--California--Petaluma
Dairying--California
Genre and Format Terms
Business records
Ledgers (account books)
Archival materials

Access Information
This collection is unprocessed. Please contact the Petaluma History Room for access; for contact info and current hours, see https://sonomalibrary.org/locations/petaluma-history-room

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