



**WESTERN ARCHIVES**  
FINDING AID FOR

**O-Pee-Chee fonds**

**AFC 462**

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# AFC 462

**O-Pee-Chee fonds.  
1886-1993.**

**1.5 m of textual records, ca. 45 architectural drawings , 30 prints and other graphic materials, 36 photographs : b&w, col., and sepia toned, 19 volumes, 1 object, 1 filmstrip**

## **Biographical Sketch/Administrative History**

O-Pee-Chee: In 1897, brothers John McKinnon McDermid and Duncan Hugh McDermid joined the C.R. Somerville Company in London, Ontario. C.R. Somerville manufactured chewing gum, popcorn, and boxes, among other products. In 1908, the company was sold to an American firm and the candy manufacturing division moved to Toronto while the box division remained in London under the new name, Somerville Paper Box Company, with J.K. McDermid as its President. In February 1911, the McDermid brothers purchased the company for the manufacture of chewing gum. Their new company was named the O-Pee-Chee Gum Company. Opeechee, meaning Robin in Ojibwe, was the name of the McDermid cottage in Grand Bend, Ontario.

In 1921, the O-Pee-Chee Gum Company was incorporated as a public company with members of the McDermid family holding the five shareholder positions and the four director positions. The company's name changed from the O-Pee-Chee Gum Company to the O-Pee-Chee Company Limited at the time of incorporation. The company now manufactured chewing gum, mints, and popcorn, including the popular Krackley Nut. A manufacturing plant was constructed at 430 Adelaide Street in 1928. The company experienced an increase in production in the ensuing decade as a result of various licensing agreements in Canada and the United Kingdom. The 1930s also saw the introduction of collectable cards sold within their gum packaging. These included a baseball set, a Mickey Mouse set, and a Fighting Forces set.

The O-Pee-Chee Company was forced to rethink their business strategy during World War II and the onset of sugar rationing. They signed war contracts to supply dried egg powder overseas. The only confectionary product sold during the war was Thrills chewing gum. In addition to changes in production, there were many leadership and corporate changes during this time. D.H. McDermid passed away in 1942 and J.K. McDermid passed away in 1945. The company changed from a public company to a private company in 1945. John Gordon McDermid, son of J.K., took over the role of President in 1946. He remained in this role until his death in 1953.

Frank P. Leahy, who had worked as a Sales Manager for many years, became the company's next President. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Leahy arranged multiple licensing agreements with various companies, such as Topps Chewing Gum Company, to manufacture and market brands to the Canadian market, which substantially increased the company's sales. In 1958, the O-Pee-Chee Company began promoting trading cards on a regular basis. This first year included hockey and football cards. In the 1960s, the company produced cards for baseball, football, and hockey, as well as entertainment cards, such as the Beatle Bubble Gum cards.

In 1961, Frank Leahy purchased the company from the McDermid Estate. He remained President until his death in 1980. Leahy's son-in-law, Gary Koreen was the owner and President of the company until it was purchased by Nestle Corporation in 1996. The O-Pee-Chee brand is still used in the trading card business through licensing agreements with Topps (1996-2004) and Upper Deck (since 2007).

## **Scope and Content**

Fonds consists of the administrative records of the O-Pee-Chee Company. These records document the activities of the company from 1886-1993. These include corporate records, Board of Director meeting minutes, financial records, correspondence, information about products, building records, shareholder records, legal records, union and employee records, contracts and other business records, Somerville Paper Box Co. records, and documents relating to the war effort.

## **Custodial History**

Material donated by Gary Koreen, President of O-Pee-Chee from 1980-1996.

## Series Descriptions

**AFC 462-S1 Corporate Records.**

**1920, 1921, 1946, 1961.**

**1.1 cm of textual records**

*Scope and Content*

Series contains the corporate records of O-Pee-Chee, including the letters patent, the supplementary letters patent, and a Canadian Manufacturing Association certificate.

**AFC 462-S1-F1 Letters Patent and Supplementary Letters Patent. -- 1921, 1946, 1961. -- Box Number AFC 462-7/1**

**AFC 462-S1-F2 Canadian Manufacturers Association Certificate. -- 1920. -- Box Number MC7-10/13**

**AFC 462-S2 Board of Directors Minutes.  
1921-1946.**

**4 volumes**

*Scope and Content*

Series consists of meeting minutes of the O-Pee-Chee Board of Directors from 1921-1946.

AFC 462-S2-F1 O-Pee-Chee Board Minutes. -- 1921-1946. -- Box Number AFC 462-4/1

AFC 462-S2-F2 O-Pee-Chee Board Minutes. -- 1946-1961. -- Box Number AFC 462-4/2

AFC 462-S2-F3 O-Pee-Chee Board Minutes. -- 1962-1979. -- Box Number AFC 462-4/3

AFC 462-S2-F4 O-Pee-Chee Board Minutes. -- 1979-1981. -- Box Number AFC 462-4/4

## **AFC 462-S3 Financial Records.**

**1921-1981.**

**26.8 cm of textual records, 9 volumes**

### *Scope and Content*

Series consists of financial records pertaining to O-Pee-Chee. This includes receipt books, account books, sales notebooks, annual summaries, and ledgers.

**AFC 462-S3-F1 Canadian Express Receipt Book. -- 1921-1944. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/1**

**AFC 462-S3-F2 Canadian Express Receipt Book. -- 1921-1946. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/2**

**AFC 462-S3-F3 Shipments to the British Isles. -- 1938-1943. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/4**

**AFC 462-S3-F4 [Alphabetical Account Book]. -- 1930s-1950s. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/6**

**AFC 462-S3-F5 Cheque Stubs . -- 1928-1962. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/9**

**AFC 462-S3-F6 Account Book . -- 1957-1967. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/10**

**AFC 462-S3-F7 Sales Notebook. -- 1934-1940. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/11**

**AFC 462-S3-F8 Annual Summaries . -- 1921-1935. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/2**

**AFC 462-S3-F9 Annual Summary . -- 1959-1960. -- Box Number AFC 462-7/6**

**AFC 462-S3-F10 Ledger . -- 1961-1981. -- Box Number AFC 462-4/6**

**AFC 462-S3-F11 Stock Certificate Ledger . -- 1934-1947. -- Box Number AFC 462-4/7**

**AFC 462-S3-F12 Sales Comparisons . -- 1939-1955. -- Box Number AFC 462-5**

**AFC 462-S3-F13 Salary Ledger. -- 1921-1928. -- Box Number AFC 462-9/1**

**AFC 462-S3-F14 Salary Ledger. -- 1929-1965. -- Box Number AFC 462-9/2**

**AFC 462-S3-F15 Salary Ledger. -- 1966-1974. -- Box Number AFC 462-9/3**

**AFC 462-S3-F16 General Ledger . -- 1953-1979?. -- Box Number AFC 462-10/1**

**AFC 462-S3-F17 Stock Certificate Ledger . -- 1946-1961. -- Box Number AFC 462-11/1**

**AFC 462-S4 Correspondence .  
1913-1982.**

**8.2 cm of textual records, 1 photograph : b&w, 1 film strip**

*Scope and Content*

Series consists of correspondence to and from O-Pee-Chee. This include inquiries about products, inquires about machinery, inquiries about taxes and shares, telegrams to England, communication from lawyers and correspondence with customers and retailers.

**AFC 462-S4-F1 American and English Inquiries for Thrills. -- 1937-1960. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/20**

**AFC 462-S4-F2 Correspondence [Brown Automatic Filling and Sealing Machine]. -- 1958. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/19**

**AFC 462-S4-F3 Telegrams to England. -- 1938. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/24**

**AFC 462-S4-F4 Telegrams to England. -- 1939. -- 2 photographs : b&w, 1 film strip. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/25**

**AFC 462-S4-F5 [Correspondence with Lawyers]. -- 1944, 1973, 1979. -- Box Number AFC 462-7/2**

**AFC 462-S4-F6 [Correspondence regarding Taxes and Shares]. -- 1945-1982. -- Box Number AFC 462-7/3**

**AFC 462-S4-F7 [Correspondence with Customers and Retailers]. -- 1913-1930. -- Box Number AFC 462-7/4**



**AFC 462-S5 Products .**

**[190?-1978].**

**71.6 cm of textual records , 29 prints and other graphic materials , 2 volumes, 2 photographs : b&w, 1 object**

*Scope and Content*

Series consists of records pertaining to products produced or researched by O-Pee-Chee. This includes scrapbooks, catalogues, price lists, formulas, product research, brochures, product information and mock ups, advertisements, and packaging.

**AFC 465-S5-F1 Scrapbook . -- 1931-1948. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/3**

**AFC 465-S5-F2 1926 Catalogue . -- 1926. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/5**

**AFC 465-S5-F3 Price Lists . -- 1936-1940. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/7**

**AFC 465-S5-F4 Formulas . -- 1940-1959. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/12**

**AFC 465-S5-F5 [Formulas Notebook]. -- 1958-1960. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/13**

**AFC 465-S5-F6 [Formulas Notebook]. -- 1962-1966. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/14**

**AFC 465-S5-F7 [Formulas Notebook]. -- 1964-1965. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/15**

**AFC 465-S5-F8 [Nelson Viglianti's Formulas Notebook]. -- 1930-1936. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/16**

**AFC 465-S5-F9 [Price Lists, Product Information, and Packaging]. -- 1948-1949. -- 2 photographs : b&w . -- Box Number AFC 462-1/17**

**AFC 465-S5-F10 Christmas Popcorn Lines. -- 1938-1957. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/19**

**AFC 465-S5-F11 Past Circulars. -- 1917-1933. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/21**

**AFC 465-S5-F12 Popcorn Research . -- 1935-1945. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/22**

**AFC 465-S5-F13 Krackley Nut. -- 1947-1949. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/1**

**AFC 465-S5-F14 Advertising Plan . -- 1945. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/16**

**AFC 465-S5-F15 W&F Manufacturing Wax Catalyst Formula . -- 1933. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/24**

**AFC 465-S5-F16 Competitors Price List . -- [190?]-1927. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/8**

**AFC 465-S5-F17 Competitors Price List . -- n.d.. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/9**

**AFC 465-S5-F18 Ford Gum and Machine Co. Package. -- n.d.. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/10**

**AFC 465-S5-F19 Formula Notebooks. -- [19??]-1961. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/13**

**AFC 465-S5-F20 Formulas - Bazooka and Topps. -- 1956-1961. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/14**

**AFC 465-S5-F21 Formulas - Card Gum 5 cent and 1 cent. -- 1950-1957. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/15**

**AFC 465-S5-F22 Formulas - Stick Gum . -- 1949-1957. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/16**

**AFC 465-S5-F23 Formulas - Kiss Gum [Bazooka]. -- 1954-1967. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/17**

AFC 465-S5-F24 Formulas - Candy Coated Gum . -- 1951-1960. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/18

AFC 465-S5-F25 Formulas - Gum and Beverages . -- 1937-1949. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/19

AFC 465-S5-F26 Formulas - Popcorn. -- 1950-1962. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/20

AFC 465-S5-F27 Manufacturing Costs and Price Lists. -- 1950-1954. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/21

AFC 465-S5-F28 Scrapbook. -- 1940s . -- Box Number AFC 462-7/8

AFC 465-S5-F29 Brochures and Product Information . -- 1912-1948. -- Box Number AFC 462-7/9

AFC 465-S5-F30 Product Mock Ups . -- n.d.. -- Box Number AFC 462-7/12

AFC 465-S5-F31 Formulas . -- 1935-1978. -- Box Number AFC 462-7/13

AFC 465-S5-F32 Formulas and Price Lists . -- 1930s-1940s. -- Box Number AFC 462-7/14

AFC 465-S5-F33 Wild Cherry Mock Up . -- n.d.. -- Box Number AFC 462-8/1

AFC 465-S5-F34 Scrapbook. -- 1939-1946. -- Box Number AFC 462-8/2

AFC 465-S5-F35 Clippings and Advertisements . -- [1940s-1970s]. -- Box Number AFC 462-8/3

AFC 465-S5-F36 [Product Information and Brochures]. -- [1940s]. -- Box Number AFC 462-8/4

AFC 465-S5-F37 Product Mock Ups [Advertisements and Packaging]. -- [1960s]. -- Box Number AFC 462-11/2

AFC 465-S5-F38 Scrapbook. -- 1950s. -- Box Number AFC 462-11/3

AFC 465-S5-F39 Scrapbook. -- 1950s. -- Box Number AFC 462-11/4

AFC 465-S5-F40 Thrills and Krackley Nut Art Work . -- n.d.. -- Box Number MC7-10/1

AFC 465-S5-F41 Drawing of Bella, Squirt, Bob and Grandpa. -- n.d.. -- Box Number MC7-10/2

AFC 465-S5-F42 Santa's Surprise Popcorn and Christmas Kandy Korn Package Mock Ups. -- n.d.. -- Box Number MC7-10/3

AFC 465-S5-F43 Chums Package Mock Up. -- n.d.. -- Box Number MC7-10/4

AFC 465-S5-F44 Save the Wrappers Advertisement . -- n.d.. -- Box Number MC7-10/5

**AFC 462-S6 Building.**

**1920-1978.**

**4.1 cm of textual records, ca. 45 architectural drawings, 1 drawing, 1 photograph : col.**

*Scope and Content*

Series consists of material related to buildings owned by O-Pee-Chee. This includes factory plans, building specifications, architectural drawings, and a photograph.

**AFC 462-S6-F1 Factory Plan . -- 1954. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/18**

**AFC 462-S6-F2 Reconciliation of Plant . -- 1920-1921. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/22**

**AFC 462-S6-F3 Mortgage. -- 1932, 1944. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/27**

**AFC 462-S6-F4 Property. -- 1937. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/28**

**AFC 462-S6-F5 Building Specifications and Work Orders. -- 1928-1978. -- Box Number AFC 462-7/7**

**AFC 462-S6-F6 Drawing of O-Pee-Chee Building by E.L. Ruddy Co. Ltd. . -- n.d.. -- Box Number MC7-10/7**

**AFC 462-S6-F7 Architectural Drawings of O-Pee-Chee Building. -- n.d.. -- Box Number MC7-10/8**

**AFC 462-S6-F8 Photograph of O-Pee-Chee Building . -- n.d.. -- Box Number MC7-10/11**

**AFC 462-S7 Shareholders Records.  
1921-1966.**

**4 cm of textual records, 1 volume**

*Scope and Content*

Series consists of records relating to O-Pee-Chee shareholders. This includes lists of shareholders, shareholder meeting minutes, and shareholder register.

**AFC 462-S7-F1 Shareholder List . -- 1946-1966. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/23**

**AFC 462-S7-F2 Shareholder Meeting Minutes. -- 1946-1958. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/24**

**AFC 462-S7-F3 Shareholder Register. -- 1921-1945. -- Box Number AFC 462-4/5**

**AFC 462-S8 Legal Records.  
1918-1993.**

**13 cm of textual records**

*Scope and Content*

Series consists of the legal records of O-Pee-Chee. This includes trademarks of products, such as Super Prize, Dewberry, Mintees, Long Tom, Pow Wow, Gipsy, Bazooka, Chums, and O-Baby, among others, as well as sundry legal papers.

**AFC 462-S8-F1 Super Prize Design Package Trademark . -- 1953. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/3**

**AFC 462-S8-F2 Shape of Tablet or Lozenge and Dewberry Trademark . -- 1918. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/4**

**AFC 462-S8-F3 Mintees US Trademark . -- 1923. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/5**

**AFC 462-S8-F4 Long Tom Trademark . -- 1932-1972. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/6**

**AFC 462-S8-F5 Pow Wow, Bird in Circle Device, Punch & Judy, and O Baby UK Trademark. -- 1938-1982. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/7**

**AFC 462-S8-F6 Gipsy Chewing Gum Trademark . -- 1953. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/8**

**AFC 462-S8-F7 Bazooka Trademark . -- 1948-1979. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/9**

**AFC 462-S8-F8 Long Tom Design Trademark . -- 1916, 1987. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/10**

**AFC 462-S8-F9 Chums Trademark . -- 1955-1986. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/11**

**AFC 462-S8-F10 O Baby Trademark . -- 1926-1993. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/12**

**AFC 462-S8-F11 Thrills Guatemala Trademark . -- 1958-1970. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/13**

**AFC 462-S8-F12 Sundry Papers . -- 1921-1944. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/26**

**AFC 462-S9 Union and Employee Records.  
1913-1952.**

**2.1 cm of textual records, 19 photographs : b&w**

*Scope and Content*

Series consists of records relating to unions and employees, such as union certificates, collective agreements, staff picnics, and staff photographs.

**AFC 462-S9-F1 Union Certificate. -- 1952. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/14**

**AFC 462-S9-F2 Employee Collective Agreement. -- n.d.. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/23**

**AFC 462-S9-F3 Corporation and Labour Unions Returns . -- 1962-1971. -- Box Number AFC 462-7/5**

**AFC 462-S9-F4 O-Pee-Chee Picnic Program . -- 1946-1948. -- Box Number AFC 462-7/10**

**AFC 462-S9-F5 Staff Photographs . -- 1913-[1940s]. -- Box Number AFC 462-7/11**

**AFC 462-S9-F6 O-Pee-Chee Staff Photograph. -- 1931. -- Box Number MC7-10/9**

**AFC 462-S9-F7 O-Pee-Chee Staff Photograph. -- 1937. -- Box Number MC7-10/10**

**AFC 462-S9-F8 Photograph of Office Staff. -- 1942. -- Box Number MC7-10/12**

**AFC 462-S10 Contracts and Other Business Records .  
1921-1946.**

**3.5 cm of textual records**

*Scope and Content*

Series consists of contracts and other business documents, such as census of the industry, Hotel London stock certificates, Gorilla Teeth agreement, and W&F Manufacturing contracts.

**AFC 462-S10-F1 Census of Industry . -- 1921-1926. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/20**

**AFC 462-S10-F2 Hotel London Stock Certificates. -- 1933-1946. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/21**

**AFC 462-S10-F3 Gorilla Teeth Agreement. -- 1933. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/23**

**AFC 462-S10-F4 W&F Manufacturing Contracts . -- 1933-1934, 1938. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/25**

**AFC 462-S11 Somerville Paper Box Co. .  
1886-1920.**

**16 cm of textual records, 3 volumes, 13 photographs : b&w and sepia toned**

*Scope and Content*

Series consists of records of the Somerville Paper Box Co., the precursor to O-Pee-Chee. This includes workmen's time book, letter book, profit and loss documentation, price lists, product packages, payroll ledger, and a photograph of the Somerville annual picnic.

**AFC 462-S11-F1 Somerville Workmen's Time Book. -- 1886. -- Box Number AFC 462-1/8**

**AFC 462-S11-F2 Somerville Paper Box Taxes . -- 1916-1920. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/15**

**AFC 462-S11-F3 Somerville Company Letter Book. -- 1888-1890?. -- Box Number AFC 462-3/1**

**AFC 462-S11-F4 Somerville Paper Box Co. Profit and Loss . -- 1911-1920. -- Box Number AFC 462-4/8**

**AFC 462-S11-F5 Somerville's Price List. -- 1901-1927. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/1**

**AFC 462-S11-F6 Somerville's Price List. -- 1900-1901. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/2**

**AFC 462-S11-F7 Somerville's Price List. -- 1902-1903. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/3**

**AFC 462-S11-F8 Somerville's Price List. -- 1904-1905. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/4**

**AFC 462-S11-F9 Somerville's Price List. -- 1906. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/5**

**AFC 462-S11-F10 Somerville's Price List. -- 1907. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/6**

**AFC 462-S11-F11 Somerville's Price List. -- 1908, 1914. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/7**

**AFC 462-S11-F12 Photographs of Somerville Product Packages. -- n.d.. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/11**

**AFC 462-S11-F13 Receiving Tickets . -- 1912-1914. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/12**

**AFC 462-S11-F14 Employee Payroll Ledger. -- 1913-1917. -- Box Number AFC 462-6/22**

**AFC 462-S11-F15 Photograph of Somerville O-Pee-Chee Gum Co. Annual Picnic. -- 1920. -- Box Number AFC 462-8/5**



**AFC 462-S12 War Effort.**

**1940s.**

**2 cm of textual records , 3 drawings**

*Scope and Content*

Series consists of records relating to O-Pee-Chee's wartime efforts. This include documents on their wartime preparation, war bond and blood drive honour rolls, and the wartime effect on chewing gum.

**AFC 462-S12-F1 Chewing Gum Wartime Effect. -- 1942. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/17**

**AFC 462-S12-F2 [Wartime Preparation]. -- [1940s]. -- Box Number AFC 462-2/18**

**AFC 462-S12-F3 [WWII War Effort: War Bonds and Blood Donor Honour Rolls]. -- 1940s . -- Box Number MC7-10/6**