

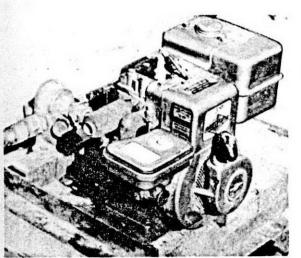


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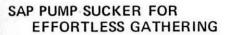
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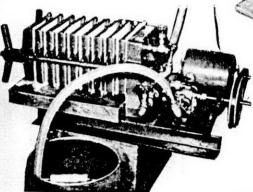


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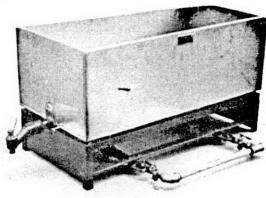


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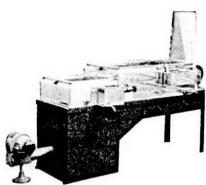
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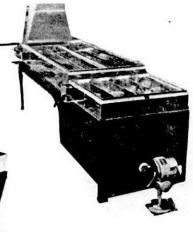






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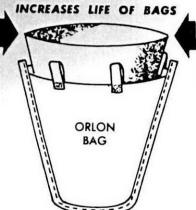


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Serving the Maple Syrup Industry more than 25 years

Editorial

The Annual meeting of the North American Maple Syrup Council held at the Quadna Lodge, Hill City, Minnesota, enjoyed 100% attendance again, (every member state was represented) for the 17th straight year. All officers were re-elected for another year: Rex Alwin, Minnesota, Chairman; Gordon Brookman, NY, Vice Chairman; and Gordon Gowen, NH, Secretary and Treasurer. Associate members re-elected for another three year term are: Robert Lamb, NY; Mel Koelling and Robert Huxtable, Mich.; and E. S. Doubleday, James Marvin, Lawrence D. Garrett and Fred Lange, all of Vermont. Also, new Associate members elected for a three year term: Everett Willard and William Gabriel, Vt. and Gaston Allard, P. Q., Canada.

The production reports given by the delegates from each state and province showed a wide variation in production -from almost nothing at all to a better than average crop. The southern states, or warmer areas, suffered the most because of the early warm weather. The colder areas that were able to get by the early warm weather without tooearly budding fared much better. Quebec produced a better than average crop of excellent quality syrup. Most reports indicated excellent demand and very little syrup is left for late fall sales, even the darker grades are in very short supply.

The old problem of can availability

and quality received considerable attention. Bill Clark reported that a new company in Vermont was ready to start production of syrup cans this fall. Adin Reynolds told about two companies he had been working with and expected one of them to start making cans for the maple industry this year. This should improve the situation considerably.

Plastic containers are readily available and of excellent quality. Just be sure syrup is at least 180° F. when packed. Syrup in plastic will darken somewhat when stored for a long time-(over six months). This can be avoided by packing syrup as it is sold and not packing the entire crop when it is made.

Several reports were given on research and new equipment, from sap pumps to reverse osmosis. These will be published in future issues, as received. One article on a new type of sap pump appears in this issue.

One report I'm especially happy to pass on to you now is the one I made at the meeting on the "State of the Digest." For the first time in several years we ended the fiscal year in the black. This was because so many of you responded with contributions this year. All I can say is: "Thanks, folks, and a very Merry Christmas to you all."

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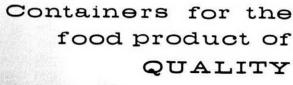
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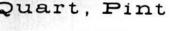


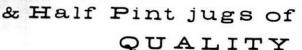






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INTERNATIONAL MAPLE SYRUP INSTITUTE

Minutes of Executive Committee meeting held October 3rd in Hills, Minn.

Edited by Claude Tardif, Executive Manager, 643 Grosvenor Montreal, H3Y 2S9, Canada.

1. Financing:

The International Maple Syrup Institute has received \$20,979.66 in paid 1976 contributions from its members out of a budget of \$25,000.

2. Logo contest:

Response to the IMSI logo contest exceeded by far the initial expectation. The entries will be judged by a jury on Nov. 15 and the official logo will be announced on Dec. 2 during the 1976 General Meeting of the Institute. Members were informed that the IMSI aims to establish a logo or a symbol which could be printed or affixed on labels but it did not intend to establish a new label as such.

3. Brochure:

A brochure on the IMSI is in preparation and will be published in November.

4. Policy regarding delayed payments: Members of the executive committee agreed that members of the maple industry who have not paid their contributions will have to pay one year back whenever they will wish to join the IMSI and use its logo. This policy will not apply to newcomers in the industry nor to unpaid dues prior to and including 1976.

5. Information binder:

Members appointed a committee to look into the possibility and feasibility of an information binder which could inform IMSI members of new legislative, marketing or technical developments on a continuous basis.

6. Standardization of grades:

Members have approved the following agreement for the standardization grading:

a) The syrup directed to table use will be all identified as Grade A syrup and will be subdivided in three categories:

% Transmittence

Light Amber Not less than-75.0 Medium Amber " 60.5 Dark Amber " 44.0

b) The syrup with below 44.0% transmittence will be directed to industrial use and identified as Utility grade B or C Syrup.

c) The evaluation of the color intensity shall be made optically with a research or laboratory accurate spectrophotometer, in matched square optical cells having a 10mm light path, at a wavelength of 560mm.

The International Maple Syrup Institute will present the above to the various levels of government for approval.

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LETTER to the EDITOR

North Sandwich, N. H. 03259 Dear Sir:

Some of your other readers may be interested in an observation which I made last season.

I am a small producer, mostly for the fun of it, having expanded to nearly 500 taps over the past 27 years in a 1-man-plus-volunteers operation. I sell enough to pay for operating costs, and friends, family, and volunteer helpers see that the rest gets used.

Last year I had two tubing lines, all on ¼" plastic, about 90 taps on one line and 60 on the other. The latter line terminated (guess I should say 'started') at the top of a steep hill on a private road. There were about 40 taps beyond the start of this line, too scattered and too flat to hook up to tubing. I had had this line for four years.

Last year I tapped the extra trees up top and collected them by hand, dumping into a barrel at the top end of the line. Each morning I would do this and unplug the top end of the line and

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CAN BE USED IN ANY EVAPORATOR drop it into the barrel. The line would fill instantly, and there would be no air bubbles in the line from then on until the barrel was empty. This would take most of a running day. Suction caused by filling the line from the top so increased production from the trees tapped by the tubing line that production of these 100 taps (60 on tubing and 40 on buckets) doubled the production of the nearby line of 90 taps on tubing. These had been roughly comparable per tap in previous years.

This appears to be a simple and nocost way to gain certain of the advantages of pumping for a small operator who has trees on a good slope and can introduce a reservoir of collected sap into the start of the mainline. Note that the increase is not merely from dumping collected sap into the upper end of the tubing; the real gain is from the increased suction from the very top of the line of taps on the tubing through exclusion of air bubbles. In a way, this seems to combine the different advantages of the vented and the non-vented systems, avoiding the problems of both.

-Edgar P. Wyman

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CAN WE HELP YOU WITH YOUR MAPLE REQUIREMENTS?

ARCHIE'S SUGARBUSH

Dear Editor, 10-1-76

You know, I met a windy fellow the other day, he talked of 5%, 6% and 7% sugar trees. I could see that he was stretching the truth a little bit which is something I am very careful not to do. It reminded me of my wife who says always tell the truth.

Anyway, when it comes to sweet trees, the year we tapped the big woods in the bend of the Ohio River, beat anything I ever saw. Why those trees were so sweet and the gentle drying winds blew in from Death Valley with no moisture in 'em, as the trees would start to drip the dry winds would evaporate the moisture leaving pure sugar

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crystals hanging from the spiles. It lasted for 3 weeks and we got so tired of unhooking the buckets and breaking off the icicles of pure sugar that we never hung the buckets back. From then on, we gathered pure sugar.

To fill our orders for maple syrup that spring we put a pump on the bank of the Ohio River and pumped water to the sugar house, which when added to the sugar ice-cicles made maple syrup.

Everything was going fine until the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wondered why the water level of the river dropped so quickly that the tow boats ran aground. The next year the Corps of Engineers built a series of dams on the Ohio to prevent a re-occurance of drawing off too much water at one time.

Anyway, the super sweet sugar trees were all cut down and the area flooded by one of the dams so that put us out of business.

Your truthful friend,

Sichie

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Seminar and Tubing Demonstration will begin promptly at 8 AM, December 4, at SHERWOOD FACTORY located: 40 miles north of Albany, near Glens Falls: from Canada take Route 87 (Northway), from Vermont take Route 4 from Rutland, easy connections from NY thruway.

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A NEW APPROACH TO VACUUM PUMPING

by Dale E. Minick

A review of the literature 4 years ago concerning vacuum pumping of plastic tube maple sap collection systems revealed the evolving state of an art in which much was yet to be learned. The systems used at that time were expensive, complex, and had some practical disadvantages.

The crew at Sapsucker Sugar Camp, located in western Michigan at the 45th parallel, decided that there had to be a better way. We started searching for a pump that would overcome the problems inherent in those used up to that time and would allow us to do away with all of the plumbing and complex paraphernalia that were required in most systems.

Extensive literature searches were conducted throughout various disciplines. Within the field of medicine we discovered the tube pump which has been used for quite some time to transport sterile liquids. We settled on this pump type for various reasons, however, its greatest appeal was its simplicity.

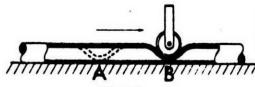
With the assistance of a pump manufacturer we have been experimenting with various types of tube pumps and tubes for the past 3 years. Our objective was to determine if tube pumps could be used as vacuum pumps for collecting maple sap, if such applications were economically feasible and what kind of yield improvement could be expected over conventional buckets.

WHAT IS A TUBE PUMP?

Engineers refer to the tube pump's

TABLE 1	SAPSUCKER	TEST - PRO
Sap Flow Periods Ending	300 Taps Pumped Network	Per Tap
3-20-76	918.75	3.060
3-24-76	846.75	2.820
3-25-76	271.5	.905
3-26-76	322.5	1.075
3-28-76	527.25	1.758
3-29-76	339.75	1.132
3-30-76	367.5	1.225
3-31-76	162.75	.542
4 3-76	176.25	.588
TOTALS	3,933.0	13.110

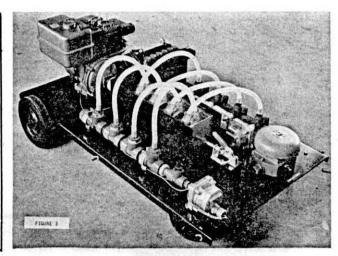
action as "peristaltic". Websters Dictionary defines peristaltic as, "pertaining to the peculiar wormlike wave motion of the intestines produced by the successive contractions of the muscular fibers of their walls, forcing their contents onward." Tube pump manufacturers achieve this same action with a length of flexible tubing acted upon mechanically by two or more rollers. Figure 1 illustrates the principal.

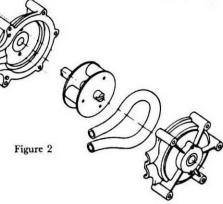


Figure

If a tube is collapsed by a roller at point A and the roller is moved to point B, the tube in front of the roller is compressed, moving its contents forward, and the tube behind the roller resumes its original shape as the roller passes, thus creating a vacuum. In order to maintain a continuous pumping action, a series of rollers may be mounted on a rotating rotor, within a housing as illustrated in Figure 2.

GALLONS
Per Tap
1.500
1.455
.113
.188
1.073
.649
.255
.115
5.35





A prototype pump was built consisting of a 3 H.P. gas engine driving 4 of the "heads" shown in Figure 2 within a special quick release fixture that facilitated tube removal and replacement. See Figure 3. Although 4 heads were present only one was used for actual pumping. We did this to prove the mechanical reliability of our method of driving multiple heads with a single power source, and determine how many taps could be serviced by a single head. The rated capacity of a head is 120 GPH at up to 40 PSI and vacuum up to 26 inches of mercury.

THE PIPELINE

Our sugar bush is located upon a

glacial moraine about 400 feet above and 15 miles inland from the shore of Lake Michigan. It has both level areas and sloped areas which face the southwest, slopes varying from 0 to 30%. We installed the prototype at the lowest point in the bush and connected the output side to 900 feet of ½ inch line which terminated in a 650 gal. storage tank at the sugar house. The input side was connected to an unbranched ½ mainline 300 feet long with 23 laterals containing 3,272 feet of 5/16 tubing servicing a total of 300 taps. Drops were 18 inches long and all mains and laterals were laid on the ground. Our design philosophy included the following points:

- Use slope wherever possible to enhance or increase far tap vacuum.
- Do not create slope on level areas by tapping at unequal heights so that pumping power may be tested on such areas.
- 3. Minimize sag wherever possible.
- Many short laterals are more desirable than few long ones for the sake of vacuum transfer.

THE BUCKET CONTROL GROUP

Ideally in an experiment such as 15

this there would be an equal number of bucket taps and tube taps on each tree in the study to eliminate the possibility of individual tree variances from distorting the data. Due to labor shortages we found that this was not practical. We, therefore chose to tap 200 separate trees for our control group being careful to tap some trees in each general area including roughly the same slope % proportions, compass orientation, mix of tree size classes, etc. More simply stated, we encircled our pipeline with our bucket control group.

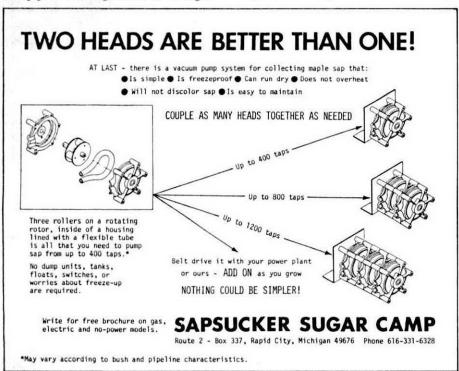
SAP AND DATA GATHERING PROCEDURES

We collected sap from the bucket control group with tractor and gathering tank each day at 6:00 p.m. At the end of each collection run sap was pumped from the gathering tank and the pipeline storage tank to a larger storage tank at 25 GPM through a Hershey water meter which has been certified as 99.7% accurate by a local municipal water department. Total gallons collected were thus recorded from each system for comparative purposes.

SAP PRODUCTION

The 1976 maple season in Michigan was a bad one to say the least due to unusual weather conditions. We had a rather heavy run lasting several days in mid-February which was about 3 weeks earlier than normal. It then froze up until the middle of March at which time it turned warm and pretty much stayed that way. The entire season could be best described as a weeping half season.

We were only able to produce sap for 11 days and, due to 2 runs lasting over 30 hours, achieve 9 pairs of comparative data points. See Table 1 for



the results. Yield improvements were realized to the extent that pump production per tap was 245% of bucket production. The total gallons produced per bucket tap of 5.35 supports the half-season characterization and suggests that perhaps the pumped tubing network would have produced something more than 25 gallons per tap in a normal season. While most of the flows that did occur were weeping, flow rates in the pipeline during the early hours of the long 30 plus hour runs could be described as moderately heavy.

PUMP OPERATION AND PERFORMANCE

The pump was started whenever the temperature rose to 32° F and stopped when it fell below that point. It ran a total of 159 hours consuming 22 gallons of gas at a cost of \$13.20 or slightly over \$.08 per hour. The longest continuous run was 36 hours during which time flow rates varied from moderately

heavy to long periods of running totally dry. No appreciable difference was noted in operating temperatures or fuel consumption due to variations in the amount of sap passing through the pump.

Far tap vacuum was higher than pump vacuum in some cases, especially in the longer laterals on slopes. For example, one lateral registered a far tap vacuum of 25 inches of mercury while the pump was only showing 20. This fact seems to indicate that our favoring short laterals over long ones on slopes to enhance vacuum transfer is a false premise.

Mechanically, the prototype performed flawlessly during the entire season except for a tube failure after 105 hours of operation. This was the result of an unnoticed ice block in the line to the storage tank at start-up time which caused the pump tube to inflate to the point of rupture. Pump vacuum,

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using this tube, at the beginning of the study was 23 inches of mercury and had declined due to normal fatigue to 18.5 inches at the time of the failure.

CONCLUSIONS

Due to the yield increases realized in this study, which are comparable with those achieved in the past by other systems, it would appear that the pump and type of tube we are using installed in a plastic tube network constructed with similar design philosophies, will adequately service 300 taps. We also suspect that the maximum number of taps this head will handle will be limited solely by the capacity of the pump in GPH. Using a number that's most often quoted in our area as maximum flow per tap of .3 GPH, it would appear that 400 taps could be serviced by the 120 GPH head.

If the reliability demonstrated by this pump and pump tube during this study and previous season's work could be maintained for a significant period of time, then this approach to vacuum pumping could prove very practical for smaller producers. (The simplicity of the unit itself suggests that 10 years is realistic.) This type pump can be merely placed in line in any tube network without the need for dump units, tanks, valves, floats, switches, transfer pumps, etc. It may be allowed to freeze up filled with sap without damage thereby eliminating the need for overnight draining. Tube pumps can be run dry for long periods of time without damage to any of its few parts. We found that it does not add any significant amount of heat to the sap as do other types of pumps that require recirculation of sap during weeping flow periods for cooling purposes.

The only disadvantage found is that

the tube must be replaced annually at a rather minimal cost. Additionally, care must be exercised while installing the pump to insure that ice blockages will not occur in the output side of the system as this invariably causes tube rupture. These two points appear to be rather insignificant when the characteristics of alternate existing systems are considered.

If a producer wishes to increase his sap supply and faces the option of expending capital and labor to tap more trees, purchase sap from others, or install a vacuum pump then this approach to vacuum pumping appears economically feasible. A producer could belt-drive a single head mounted on a plank with a gas engine or electric motor for around \$185 to \$220. If this head were used to service 300 taps on an existing pipeline and a yield increase was realized of 10 gallons per tap, then 3,000 gallons of additional sap would be collected in a season. If you consider that sap is currently worth a minimum of \$.05 per gallon, then a product with a gross value of \$150 would be realized and the unit would nearly pay for itself the first year of operation. Adding additional heads to the same drive would further improve the economics as each additional \$100 of capital expenditure could produce an additional 3,000 of sap.

SUMMARY

- Tube pumps may be successfully used in the collection of maple sap and have proved to be both simple and reliable.
- Highly significant yield increases are possible over conventional collection techniques.
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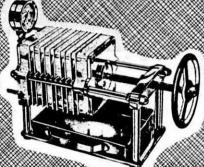
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GOD'S SWEET GIFT

Clare Meier Route 1, Ogema, Wisc. 54459

Steam rolled out of the old sugar shack chimney as the boys stoked up the fire under the evaporating pans. Hotter and hotter the fire grew, building up a glowing bed of coals. With such efficient stokers on hand, it didn't take long for the cool, incoming sap to boil and foam as it churned through the evaporator. Slowly the water content of the sap escaped through the chimney, leaving behind the enticing smell of fresh maple syrup.

"Well boys, you'd better taste it to see if it's syrup yet," said Grampa Meier, as he looked up from stirring the sap. He knew quite well it would take more cooking to reduce the sap to proper sugar content, yet he also knew that in order to become a connoisseur of syrup, these boys must partake of the brew from time to time.

"Still kind of swampy tasting," the tall red-headed Lenny replied. "It'll take a while yet," added Dan, Lenny's younger brother. They were his grand-children, helping him out, as he had helped his grampa, during this busy maple syruping season. "Ya, I kinda thought so. What do you say us hard workers take a break?"

Lenny and Dan heartily agreed, for it was seldom their own parents let them rest while working. They ambled to the front of the shack where antiques of all sorts were displayed. Rusty lanterns and old telephone insulators hung in one corner, while in the opposite corner, spanning the weathered wall, rocks of all sorts and shapes, colors and patterns were shelved. Grampa was quite a rock collector; most of

the rocks he found around the area. Dan also liked to do this sort of thing so some of his rocks had been added to the collection.

On the back wall, a conglomeration of unidentifiable objects hung. Grampa Meier seldom passed up the opportunity to play his guessing game with youngsters, and of course, a youngster was anyone under his 71 years! "You



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LIGHTNING KRESS GRIMM LAMB know what that is?" he'd quiz, pointing to the weirdest thing the boys had ever seen. His eyes twinkled, knowing their young minds could not possibly be familiar with the household tools of his youth, yet he was willing to share his youth with them. "It's a cream separator"— or "an ox harness," he'd say, then explain to them how the fresh milk was spilled into this contraption, cranked around, and by centrifugal force the milk spouted out one pipe, with the cream leaving by another pipe.

Today, however, he passed by this back wall, across the room to the front window, picked up a statue of a black beast with silver spines on its back. "What's that, Grampa?" Lenny clamored. "Oh, it's a side-hill gouger. It used to climb the hills around here—that's why the feet on one side of its body are shorter than on the other—so it could climb hills sideways. Folks really were afraid of these ferocious little beasts." The boys exchanged glances, wondering whether or not to believe this tale. One never could tell with Grampa.

Just then, Grampa Meier's closest neighbor, Robert and his wife, Jane walked through the door. "Howdy, Roy," the stocky farmer said. "Came by to see if you had any syrup for sale yet."

"Why, Robert, as a matter of fact we're almost ready to filter and can this batch. Come on in." They all headed to the rear of the shack to set up the filters.

"How's the sapping this year, Roy?"
"I'll tell you, Robert, the tests aren't
as good as last year—only 2.2 this year

as good as last year-only 2.2 this year compared to last year's 3.5-but, the season's still young."

Then Grampa picked up a big pail

to draw off a few buckets of syrup for filtering. The people squirmed in close now, to watch the final process. Lenny filled a cup and did a little taste-testing as he watched. Grampa filled the finishing tank, which was lined with thick orlon filters, with syrup, then set himself down on a stool.

"Now, as the syrup is filtered, I'll collect it in bottles from this spout. Lenny, it's time for you to finish your taste-testing and hand me one of those clean bottles." He was ready now to open the spigot, and out rolled the syrup in a steady flow. Bottle after bottle, they filled and sealed until ten quart jars lined the shelf.

Grampa looked up at the people in the shack he had built with his own hands, proud of his grandsons (even if they did a little taste-testing), glad that Robert and his wife could stop by, happy that he could give them this product to sweeten their pancakes, their ice cream, their lives. The boys worked together, sharing their eagerness for the task, while neighbors accepted the fruits of their labor; all sharing God's sweet gift to mankind. There would be more sap to collect and evaporate tomorrow, more sap to heat and filter with care. There would be other neighbors or passers-by stopping in; he and the boys would still be here, to tell a story, to work together, to welcome the people to their sweetsmelling sugar shack.

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FOR SALE: Maple Cream Machine, Unused - Price \$175.00. ELLSWORTH HANDRICH, Fairview, Mich. 48621, Phone: 517-848-2322.

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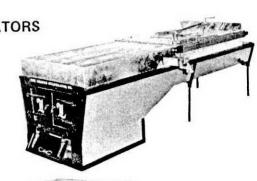
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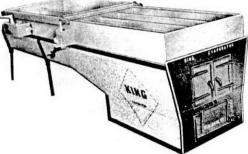
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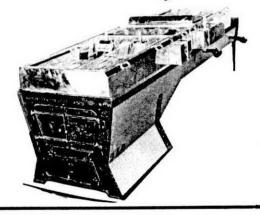
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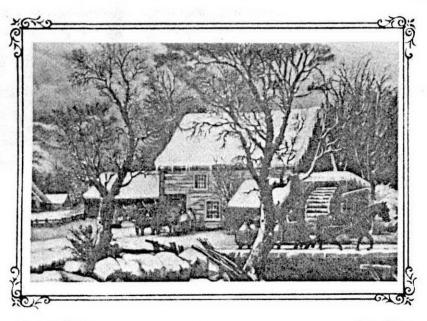
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