

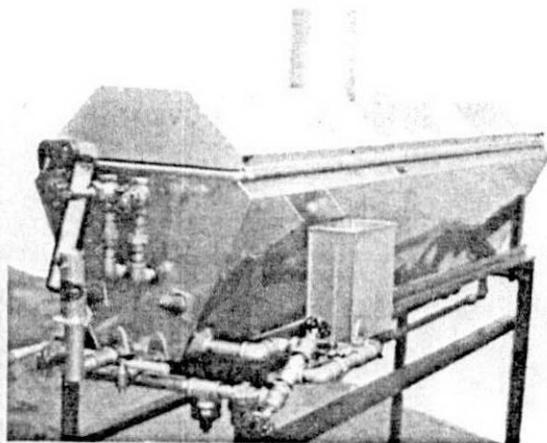
NATIONAL MAPLE SYRUP DIGEST NATIONAL



Vol. 9, No. 2

July, 1970

G. H. GRIMM



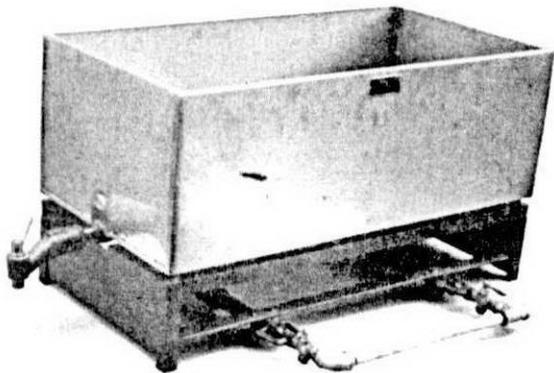
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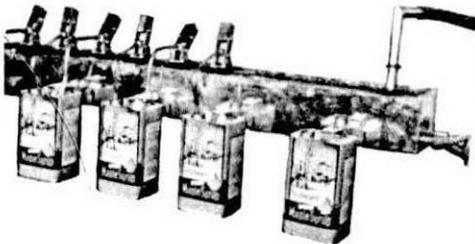
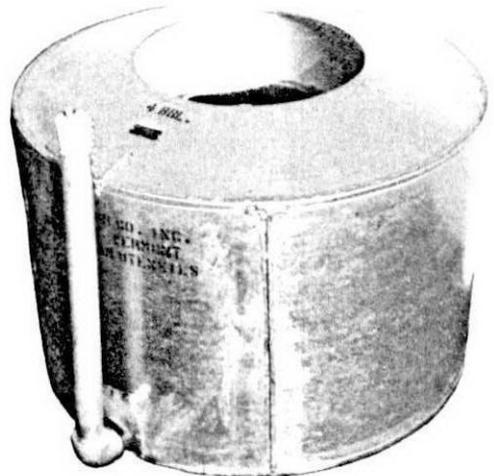
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Edited by Lloyd Sipple
Bainbridge, N.Y.

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NATIONAL MAPLE SYRUP DIGEST

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COVER PICTURE

About a year ago, we printed a picture of syrup making in an iron kettle.

This month's cover shows an improvement, probably one of the first multiple pan evaporators used.

Origin of the picture is unknown to the publisher but was submitted to Fred Winch, Cornell University, by Walt Simonds, retired Extension Forester of Pennsylvania.

NOTICE-BACK ISSUES

The following issues of the Digest have been printed to date:

Vol. 1, No. 1,2,3,4
Vol. 2, No. 1,2,3
Vol. 3, No. 1,2,3,4
Vol. 4, No. 1,2,3,4
Vol. 5, No. 1,2,3,4
Vol. 6, No. 1,2,3,4
Vol. 7, No. 1,2,3,4
Vol. 8, No. 1,2,3,4

We still have a supply of most of them but they are getting scarce. If you lack any, drop us a card stating which copies you would like, with your check, money order or cash for 25¢ per copy, and we'll send them if available.

DIGEST ADVERTISING RATES

2 Page Spread..... \$220.
Full Page 120.
½ Page Vert. or Hor. 65.
Column Inch 9.
Classified25 per word

Editorial

THE DIGEST STATUS

or

You better read this editorial - it may be the last one I'll write!

I usually have trouble thinking of a topic for an editorial. This time I have a different problem - too many things to write about. In this situation I guess the best course to take is to stay with the most important - the status of the "Digest".

Yes, you read the sub-title right. This may be my last editorial! Ever since I sent out a plea for financial assistance in the February issue, I've been watching the returns come in with the hope that our problems would all be solved. So far the returns have been both encouraging and disappointing. Encouraging in the sense that all our readers who have supported the "Digest" so faithfully ever since we started, again came through very generously. Many included letters of encouragement, some with suggestions for future issues, and a very few of constructive criticism. A lot contained contributions amounting to much more than their share. These are the folks to whom I feel so deeply obligated to keep the "Digest" going. A few replied, requesting that their name be dropped from the mailing list since they had no interest for one reason or another. I want to thank these folks too, because this will lower our expenses. But - the disheartening part is the fact that about 80% of our readers failed to respond in either way. Why? I wish I knew.

Is the reason because they just don't care? I won't buy that, not yet anyway. I try to make myself think that they have just put it off as I put off so many things I'm supposed to do, and they will come through - with another reminder. Well, here is your chance, folks. You may not get another one because while the "Digest" is alright now, and our bills are all paid up to date, we've only enough money in the bank for the postage on the issue, which must be paid when it is mailed out.

There is a big printing bill that the advertising and contributions will have to pay for before we start on the October issue. If they aren't paid, there won't be an October issue. I refuse to run this publication into debt because I'm not going to pay the bills myself and the National Council can't. Whether the "Digest" goes ahead or back is entirely up to the readers now. Not the ones who have so generously supported it in the past, but those who haven't. Maybe the solution would be to eliminate all copies to those who have not paid their subscriptions.

Another solution to the problem would be to get a new editor. I've brought it along, such as it is, for 9 years now and I am beginning to feel I've failed somewhere along the line. Someone else might have some different ideas that would make a big improvement. I'm willing to keep on and do the best I can, but I'm also willing to step aside and give someone else a shot at it.

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If you have any ideas on this matter, don't write to me. The editor is appointed by the National Maple Syrup Council. Write to the President - Edward A. Curtis, Honesdale, Pennsylvania 18431. Please tell him what you think about the whole matter before October 1, 1970 so that the Council can take whatever steps are necessary at the coming annual meeting. Two things I can say about the job, the pay is terrible and there is one fringe benefit that is terrific - the opportunity to do something constructive for the maple industry.

- - Oops!!

To the folks who requested we remove their name from the mailing list, but did NOT enclose their name: We don't like to think you did this on purpose. It costs the "Digest" 8¢ to get each return from the Post Office and a number of them checked the box saying they had no use for the "Digest", but included no name, no address, just a check mark. The "Digest" mailing list comes from your County Agent or your appointed delegate and we honestly believe you are all maple syrup producers, or have an interest in maple syrup production. If you do not want the "Digest", please be honest with us and enclose your name and address.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mr. Lloyd Sipple
Maple Syrup Digest
Bainbridge, New York 13733

Dear Mr. Sipple:

In response to your editorial in the February issue, I am pleased to enclose my usual contribution in support of the Digest. It is doing good work for the maple industry.

It seems deplorable to me that New York and Vermont, as leaders in production, should present such divergent views with regard to the compulsory grading, and regulation of grade designations. Could we unite on this important part of our mutual marketing problems, it seems to me that much possible chaos and costs of enforcement, labeling of containers, etc., would be of substantial benefit to the maple industry.

I suggest a joint committee of persons from the State marketing agencies and producers organizations of the two States, to consider the basic problems affecting this issue. I am sure a report from such a committee would be of great interest if presented to your readers.

Fortis H. Abbott
Member Vermont Maple Sugar
Makers' Assoc., Inc.
Retired Chairman, Vermont
Maple Industry Council

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You do, my friend, we all do.

By pulling together, each contributing a small amount we can keep this valuable magazine coming into our homes.

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Les Jones - Heating

Morrisville, N.Y.
February 18, 1970

Dear Lloyd,

We feel that an annual subscription is the only way to guarantee regular income for, and perpetuation of, the Digest. All subscriptions should be due at one time, say, October (which is apt to be a lucrative month) to eliminate complicated lists.

\$2.00 per year is not too much to pay for this superior, specialized magazine, and would eliminate the "free riders". No half rates should be given for the kind of information we receive in the Maple Syrup Digest.

Enclosed is our contribution.

Gratefully,
Charles and Peggy Shapley

Essex Jct., Vermont
Feb. 16, 1970

Gormanian, W. Va.
2 - 19 - 70

Gentlemen:

Just got my latest "Digest" and read the editorial. George Keim, who you should remember, gave me my first copy. I have tried to send in \$2.00 a year since. I do not know where I stand as of now.

We do not want to lose the Digest. I'm just a small producer down out of the syrup belt, 1600 taps, but it means a lot to me. We have a choice market, "Black-water State Lodge", "Cool Spring Park" plus a rather lucrative Washington, D.C. order. Our only trouble is to get enough. Two weeks after the season is over we are out. Cannot even buy the right kind to fill orders.

I'm 72 years old, been in it since 1918 with a King rig all the way. I get more new ideas from the Digest all the time so it is worth \$5.00 to me to help the cause for this year.

I especially enjoyed your editorial a couple years ago on the Postal system. I am using United Parcel instead of Parcel Post, delivered at the house, and not busted! I think you might be a Republican, which I am, in a Democratic state.

I like the new size, keep it going if you can.

Respectfully,
G. C. Dixon

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From the President

Dear Maple Producers and Maple Friends:

In my opening remarks as President of the National Maple Syrup Council, I feel deeply honored to represent this great industry, well founded in our American Heritage, and one of the oldest farm commodities on the North American Continent.

While I consider myself a boy among the giants in the production and sale of Maple Syrup and Maple Products, nevertheless, I believe I represent one of the largest segments of maple producers - that of dairy and maple combination. Especially in Pennsylvania and New York States with which I'm most familiar.

According to the U.S. Crop reporting service, production was a little better this year than the past two seasons. However, some producers report a poor year and the only consolation I have to offer them is the hope and prospect of a better season this coming year. As the fellow says, "we can't live on promises." Yet neither did the ninety year old man that married the twenty year old girl and built a house by the school. We can plan for a good year.

It seems to me as man has progressed with the advances in technology and research, the moral fibre of the nation has declined. This is not just "someone's" problem, this is everyone's problem.

Let us all take a little time and put our shoulders to the wheel and see if we can't return this country to the path that leads to integrity and human decency.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Curtis,
President

P.S. For those who might want to attend the annual meeting of the National Maple Syrup Council this year, it will be held at Honesdale, Pa., Oct. 19-20, and for those other than delegates and associate delegates, a request for accommodations could be made to: Wayne County Chamber of Commerce, Honesdale, Pa. 18431.

New York Maple Tour

The New York Maple Tour will assemble at Walter Hoyt's, near Walton (watch the signs) on August 3 at noon. Bring your own lunch, plenty of places to eat. Then we move on to August Anderson's, Long Eddy, N.Y. Evening program at Firemen's Park, Hancock, with chicken barbecue. Side trips for evening tours to nearby points of interest. On August 4 the tour stops at Everett Stone's, R.D. 2, Thompson, Pennsylvania; Dwight Hauenstein's, Pleasant Mount, Penn.; and Gerald Hiller's, R.D. 1, Honesdale, Penn. The lunch will be at the Pleasant Valley Grange Hall on August 4.

New York Producers will receive information from their local County Extension Service. Out-of-state visitors are urged to attend and should contact Paul Mattern, P.O. Building, Walton, New York, 13856 for reservations.

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1970 Vermont Maplerama Scheduled

Two preliminary meetings have already been held to plan activities for the 1970 Vermont Maplerama, which will be held in Caledonia and Orleans Counties on Friday and Saturday, August 7 and 8. Activities planned include stops at a maple production and marketing outlet in Sutton, a sugar bush where vacuum pumping is done to move sap from 2,000 taps, a large maple candy factory, an "average" sugar house in Danville where up-to-date production and packing methods are used, and an evening program at Lyndon State College in Lyndon Center; also a tour past beautiful Lake Willoughby (the Switzerland of Vermont) to Derby, where sap pumping and plastic tubing will be ob-

served; and a final visit to the Arthur and Paul Lahar farm in Albany, Vt., where several types of wood splitting and other equipment useful in sugaring will be observed; as well as a sugar bush with much thinning and other improvement work done to improve sap production.

Acting as Chairman for this year's Maplerama is Maurice LaPlant of Sutton. Vice Chairman is Donald Kilborn of Derby. Secretary is Philip Grime of St. Johnsbury. Treasurer is Roger Whitcomb of Derby. Persons interested in further information should contact Philip K. Grime, County Extension Agent, Federal Building, St. Johnsbury, Vt. 05819.

Don't Miss This !!!

THE 1970 VERMONT MAPLERAMA

Friday and Saturday, Aug. 7 and 8, 1970

To be held in Vermont's picturesque "Northeast Kingdom" in Caledonia and Orleans Counties.

Once again here is an opportunity to see some unique maple ideas, all the way from St. Johnsbury's "Maple Center of the World" to some of Vermont's larger and most modern maple producers and sap processors. Every Vermont maple producer is cheating himself if he does not make a real effort to attend, even if only for one of the two days.

If you are a maple producer or connected with maple from outside Vermont, you are invited to attend. We urge all maple people to make reservations of some sort if possible to assist committees in planning the program. If you have not received any information yet and wish to, contact Mr. Phil Grime, Box 347, St. Johnsbury, Vt. 05819.

Maple Equipment Tariff Dropped

From the
Rutland Daily Herald

WASHINGTON — (Special)
— U.S. Senator George D. Aiken, R-Vt., announced here Monday that Canada has dropped its customs duties on maple production equipment.

The Canadian decision, contained in an order-in-council approved in Ottawa on Feb. 3, allows for remission of duty and sales tax on five categories of maple production equipment.

The order is effective immediately, and remains in force until July 1, 1971.

Sen. Aiken said the order-in-council was drafted on the basis of reciprocity and opens the door for the tariff-free flow of maple equipment in both directions across the border.

The items now free from both U.S. and Canadian tariff barriers are maple evaporators, parts and smokestacks; metal sap buckets without handles and their covers; sap spouts; syrup draw-off devices and tanks for collecting, transporting and storing sap.

The Vermont senator, long-time advocate of relaxed trade restrictions by the United States and Canada, said the decision resulted from more than a year of quiet negotiations between the U.S. State Department and the Ottawa government.

"What it means for our Vermont maple producers," said the senator, "is that they will be able to get the best United States and Canadian equipment without the artificial pricing that tariffs create."

He revealed he requested relaxation of Canadian duties after a Vermont maple equipment manufacturer complained because there was a 22 per cent duty on items he exported to Canada.

Noting that the order-in-council carries a cutoff date of July 1, 1971, Sen. Aiken said he is confident this may be extended, "if actual practice shows the arrangement is satisfactory to equipment manufacturers on both sides of the border."

A customs memorandum on the subject is now being prepared, he said. It is his understanding, Aiken added, that the Canadian embassy here will give official notice to authorities in Washington.



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PINT & QUART SIZES NOW AVAILABLE.

Measure That Vacuum

by H. Clay Smith and Arthur H. Rye
Northeastern Forest Experiment
Station
Forest Service, U.S.D.A.
Burlington, Vermont

For vacuum pumping to increase sugar maple sap yields, there must be a vacuum at the taphole. The only way you can be sure that you have the necessary vacuum is to measure it.

One way to do this is to take the cap off the spout and attach a vacuum gage (fig. 1). But this is usually difficult and time-consuming.

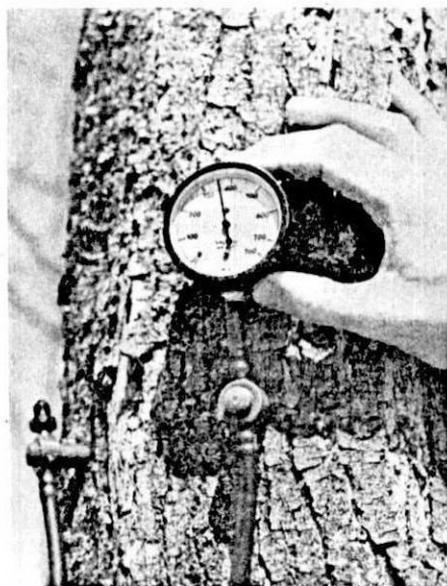


Figure 1.—Measuring vacuum with a hand gage graduated in millimeters of mercury.

Now we have a better way. If shutoff valves are fitted to the tubing system at key points, vacuum gages can be attached quickly and simply for measuring the vacuum.

The key locations vary with each sugar-bush. We put valves near the beginning and middle of the tubing lines. We also attach a few valves to the spouts farthest from the vacuum pump. In this way we can determine whether or not vacuum is present throughout the tubing installation.

The valves can be installed on the spout vents this way. Replace the spout cap with a piece of tubing containing a shutoff valve (fig. 2). Use plastic rubber cement to seal the tubing to the metal valve fitting. Keep the valve closed at all times except when vacuum readings are taken. If spouts without vent holes are used, insert a tee in the drop line beneath the spout and attach a valve to this tee. Valves can even be mounted on mainlines; however, in such cases larger valves should be used.

To measure the vacuum, attach a vacuum gage to the tubing above the valve while the valve is still closed (fig. 3). After the gage is attached, turn the valve on, wait for the needle on the gage to settle, read the vacuum, turn the valve off, and remove the gage.



Figure 2.--A valve is attached to the spout vent and kept closed until a reading is taken.

If you have a good vacuum, you can open a valve slightly and hear a continuous hissing caused by the suction of air from the vacuum pump. When a vacuum is not present, check the entire installation to locate the problem areas. Things to check for include missing caps, separated lines, poor connections, leaking tapholes, broken fittings, and animal damage.

You can buy shutoff valves at most hardware or plumbing stores for approximately 50¢ each. Various types of shutoff valves with nipple-thread combinations are available, but we found the 1/4-inch valve fitting to be satisfactory.

Several types of vacuum gages are available. Vacuum gages measure vacuum in millimeters of mercury, inches of mercury, or pounds per square inch. They

range in price from approximately \$3.00 to several hundred dollars, and can be purchased at most hardware or mail-order houses. An automobile fuel-pump tester (vacuum gage), graduated in inches of mercury, works very well; one costs about \$4.00.

Measuring vacuum on a tubing system can be slow and difficult. But the job can be done simply and quickly if shutoff valves are mounted on the spouts at key locations in the tubing lines. Remember, to increase sap yields, a vacuum must be present at the taphole.



Figure 3.--When measuring vacuum, the gage is attached to the top of the valve and the valve is turned on.

Cooperative Agreement Will Spur Maple Study at Cornell

by Robert R. Morrow

Research in maple sap production will receive an added boost starting in 1970 as a result of a five-year cooperative agreement between the Miner Institute in Clinton County and the N.Y. College of Agriculture at Cornell University. Under the agreement the Miner Institute has committed substantial resources, including their sugar bush and some personnel to maple research and demonstration.

Miner Institute is a private educational corporation which sponsors undergraduate and adult education programs directed toward agriculture and the social sciences.

One study will correlate results from the Miner sugar bush with results from bushes currently operated by Cornell at Arnot Forest in Tompkins County and Heaven Hill in Essex County. Insofar as practical, similar management techniques and equipment will be used at the three locations. The effect of altitude and latitude on sap yields will be measured.

The assistance of the staff of the Miner sugar bush is expected to greatly speed up field research. Since significant sap flows

occur only about 20 days of the year, it is important to have more personnel to lay out experiments and then closely observe the results. The principal 1970 experiment will compare sap yields from vented and unvented aerial tube networks. The experiment not only replicates earlier U.S. Forest Service experiments; it replicates a 1969 experiment in two localities. It also seeks added information on the effects of slope and number of tap holes per line on the flow.

Numerous maple producers have visited Heaven Hill in recent years to see first hand the development of new ideas in maple production. Some of the things to see there include use of tubing in a very cold climate, cheap vacuum techniques, transfer of vacuum to woods, main pipeline lay out, natural vacuum, all sap flow to same point, cheap swimming pools reserved for large emergency flows, sugar house construction, evaporators in series, home-made filters which make use of several thicknesses of prefilters over one surface (rather than several filter surfaces), drum storage with canning as needed for

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There are also interesting things to see at the other sugar bushes. Arnot Forest has excellent examples of vacuum pumping techniques with low-priced equipment on small scattered areas. Miner Institute

has demonstrations of thinning as well as the commonplace problem of moving sap a long distance through main pipe line on near level ground. The newly-developed method of transferring vacuum is operational at both sugar bushes. Maple producers are welcome at these facilities also. Appointments should be made through the following Managers:

Fred Fontana, Arnot Forest Lodge, Van Etten, N.Y., Area Code 607, Ph. 589-6095.

Charles Hoag, Miner Institute, Chazy, N.Y., Area Code 518, Ph. 846-7121.

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Pamela Gnagey National Queen



Pamela Gnagey

Miss Pamela Gnagey, who reigned in 1969 as The Pennsylvania Maple Festival Queen, Friday was selected Queen of the National Maple Industry for the next year.

Miss Gnagey, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Gnagey of Berlin, RD # 1, was chosen as the National Maple Queen in a contest cosponsored here by the National Maple Association and the Meyersdale Maple Festival Association. She was selected in competition with three other contestants, each of whom had advanced to the contest here by winning the maple title in her home state.

The statuesque brown-eyed brunette, who is a student at Shippensburg State

College, won in a close contest with the New York State Queen, Miss Constance Moore, 17, of Turin, New York; Miss Karen Wilmore, 18, of Vermontville, a senior at Michigan's Maple Valley High School, and Miss Linda Pietz, 17, of Birnamwood, Wisconsin, tied for third place in the event.

Miss Gnagey is a 1969 graduate of Berlin-Brothersvalley Joint High School. As her talent number she performed an original dance and fire-baton twirling routine to the music of "Born Free".

Miss Moore sang selections from "The Sound of Music" for her talent offering.

Miss Wilmore and Miss Pietz presented informal biographical talks to the Judges and audience.

The contestants also were judged on personality, appearance in an evening gown, and an oral quiz. The judges and the contestants met at a luncheon in the Heritage Room of the Stage Coach Inn.

The new National Queen will succeed Miss Cinda Lou Jones of New York State. She was crowned by Miss Kathy Wable of Fort Hill, RD # 1, Pennsylvania's Queen Maple XXIII. Ironically, Miss Gnagey had crowned Miss Wable as the new Pennsylvania Maple Festival Queen April 4 at the Meyersdale Area High School.

Also in attendance at the contest Friday were Miss Wable's maids of honor, Miss Ann Kristine Ream of Berlin-Brothersvalley Joint High School and Miss Nancy Jo Kreger of Rockwood Area High School, and the 1970 maple princesses, Miss Constance Jean Faber of Meyersdale Area High School and Miss Andrea Jean Ellis of Somerset Area High School.

The four contestants were presented finished wooden buckets (keelers) of

Somerset County Maple Products by the Maple Festival Association. The state maple organization was represented by Ed Farrand, Pennsylvania State University Extension forester. Adin Reynolds of Anawa, Wisconsin, represented the national maple association.

Miss Gnagey will represent the national organization throughout the nation during the next year. The first date to be offi-

cially set on her schedule was that of the national maple convention which is to be held at Honesdale, Wayne County, in October.

James A. Bochy, Somerset County Farm Agent, was master of ceremonies for the contest, which was being held for the first time in Pennsylvania. Background music for the event was provided by George Fisher of Meyersdale.



Jim Bochy, M.C., with contestants Linda Pietz, Karen Wilmore, Constance Moore and Pamela Gnagey.

Canadian Producers

We will be pleased to send the MAPLE SYRUP DIGEST to our friends in Canada for the following subscription fee:

1 year \$2.00
5 years 5.00

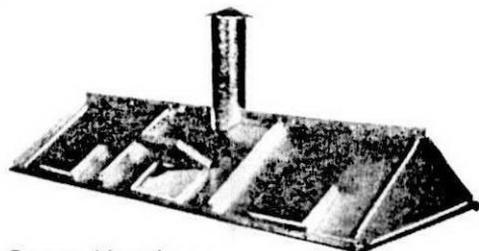
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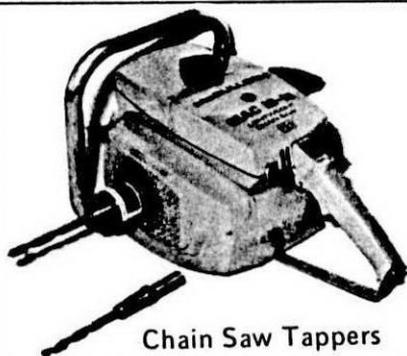


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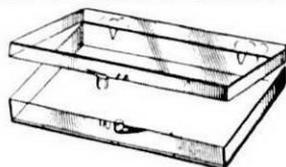


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REYNOLDS
SUGAR BUSH INC.

ANIWA, WIS. 54408 AC 715 449-2680

Plastic Jugs

Handsome, hot-fillable jugs of XT polymer which meet the rigid requirements for packaging Pure Maple Syrup have been developed by Kress Creations, a blow-molder in Seymour, Connecticut.

Kress selected XT because it can be hot filled at 180°F without container deformation. Tests have revealed that the contour of the jug remains stable when subjected to the vacuum created by the cooling syrup.

Good impact strength, resistance to taste transfer, and good gas barrier properties are also achieved with the use of the acrylic multipolymer. In choosing XT polymer, Kress is able to produce a lightweight, non-rusting jug to rival the traditionally used glass and tin containers.

The distinctive white jugs are silk screen decorated by Kress with a "sapping time" scene. Kress also plans to offer other designs at the packers request.

The new jugs will also feature a completely new tamper proof and easy-to-apply closure designed by Aluminum Company of America exclusively for use with plastic containers. The closures are pre-threaded and can be applied with conventional screw capping machinery, eliminat-

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more than 25 years

ing the need for investing in new capping equipment.

American Cyanamid Company, Plastics Division produces XT polymer, which is being processed by blow molding and thermoforming for both clear and opaque packaging applications.

ATTENTION — Vermont Maple Producers and their Families!

Help is needed to operate the Sugarmaker's booth at Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Mass., Sept. 18-27. If you would like to help out for a day, week-end or the entire 10 days, please contact for details. Mrs. Caroline Perley, Manager, R.D. 1, Richford, Vt. 05476.

VERMONT MAPLE SUGARMAKERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Did You Know ---

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Last year the average cost of set-up, printing and mailing each issue of the Digest was ----- | \$1722.00 |
| Postage for each issue was ----- | 241.00 |
| Miscellaneous expenses (art work on ads, telephone, etc.) ----- | 75.00 |
| <hr/> | |
| Making a total cost per issue of ----- | 2038.00 |
| Average receipts from advertising ----- | 1337.00 |
| <hr/> | |
| Leaving a deficite per issue of ----- | 701.00 |
| Or a yearly loss of about ----- | 2800.00 |

So far less than 20% of our 7,000 readers have responded either with voluntary contributions or through their Maple Producer Associations. I assume the other 80% have no interest in the Digest! If that is the case ----- **PLEASE** -----

Either send us your contribution or tell us to remove your name from the mailing list!

If you do not have the return envelope we sent you in the last issue, our address is simply ---

**The Maple Syrup Digest
Bainbridge, N.Y. 13733**

IF YOU ARE SUFFERING FROM GOUT, I CAN'T HELP YOU. If your problem is labor costs, dirty floor, fly ash in the air, an up-and-down boil in wood firing, write to Les Jones for a FREE brochure. Oil firing is CLEAN, it is ECONOMICAL, it gives a CONSTANT, STEADY boil at ALL times. (A cheap installation can be expensive). "DO IT YOURSELF KITS" are available by a pioneer in evaporator oil firing since 1950.

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For Sale: 1945 GMC Truck with 1961 Chevrolet engine, and 1000 gal. Vacuum filled Tank. Built to haul sap. **Sipple's Maple Products, Bainbridge, N.Y. 13733. Area 607-967-5851.**

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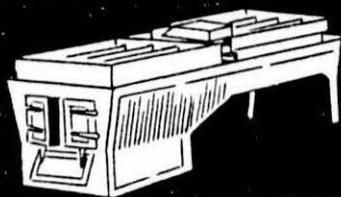
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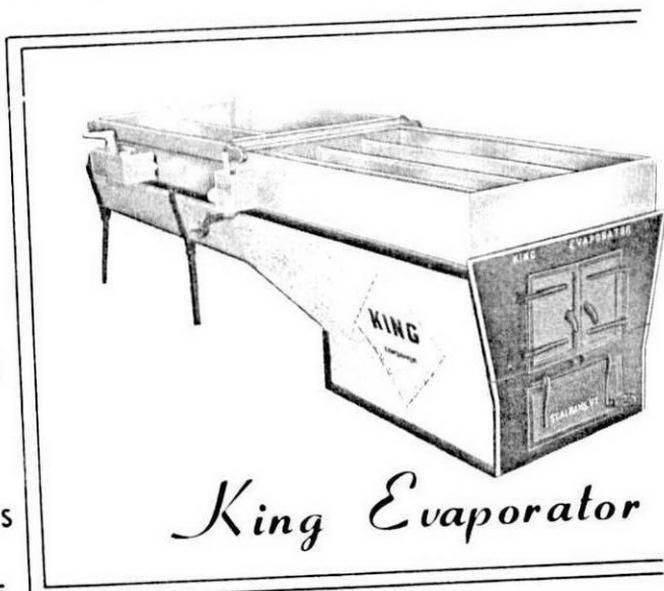


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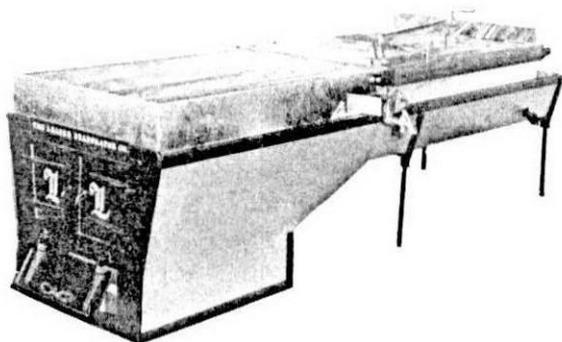
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