



MAPLE SYRUP DIGEST



Vol. 21, No. 4

December 1981

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THE MAPLE SYRUP DIGEST

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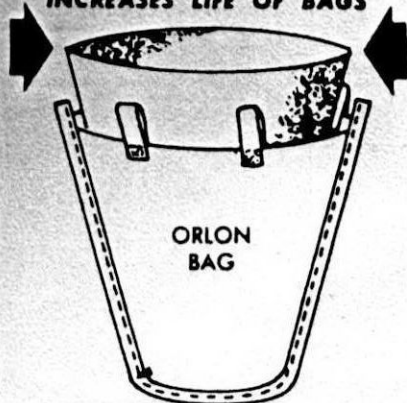


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Editorial

RUSSELL DAVENPORT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Another very successful annual meeting of the North American Maple Syrup Council has come and gone again. This time it was held in Orillia, Ontario, hosted by the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association.



Russell Davenport was elected Chairman to succeed Ron Shaw. Russ, as he is more commonly known, was vice-chairman of the Council the last two years, has represented Mass. on the board of directors since 1971 and served as co-ordinator and treasurer for the Massachusetts Maple Producers Association for the past 14 years. He is a maple syrup producer

who operates Davenport's Sugarhouse in Shelburne Falls, MA. To allow more time for his new Council position, he stepped down from his Association job last July and was succeeded by Rick Chandler and his wife, Pat, who are maple syrup producers in Ashfield, Massachusetts.

Gordon Gowen, Alstead, NH, was elected Vice-Chairman of the Council. Gordon served as Secretary and Treasurer for several years and has been with the Council in some capacity ever since it started.

Michael Girard, Simsbury, CT, succeeds himself as Secretary-Treasurer.

Life members elected this year are Raymond Foulds, Vermont; Robert Lamb, New York; and Marvin Smith, Extension Forester, Minnesota.

Associate members elected for a 3 year term are: Joe Szymujko, New Hampshire; A. R. C. Jones, Quebec; William Kidd, West Virginia; Gordon Cunningham and Ted Peterson, Wisconsin; Robert Moore, Everett Willard, Robert Coombs, and Harry Yawney, Vermont; Hilton Farley and Howard Taylor, Ohio; and John Butler, Ontario, Canada.

Michael Girard has an article in this issue on the reports that were presented and we will print as many as we can as fast as they are received.

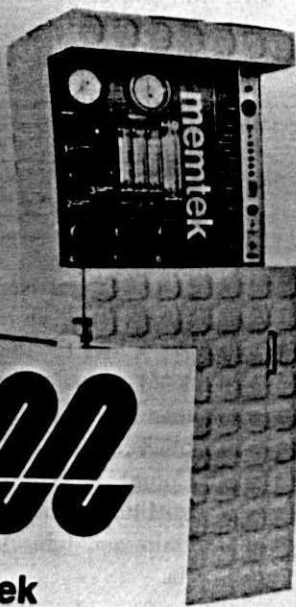
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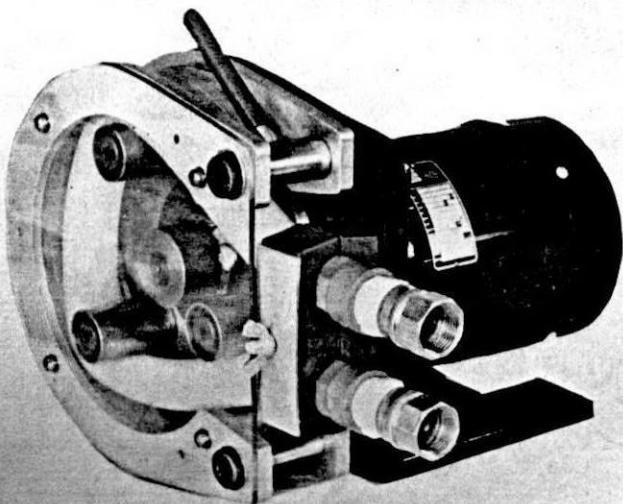
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Mr. Robert Lamb
c/o Maple Syrup Digest

Dear Mr. Lamb:

Having lived in Vermont off and on for 40 years now I have learned not to consider myself a Vermonter. I guess sugaring is the same sort of deal. We make about 2000 gallons of syrup a year now and the family stepped into it - sort of like Lloyd Sipple was saying in his article on sugar sand.

I was particularly sorry to hear the vote at our sugar maker's meeting with respect to the "Digest". In our neighborhood it's hard to get a spare copy if one of the guys down the road happens to borrow your own. Marty Collins was saying the other nite that he'd be glad to pay more to keep up his subscription. You might remind him of this the next time he tries to sell you a Waterloo evaporator.

Just to let you know that down in this area of Vermont where everyone makes only fancy syrup (this year, anyhow), we want to keep getting our "Digest". I am enclosing a check for \$10.00. May I be so forward as to suggest that you ask all serious sugar makers for a small donation along with their regular subscription?

With kindest regards, I am

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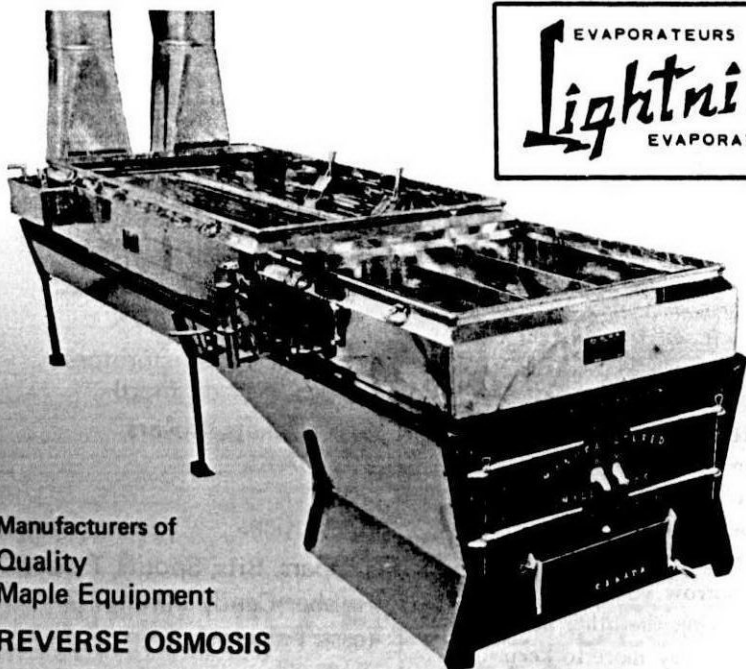
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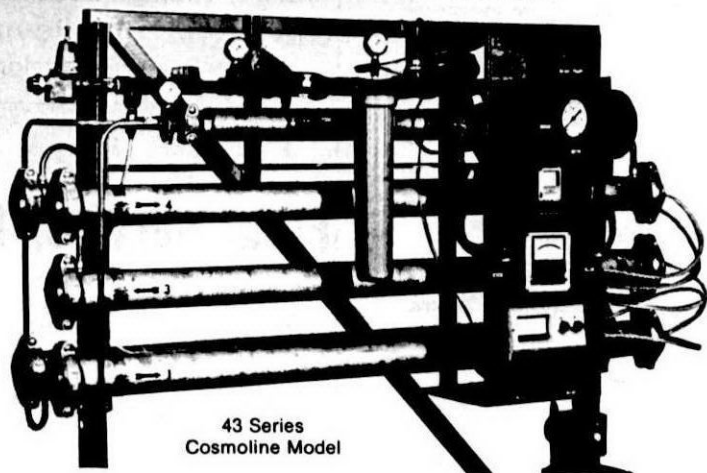


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BOB LAMB'S CORNER

Will there be any maple trees left in 15 years and if so, how many?

In our travels all over the maple belt this year the sight was sickening. The damage that has been done this last summer is unbelievable. The American Agriculturist stated that the leaf damage would be 8 times worse in 1981 than 1980. I believe it.

I have followed the work of these destructive little leaf eating buggers from the time they became noticeable. We have also had a very bad personal experience with them. In the forties, Florence and I lost 10,000 maple trees.

One defoliation wasn't enough. The varmints cleaned the leaves off the trees twice in one summer. As soon as the leaves started growing they cleaned them all off again. The following Spring there was more sugar in the creek water than in the sap.

Often a bright yellow glob formed up in the top stem of the tree. In a few years the tree fell over. The trees rotted so fast it wasn't long and you could kick it and not hurt your foot. If the tree did survive with the top out, it was valueless except for a poor quality fire wood.

A few years later, friends of ours had the same experience. Those better versed in the problem had them sprayed in time and never lost a tree. Of course, they had another advantage. Their trees were on better soil than ours. Good soil helps just as much on trees as it does on a hill of corn.

Many had an experience similar to ours but not as bad because they had

better soil. But they keep mentioning they are still losing trees. Defoliation seems to weaken trees, they are more susceptible to other diseases and keep dying for years.

Our soil is so poor the only thing it's good for is to hold the rest of the state together. The paper company that owned land all around us knew the score. They clear cut thousands of acres.

But now we are all set. The North East Forest Experiment Station in Burlington, Vermont has proven that spraying does not hurt sap or the environment, and Sevin and Dylox are approved chemicals. All we have to do is get Congress to pass a law to make those little leaf chewing devils stop while we get a permit to spray.

We hire a Philadelphia lawyer and a couple of crack, top bureaucrats to help us fill out the papers to get the permit and if all this happens in time, the woods are saved. No problem.

But it appears to me that we still have a problem. We are all environmentalists, the practical kind. But we have these groups of minorities that control and dictate our lives and welfare. Rabid, ill informed, impractical environmentalists!

When you see bumper stickers saying "May all the environmentalists starve or freeze to death in the dark" or "The last American out of Miami bring the flag" I can't help but think something is wrong. Just who allowed such a state to come about? There must be screws loose someplace.

Bob Lamb

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NEW HAMPSHIRE SUMMER MEETING

By

Charles W. Bacon, Jr.

The annual Summer meeting and tour of three Cheshire County sugar houses started July 18, over an hour early with the arrival of Bob & Florence Lamb at Bacon's Sugar House, Jaffrey Center, N. H. Bob told Charles Bacon, co-host, "We came early to look around" and by 10 a.m. about 130 people had arrived coming from New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Maine, and New Hampshire.

Yours truly showed off his new 4' x 14' stainless steel pans on a 1938 arch, all automatic sap gathering system, air conditioned syrup storage and canning, should I say "juggling", room and went into lengthy detail explaining his "sweet tree" testing and thinning project.

At noon everyone found a shady spot to enjoy their picnic lunches. A big old apple tree offered shade and a good spot for a short program which started with greetings from President Roscoe Clark, comments from our commissioner of Agriculture, Howard Townsend. Extension Forester, Joe Szymujko, led a question and answer period on the Gypsy Moth and Saddle Prominent Caterpillar devastation in New Hampshire this year.

The first afternoon stop was at co-host, Dan Johnson's Sugar House, where Dan had been working feverishly all morning to get his R. O. machine moved to another location after a complete power outage at the

sugar house. Dan was very cool and gave one of his interesting talks about his maple experiences while final connections were being made on the R.O. Dan's luck held, the R. O. was working and many R. O. questions were answered.

Yours truly led the more than 40 vehicles toward the last stop at co-hosts, Ed & Carmen VanBlarcom's Sugar House, driving his open 1929 Ford, but his luck didn't hold, we had a cloud burst on the way, and the Ford with me in it began to fill up like a wash tub, but we made it! Ed gave us an interesting tour of his sugar house, and cordwood handling yard.

This very successful tour wound up with a last question and answer period and final comments made by Maple Consultant, Dave Marvin of Johnson, Vt. who noted that New Hampshire Sugar Makers run some first class maple operations.

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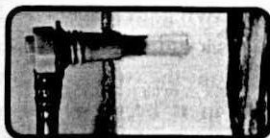
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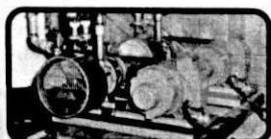
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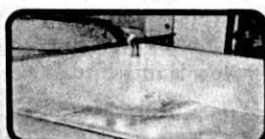
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MICHIGAN FALL TOUR

By

Charles W. Bacon, Jr.

The annual Fall Maple Tour was held September 18 and 19, in the Grand Traverse Region of Michigan near Traverse City.

The first stop Friday afternoon was at Cherry Growers Inc. in Grawn, MI. where we had a nice tour of this large plant and learned about the fruit processing business.

Then we visited Frank & Sally Majszak's Maple City, Michigan Sugar House. This is a very large operation. All on tubing, using the Mitchell system to gather sap with several gas engines operating vacuum pumps and water pumps to transfer the sap to the sugar house or storage tanks. A reverse osmosis machine saves much time and fuel in the sugar house. Another neat operation!

Dinner was served at the Holy Rosary Church of Isadore, Michigan. It certainly was a "big feed" with a Polish touch, as advertized.

A short business meeting was conducted by President Terry Healy, and guests from out of state were introduced after dinner.

Saturday morning we stopped at Ken & Sandy Sleder's Sugar House in Mayfield, Michigan, where we were treated with coffee and a special kind of sweet rolls. Sandy, who is an accountant, pointed out some good reasons for keeping financial records at a sugar house if you ever expect to make a profit.

The last stop was at Clarence Clous

and Grandson's, Old Paradise Farm in Kingsley, Michigan. They have a new R. O. machine in the sugar house which worked well for them this year. Clarence handles bulk syrup and sells Maple equipment, and with the help of his family runs a large dairy herd. We were treated here to cheese, cookies and ice cream with Maple Syrup.

Yours truly returned with George and Rick Fogle to Mason, Michigan with a smile on his face and five pounds heavier!

This meeting was a great success thanks to the committee and Dean Rhoads, Extension Leader.



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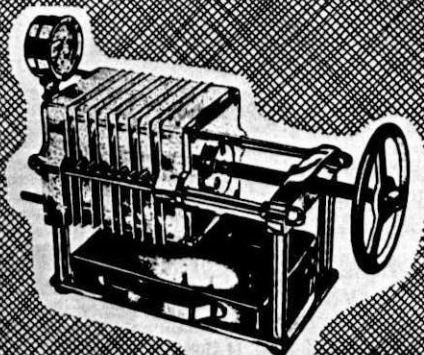
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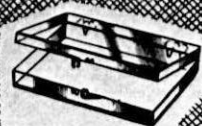
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ARCHIE'S SUGARBUSH

Dear Mr. Editor,

My wife, she sez, "Honest Archie, sometimes she calls me Truthful Archie, please tell that nice Mr. Editor Man the interesting report we got back from that city feller who drove that govment car and came out to inspect us when we was making syrup.

Well, ya see, it was like this. He was inquisitive. I was busy firing, drawing syrup, changing filters, firing, drawing syrup, changing filters etc. I was busy. Anyway he said he would make a report cuz I was too busy to talk.

The report came two weeks later and said, "That despite total transitional capability the systematized reciprocal options indicate that the responsive third-generation concept carried the integrated digital flexibility

to a point of diminishing returns. No parallel management projections were available to provide organizational hardware which could be used as a functional monitored capability capable of establishing logistical qualities beyond the present operators capacities. It was with decisive knowledgeable authority that reference be made to the infrastructure of the owner which, although archiac in software and hardware, does produce a product which commands premium prices."

Nothing was said about the bi-magnification of the overburdened time phase which should have been incremental in establishing the authenticity of the writer. Anyway we started a fire with the paper.

Your truthful friend,

Archie

Coombs

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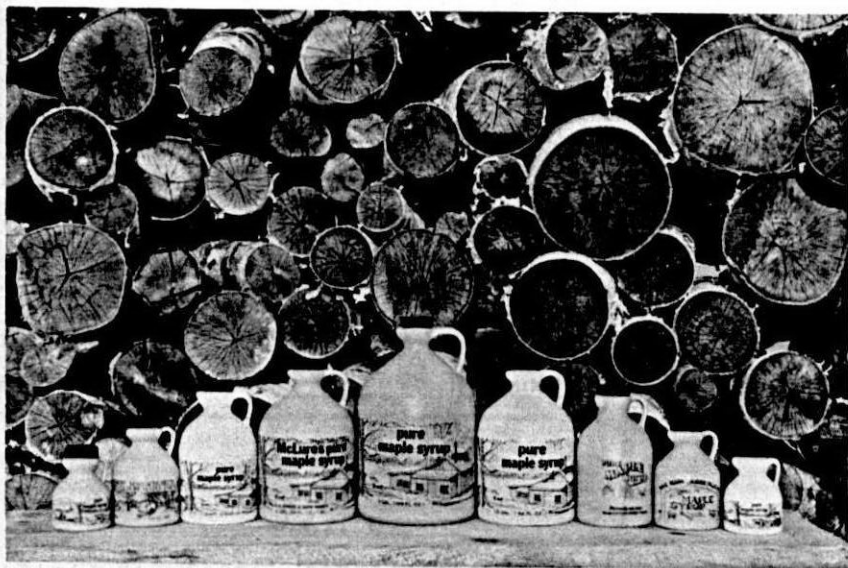
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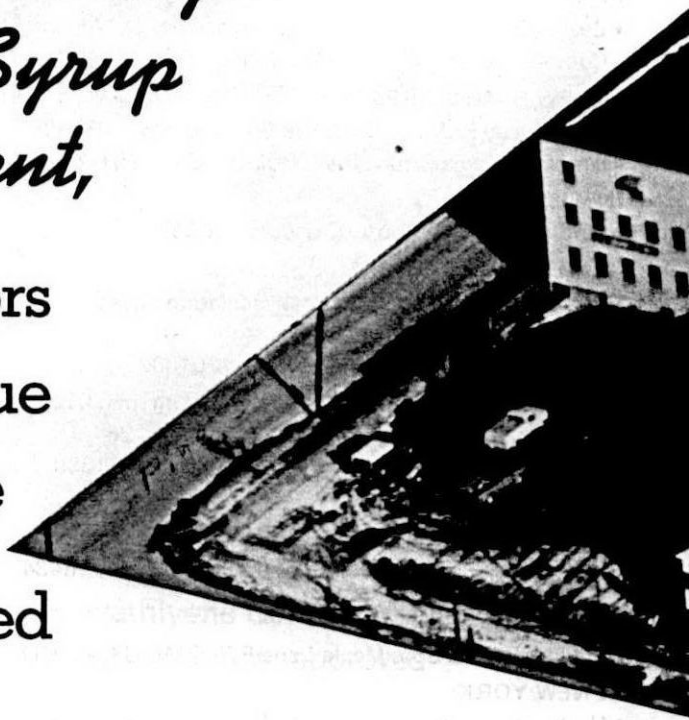
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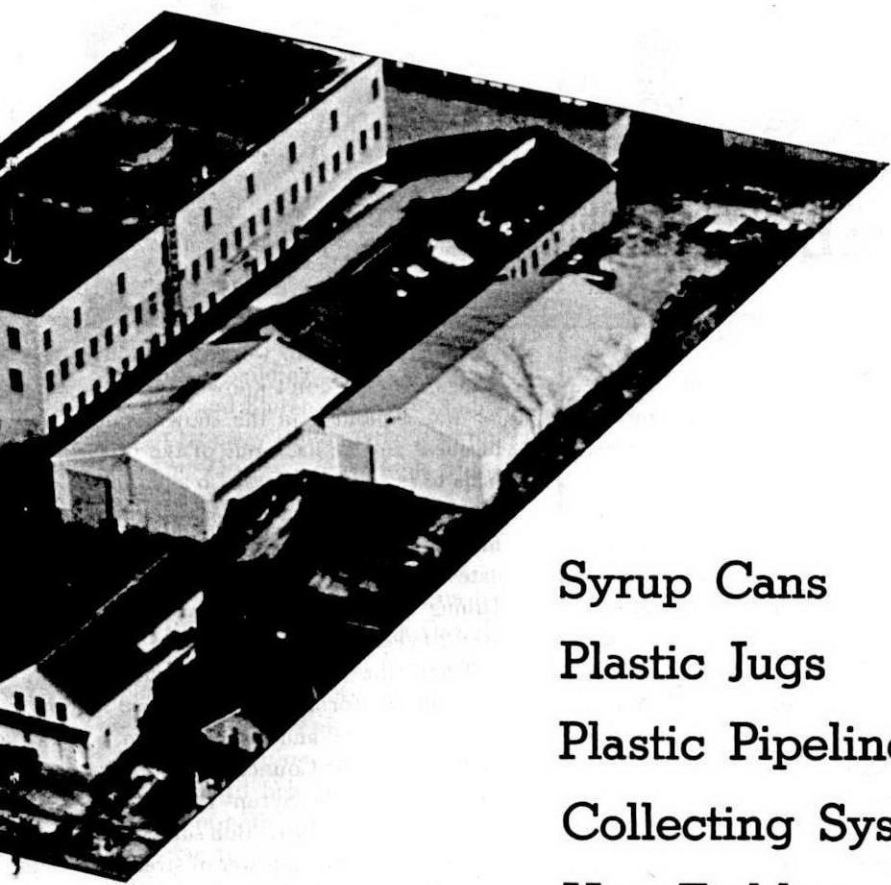
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Ontario Honors Bob and Florence Lamb

By

Walter A. Humphreys

I have a very pleasant duty to perform for the Members of the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers' Association. It is to honour and recognize the efforts of a man and his wife who have done so much for the maple syrup industry in the U. S. and Canada. What better place to do this than the place where so many Maple Industry people are gathered at this combined meeting of the North American Maple Syrup Council, The International Maple Syrup Institute and the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers' Association.

The man and his wife that I'm speaking about is Robert (better known to us as Bob) Lamb and his wife, Florence.

In his younger days, Bob worked in lumber camps for a good number of years in the Northeast U. S., Oregon and Washington States and in British Columbia in Canada. Bob can tell you many stories about life at these camps, some of which might make your hair curl.



In later years he worked at many things which I don't know about but he was a pioneer in the snowmobile business and he has some of the originals to prove it. He was also a pioneer in making tubing to gather sap from maple trees. I do not know the exact date when this occurred, but Lamb's Tubing has been on the market for over 20 years.

When the National Maple Syrup Council was formed in the late '50's, Bob was there and he has been a backer of the Council ever since. When the Maple Syrup Digest was first published in 1961, Bob supported it and he has been a tower of strength to the Editor of the Digest.

Bob co-operated with Dr. Willets of the Experimental Lab in Philadelphia in many experiments.

It seems that Bob is interested in any event that will encourage the maple syrup industry and when the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers' Association was formed in 1966, Bob was there with his support.

When the Ontario Association join-

ed the National Maple Syrup Institute and the name was changed to North American Maple Syrup Council, Bob thought it was a great idea.

One of his great concerns has been rodent damage to tubing systems and he has been looking at all kinds of controls for the pests, but it seems difficult to get a control which is effective and legal in any State or Province.

Of course, behind every successful man is a woman, and in Bob's case the woman is Florence.

The last time that Florence and Bob hit the Maple News was at Crogan, New York at the site of the American Maple Museum. The Museum had to vacate the building that it occupied and Bob and Florence bought a building not far away and donated it to the Museum. The American Maple Museum has a new, permanent home thanks to the generosity of Bob and Florence Lamb.

And so, Florence and Bob, on behalf of the members of the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers' Association, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to present to you this picture as a token of our appreciation of the work you have done to help the maple syrup industry in both our countries. May it long serve to remind you of a group of friends from Ontario who wish for you the best of everything.

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COUNCIL MEETING

The annual meeting of the North American Maple Syrup Council, was held on October 19, 20 and 21, in Orillia, Ontario. The Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association hosted this year's meeting at the Highway man Inn.

Delegates from 13 Maple producing States and Provinces took part in the event, reporting on their syrup production and Association activities. The newest member is Nova Scotia, which was officially accepted at the beginning of this year's meeting. Attendance was approximately 250 people.

Immediately following the first business session on Monday morning, Lew Statts, from Cornell University, introduced the first of a series of presentations on Sugarbush Management and Sap Production.

Fred Laing, from the University of

Vermont, gave a progress report on Tree Tapping. After reviewing normal tapping practices used in the past and the benefits of using vacuum pumps in the Sugarbush, Mr. Laing outlined the new recommended tapping rates, as follows:

Trees: 10" - 12" 1 tap 2" deep
12" - 18" 1 tap 3" deep
18" - 24" 2 taps 3" deep
24" - 30" 3 taps 3" deep
30" - + " 4 taps 3" deep

Also noted was the recommended vacuum to be used on tubing at the last tap on the line at 10" to 15" and 20" at the vacuum pump. Dr. Robert Morrow, of Cornell University, gave a report on taphole closure after using the Paraformaldehyde pellet. While noting that the Pellet did have good results on Sap flow and Syrup quality, there was an increase in Tree Dieback, especially in unhealthy or damaged

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trees. A slide presentation, showing the damage that can be caused by the Pellet, was given as well as a review of other tree problems.

William Gabriel of the U. S. Forest Service, reviewed the final phases of the Sweet Tree Program. Mr. Gabriel spoke of the 13 Maple Tree plantations in existence, Sweet Tree Clones, Grafting Methods used and many other points of interest concerning the program.

A slide presentation was given by Denis Nolet on "How to Clean Tubing Efficiently".

Clarence Coons, Regional Forester from Kemptville, Ontario, talked on increasing the sugar content by selectively thinning the sugarbush, the increase in producing of the sugarbush due to thinning, and how thinning encourages the rate of growth in

young tree stands.

LeW Statts closed the session with a slide presentation showing a comparison in tree growth in stands of trees that were unthinned, medium and heavily thinned. Heavy thinning was not recommended.

The next series of presentations were on Processing Sap into Syrup. Dave Near, a producer from Michigan, was the Coordinator for this session.

Dan Johnson from Ridge, New Hampshire, spoke of his experiences during his first year using Reverse Osmosis in his sugarhouse.

Prof. George Raithby, from the University of Waterloo, gave a slide presentation on the Economizer — an aid of evaporator efficiency Design features to the unit, production statistics as well as projected cost of manufacture the unit were presented.

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Prof. Raithby noted that this unit used in conjunction with a standard evaporator should boost production by approximately 50%.

Mr. Ross Steed, a producer from Ontario, spoke of his success with Reverse Osmosis in his sugarhouse and why he chose R. O. to process his sap into syrup.

Dr. Mariafrance Morselli, (UVM) gave a report of "Studies of Reverse Osmosis - Processing sap into syrup". Dr. Morselli gave some background on research done on R. O. units in the past as well as noting recent research findings. Recent studies indicate that

color and flavor of syrup processed from Reverse Osmosis is equivalent to syrup produced from non- R. O. methods of processing. Dr. Morselli stressed the importance of keeping the concentrated sap cool and to process the concentrate to syrup as soon as possible to insure a quality finished product.

Ralph Arnold, a producer from Burlington Flats, New York, spoke of his experiences with the use of Vapour Compression to concentrate his sap during the 1981 season.

A slide presentation and report on "Sap Sterilization and the Tube Pan Evaporator" was given by Bill



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Langenberg, Kemptville, Ontario.

The General Business Meeting of the Ontario Maple Producers Association, was held on Tuesday morning, followed by slides on the Maple Associations activities within the Province.

Tuesday's technical presentations began with John Rosenau, from the University of Massachusetts. Syrup processing options for the Maple producers was reviewed and included Vapour Compression, freeze concentration, Reverse Osmosis and multiple effect evaporation.

Evaporator Research at the Proctor Farm was presented by Fred Laing. A review of evaporation methods used in the past and methods being researched for the future, were discussed including alternate evaporator fuels such as wood chips, wood pellets, etc.

Gaston Allard, gave a talk on Reverse Osmosis versus pans in processing sap into syrup and reviewed the quality of syrup produced by comparison.

Joe Szymujko, Extension Forester, from New Hampshire, gave an extensive talk concerning insect infestation in the sugarbush. He indicated that saddle prominent is the primary insect problem in the sugarbush and that late defoliation for two years consecutively can increase die-back. An extensive review of spray programs used in New Hampshire, the cost of aerial spraying and the procedure for attaining a permit were discussed.

The final series of presentations, marketing syrup, was coordinated by Everett Willard of the Vermont Dept. of Agriculture.

Marion Paul, from Lanark, Ontario, gave a talk on "Increasing profits with Maple Sugar and Maple Butter", fol-

lowed by Bill Coombs of Wilmington, Vermont, who discussed new packaging alternatives for Maple products as well as some new marketing techniques.

Paul Richards, from Chardon, Ohio, gave a talk on his experiences in Maple marketing followed by Robert Shulz, from Sharon, Vermont, who shared his personal experiences in establishing new Maple Syrup markets through direct mail and follow-up personal contacts.

Lyman Jankins, from Vermont County Maple Co., spoke of Pure Maple Crystals and how they can effect the Maple market. This process produces a dry Maple product with many advantages and could be a great asset to the Maple industry.

Everett Willard closed the Marketing session with a slide presentation on Promoting Maple in Vermont.

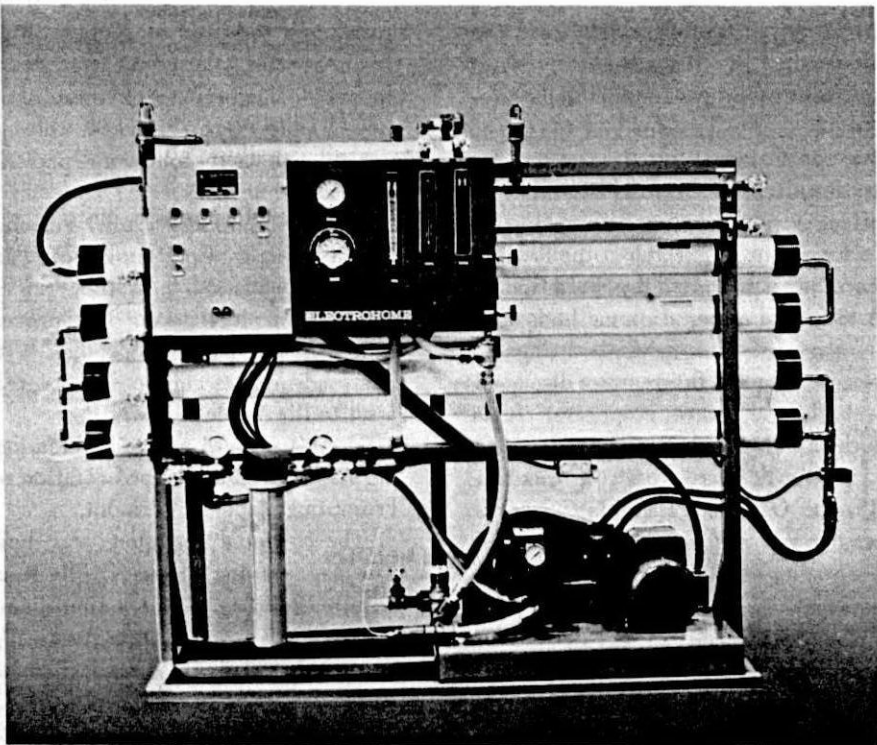
The Annual Banquet was held Tuesday evening at the Orillia Agriculture Building. After a fine dinner the program included awards to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lamb, Gordon Brookman, and Frank Robson. An interesting talk by Lloyd Wilson and dancing until midnight to the music of the "Bellaires".

The N.A.M.S.C. business meeting reconvened on Wednesday morning. Elections were held and a vote taken to hold the 23rd annual meeting in Ohio next year was passed.

The International Maple Syrup Institute held its business meeting late Wednesday morning. After closing its meeting everyone attended a fine luncheon at Shaw's Pancake House in Hawkestone.

Michael A. Girard
Secretary, N.A.M.S.C.

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Pennsylvania Maple Tour

By
Charles W. Bacon, Jr.

The annual Pennsylvania Maple Tour was held October 2 and 3, in Potter and Tioga Counties. Sponsored by the Potter-Tioga Maple Producers Association.

Dick and Barbara Kinnan, Larue Thomas, County Agent, Milton Butler, P-T M.P.A. President, Bob McConnell, Clyde Staples, and many others planned and carried out a great tour in spite of two cold showery days with even some snow flurries in the higher elevations.

The first stop on Friday was at the Pennsylvania Lumbermen's Museum where a slide show, and many exhibits including a complete sawmill and steam locomotive gave us all a good picture of how the great forests were cut off in Pennsylvania 100 years ago.

The second stop was at McConnell's Sugar Shack where Bob and family make syrup and sell Maple products and equipment, health foods, and have a flea market going the year around, a neat operation!

The annual banquet was put on by the Fair Committee at the Tioga County Fair Grounds in Whitneyville, Pennsylvania. President Butler made introductions and recognized more than 70 Maple Producers from PA., N.Y., N.H., CT., and Ohio. Ed Curtis, Pennsylvania M.P.A. President crowned Nancy Russell of Rome, PA.,

Pennsylvania Maple Sweetheart of 1981. Charles Bacon Vice-President for the International Maple Syrup Institute, brought the membership up to date on happenings and future plans of the I.M.S.I. An informative talk was given on the Gypsy Moth Caterpillar by an entomologist from the State College.

Saturday morning we visited Dick and Barbara Kinnan's Century Farm sugar operation where they have 2800 taps on tubing and vacuum and used a small R.O. machine last spring. Barbara served hot coffee and Maple Coffee cake near a hot stove which were appreciated by all on that cold rainy morning.

After Kinnan's we toured the Tioga-Hammond Dam, a U.S. Army Corps Engineers Flood Control and Recreation Project.

The Ackley Cemetery Committee put on a pit roasted beef dinner at the Sabinsville Grange Hall Saturday noon, after which we boarded our busses for the last time for the trip back to Whitneyville, friendly goodbyes, and a safe trip home.



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"I'll give my orders to the sun - cut off the heat supply!

"And to the moon - give no more light, and run the oceans dry.

"Then just to make things really tough and put the pressure on,

"Turn off the vital oxygen till every breath is gone!"

You know, He would be justified, if fairness was the game,

For no one has been more abused or met with more disdain,

Than God, and yet He carries on, supplying you and me,

With all the favor of His grace, and everything for free.

Men say they want a better deal, and so on strike they go,

But what a deal we've given God to whom all things we owe.

We don't care whom we hurt to gain the things we like;

But what a mess we'd all be in, if God should go on strike.

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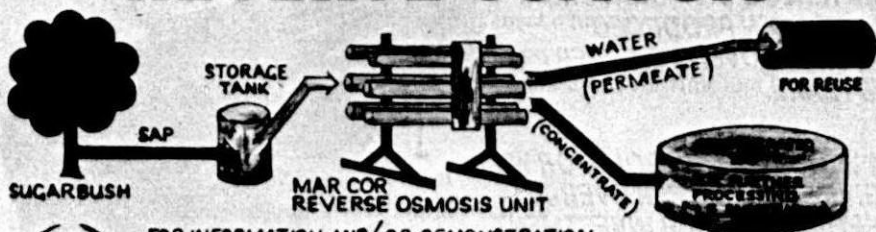
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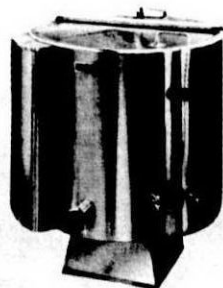
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1/15	Chatauqua Andy Defresne 716/664-9502	10:30 am 3:30 pm	Ross Grange Hall, Falconer, NY Pancake lunch provided at nominal charge.
1/16	Wyoming Eric Schimke 716/786-2251		Contact agent for time and place.
1/19	Cortland Debra Perosio 607/753-5078	10:00 am 3:00 pm	Cortlandville Grange, Cortland, NY Pancake lunch provided at nominal charge.
1/20	Chenango Gerald LeClar 607/334-9971		Contact agent for time and place.
1/21	Delaware Paul Mattern 607/865-6531	10:30 am 3:00 pm	Delhi Grange Hall, Delhi, NY. Pancake lunch provided at nominal charge.
1/22	Otsego Earl Finman 607/547-2536	10:00 am 4:00 pm	United Methodist Church, Cooperstown, NY. Pancake lunch provided at nominal charge.
1/26	Lewis Haskell Yancey 315/376-6551	10:00 am 3:00 pm	American Maple Museum, Croghan, NY Lunch provided at nominal charge.
1/27	St. Lawrence Mike Sullivan 315/379-2311	10:00 am 3:00 pm	Canton Free Lib. Canton, NY. BYOL or Lunch available in the area.
1/28	Clinton Frank McNicholas 518/561-7450	10:00 am 3:00 pm	Miner Center Aud. Chazy, NY. Lunch available in cafeteria.
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The group discussed qualifications for a queen, awards, duties, and possible sources of funds to finance expenses.

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FOR SALE: 2-600 gal., 1-500 gal., 1-3500 gal., stainless steel lined, all insulated, including covers, storage tanks for any food product. PAUL TINKER SALES, Box 326, Eastwood, Syracuse, N. Y. 13206. PH: 315-476-6750.

WANTED: Bulk Syrup Grade A light & medium amber. Forward fall 1981 bulk prices for the following container sizes: 100, 250, 500 & 1000 gallons. Send quotes to: P.C.A. Maple, 36040 Dequindre Rd., Sterling Heights, MI 48077.

Used gathering and storage tanks, 3 x 10 pans, 4 x 13 Lightning w/preheater, 2 3 x 12 evaporators, 5 x 16 Lightning, other small items. SMADA FARMS INC., Phone 607-656-4058.



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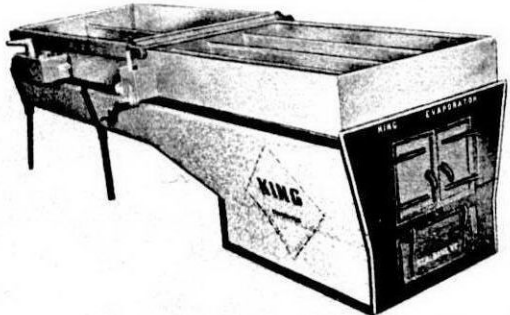
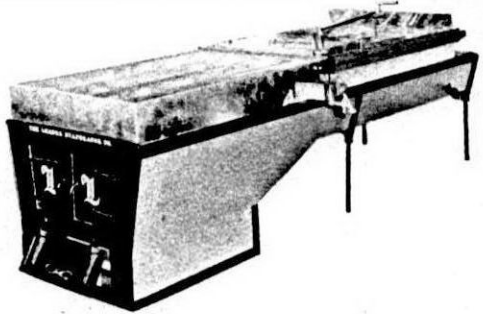
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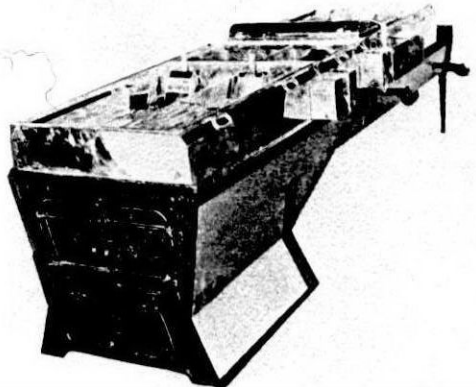
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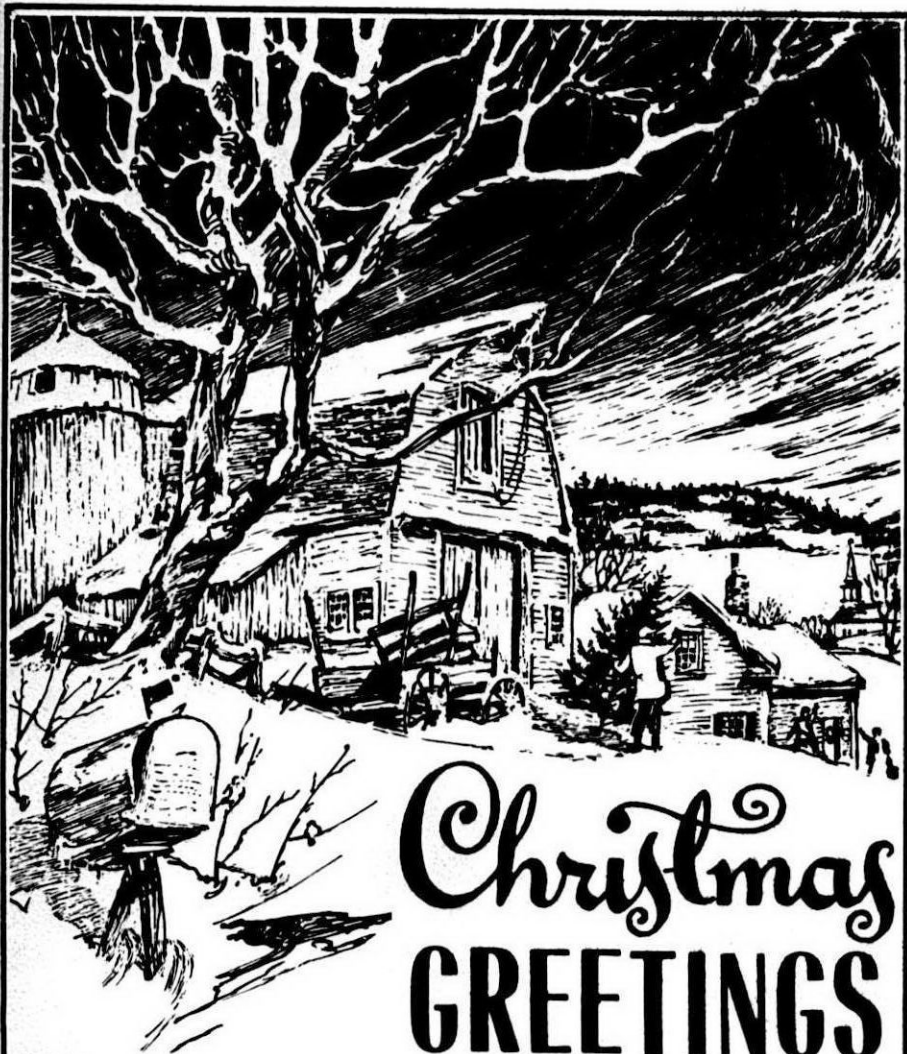
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Christmas GREETINGS

At this crisp and exciting time of year, we are hopeful that your holiday will be filled with joyous warmth, richly shared with those you hold dear. And to you, our customers, we express our thanks and appreciation for your continued patronage. Merry Christmas!

Bob & Florence Lamb