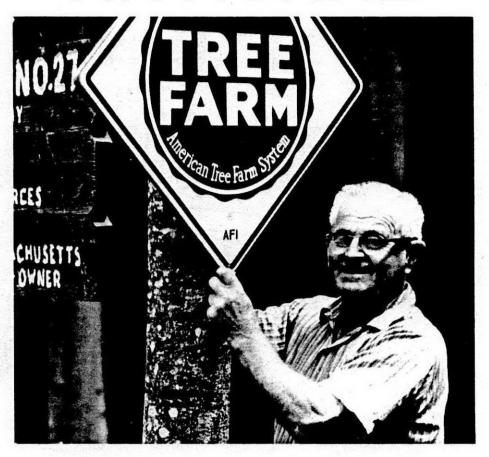
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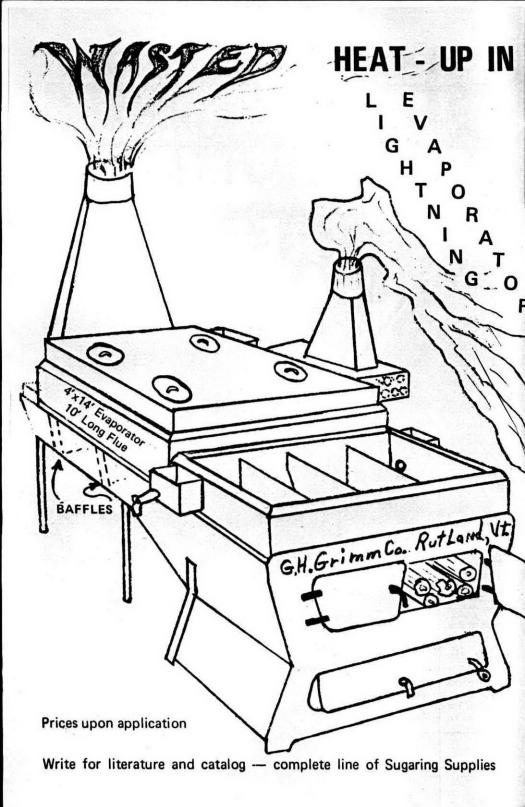


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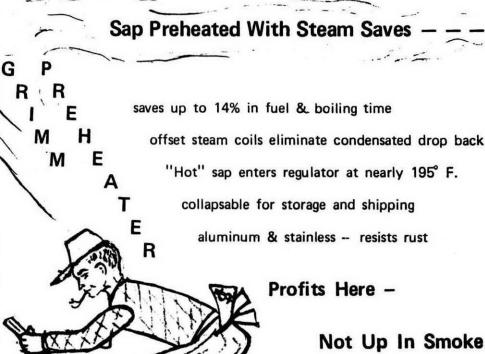
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Serving the Maple Syrup Industry more than 25 years

Editorial

Gordon Brookman, South Dayton, N.Y., was elected chairman of the North American Maple Syrup Council at their annual meeting held Oct. 17-19 in Portland, Maine. Ronald Shaw, Hawkstone, Ontario, representing the Ontario Maple Producers Assoc. was elected Vice Chairman, and Gordon Gowen, who is now the official delegate from New Hampshire, will continue his job of secretary and treasurer.

Gordon Brookman has been active in the maple business almost as long as he has been on this earth. He operates a diversified farm in South Dayton which includes a large dairy, cash crops, maple syrup, cider, etc. His maple operation is family sized, a couple of thousand taps producing 6 - 7 hundred gallons a year. He served as a director of the N.Y.S. Maple Producers Assoc. for almost as long as it has been in existance and last summer was elected president. He was manager of the Western Maple Assoc. sales booth at the Hamburg Fair for several years, was responsible for starting the Farm Bureau Maple Marketing division and served as it's chairman for several years. He has represented New York on the N.A.M.S.C. board of directors since October, 1966. Gordon is no stranger to either the industry or the Council and should make a very able chairman.

He started off his term of office with a bang, to say the least. At the I.M.S.I. meeting which followed the Council annual meeting, he met with Sterling Ingrham, U. S. Bureau of Standards, Everett Willard, Vermont Dept. of Agric. & Mkts., and some of the Council directors and ironed out the rough spots in the proposed U. S.



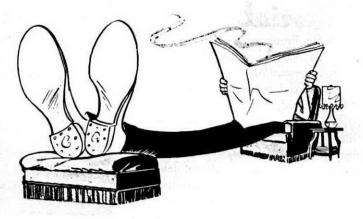
grading law. Then he called a special meeting in Buffalo two weeks later on Nov. 2nd. Nine of the twelve Council directors attended and adopted the proposed rules and regulations and will send a recommendation to that effect to the Bureau of Standards in Washington.

This brings to mind something I've got to pass on to everyone. This board of directors of the North American Maple Syrup Council is the most dedicated bunch of farmers I've ever known. Every year of the 18 years the Council has been in existance, the attendance has been 100% - every state represented. And now - to call a special meeting and have 9 of the 12 members show up with only 2 days notice - that's phenomenal!!

As for the Digest - we didn't do as well last year. The contributions were way under the previous year, expenses were up a little, so we ended up almost \$1400 in the hole. The Council bailed us out and will bill each state association for their share, but something has got to be done. We've just gotta do gooder - but let's wait 'till next issue. Until then, have a Happy Holiday Season and a good winter.

5

BOB LAMB'S CORNER



Here at Lamb's we are plodding along with too many fires in the iron. For about 25 years we have done our best to make a maple tubing system that everyone would like. Now that I am old, I realize it is impossible. Innovators of the maple industry kept helping me because we all agreed there was room for improvement over the bucket method.

Some collect a lot of sap with our tubing and do fairly well. Others have found out it's just no damned good. It will work no better than you are willing to study and make it work. It's like asparagus - you have to learn to like it.

I found out 20 years ago that the worst thing you could do is sell it. You will hurt people. People have to sell themselves on it, then it will work.

Last season we made our own tubing and were able to put out a better, more uniform product than we were ever able to buy. Also, we were able to cut the price to .05 a foot by substituting our own labor. This year we can make a still better tubing for all around use, It gives me pleasure to know that most of the tubing we ever sold is still in use. The reason is simple; we use expensive, virgin material, and year

after year we improve our products.

I definitely advise people to install tubing on their trees and leave it there year around. It's good for business. It cuts the life span of the tubing in half.

Also, in most areas there is the average of 10 times the rodent damage during the off season that there is during the sugar season, and that's good for business.

We've got those little buggers on the payroll along with the Environmentalists. That's also good for business.

Of course the farther north you go the less rodent damage there is, and some go for years without any serious damage. That's bad for business.

Unfortunately, most maple producers have found out that aftera few years of practice they can easily take up and replace their maple tubing each year, and that's bad for business.

Best wishes for the Holidays and have a good season, be the Lord willing.

Bob famb

Wamen's Page

Editor, Mary Lou Sipple

Sweet Roll Dough

44 cup warm water
1 pkg active dry yeast
3/4 cup milk (scald & cool)
44 cup maple syrup
1 tsp salt
1 egg
44 cup veg. oil
3 ½ (about) cups flour

In a large bowl, mix water, yeast, milk, syrup, salt, egg & oil. Mix well with wire wisk then gradually add flour until mixture is easy to handle. Knead 5 min, place in greased bowl, grease the top and cover to rise until double. Punch down and shape into desired shape. Let rise until double and bake 350 degrees until golden and done.

Shirley Rose, Rose Angus Farm Glen Aubrey, New York

Oatmeal Cookies

½ cup shortening
1 cup maple syrup
1 egg
1½ cups flour
½ tsp salt
1½ cup rolled oats

½ sup chopped raisins
grated rind 1 orange
1½ cups flour
½ tsp salt
3 tsp baking powder

Dump all ingredients into a bowl and mix well. Drop by teaspoonsful onto greased sheet and bake about 10 min. at 375 degrees.

Madeline Gebbie, Greensboro, Vt.

Dromore Farm Maple Syrup Pie

2 TB flour or cornstarch
1/3 cup maple syrup
1 2/3 cup milk
pinch salt
1 TB butter
cinnamon

Stir flour, salt and maple syrup to a smooth paste. Add milk. Pour into an unbaked pie shell. Dot with butter and sprinkle with cinnamon. Bake 400 degrees until bubbly and brown.

Lucille K. Schmidt Somerset, Pa.

We need more Women's Page material!! Why don't you experiment? To substitute maple syrup for sugar in baking, use the same proportions but reduce the other liquid called for by about 3 tablespoons for every cup of syrup substituted. Remember though, Maple Syrup is pure sucrose and "sugarless diets" should also be "syrupless diets"!

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GREETINGS FROM WISCONSIN

Each year for the last several years, when it came time to write up this report, all I had to do was copy the one from the year before. A short crop, poor weather, too much snow, or not enough. Something was always wrong somewhere and our production was continually slipping. Well by golly we got a new story to tell this year. Wisconsin had a bumper 1977 maple syrup crop.

Being a syrup maker myself, I, as well as most old timers, (it seems that I am in that class now), have developed our own theories as to what makes sap flow. These theories didn't always conform with the research people, but we didn't care because we knew that we were right.

Right, that is, until the sap season of 1977. Now we are going to write some new rules:

No. 1 - Preceeding summer and fall should be very dry.

No. 2 - Winter temperatures should range from 0 to 40° below every-day.

No 3. - There should be very little snow cover.

No. 4 - Then have a sharp rise in temperature last week in February.

No. 5 - Don't be ready to tap because its too early.

No. 6 - Impress on your neighbor that you are an authority on this.

No. 7 - Take your time in getting ready for another three weeks.

No. 8 - Then maybe you better start tapping, but only half your trees.

No. 9 - You don't need any freez-

ing nights.

No. 10 - Rainy or foggy weather is ideal.

No. 11 - Wind is O. K. too and it doesn't matter which direction.

No. 12 - Rule is summerizing the other eleven, just do everything wrong.

Well so much for the rules, but if you follow these carefully you will have the greatest sap flow ever. You will have the sweetest sap, too, nothing below 3% brix and up to 5 and 6%. Sap will run day and night for week after week with no breather. If you burn wood, it will be all gone. Your evaporator won't be large enough and your sap storage won't be either. You won't get much sleep. Sap buckets will be running over on the ground because you can't gather it fast enough. You will be so tired and grouchy that your wife and kids will probably leave you. But you will make more syrup per tap hole than ever before and the quality will hold up right to the last day. Believe it or not - those were the conditions and the weather and the experiences we had in Wisc. last spring. Those few that actually captured all their sap, made a gallon of syrup per tap hole.

Many of our Wisconsin producers didn't tap at all, believing that the dry conditions would make it a waste of time and some felt it might damage these dry trees. Never-the-less, the state produced 100% more then in 1976, reaching 130,000 gallons. Markets were, and are, very good in the midwest and syrup is selling in the range of \$12.00 to \$15.00 in gallon tins, \$4.00 to \$5.00 in quarts. Our record crop was still far short of suppling the demand, and we reached into many Eastern areas to supplement our production. And we could have used many

more thousands of gallons if we could have gotten it.

Now, I hope this tells you something. The market can use an awful lot more maple syrup, but somebody has to produce it. Prices have reached an encouraging level and there's little chance of their ever dropping lower. So lets work for more production in 1978.

Respectfully, Adin Reynolds

EDITORS NOTE: The above report was so good, we had to print it verbatim. To summarize the reports from the other states as given at the North American Maple Council meeting, I can say the total crop this year is much better than last years but still not much more than normal, if that. It varied from good to above average in the cold areas - northern New York and New England, Quebec, some of Ontario and the colder midwestern states to slightly below average to poor in the warmer areas - southern New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, etc.

As for price, well, I guess anything goes now. There's no such thing as average. This fall in New England. I saw syrup selling for \$18.00 to \$22.95 per gallon. That's in gallon cans, too. Smaller containers were priced accordingly. In one store quart tins sold for \$8.95! How about that?

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FROM CHAIRMAN

Thanks, folks, for having enough confidence in me to elect me chairman of the North American Maple Syrup Council.

We had a very interesting meeting in Portland, Maine. Their Maple Producers Association and Rex Alwin, past chairman, did an excellent job conducting the meeting.

Old business for the 1977-78 year includes finalizing many years of work on a uniform U. S. and Canada grading rules and regulations, and adapting a U. S. grading law that will be acceptable to all states.

New business includes the possibility of having a National Maple Queen contest in conjunction with our Council meeting next fall. Any states that have a maple queen and are interested in this, please let me know. Simple rules for judging queens could be:

1. Must be single, between 16 & 21 years old.

2. Points to be judged by:

(a) Attractiveness and personal appearance - 25 pts.

(b) Ease in public and capability of meeting people - 25 pts.

(c) Knowledge of maple production and marketing - 50 pts.

I was able to attend the I.M.S.I. meeting at Arthabaska, Quebec, on the same trip. We, in the maple industry, are fortunate to have the people willing to give time and effort to make this organization function. They have come a long way since 1975, made a few errors, but who hasn't. Let's work with them and help make our industry prosper.

Gordon Brookman

NEW YORK MAPLE TOUR

Frank J. McNicholas Regional Extension Specialist Plattsburgh, New York

Clinton County hosted the New York State Maple Tour on August 17-18, 1977, with over 250 people attending.

The first stop was at the Miner Institute Research and Demonstration Sugar Bush near West Chazy. Sap from 3000 taps is collected by pipeline with the aid of vacuum pumps. Each year over 2000 people visit the sugar house which included an electric generator, a water wheel for pumping sap, a preheating coil and diverter baffle to increase evaporator efficiency and use of condensate to keep syrup hot during canning.

The second stop moved to Barry Branon's sugar house. The 12,000 tap operation is handled with a minimum of labor. 11,500 taps are on vacuum with thermostatic controls and sap from 5000 taps goes directly to the sugar house which featured two 6 x 14 oil fired evaporators with sap level warning devices, automatic drawoff, pressure filters and battery operated water filters for clarifying sap. A domestic hot water heater converted to steam maintains syrup canning temperature at 180 to 190 degrees F.

The final stop of the day was at the George Deno farm. The modern sugar house and sales room has a 5 x 14 oil fired evaporator to handle the sap from 8000 taps. Sap is collected mostly in buckets. Some sap is purchased from

neighbors. A system of water filters is used to filter sap and a steam preheater increases efficiency.

At the evening program held at Holiday Inn, Plattsburgh, Lewis Staats, Extension Specialist, served as Master of Ceremonies. He introduced Gordon Brookman, South Dayton, newly elected President of the NYS Maple Association. He was followed by Max Neal, the outgoing President and Dave Garrett of Burlington, Vermont, who discussed a maple syrup flavor survey being conducted with producers. Frank McNicholas, Regional Extension Specialist, showed slides on the Production and Marketing of Apples in Clinton County.

Edward Gardephe, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Ray Brook, New York showed slides on a program of restoration of salmon and trout in Lake Champlain. The presentation raised numerous questions on the re-stocking program and fish management.

The tour re-assembled August 18 at the Earl Parker farm. A family enterprise for over 60 years, Earl and his family install 8000 taps and purchase sap from an additional 1500 taps.

The new sugar house has a 6 x 16 oil fired evaporator, pre-heater and

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large pressure filter. The entire maple syrup crop is retailed at the sugar house.

One of Parker's sugar bushes has had a severe infestation of the "Maple Leaf Cutter." This insect can devastate the leaf surface of maples and other deciduous trees. The infested sugar bush had a distinct yellow-brown color in contrast to the natural green of healthy maples. Due to the weakened condition of the stand, it is probable that the bush will not be tapped in 1978 or 1979. Spray treatments may be utilized next spring to reduce the insect population.

The tour moved on to a nearby section of Miner Institute woodland where Dr. Robert Morrow, Cornell University, discussed sugar bush management in a demonstration plot where thinning of the stand had been carried out. The demonstration brought out many of the points in Morrow's publication "Sugar Bush Management."

The final stop of the tour was at the Sanger family sugar house. This 2500 tap operation uses buckets, primarily with 400 taps on tubing. Sap from another 500 to 1000 taps is purchased. Each spring, during the boiling season, the Sangers cooperate with a local square dance club and pancake dinners are served to over 1000 people on a weekend.

During this stop Walter Humphreys, retired Maple Specialist for Ontario, 'explained methods he uses in judging maple syrup at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto.

The tour proved to be an excellent one with interesting, unique stops and a wealth of information presented during the two days.



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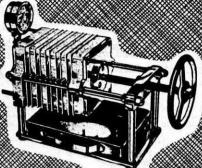
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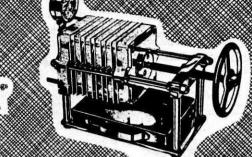
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THE NATIO

Past President of the North American Maple Council, Linwood Lesure of Ashfield, Massachusetts was recognized September 22 at the Eastern States Springfield Exposition in Springfield, Mass, as the "1977 National Outstanding Tree Farmer". The award was presented by Governor Michael Dukakis in the Massachusetts Building during Massachusetts Day activities. Lin achieved this award in competition with private woodland owners, 34,400 in number, who own 77 million acres of forest land in the fifty states. Lin was chosen the New England Regional winner and competed with other Regional Tree Farm winners for the finals sponsored by the American Forest Institute. Among those receiving regional awards

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N'S BEST TREE FARMER

was maple producer Stuart Decker of Brushton, N. Y.

Lin has taken 183 acres of typical family-owned New England land and made it a productive forest of considerable significance. The tract is producing maple sirup, Christmas trees, firewood, lumber and has been used recreational for enterprizes. 75,000 Christmas trees have been planted and, with Lin's management, many have produced more than a single tree from a seedling by a method he has perfected in his stands from turned up branches left when the tree is harvested. "Turn up" trees are harvested later and also produce greens for wreaths. The sugar bush has taken advantage of tubing installations and pumps since 1948 to overcome rough terrian and the sugar house is set up to allow visitors to see every step of the process and to enjoy sirup on many products. The National Council visited the Lesure sugar house when it met in Western Massachusetts when Lin was President. In 1976 Lin and Vera Lesure celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in a new home constructed in large part from the lumber cut from the family forest.

In addition to his own reading on forestry, Lin has used the expertise of his State Extension Service and the Mass. Service Foresters. Richard Kulis, the Service Forester from Amherst, has been his advisor during most recent forestry activities. Lin was born on his farm in 1904. The farm had been in the family for nearly 100 years at that time. It was operated as a dairy until 1952 when, after a heart attack, Lin



See, also, cover picture.

was forced to give up dairying. He then decided to concentrate on forest products. His philosophy has been to cooperate with the land, "I try to help the land to do what it wants to do" is his guide.

In addition to Tree Farm work Lin Lesure is an active promotor and participant in conservation and good forestry. He is actively envolved in several maple sirup organizations, in Town, County and State government and in farm and forestry organizations; over 30 at last count. He is also a good parlimentarian and spokesman for those organizations he is involved with.

This is the second National Tree Farmer of the Year award by the American Forest Institute. Last year's award, the first, went to a Florida pine farmer, Fred Barber, former county agent and farm advisor for several years in Libya.

15

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Mariafranca Morselli, Botany Dept., Vt. Agric. Exp. Station, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vt. 05401.

The maple industry annually faces changes in syrup quality: darkening, off-flavors, or a combination of both. One environmental factor responsible for changes in color and flavor of maple syrup is well known: excessive rapid temperature increase and prolonged warm spells affect the chemical composition of the sap by speeding the growth of microorganisms and/or triggering physiological changes in the maple trees.

In previous research we have found that:

(1) darkening of syrup color and caramel flavor in syrup are associated with an increase of invert

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sugars in sap,

(2) darkening of syrup color with strong maple flavor is associated with an increase in phenol-reacting compounds, and

(3) off-flavor (in particular "buddy" flavor) in light - or dark-colored syrups are associated with an increase of free amino acids. Willits (1965)¹ supports the hypothesis that "buddy" flavor is accompanied by an increase in free amino acids in the sap.

To answer the many questions that these preliminary findings pose, we have engaged in a long-term research project that will attempt to evaluate and to determine the source of the precursors in maple saps responsible for color and flavor changes in their processed syrups. We will work with fresh and freeze-dried saps, collected with aseptic methods from individual trees, and saps gathered from the main plastic lines at the Proctor Maple Research Farm during at least 3 seasons. All saps will be monitored for mi-

croorganism number and type. Samples of the same saps will be boiled to syrup and analyzed with the saps. We hope that our research effort will allow for better understanding of:

- (1) the metabolic changes occurring in maple trees during the sap flow season, and
- (2) the selective effect of microorganism on the natural composition of the sap. This in turn will allow for reliable and effective means of controlling sap collection and stor-
- 1. Willits, C.O. 1965 Maple Syrup Producers Manual. USDA, ARS, Agr. Handbook 134.

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Research progress reports presented at the North American Maple Syrup Council Meeting in Portland, Maine, October 16, 17, 1977.

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LETTERS:

ARCHIE'S SUGARBUSH

Dear Editor,

My wife, she sez, Truthful Archie, (sometimes she calls me honest Archie), tell that nice Mr. Editor about winning first prize for maple at the Calico County Fair.

Well, maybe, I'd better before I forget. Ya-see we had a den of mugwomps in the fence corner by the big hickory tree (they loves hickory nuts).



R. R. 1, ST. EVARISTE, BEAUCE CO. Quebec, Canada

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WHEN TENTATIVE ORDERS

ARE PLACED IN THE FALL. NOW WAREHOUSING

> N. H. and VT. English Speaking

Don't be caught short next Spring. Call Now!

That part of the sugarbush was always wet and the horses had trouble draggin the mudboat through the mud.

Now mugwomps loves water, especially the speckled ones which we had. So I hitched up Ole Nellie to a breaking plow and plowed a ferrow to the mugwomps den. The water started running immediately. It was wet that Spring and a lot of water ran down that hole. In fact some called it an underground river.

One day I climbed down and found the sugar tree roots hanging from the criling. That summer I trained a pair of those mugwomps to pull a small boat up stream. They is good swimmers. Tapping time I went to the cave with my buckets, hung a bucket on each broken root and waited for them to fill. Each bucket was exactly 231 cm above the water. The gathering tank was exactly 234 cm tall. And as the mugwomps pulled the tank each bucket was hit and emptied automatically. This cut gathering time by 47/2%

We had a good thing going but the Union of Amalgamated Sap Gathers found out about it and set up a picket line. The Mugwomps would'nt cross the picket line. The season was over by the time I got an injunction to remove the picket line and we were advised by the FBI and the EPA to change plans for gathering the following year.

We did'nt have to worry about gathering sap the next year because a tornado blew all the trees down and that put us out of business,

Sincerely,

Archie

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WINTER HOURS FOR AMERICAN MAPLE MUSEUM

The American maple museum will be closed for the winter from October 1, 1977 until early spring. We will be open for special appointments at anytime, so if you or a group would like to visit the museum, just let us know.

The gift shop will be open of Thursday and Friday from 10:00 a. m. to 4:00 p. m. until Christmas.

Thank you and hope you will make it a point to visit the gift shop and museum. For further information call 346-6654.

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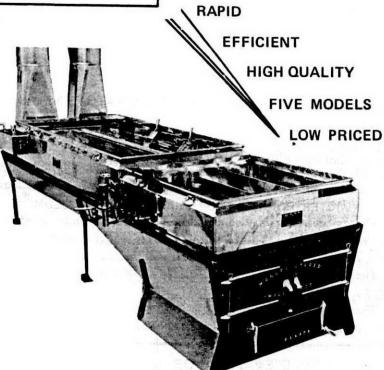
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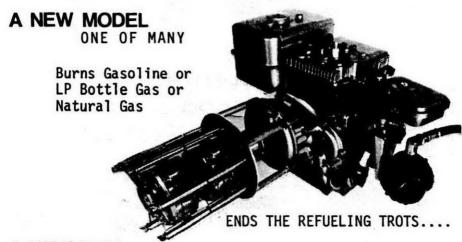
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FOR SALE - Used evaporators 5' x 12', 3½' x 12' Small Bros., 3' x 12' Grimm, 4' x 12' Teknik, others. Used buckets, covers and spouts galv. and alum. Any quantity. Also misc, Michael Girard, 11 Village Rd. Simsbury, Conn. 06070 (203) 658-5083.

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ANNOUNCING - - New distributor of Small Brother's Lightning Evaporators, gathering & storage tanks, sap vacuum equipment, and a complete line of maple syrup equipment. We sell Canadian Flomaster Tubing, Sherwood Medical Tubing, used buckets, and bulk syrup - all grades. Catalog mailed. BRUCE & KENNETH BASCOM'S Sugar House, Alstead, New Hampshire, 03602, Tel. 603-835-6361 or 2230.

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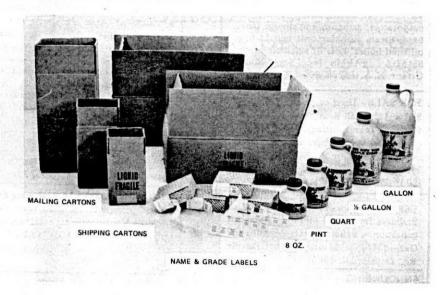
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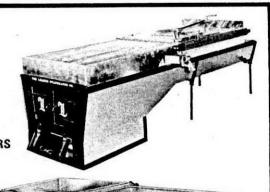
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glad with hope, and blessed with peace and joy.

Bob famb