



Miss Lexie Nicholls with a penguin rescued during the recent oil spill emergency at Penguin Island.

Photo courtesy of W A Newspapers

OIL POLLUTION

The problem of oil spills may be solved by spreading dry pine bark on the affected waters, according to California-based *Forest Industries*.

Dry shredded bark from southern yellow pines can absorb three times its own weight in crude oil in seconds but repels water for several hours.

Tests at the Texas Forest Products Laboratory proved the utility of the bark for this purpose. Floating oil-soaked bark could be mechanically collected and much oil recovered.

Southern yellow pine is a collective term for several species growing in south-eastern U.S.A. from Virginia to Texas. Some members of the group are included in Forests Department trial plots in W.A.