

around Statesboro and Savannah. He began promoting the new system which reduced the damage to trees and allowed them to be harvested for wood products.

He is given much of the credit for the change from boxes to cups, which began on a commercial basis in 1904. Gum producers were slow to adopt the new method, however. In 1908, 90 percent of the trees worked in Georgia were boxed.

During the mid to late 1930's, experiments were conducted to test the effects of various chemicals in stimulating gum flow. The most effective stimulant was determined to be a low percentage solution of sulfuric acid. This stimulant, along with others, is still in use today.

Around 1950 spiral gutters and

aprons came into use. These gutters and aprons caused less tree damage during installation and could be removed easily to allow rotation among trees. All these improvements helped to conserve timber while increasing gum yields.

Naval stores production has declined in recent years, but Georgia's products are still in demand. They are regarded by many as superior to those of other areas due to their high rosin content.

The naval products industry continues to have potential for current and future forest owners. It gives the woodland owner a chance to increase his income on a periodic basis and at the same time conserve timber for later use.