

Naval Stores

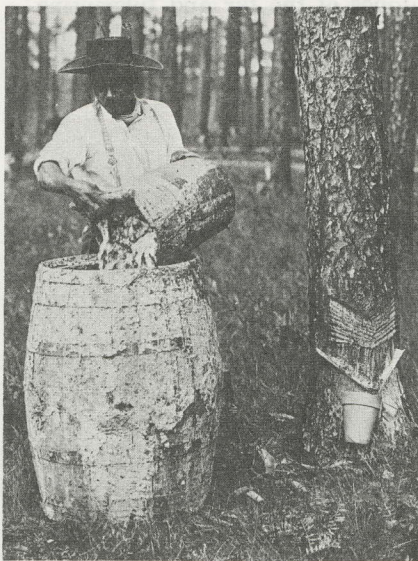
Georgia has been producing naval stores products ever since James Oglethorpe brought the first settlers to the state in 1733. In fact, by the mid 1700's Georgia already was exporting such products as tar, pitch, turpentine and rosins.

During this period, the regulation of naval stores was a topic of colonial legislation. Minimum weight and volume were specified for a barrel of pitch, tar and turpentine and the items were required to be checked for purity and quality before shipment.

Although the naval stores industry actually began in other colonies, Georgia's pines proved to have a higher rosin content than trees in those areas. For this reason, the industry moved into the state on a large scale in the 1800's. The industry quickly prospered along the coast until hampered by the Civil War. Although the war almost ruined the industry, immense forest acreage still remained and forest products, including naval stores, became one of the most feasible industries for the state to develop.

With the development of the state's railroad network during this period, turpentine distilleries moved into southwest Georgia. In 1872, H.H. Tifton established the industry in what became known as Tifton.

As industrialization and manufacturing increased in the United States, new needs for naval stores products developed. The increased demand for the products aroused much interest in Georgia's pine belt



When the cup and gutter system of collecting pine gum was introduced, the cups were made of clay in the shape of a flowerpot. However, because they were bulky and broken easily, the clay cups were replaced by galvanized iron and later plastic.