



Guides in food buying and meal planning for student managers of cooperative houses at Montana state college
by Helen Luke

A THESIS Submitted to the Graduate Committee in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Home Economics at Montana State College
Montana State University
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Abstract:

To lessen the degree of chance in the attainment of successful cooperative living in the Montana State College Student Housing Association, this study was made to provide guidance to the inexperienced student managers who carry most of the responsibility of the operation of the project.

The nutritional adequacy of the meals served in the two units of the association during the Fall Quarter, 1939 was studied. Recommendations for improving the adequacy of the meals were given. Menu planning guides, representative menus and quantity recipes were compiled for the use of the managers.

The food buying practices were studied and in some cases found to be inadequate or unbusiness-like due to the managers' lack of essential information. Provision for much of the information was made through this study by the establishment of continuing food purchase records and preparation of food buying guides. Suggestions and recommendations were given for the establishment of business-like methods and economic practices.

Guidance was given to the present managers through frequent visits and conferences, but it is thought that the material in this study will be of more benefit to the succeeding student managers. In order to facilitate the use of the material in the future, suggestions were made to the general association for adjustments in the By-Laws and for provision of additional guidance from especially qualified advisory council members and a reference library in the units for the use of the managers.

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HELEN LUKE

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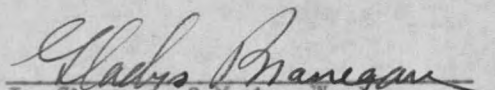
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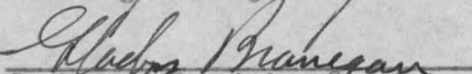
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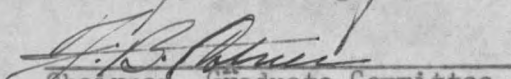
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Chairman, Examining Committee


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ABSTRACT

To lessen the degree of chance in the attainment of successful cooperative living in the Montana State College Student Housing Association; this study was made to provide guidance to the inexperienced student managers who carry most of the responsibility of the operation of the project.

The nutritional adequacy of the meals served in the two units of the association during the Fall Quarter, 1939 was studied. Recommendations for improving the adequacy of the meals were given. Menu planning guides, representative menus and quantity recipes were compiled for the use of the managers.

The food buying practices were studied and in some cases found to be inadequate or unbusiness-like due to the managers' lack of essential information. Provision for much of the information was made through this study by the establishment of continuing food purchase records and preparation of food buying guides. Suggestions and recommendations were given for the establishment of business-like methods and economic practices.

Guidance was given to the present managers through frequent visits and conferences, but it is thought that the material in this study will be of more benefit to the succeeding student managers. In order to facilitate the use of the material in the future, suggestions were made to the general association for adjustments in the By-Laws and for provision of additional guidance from especially qualified advisory council members and a reference library in the units for the use of the managers.

INTRODUCTION

Cooperative Housing Projects on college campuses throughout the United States have recently become of national interest due to their rapid growth and success during the past decade. College students, motivated by the economic depression, found cooperative living an answer to their need for less expensive maintenance while attending school. Most of the college cooperative groups which today are well-organized, business-like enterprises, patterned similar to the original "Rochdale" Consumers' Cooperative began as experimental or emergency measures. The success of these pioneer groups stimulated organization of others on campuses throughout the United States.

At Montana State College the students and faculty advisors had considered establishing a cooperative housing project for two or three years before the Spring Quarter of 1937, when the Student Housing Association and its Articles of Incorporation were formed. There had been time to make many provisions in its democratic and cooperative policies to insure its permanency. However, it is, at present, student-managed, which leaves a relatively high degree of chance in the attainment of successful cooperative living. The managers are required to have no special training for the responsibilities they assume and thus have neither the background nor time to adequately solve the problems that inevitably arise.

This study is essentially an attempt to analyze the problems of the student managers of the Montana State College Student Housing Association and offer guides in solving them. The study consists of, first, a brief historical review of the Consumers' Cooperative enterprise in general,

and of college student cooperative housing projects, especially the Montana State College Student Housing Association. Second, it undertakes to analyze the existing managerial problems involved in the food service, and offers definite suggestions and recommendations for maintaining nutritious, satisfying, low cost meals at a saving of time and effort to the managers.

Some guidance was given to the present managers but it is thought that the succeeding ones will also benefit by having the various suggestions and aids available when most needed at the beginning of their term.

