



DeBell and Richardson Collection
Finding aid and container list

DeBell and Richardson was founded in 1944 as a plastics research and development company, and occupied the site of the former Gordon Brothers mills on the Scantic River just west of the village of Scitico. The firm underwent many changes, first becoming Springborn Laboratories in the 1970s, then Specialized Technology Resources or STR in the 1990s. STR Holdings, Inc., was sold to the H.B. Fuller Co. in 2021. Some limited operations remain at the site, which is also now home to a brewery.

This collection is focused on the DeBell and Richardson years, 1944-1972, and contains a “family album” of workers, some of John DeBell’s memorabilia, photographs from the 1955 flood, and items from the Junior Achievement program associated with the company. There is also a single photo of the site as the Gordon Brothers mills.

[Accessions: All are 2003.14 or the addendum 2012.15]

Box: DeBell and Richardson Inc. 1

Not in folder:

- DeBell and Richardson Family Album, original and copy
- Town planner? Map of Crescent Lake
- Commemoration from Connecticut General Assembly to John DeBell on his election to the Plastics Hall of Fame
- Honorary degree awarded to John DeBell from University of Lowell

Folder 1

- Photo: Damage to DeBell and Richardson from 1955 hurricane
- Photo “Trolley at Scitico: Somers to Chicopee, fare 10c, attempt to wreck car”
- Photo, DeBell and Richardson buildings
- Photo: 1955 flood, Scantic Dam
- Photo: Gordon Bros.
- Slides
- D&R employees list, 8/65-10/74
- Photo: D&R buildings, Scantic R., and village of Scitico
- Photo: “John DeBell visit to U.S. Sub Base” [2003/2012.19.44]
- Photo: “John DeBell visit to Washington, D.C.” [2003/2012.19.45]
- Booklet: “Timely aid for your plastics development program

Folder 2 - Jr. Achievement [2003-2012.39]

Box: DeBell and Richardson Inc. 2

- Industry award “presented to Novelties in Plastic sponsored by DeBell & Richardson, Inc.” May 1958, framed
- National award, presented to Novelties in Plastic, by DeBell & Richardson, Inc., for “outstanding excellence in the management and operation of a top achievement company,” Jr. Achievement, Inc., 1958
- 1958 Eastern States Exposition Junior Achievement Award, Novelties in Plastic, counseled by DeBell & Richardson Inc.
- Small red “cash book” belonging to John DeBell. No years found but contains loose receipts, etc. with dates from 1912, 1917, 1927