

NATIONAL MAPLE SYRUP DIGEST NATIONAL



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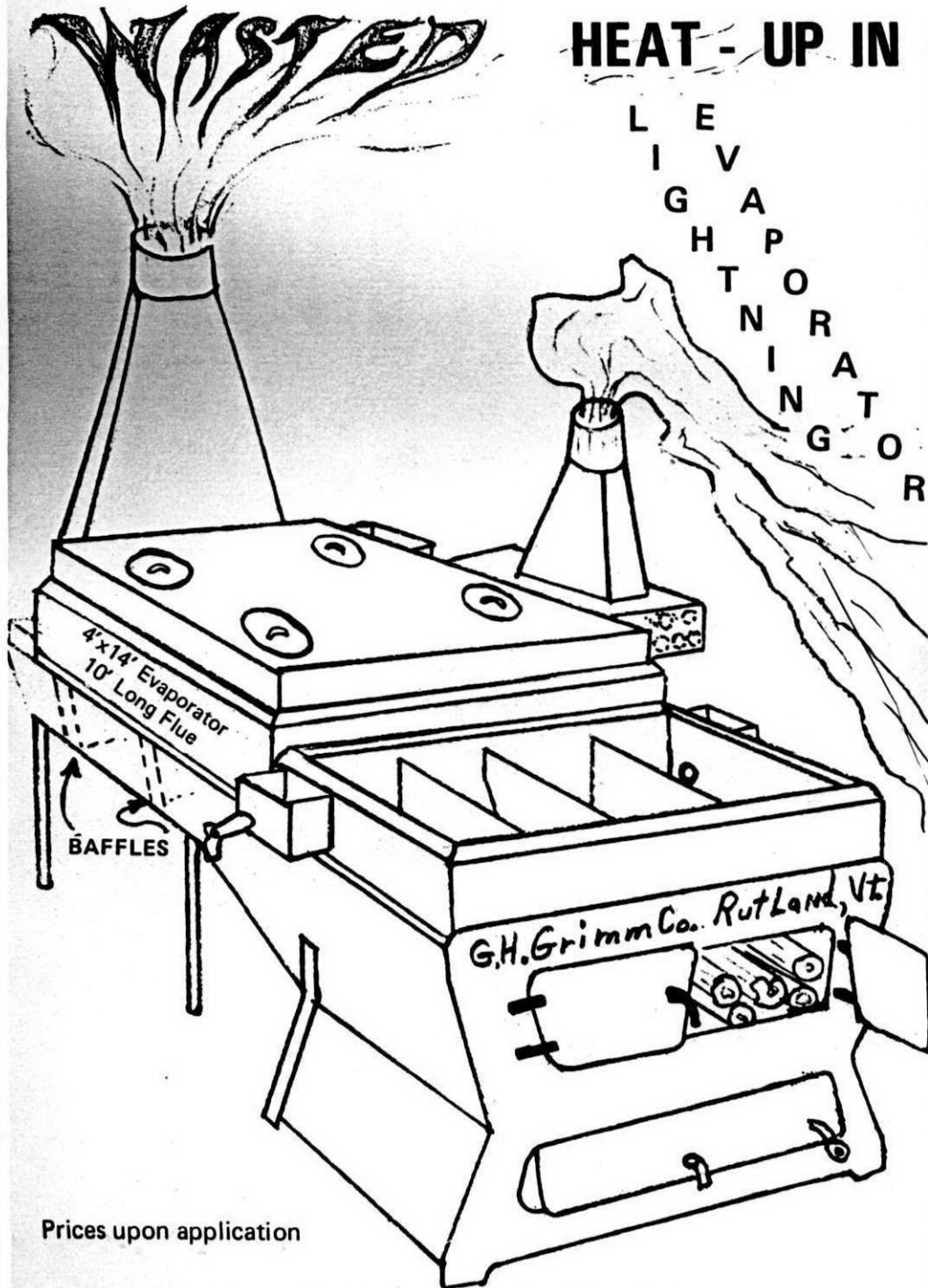
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Editorial

Another season has come and gone and it turned out about average for the country as a whole. Some cold areas had a better than normal crop while the warmer ones were somewhat below but I haven't heard of any that were really bad. (See crop report following editorials)

Our pleas for contributions in the last issue was fairly successful but a lot of readers haven't paid for their "subscription" either through their association or individually. This is the last chance you'll have before I have to turn in a financial report. It may interest you to know that all associations do not support the Digest as they claim they do. Be sure your's does. Better yet, dig up the last issue and use the enclosed envelope (your wife probably saved it for you anyway) or send another one, with your check, to the Maple Syrup Digest, RD 2, Box 45, Bainbridge, NY 13733. Then you'll know you're in good standing.

I don't want to waste any more of your time because there are two good editorials coming up - one by the assistant editor (the "real" boss) and a letter from the N.A.M.S.C. chairman. Read them.

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To change your ADDRESS, please send your label or OLD address as well as your NEW address. Allow us 4 weeks advance notice.

Often the Post Office sends us incorrect or temporary changes of address. We prefer to receive direct notification from you.

What would you say if you received this notice—

"Milk Checks To Be Cut 20 - 30 Percent"

I'll bet you would "holler" (maybe cuss alot) and probably sell your dairy herd as quickly as you could line up an auctioneer. I hope the auctioneer is good at selling maple syrup equipment, because if you are getting less than \$15.00 a gallon for your maple syrup you ought to sell the old equipment. Milk checks cut 20% - 30% - why not? Some of you are taking a 20% - 30% cut on your maple syrup, so what is the difference?

Probably there are some who make only \$10.00 syrup, but most maple producers make \$15.00 syrup. With all of the helpful research from the USDA, the really good information from the Extension Services, the Maple Associations and Maple "Schools", if you \$15.00 syrup makers are only getting \$10.00, you better call the auctioneer - and the phsyiciatrist!!

In 1974, Cooperative Extension of Pennsylvania proved that it costs \$11.86 to make a gallon of maple syrup - that was 1974 remember. I don't know of anything that is involved in maple syrup production that has not gone up in price in 4 years. Oh yes, I do - your wages. You worked "for free" in 1974 and probably still do!

The trouble with me is, that early in life I acquired a habit of eating regularly and I do enjoy a roof over my head and so does THE BOSS. We refuse to work from dawn to midnight

for nothing.

I have heard farmers say that the maple season is an "off season", or "slow season" for a dairy man. They only make maple syrup to keep busy, so it doesn't really cost anything. It sounds as if everyone went into "Limbo" on those farms during March and April. No eating, no heat, deduct 2 months worth of insurance and taxes. Put the cars, trucks and tractors up on blocks and lock up the fuel tanks.

If a farmer was forced to give up the source of income from the farm and go to work in a factory, office, store or similar commercial outlet, the farmer would cry long and loudly if he/she received below minimum wage and worked excessively long hours. Yet some maple producers say their fuel supply (wood) costs them nothing so they can sell their product, maple syrup, cheaper. Maybe they do walk to the woods, carrying a hand saw and cut the many cords of wood by hand,

then lug it by the arm load to the sap house. They can't use a tractor or truck or chainsaw, nor have anyone help them and they carry no life insurance or medical insurance - the fuel costs nothing - remember? Ridiculous isn't it!! (THE BOSS would like to get some of that wood. We cut our own wood and burned 20 cords last winter, figuring the only thing free about it was the sales tax.)

There is a market for all maple syrup made. Many of us turn down orders because we refuse to subsidize a poor manager by buying his extra syrup to fill our orders. If you sell maple syrup (or any farm product) at wholesale, remember the retailer needs about a 30% mark-up to cover costs. You should not undersell your retailer, but back him in price or you will soon lose your outlet.

Don't value your time and product so lowly. Be proud of producing a good wholesome farm crop.

HIZ WIFE

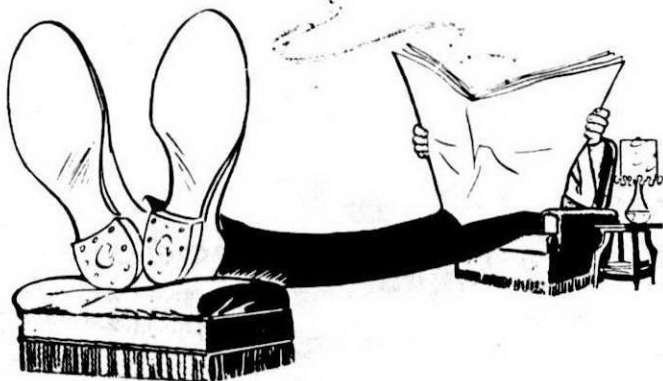
REMEMBER . . .



If you have missed a Digest lately, it's probably your own fault. The Postal "Service" (debatable) has a rule requiring a complete address on all third class mail or they don't have to deliver it. While most postmasters overlook this and deliver it anyway, almost every issue, a couple fussy ones decide to return all copies addressed to John Doe, anytown, USA, because they should read: John Doe, R D 1, Anytown, USA.

It costs us 25c to find this out, another 25c to make a new plate, 15c to delete the old one, I have to change it in the card file and you didn't get your copy. It's your fault in the first place because you didn't send your full address. Everyone has an RD, Box number, street address or something unless it's general delivery, which should be so marked, so please—Let's have complete addresses.

BOB LAMB'S CORNER



Although maple tubing is used successfully many different ways, there has been a growing trend towards the semi aerial method. The Tees are often attached to the trees and the lines suspended in the air between them. This is fine. The tighter the lines, the less sag, means less friction and more production. More sag means more friction and less production.

Ideally, one should start at the highest point in the bush and go down-grade to each tee. Each tee should be lower than the last one, and no sags lower than the next tee. Then the ultimate of the natural flow of the sap will be achieved.

But then the old law of diminishing returns appears. It's easy to put so much time and money into a tubing set up that there is no way it can be profitable.

To be practical we have to have two things: A heavy wall tubing with as little stretch as possible and one that has a lot of character and resistance to change from it's original form. This means it's going to be very hard to install on the fittings and almost impossible to get off without cutting. There is good expensive equipment available to install tubing on fittings,

but not sensible for most producers.

Some just push the tubing on the fittings. Some carry a quart thermos bottle of hot water around their neck and dip the ends of the tube in it. Some use a gallon thermos jug of hot water. Some take a regular kerosene lantern, take the top out, and insert a tin can in its place. Snow is added as needed and the lantern keeps the water hot. Some get a good husky pair of Tru Arc pliers from an auto supply store. These can be shoved into the tube to give it a good stretching. But then you have to quickly insert the fitting full length before the tube shrinks back to it's original size.

These pliers have to be modified because they would stretch the tube much more inside the tube than at the opening. Some grind the ends rounding and some heat the ends and bend them in, rounding off all edges.

We keep trying to make our tubing to meet the changing methods of using it. It's a retirement hobby business for us, but we plan to put more into it all the time to keep up with the various demands.

Bob Lamb

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Don't forget the North American Maple Council meeting and the International Maple Syrup Institute annual meeting tentatively set for October 15 - 17, 1978 at Peak & Peak, near Jamestown, New York. If anyone has National or International maple issues that you think should be brought up at this meeting contact your State or Province Delegate, talk it over with him, and have him contact me to get it on the agenda.

I just received the U.S.D.A. Maple Production Report. I am thoroughly disgusted with you producers, especially in my own state of New York, for competing against each other to keep the price of quality maple syrup so low. We have proved we can market more quality pure maple syrup than is or can be produced if you will just cooperate with us.

Please answer this challenging question: Why is production of pure maple continually dropping? If you have a workable solution to this problem, write to me and we will see if something can be done about it.

My personal thought is this: You producers are pricing it so low in comparison to inflated cost of production it is no longer economically possible to expand or even maintain production and make a profit at it!

Hope you all had a good season.

Gordon Brookman

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MAPLE REPORT - 1978

Nationally, production in the nine States for which estimates are made totaled 1,154 thousand gallons, down 5 percent from the 1,221 thousand gallons produced a year earlier.

In New England the season was colder and ran later than usual. There were no big runs so little sap was lost. Sap flows were steady. Syrup quality remained high all season. Some operators had an excellent season, others a very poor one.

In Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania cold and deep snow discouraged some producers from tapping. Others bulldozed roads to get to the trees. Sap runs were low to moderate in volume and sweetness was average to high. Wisconsin's weather was also colder

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than desirable for good sap runs but producers experienced somewhat better production than expected.

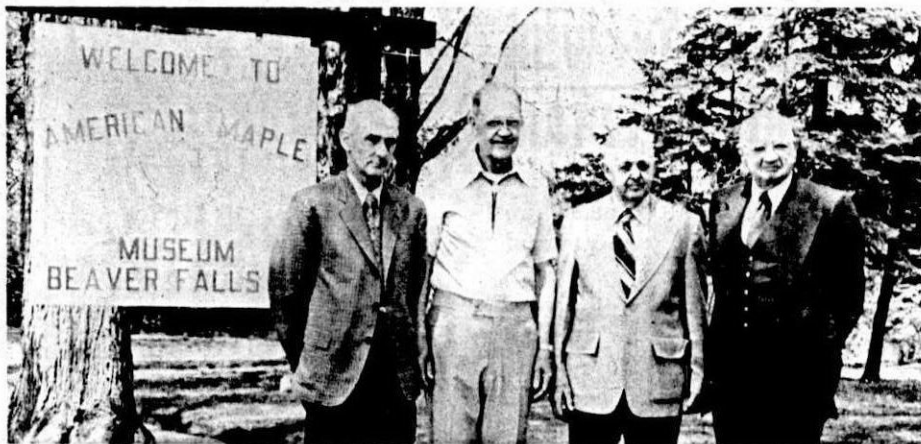
MAPLE SYRUP: Production, Price and Value, 1977 and 1978¹

STATE	Production		Price		Value	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
	1,000 gallons		Dollars		1,000 dollars	
Maine ²	8	7	15.50	15.90	124	111
Mass.	27	28	14.20	15.20	383	426
Michigan	90	80	13.40	13.70	1,206	1,096
N. H.	74	82	14.60	15.20	1,080	1,246
N. Y.	320	330	11.10	11.60	3,552	3,828
Ohio	88	65	12.00	13.00	1,056	845
Pa.	47	42	12.00	13.00	564	546
Vt.	437	410	12.20	12.90	5,331	5,289
Wis.	130	110	10.50	11.00	1,365	1,210
United States	1,221	1,154	12.00	12.60	14,661	14,597

¹ Preliminary.

² Does not include quantities produced on non-farm lands in Somerset County, Maine.

American Maple Museum Inducts Three Into Hall of Fame



Left to right: Lloyd Sipple, Robert Lamb, Verne Wicks and Dr. C. Willits

Dr. Charles Willits, Medford, New Jersey; Robert M. Lamb, Bernards Bay, New York; and Verne Wicks, Harrisville, New York were inducted into the American Maple Museum Hall of Fame in Beaver Falls, New York on Saturday, May 20. The program was opened with prayer by Rev. Richard Zehr of Croghan. Special guests who attended were: Debbie Matuszczak, Lewis County Maple Queen; Cheryl Kirch Hilton, winner of Logo Contest for the American Maple Museum; Lew Staats, Maple Specialist, Cornell U.; Paul Merz, member Lewis County Board of Legislators; Tammy Lehman, alternate Maple Queen; and Gordon Brookman, President, New York State Maple Producers Association.

Lloyd Sipple, Bainbridge, N. Y. made the presentation to Dr. Willits and Robert Lamb. Since Lloyd spent many years working closely with these men, the Museum Directors wanted

him to make the presentations. Mr. Sipple did an excellent job of summarizing their contributions to the maple industry. Warren Lyndaker, Chairman of the American Maple Museum made the presentation to Verne Wicks. Ellis Fearnley, member of the Lewis County Chamber of Commerce presented a plaque to each inductee which summarizes their contributions to the maple industry. These plaques along with a picture of each inductee are in the American Maple Museum Hall of Fame at Beaver Falls.

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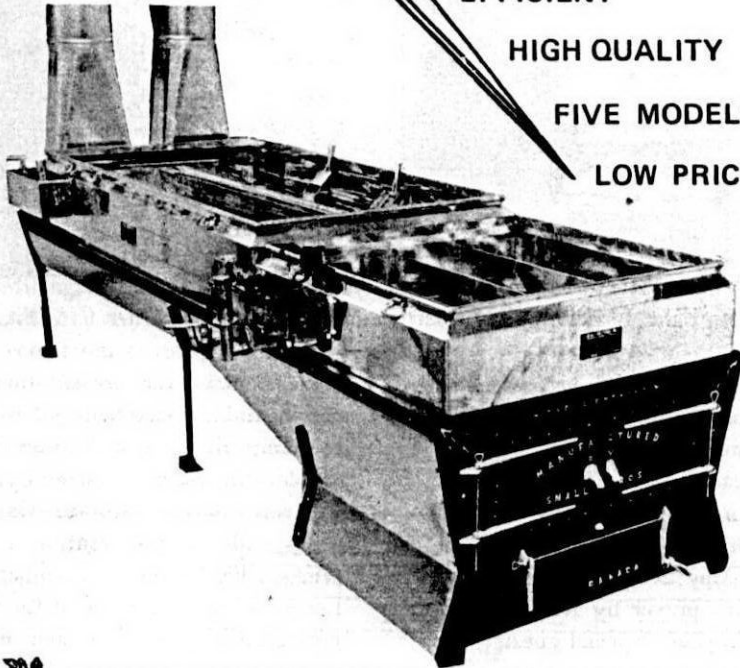
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Man & Woman Win Maple Award



Ed Farrand presenting award to Mr. & Mrs. Running.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Running, RD 1, Cambridge Springs, Crawford County, received the Award of Merit from the Pennsylvania Maple Producers' Council at the Northwest Maple Producers' Association annual meeting January 17, 1978.

The award was formerly called the Maple Man of the Year Award. It was changed to recognize all individuals who have made significant contributions to the maple industry.

The Runnings have been active in the maple producers' organization for almost 20 years and have serviced Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania with maple products and other agricultural items.

They assisted in organizing the Northwest Maple Producers' Association in 1959. Mr. Running was president and director of the organization and Mrs. Running the secretary-treasurer since it was founded.

They were instrumental in the formation of the state council and contributed leadership to maple producers

programs in the state.

Mr. and Mrs. Running have three sons and six grandchildren and are active in numerous local activities and organizations.

NEW YORK MAPLE TOUR

The 1978 New York Maple Tour will be held in Allegany County on July 24 and 25. Allegany is a very rural county with few motel accommodations near the tour location. Therefore, the banquet, evening program, and lodging will take place at Alfred Ag. & Tech. College, Alfred, N. Y. A package of meals and lodging will be offered at a reasonable price. Pre-registration will be necessary for scheduling arrangements at Alfred Ag. & Tech.

Stops on the tour will include: large and small maple operations, use of steam in sap evaporation, new operations, and very good marketing techniques.

A tour schedule with registration form will be available soon from your County Extension Agent or Lewis J. Staats, Regional Extension Specialist — Maple Syrup, John Brown Road, Lake Placid, N. Y. 12946

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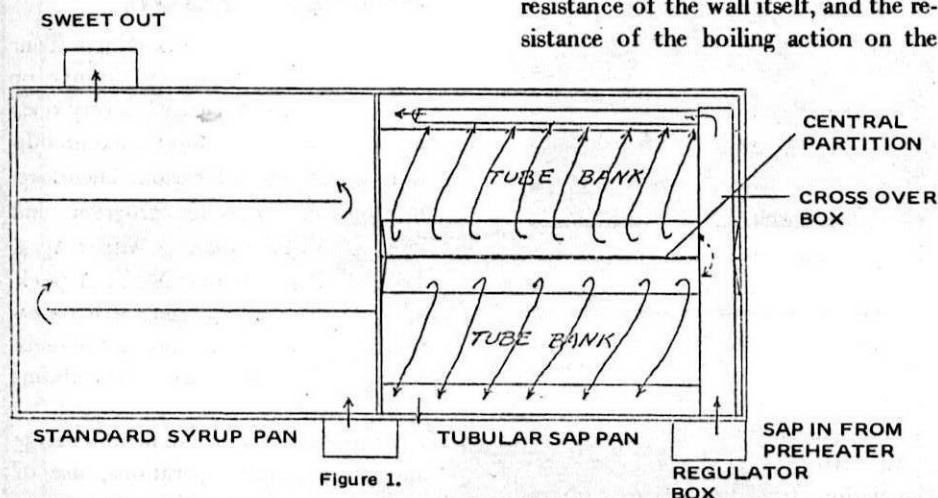
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If one considers the heated surfaces of conventional maple syrup evaporators generally, it appears that there are

three resistances—in series—to the heat flow. These are the resistance of the gas film on the hot side of the wall, the resistance of the wall itself, and the resistance of the boiling action on the



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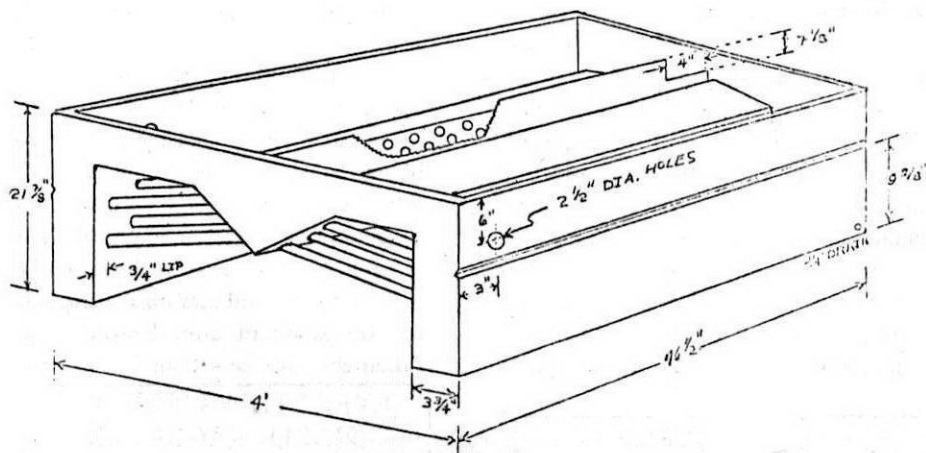
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sap side of the surface. Of these, it appears that the resistance of the gas film on the hot side is more than 90% of the total resistance to heat transfer. It is here, then that effort should be concentrated for maximum chance of

improving thermal efficiency.

There is also, however, the possibility that with the fin-type flue pans, where much of the boiling action takes place within the fins, the sap may be obstructed from full entry into the fins



TUBULAR SAP PAN

Figure 2.

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by rising steam bubbles, resulting in a limit of evaporation rates at high fueling rates. This latter action would appear to depend upon the width and spacing of the fins; the action is so complex that only a testing program would yield real answers.

As part of a first test program to find these answers, an inclined-tube maple sap evaporator was designed in 1974 by the Proctor Maple Research Farm. As shown in figures 1 and 2, the design is based upon the proven inclined water tube steam boiler with the understanding that turbulent mixing of the combustion gases and a more positive feed of sap to the lower end of the inclined tubes would over-

come some of the above-noted difficulties.

Tests during the 1976 season with water showed great promise as indicated from the following table, which compares a tubular evaporator with a back pan that has only 46% of the heating surface area of the standard drop flue unit. Sap tests during that season were somewhat less promising owing to foaming and regulation problems that were overcome in 1977 tests by redesigning the regulator and periodically adding a defoamer. The efficiency comparison of the two units is 57% for the tubular unit versus 70% for the standard unit. However, the tubular unit has less than half the sur-

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face heating area of the standard unit.

Calculations were made by standard heat transfer science methods to extrapolate the tubular performance to a unit of the same size as the standard unit and the tubular unit efficiency is then 77% as compared to the 70% efficiency for the standard unit. This indicates that a tubular unit of the same size should have at least 10% more production rate than the standard unit.

EVAPORATION COMPARISON

Averaged Test Results Using Water and Separate Feed to Each Pan (Tubular pan area. = .46 std. flue pan area).

Nozzles (GPH)	Std. Unit Gals Water Evap/Gal Oil	Tubular Unit Gal Evap Gal Oil
<u>Back Pan Only</u>		
2-6	6.15	6.36
2-5	6.16	6.20
2-4½	6.28	5.65
<u>Front Pan Only</u>		
2-6	3.53	2.44
2-5	3.61	2.44
2-4½	3.11	2.81
<u>Front & Back</u>		
2-6	9.68	8.80
2-5	9.77	8.64
2-4½	9.39	8.46

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<u>1976-77 Sap Tests</u>		
1976 Efficiency		
Sap Tests	70%	52%
After Modifications		
1977 Efficiency	70%	57%
For Units of Equal Area	70%	77%

Some of our readers have reported they noticed a drop in sugar content of sap from vacuum systems, both natural and pumped.

If you have, please drop a line to the Digest about it. If you don't know, maybe you ought to get a good hydrometer, not a cheap one, and do a little checking next year. In the meantime, we'll see if we can get the researchers working on it.

Editor

DON'T FORGET . . .

Vermont Maplerama

To be held in Windham County, Vermont, August 11 and 12, 1978. For further information write: David Key, Windham County Extension Service, 4 High Street, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301.



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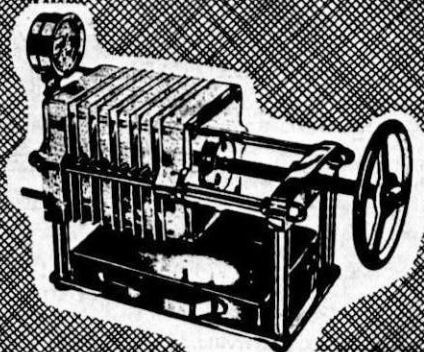
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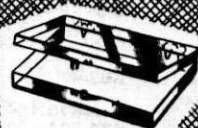


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"MAPLE POWER" NEWS BULLETIN FOR 1978

ATTENTION ALL PRODUCERS 3rd ANNUAL TUBING SCHOOL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1978 SHERWOOD FACTORY, ARGYLE, N. Y.

Experts in the field will give objective advice and recommendations on Installation & Economics of Tubing Systems and Sugarbush Operation.

This year's meeting will be devoted to ALL phases of "Sugarmaking" including evaporators, preheaters etc — informal question/answer session all day!! Free literature available on all equipment.

Exhibit will begin promptly at 10:00 A. M. and continue all day 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.

NOTE, THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS PROGRAM, BUT YOU MUST RESERVE YOUR PLACE BY POST CARD NOW!! MORE INFO BY MAIL!!

NEW THIS YEAR:

TUBING "CLIP" MOLDED INTO EACH SPOUT (FOR DROP LINES) "STACKABLE FITTINGS TOUGHED UP AND NOW MAY BE STACKED HORIZONTALLY ALSO LOW-COST TUBING SPREADER FOR EASY ASSEMBLY WITH FITTINGS "MESH" TYPE MAINLINE PIPE GRIPS (ALL SIZES IN STOCK)

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Aaron Hall, Maple Syrup Supplies, Pottsville, MI. 48876 517-645-7305

New Hampshire

Bascom's Sugar House, Alstead, N. H. 03602 603-835-6361

603-835-2230

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Ralph Van Brocklin, RFD 2, Canton, NY. 13617 315-386-3036

Bill Kent Jr., RD 1, Franklin, NY. 13775 607-829-8262

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Vern Meyer, Long Eddy, NY. 12760 914-887-4108

John Mayer, California Hill Rd., Salamanca, NY. 14779 716-938-9231

Scotty Burdick, 335 East Rd., Stephentown, NY. 12168 518-733-5591

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Pennsylvania

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Wisconsin

John Roth, Roth Sugarbush, Cadott, WI. 54727 715-289-3665

Canada

Ian Austin, Halifax, Nova Scotia 902-429-6995

Don Atkinson, Barrie, Ontario 705-728-5848

Gary Coppola, Shady Maple Farms, R. R. 1., St Evariste, Beauce Co. Quebec 418-459-6649



Contact: MIKE BERLINER, Sherwood Med. Ind. Inc., Box 147, Argyle, New York 12809 U.S.A.
Phone: (518) 638-8222

LETTERS:

Dear Lloyd:

Here is a true account and you may want to use it in your magazine to advise other Pure Maple Syrup Producers of what may happen to them.

A long time customer and close friend of mine in Eaton County, Mich. was advised that his entire equipment would be taxed under Industrial processing, a much higher rate than agricultural farm machinery. This producer had made syrup for past 75 years and his 20 acres of maple probably was one of the best sap running woods, with always high sugar content, in Michigan. This 20 acres brought him more real profit than any other acreage on his farm, 400 to 1000 gallons of syrup per year yield.

What happened: He phoned George Fogle, owner of Sugar Bush Supplies Co., and said come and get the equipment. I quit. No more hassel with the tax man, no more trouble with my uclers, no more taking to court to prove my farm rights. I quit. Agreed that he took the easy way out, BUT what to do?

This shows how far down the ladder we have gone on Tax assessments, and frankly I don't think we are at the bottom. Some township officials just haven't the capacity above their shoulders to think things out, seemingly don't want to even discuss it with owners, such as in this case.

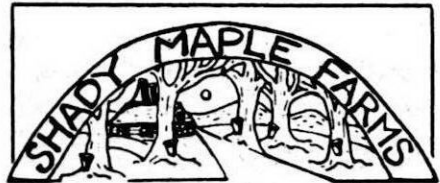
Who is next? What is next? Ask yourself. Any syrup producer could be next in line for the "PAY OUT".

When this was reported to me I just could not believe it, and its probably a good thing I am past 80 or I would have "pitched in" and helped

this producer friend of mine take the case to court for a decision. It's about time we folks stand up for our just rights.

We talk about "The downfall of Rome" how it happened, and why, now we are on the same road and the journey of a Thousand miles begins with a single step. And that single step could be the TAX Man.

Hopefully,
"Bob" Huxtable
former owner
Sugar Bush Supplies Co.
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AUCTION

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LIGHTNING GRIMM
KRESS LAMB

ARCHIE'S SUGARBUSH

Dear Editor,

My wife, she sez, "Truthful Archie, why don't you tell that nice Mr. Sipple about the side hill gouger". Well to be truthful about it, I trained the one that lived in our sugar house in the round fourty in Ohio. They's lots of em' in Wisconsin. This one was solid color, most of 'em has stripes. I guess that that makes em blend in with the background. Anyway, this ones two left legs were shorter than the right ones. Mostly its the other way around. Thats so they can run along a hillside and stay on an even keel. You never find em in flat land, cuz they could only run in circles.

They's great diggers, they go through the ground like a cork screw. They'll dig in any direction you point them in.

Now the cows and bulls were raising a fuss around the sugar house rubbing against everything and knocking it over so I decided to put a fence around it. I tied a piece of binder twine to the tail of that side hill gouger, held him in the air and gently lowered him down. He was digging all the way. When he dug deep enough for a fence post I pulled him back up by the twine and moved him to the next hole.

It was on the second to the last hole that the twine broke. That Side Hill Gouger just kept a diggin, straight down. Never seed him no more. Water started to seep out of that post hole so we got a pump and started pumping. Thats how the well at the sugar house was dug. Wonderful water. And thats why the pump is located in the jog in the fence.

Archie

Classified

FOR SALE - SUGAR BUSH - 180 acres, fully equipped, vacuum tubing, 6 x 14 Lightening Evaporator, 2 x 5 gas finishing pan, approximately 4500 taps. Modernized living quarters. Twenty miles north of Huntsville, Ontario, Geo. E. Armstrong and Sons Lumbering Ltd. R. R. 2 Bracebridge, Ontario Canada (705) 645-5945.

FOR SALE—Vacuum gathering tank, 325 Gal. stainless steel with 60 C. F. M. vacuum pump and 5 H.P. gas engine, will slide into any pickup truck, or wagon. \$375. DON DODD, 1666 Dodd Rd., Niles, Mich. 49120 616-683-4835.

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 Flo-master 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.

MAPLE INDUSTRY CONSULTANT - Layout and installation of vacuum tubing systems a specialty. Also, feasibility studies and sugarhouse design. References. Available for work anywhere in the maple region. DAVID R. MARVIN Johnson, Vermont 05656, 802-635-7483.

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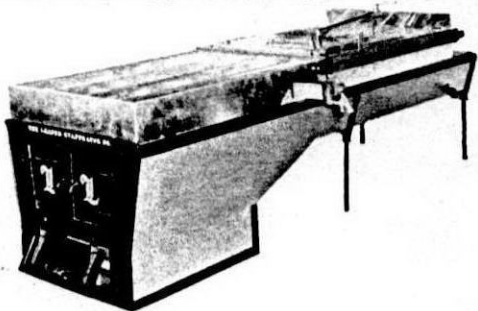


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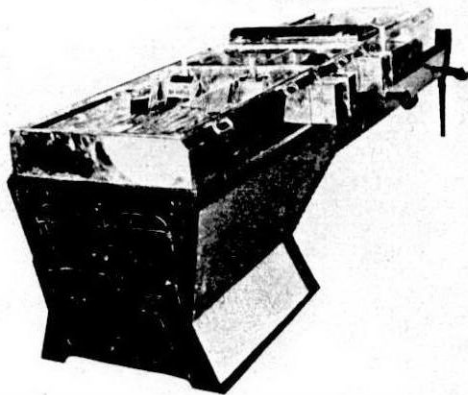
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