

Bark Burned at Mills May Be Used in New Board Industry

Corvallis—The huge amounts of tree bark now burned at mills may become raw material of a new industry to make boards for construction as a result of work at Oregon's forest research center in Corvallis, according to John B. Grantham, director of forest products studies.



DISPLAYS BOARDS - Charles H. Burrows, wood technologist, displays experimental boards made from Douglas fir bark at Oregon's forest research center in Corvallis. Tree bark when ground into particles will form boards under heat and pressure without added binder. Burrows is holding one board made entirely of bark; other boards are overlaid with paper or veneer. Such boards may lead to a new industry based on the vast quantity of bark now burned at mills.

Whole bark is reduced to usable particles by a simple process of hammer-milling, drying, and screening. Processing into boards is similar to methods followed in making wood particle boards. Existing plants could make this new product.

Natural Waxes
Burrows stated that Douglas fir bark, in particular, contains built-in binder and size in the form of natural waxes, tannins and phenolic substances. Preliminary studies indicate these natural binders provide boards with strength and water resistance sufficient for many uses. Added strength or special surfaces where needed can be gained by overlays of heavy paper, veneer, or other material, bonded to each side of the bark board.

Investigation of bark boards was an outgrowth of the forest research center's work on floor tile from the cork fraction of Douglas fir bark. Production, finishing, and testing of experimental tile from Douglas fir cork are described in a report to be released soon. Properties and estimated costs of the experimental tile indicate that it should be competitive with other types of floor covering.

The forthcoming report on cork tile follows closely a companion report on floor tile from planer shavings which was released recently as Information Circular No. 12. The forest research center helped pioneer Oregon's thriving hardwood industry. Starting with one small plant in Corvallis some 14 years ago, seven plants in the State now make one-fourth of the nation's hardwood. The combined capacity of Oregon mills is more than 37 million square feet monthly.

Growing production of wood particle board from mill residues has been stimulated by research. Potential use of bark residues for boards is the latest development in a series of studies to aid producers of hardwood and particle board.

Improve Utilization
Staff at the research center believe use of bark for particle boards, floor tile, and soil amendment will improve timber utilization until bark becomes a profitable source for chemicals.

Ultimately the waxes, tannins and other components of bark will have high value when isolated and sold for specific uses. Studies of bark chemicals, begun at the center by E. F. Kurth and continued under direction of Douglas W. Glennie, revealed that substantial quantities of potentially valuable extractives are present in bark. Douglas fir and other barks contain natu-

ral waxes that could compete with high-quality, imported, vegetable waxes in polishes of all kinds, in carbon paper, and in other commercial products. Rancidity in oils, fats, and dairy products may be prevented by derivatives of dihydroquercetin, a chemical in Douglas fir bark. This non-toxic flavanoid acts to slow oxidation.

Improve Opportunities
Development of these and other markets for bark extractives would improve the opportunities for profitable tannin production from western tree barks and establish them as competitors of imported tannin materials now used in leather tanning and oil well drilling.

The center's work on bark extractives has led to five state-owned patents available to industry on a licensing basis. One major timber company has these under consideration in its search for the best commercial process. Further development of bark as a source of raw materials for chemical industry could follow commercial production of bark extractives.

Suspect in Murder Hangs Self in Jail
Manning, S. C.—A middle-aged carpenter suspected of strangling his 13-year-old step-daughter and shoving her body under her mother's bed hanged himself in a jail cell here today.

Sheriff T. J. Jackson said the body of Ray Daughtry, 52, Jacksonville, Fla., was found hanging by his belt. Daughtry had been picked up here Tuesday night on a drunk driving charge about 12 hours before the body of his stepdaughter was found. But police fixed the time of her death at least 12 hours before Daughtry was arrested here.

The body of the little girl was discovered by her mother, Mrs. George Daughtry, 35, while she was tidying up the bedroom.

ILLINOIS VALLEY Club Has Special Guests

By RUTH RAUSCH
Cave Junction—Mrs. William White, past district president, Mrs. G. Stevens and Mrs. M. Moore, all of Rogue River, and Mrs. Harold Mackey of Kerby were special guests at the meeting of the Illinois Valley Federated Women's club last Friday held in the home of Mrs. Jack Spitz.

Mrs. Stevens, district conservationist, was the principal speaker. Mrs. Marjorie Johnson, librarian for the Illinois Valley branch of the Josephine county library, discussed the advantages gained through proper use of the library.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith entertained at a dinner party Sunday, honoring the birthday of Mrs. Hazel Halm of Grants Pass, the mother of Mrs. Smith.

A report was received that George Martin was hospitalized in Blythe, Calif., suffering from a heart attack. Hermon Covington has also been reported suffering a heart condition in a Fortuna, Calif., hospital.

Vernon Larson, high school principal, with his family, attended the conference of Oregon Educational association in Portland recently.

A great deal of work has been completed on the new high school grounds.

The annual Illinois Valley High school talent show will be staged April 3. Those wishing to participate are asked to contact either Leland Rosenberg or Fred Davis.

The more than 2 million tons of bark accumulated annually at Oregon sawmills and veneer mills constitute a rich potential for chemical use. The forest research center in Corvallis is a state agency supported by a severance tax on logs harvested, and by general fund appropriation. The center is devoted to increasing the returns from our forests and improving Oregon's basic industry.

Chemical utilization of bark now stands about the same point that chemical use of petroleum and coal tar did 50 years ago. A start has been made in industrial use of bark extractives for oil well drilling, but this represents only a small beginning in obtaining the values present.

A new club has been organized at the high school, the Illinois Valley Rocket Society, with instructor Richard Eddy as the advisor. The group was formed with seven members and membership will be held open until the quota of 15 has been reached.

The purpose will be to build rockets. At the present time, a blockhouse building is being built for protection during the firing of the rockets.

Members are Mark Nelson, Make McDermott, John Wurn, David Savage, LeLand Rosenberg, Mike Burnett and Dick Travis.

Gordon White, manager of the Bank of Illinois Valley and president of the Valley Chamber of Commerce, was guest speaker for the high school American history class recently, addressing the class on the Federal Reserve system and economics in general.

Mrs. Francis Potwin and children, Steven, Sally and Mary, of Eugene, visited Mrs. Potwin's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Smith this week.

Miss Margaret Morris of Bend is visiting her sister, Mrs. Anne Leonard.

The O'Brien Teen-age Square Dance club joined the Shamrock Square Dance club at the St. Patrick's Day dance last Saturday night. More than 40 guests and members attended the session which followed the beginners session conducted by instructor, Van Johnson in the high school band room.

Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Nidever, parents of the Rev. LeRoy Nidever of the Kerby Assembly of God church, were the guests at their son's home recently. Mr. Nidever's mother is pastor of the Cedarville, Calif., Assembly of God church.

The Missionettes, an auxiliary of the Assembly of God WMC, met at the church Tuesday after school to work on their current project, knitting baby booties for the missionary schools. The girls range in age from 12 to 18.

Mrs. Ed DeMersseman left last Saturday for Emporia, Kan., to visit her father, C. F. Coombs, who is ill. Mrs. DeMersseman plans to stay with her mother as long as

Congressmen Hold Routine Sessions As Recess Nears

Washington—The House and Senate held perfunctory sessions today so lawmakers could get last-minute speeches into the congressional record before recessing for the Easter holiday.

Many of the senators and congressmen already have left for home for the 10-day break.

In one of the prepared speeches Sen. Paul H. Douglas (D-Ill.) charged that the Air Force spends \$1 million of its training funds every year to stage air show junkets for civilians. He said the Army, Navy and Marine Corps "wasted" additional millions on similar fetes.

Other Congressional news: Rackets—Chairman John L. McClellan (D-Ark.) of the Senate rackets inquiry called on the Federal Civil Rights Commission to investigate evidence that Florida union officials "exploited" Negroes as pawns in organizing drives. The committee said Miami Teamster chieftains used union funds to buy a \$15,000 home in the name of a Negro in order to thwart sales by a balking developer to families who might object to colored neighbors.

Steel—Two Democratic senators, Estes Kefauver (Tenn.) and Wayne Morse (Ore.) threw their support behind President Eisenhower's appeal for no new increase in steel prices.

Budget—The staff of House-Senate committees on internal revenue taxation said Eisenhower's "balanced" budget was \$1,200,000,000 in the red.

Church Needs Rod—Great Holland, England—Officials of the Clacton Paris Church are anxious to get a lightning rod put on the church tower before the start of the summer storm season. The church has had to get along without one since it was built in 1400.

X-rays are now being used to find defects in logs and heavy timbers.

While in Kansas, she also will visit her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Bob DeMersseman, who are now living in Lawrence, Kan.

Mr. and Mrs. Walt Hunting have returned from a vacation trip to Michigan Bluffs, Calif.

Siamese Twins Show Improvement

London—The 11-month-old Thackeray Siamese twins, separated Monday in a 10-hour operation, showed slight improvement today, doctors reported.

The twins, Jeremy and Timothy, were joined at the head at birth. A third brother was normal and has been restored to his parents.

Jeremy and Timothy were sleeping in separate oxygen tents under the effects of heavy doses of drugs. They will be kept under sedation until the effects of the operation wear off, doctors reported.

Doctors expressed fears Wednesday that the life of Jeremy was "in the balance," but a hospital spokesman said he "was surprised and delighted to see all" in his struggle to survive.

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