

### This Wax Came from Bark of Trees



**CORVALLIS**—Dr. E. F. Kurth, chief of the chemical utilization section of the state forest products laboratory, displays samples of wax extracted from bark. Dr. Kurth is the father of the wax-from-bark process. (Photo by Don Hill, Statesman staff photographer.)

### Wax from Wood Waste Seen Large New Area Business

By Paul W. Harvey, Jr.

**CORVALLIS, May 9 (AP)**—The forest products laboratory here has learned how to take the wax business away from the bees, and how to make the already prolific rabbits produce even more rabbits. And that doesn't begin to tell of the wonderful uses of bark from the trees of Oregon's forests.

The laboratory, which is financed by a tax of five cents per 1,000 feet on all timber cut in the state, has learned how to make tannin, which is used for leather tanning and oil well drilling.

It can make sugar and molasses. Its scientists also found out how to make gasoline out of bark, but that wouldn't be economical.

Since the laboratory really got going in 1947, it has spent more than \$600,000 to help the lumber industry find uses for wood waste, and to carry on other research projects which the industry wants.

It has 25 permanent employees, including 10 scientists. All are under the direction of P. B. Proctor, the technical director. Faculty members and students of the Oregon State college forestry school also help.

Proctor thinks that the laboratory has found the way to a vast new market for wood waste, with a possibility that lumber mills will be able to sell their bark for \$40 a ton. Now they pay \$2 to \$3 a ton to have it hauled away.

Right now, Proctor is trying to sell his ideas to industry, which always is far behind the research scientists. He hopes that local money will develop the wax, tannin and other industries which result from the laboratory's research.

So far, the wax deal is the biggest. Since the United States now imports 80 per cent of its wax from Africa, Argentina and Mexico, Proctor thinks it's a safe bet that the wax-from-bark industry has great possibilities.

Proctor estimates that the bark from Douglas fir cut in the northwest will produce twice the amount of wax needed in the United States. He thinks new uses for wax will be found, as one big chemical company is interested in it for the carbon in it. The wax companies are interested, too.

Wax already is being produced at Springfield. Proctor thinks this industry might eventually be worth \$75,000,000 a year.

He said the wax is of the highest quality, but much more research needs to be done in order to find out exactly what it is chemically. Some of the wax is extremely complicated in its chemical structure. Dr. E. F. Kurth, chief of the chemical utilization section of the lab, is credited with the wax development.

Tannin from bark can be extracted in the same way as wax, and the potential value of the tannin is \$54,000,000 a year.

Seventy per cent of America's tannin now is imported, and in 10 years, all of it will have to be shipped in.

The war munitions board, which says tannin is a strategic material, found the laboratory's tannin as good as any. The Humble Oil company is interested in the new tannin process.

About half of the tannin used in this country is for oil well drilling, explains Proctor. It thins the mud and thus makes the drilling tools last longer. The other half is used to tan hides.

The laboratory can produce wax

and tannin only in small quantities. It would like to set up pilot plants in order to show business how profitable the operation would be. Both can be produced cheaply.

Another product from bark is called dihydroquercetin, and it may have important medical uses. Doctors think it will cure some types of blood diseases, and already it has been found to make sterile mamma rabbits have little bunnies. And it might be of value in treating sterility in women.

A big eastern drug company is interested in dihydroquercetin, and enough to supply the whole country could be produced from just a few trees.

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## Road Project Petitions Filed in Court

Petitions signed by owners of about one-half of the involved property, asking establishment of a South Keizer special road district, were filed Monday with Marion county court.

They were sent to the county assessor's office for confirmation as to a required 25 per cent representation of the property.

Residents of the Hicks-Jones and Arnold additions, east of Cherry avenue and north of the alumina plant, want the road district to enable road improvement and maintenance with funds to be raised by taxation. They have asked a 1950-51 levy of about \$2,500. The legal limit is a 10-mill tax, to which the asking will be cut by the assessor prior to making the tax rolls.

After certification of the petitions, signed by owners of 118 parcels of property, the county court will conduct a hearing and then call an election. The ballot will authorize formation of the district and levying of the tax. A collection among the residents raised money for holding the election.

Roads involved for improvement are a loop comprising Alder avenue and portions of Pleasant View drive and Shady Lane avenue, in order to secure school bus service through the area, as well as all main route roads, said Floyd Brown, chairman of the board from the community. The funds will also be used for maintenance of other streets in the area, which

The Santa Fe railway was named for Santa Fe, New Mexico, but never ran through it. Instead, a spur line of that railroad serves Santa Fe, capital city of the state.

## Public Records

### CIRCUIT COURT

Henry M. Conley vs. Arthur Lengele: Complaint seeks judgment of \$1,096 for alfalfa and meadow hay allegedly delivered.

Walker Stanmore Fitts vs. Oregon Electric Railway Co. and others: Plaintiff's motion to strike parts of defense denied.

Lawrence Moffitt vs. Donna May Moffitt: Complaint charging cruel and inhuman treatment seeks divorce. Married July 30, 1948, at Vancouver, Wash.

William and Emily Albrecht vs. Lawrence Girardin: Defendant's answer admits, denies, asks that plaintiff's complaint be dismissed.

Norma A. McDowell vs. Floyd R. McDowell: Order permits defendant to file and cross-complaint.

Marie Haffley vs. William C. Haffley: Default order entered.

Howard C. Johnston vs. Elyne M. Johnston: Complaint charging desertion seeks divorce, custody of minor child. Married Dec. 12, 1945, at Great Falls, Mont.

Paul A. Porter as office of price administration vs. Coos Bay Farmers cooperative and others: Action dismissed as to defendant Oyster Growers Service association.

Jack L. Evans vs. Pearl and James A. Trude and others: Decree finds generally for plaintiffs and defendants Champlin and against defendants Pearl and James A. Trude.

Includes between five and six miles of roads.

The improvement and maintenance will be administered by the county court, following requests shown on the petitions.

### PROBATE COURT

Albert W. Lemery estate: Final account hearing June 2.

Eva B. Cauthorn guardianship: Effie Mudd appointed guardian of person, Pioneer Trust company appointed guardian of estate, monthly payments of \$150 authorized for guardian of person for her services.

James L. Loder estate: Inventory of assets and liabilities filed for business in which deceased had interest.

### MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Joseph Luyck, 32, Ft. Lawton, Wash., U. S. army, and Mary A. Duletski, 29, Seattle, Wash., beautician.

### DISTRICT COURT

Omer Vernon Carr, Salem route 9, pleaded guilty of charge of driving while intoxicated, continued to May 9 for sentencing; held in lieu of \$250 bail.

Raymond Paul Clarke, Gervais, pleaded guilty to charge of driving while intoxicated, 30-day jail sentence suspended, fined \$250 and costs, driver's license suspended for one year.

Tony Guerra, charged with escape from state penitentiary, waived preliminary hearing, held to answer to grand jury; held on \$3,500 bail.

Winona Juanitta Burbank, 1935 1/2 Maple ave., pleaded guilty to charge of aiding a prisoner to escape, continued for sentencing to May 16; posted \$500 bail.

### MUNICIPAL COURT

Robert Werner Rieder, 340 E. Rural ave., continued to May 10 for plea to charge of driving while

intoxicated; posted \$250 bail.

John S. Friesen, Dallas, ordered to plead May 12 to charge of reckless driving, liquor involved; posted \$150 bail.

Wayne E. Mahaffey, 1076 Highland ave., charged with reckless driving; posted \$50 bail.

### EXPLANATION

MANILA (INS)—Ten-year-old Alfred Corpuz, charged with the shotgun slaying of his playmate Felipe Garcia, 8, explained to Manila police: "I didn't intend to kill him. I was told the gun could only kill birds."

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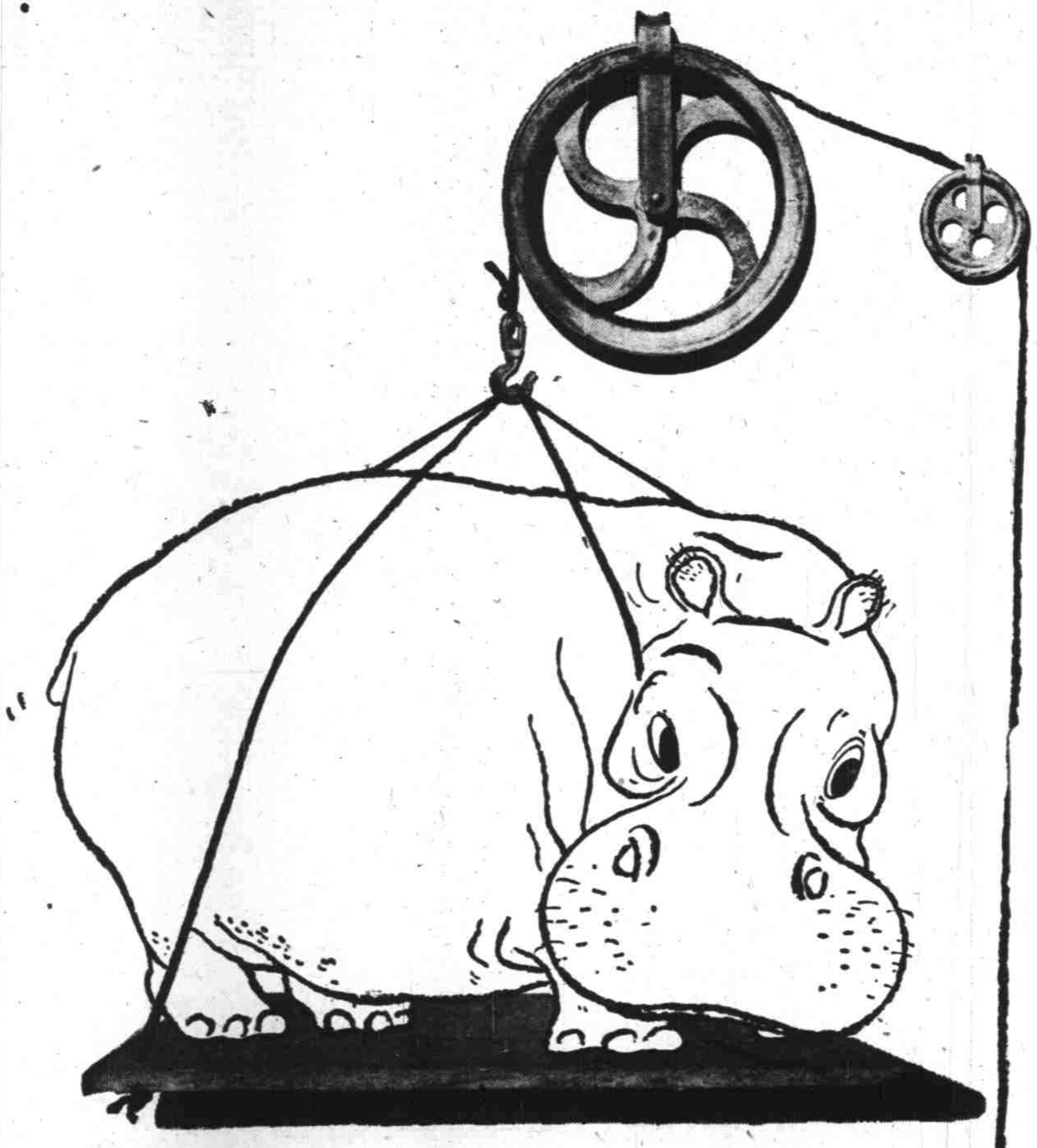
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