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Diamond Match Company, Berst-Forster-Dixfield Division, Timber Unit Records, 1938-1955

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Diamond Match Company, Berst-Forster-Dixfield Division, Timber Unit Records

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on February 27, 2020.

Finding aid written in English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections

5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library

University of Maine

Orono, ME 04469-5729

URL: <http://www.library.umaine.edu/speccoll>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections
Creator:	Diamond International Corporation
Title:	Diamond Match Company, Berst-Forster-Dixfield Division, Timber Unit Records
ID:	SpC MS 0050
Date [inclusive]:	1938-1955
Date [bulk]:	1944-1952 (bulk)
Physical Description:	0.8 cubic feet (2 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Records of the Timber Unit of the Diamond Match Company's Berst-Forster-Dixfield Division.

Preferred Citation

Diamond Match Company, Berst-Forster-Dixfield Division, Timber Unit Records, SpC MS 0050, [Box No.], [Folder No.], Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department, University of Maine, Orono, Maine

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Historical Note

The collection contains records of the Timber Unit of the Diamond Match Company's Berst-Forster-Dixfield Division. The Timber Unit, located in Oakland, Maine, was responsible for the purchase, transportation, and production of the lumber used to manufacture the company's products in Maine. It contracted with various lumber camps in the state for its supplies.

The company had a long history in Oakland, beginning as the Forster Manufacturing Company in 1913. This company manufactured toothpicks and clothespins until 1916, when it was succeeded by the Berst-Forster-Dixfield Company, headquartered in New York City, which operated from 1923 to 1946. This company was succeeded by Diamond Match Company in 1947, which seems to have absorbed Berst-Forster sometime before that. Diamond Match had been formed in 1881 when twelve already-existing match companies agreed to consolidate into one. Diamond Match took over 85% of the market in the

1880's and in 1910 patented the first non-poisonous match in the United States. In 1957 it merged with Gardner Board and Carton Company to form Diamond-Gardner; in 1959 it merged with United States Printing and Lithograph Company to become Diamond National Corporation and then became Diamond International in 1964. The company engaged in various activities including packaging, lumber production, pulp and paper, specialty printing, and matches and woodenware. It operated in several states and in addition to its mill in Oakland also had mills in Rumford, Phillips, and Dixfield, Maine.

During its operation in Oakland, the plant made a number of products, including ice cream sticks, swab sticks, lollypop holders, toothpicks and woodenware. In its peak years just before World War II, the mill at Oakland employed over 500 people and its activities also gave work to loggers and others who provided raw materials to the mill. The operation in Oakland closed in 1983.

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Scope and Contents

The collection contains records of the manager of the Timber Unit and is primarily concerned with the activities and administration of that office. The collection had been re-folded by Library staff at an earlier time; the folder headings used in that project have been retained.

The collection opens with files of correspondence, 1939-1955, much of it to and from Gordon M. Blakely, manager of the unit during most of this time. Office reference files form the next group of records; they primarily concern analyses of wage rates and job tasks.

The collection also includes production records maintained in the manager's office, especially yard inventories, lumber production totals and job costs for various projects.

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Conservation Note

The collection has been re-housed in acid-free folders and boxes. Documents have been surface cleaned as needed and metal fasteners removed. Photographs have been housed in polypropylene sleeves and remain with the relevant documents.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections

5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library

University of Maine

Orono, ME 04469-5729

URL: <http://www.library.umaine.edu/speccoll>

Restrictions on Access

Kept at Fogler Library's offsite storage facility. One week's notice required for retrieval.

Use Restrictions

Information on literary rights available in the Library.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Lumber trade -- Maine
- Oakland (Me.)
- Oakland (Me.)
- Correspondence
- Office files
- Business records
- Photographs
- Blakely, Gordon M.
- Diamond Match Company. Berst-Forester-Dixfield Division. Timber Unit
- Berst-Forester-Dixfield Company

Collection Inventory

Timber Unit Records

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence with R.W. Hoover, B-F-D Co., Phillips, Maine, 1939-1944	Box 1	Folder 1
General correspondence, 1944-1945	Box 1	Folder 2
Correspondence re employee wages and withholding, 1944-1949	Box 1	Folder 3
Correspondence, 1945-1947	Box 1	Folder 4
Correspondence with Maine Central Railroad, 1946-1949	Box 1	Folder 5
Phillips Plant correspondence, 1946-1952	Box 1	Folder 6
General correspondence, 1947	Box 1	Folder 7
Correspondence, reports, etc. re density of wood, 1948	Box 1	Folder 8
Correspondence re bonded men, importing skilled woodsmen, 1948	Box 1	Folder 9
Correspondence re Cooperative Fair exhibit, 1948	Box 1	Folder 10
Correspondence with G.L. Vaughan, B-F-D Div., Rumford, 1948-1949	Box 1	Folder 11
General correspondence, 1949-1950	Box 1	Folder 12-13
Correspondence, plans re pulpwood grab, 1950	Box 1	Folder 14
Pulpwood grab, voided plans, 1949	Box 1	Folder 15
Correspondence re pulpwood loading equipment, 1950-1951	Box 1	Folder 16
General correspondence, 1951	Box 1	Folder 17
Correspondence re proposed legislation, lobbying in Maine, 1951	Box 1	Folder 18
General correspondence, 1952	Box 1	Folder 19
Correspondence re importation of Canadian labor, 1955	Box 1	Folder 20
Memos, 1938-1945	Box 1	Folder 21-22
Agreements with timber suppliers, 1945-1952	Box 1	Folder 23
Employee assignment of rights to inventions, 1939-1939	Box 1	Folder 24

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Office reference files

Title/Description	Instances	
Portable camps, cost estimates, 1942-1943	Box 1	Folder 25
Analysis of wage rates of employees, 1944	Box 1	Folder 26
Wage computation and analysis, 1947-1948	Box 1	Folder 27

Bonded men, 1945-1947	Box 1	Folder 28-29
Dixfield scale test, 1948	Box 1	Folder 30
Analysis of job tasks and operations, undated	Box 1	Folder 31

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Production

Title/Description	Instances	
Inventories, 1944-1950	Box 1	Folder 32
Yard inventories, timber summaries, 1949-1952	Box 1	Folder 33
Yard inventories, 1950-1952	Box 1	Folder 34
Yard inventory, all mills, 1951	Box 1	Folder 35
Yard inventories and deliveries, 1951	Box 1	Folder 36
Comparison of yearly peak inventories, 1939-1948	Box 1	Folder 37
Use of wood, deliveries to yards, 1949	Box 1	Folder 38
Lumber production, 1950-1951	Box 1	Folder 39
Oakland yard, production, usage, etc., 1950-1952	Box 1	Folder 40
Reports re Timber Unit man-hours, 1944-1945	Box 1	Folder 41
Timber Unit daily reports, 1950-1952	Box 2	Folder 1-2
Timber reports, 1951-1952	Box 2	Folder 3
Job costs, Ross and Maheu job, West Forks, Maine, 1947-1948	Box 2	Folder 4
Job costs, 1948-1949	Box 2	Folder 5
Job J47, Dead River Co., Alder Stream, 1950-1952	Box 2	Folder 6
Bills of lading, yard receipts, 1949-1950	Box 2	Folder 7
Miscellaneous invoices, 1942-1951	Box 2	Folder 8

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