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Drug Developed by UW Body Saves Life of Its President

Journal Special Correspondence

Chicago, Ill. — A "wonder drug" developed by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation Thursday was



George I. Haight

credited with saving the life of the foundation's president, George I. Haight, 70, a prominent Chicago attorney and a leading alumnus of the University of Wisconsin, in recovering from illness that threatened to be fatal, associates said. The recovery came through use of dicumarol, a white crystalline drug developed from sweet clover to check blood clotting.

In 1933, Dr. Karl Paul Link and other University of Wisconsin biochemists began the studies that led to the development of the drug. The work was supported by \$25,000 from the Alumni Research Foundation.

The original goal was to create a more palatable sweet clover hay for dairy cattle.

The Wisconsin scientists found that when sweet clover hay spoils, dicumarol was created. Cattle that ate it showed little resistance to wounds, often bleeding to death. The drug was then adopted for use in human abdominal surgery, where blood clotting was a danger.

Haight, one of the foundation founders and its president since 1925, recently underwent a gall bladder operation in Chicago. A blood clot developed on his lung, and little hope for recovery remained until the dicumarol was used.

He is now fully recovered and resting at his Chicago home. Benjamin F. Goldstein, Haight's law partner, revealed the story of his recovery Thursday in explaining to a Chicago judge why Haight was not appearing as counsel in an oil patent case.

Haight received a top honorary degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1947 for his work for the foundation and as former president of the Wisconsin Alumni association.