



## CULINARYPREP™

**B.M. (Bill) Groves, R.Ph.**, came from humble beginnings in southern Arkansas. From an early age, Bill helped provide food for his family and along with them endured the extended effects of the Great Depression. Experiencing a life of hardship in Columbia County, Arkansas, he developed an entrepreneurial spirit that continues to drive Bill to this very day. Learning by necessity, discipline, perseverance, and determination, Bill nurtured his entrepreneurial spirit daily.

These character traits were developed further during his service in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He was assigned to vital intelligence work in Turkey and other Mediterranean countries. Upon his return to civilian life, Bill continued to endure hard economic times; however, with the help of the GI Bill, pharmacy school became a reality, but not without considerable hard work and sacrifice. Working diligently to provide for his family as well as performing in his studies meant making the most of his creative and strong entrepreneurial spirit.

Most pharmacists either go to work for someone else or open one store and work there until retirement. But during his 30 years in that line of work, the entrepreneurial Bill Groves owned and operated seven pharmacy stores spread over seven cities. He also partnered with several physicians and acquired and operated business offices to lease commercial real estate in the Pine Bluff area.

At the pinnacle of his pharmacy career, Bill was a 20% partner in the largest nursing home in Arkansas in addition to his extensive pharmacy practice, commercial realty business, and presidency of the Arkansas State Pharmacy Association. Bill anticipated the impending struggle to provide appropriate pharmacy service that would certainly result from government and insurance regulation battles and the adverse implications these changes held for business. Bill left behind all but one pharmacy bringing an end to his pharmacy career, but not his knowledge of the science.

To the surprise of no one who knew him, the life of a retiree did not hold Bill's interest very long.

In the new found freedom of retirement, Bill attempted to keep his entrepreneurial spirit at bay by presiding over baseball boosters and the like. When it became apparent that he could not continue in this direction alone, Bill did what most who retire rarely ever do, he took on more work.

The year was 1985 and Bill opened Gajun's, a restaurant featuring southern cuisine in Pine Bluff. It was the incubator that provided the right environment for what Bill calls the divine guidance that resulted in the Grovac Process. Through "trial and success," Bill developed the beginnings of the Grovac Process to provide a consistency in catfish taste that was not available from the producers, by attacking the



**CULINARYPREP™**

geosmin that gave catfish its muddy taste. The great success with processed products not only earned him many happy customers at Gajun's, it led to his forming a critical relationship that would take the Grovac Process to another level.

This relationship was formed with Dr. F.M. (Bud) Henderson, a local physician who frequented Gajun's. He and Bill began to collaborate on the science behind the Grovac Process. This work eventually led to a partnership between the two men and provided the catalyst for the in-depth scientific understanding needed to validate and further develop the Grovac Process.

After eight years of operating Gajun's, Bill was convinced that the Grovac Process could be taken to a much larger market. To the disappointment of Gajun's many customers, the doors closed on the restaurant and from that point forward, Bill's private residence became his new laboratory.

After eleven years of research and development, Bill and Dr. Henderson relocated to Northwest Arkansas and began working in earnest on the second- generation vacuum Grovac Dip Processor. Today, Bill and Dr. Henderson continue to build the business and perform R&D at Whitbeck Laboratories, a commercial laboratory in Springdale, Arkansas. Although Bill is the founder and inventor of the Grovac Process, he will tell you that there have been others who have contributed to its success.

**Better Taste. Better Health.**