

MAPLE SYRUP

DIGEST



Vol. 26 No. 1

February 1986

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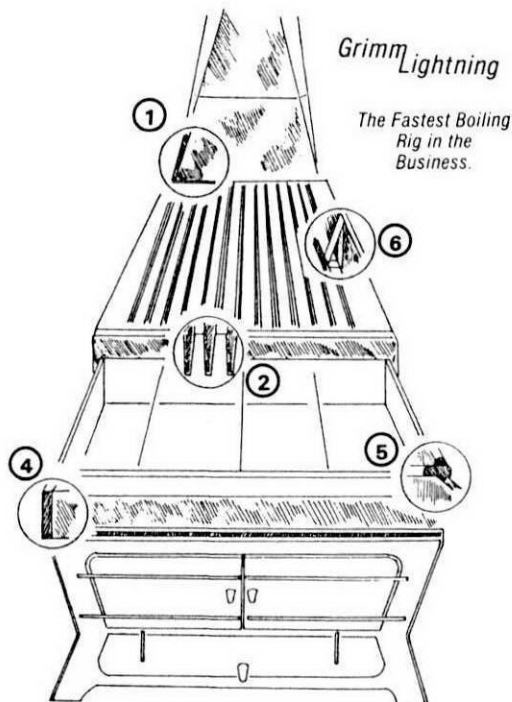
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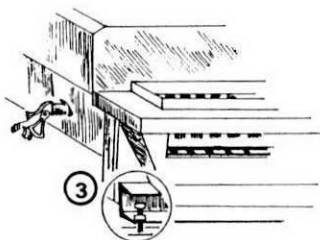
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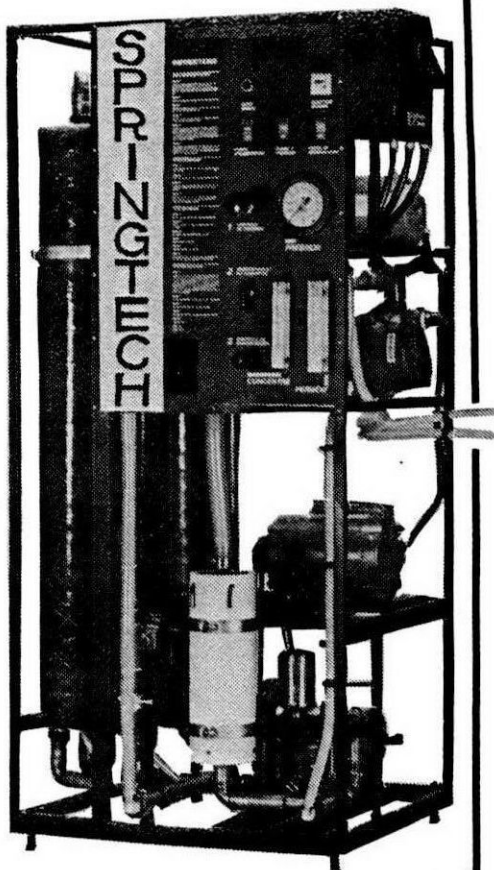
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MAPLE SYRUP DIGEST

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Editorial

In this issue we have a feature story about the Drummond family of Spencer-ville, Ont., Canada. As far as anyone knows they've been making syrup longer than any other family in Canada.

I wonder if there's any family in the U. S. that can come close to their record. If you know about one, the DIGEST would like to hear of it.

NEW DEPARTMENT

Due to many requests, we're going to start off this year with a new department - one for beginners. The title will be "TAP ROOTS" and each one will contain educational or interesting information just for the "backyard" producer or small commercial producers just getting started.

I wrote the first one, for this issue, on "Tapping Trees". I gathered together information from all the research reports I could recall from the past 50 years or thereabouts and wrote them down in a way I could understand so you certainly shouldn't have any trouble.

Please remember, this column is for beginners only, but if you old pros just can't resist reading it, go ahead. I don't care. Also, I'm going to need help.

If you have a "how to do it" or interesting article that would fit in this department, please send it in. If you have a question or problem, we'll try to find the answer.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Once again it's time to re-new your subscription. Since almost everyone pays by check your stubs will tell you when you last subscribed and for how long. This saves us a lot of bookwork and keeps the cost down. If you belong to an association, be sure your association takes care of it for you.

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funds. What else can you buy for those prices now-a-days. A self addressed envelope is in the center of this issue for your convenience. Use it right away and we'll all be happy. We certainly don't want to have to take anyone's name off the mailing list.

GOOD CROP?

There was plenty of sunlight last summer to make sugar and no seeds to use it up. Thanks to the hurricanes there's plenty of ground water, some snow and no frost. Now if something doesn't happen to mess it up, we should have a good crop - we need it. Syrup is scarce so don't give it away. Looks as if the price would be between 24 and 30 dollars a gallon.

Have a good season.

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COVER PICTURE

DRUMMOND'S SUGAR MAPLE FARM - Kemptville District, Dec. 72
L. to R.: Willis, George & Russ Drummond. See story on page 19.

COMING EVENTS

Connecticut Association Maple Workshop Feb. 8 at the Antolini School, New Hartford, CT.

Maine Maple Sunday - March 23, 1986
Rain or Shine.

Andover Maple Festival, Andover, NY
April 5 - 6, 1986.

Elmira Maple Syrup Festival, Elmira, Ont., Canada, April 5, 1986.

North Oxford Women's Institute, at George Jakeman's, Sweaburg, Ont., Canada, April 5, 1986.

Geauga Co. Maple Festival, Chardon, OH, April 4, 5 & 6, 1986.

Somerset Co. Maple Festival, Meyersdale, PA., April 5, 6 and 9 - 13, 1986.

Marathon Maple Festival, Marathon, NY., April 5-6, 1986.

Vermont Maple Festival, St. Albans, VT, April 11, 12 & 13, 1986.

Belmore Maple Festival, Belmore, Ont., Canada, April 12, 1986.

Elmvale Maple Festival, Elmvale, Ont., Canada, April 12, 1986.

Franklinville Maple Festival, Franklinville, NY, April 26 - 27, 1986.

Endless Mt. Maple Festival, Troy PA., 26 - 27.

Perth Festival of Maples, Perth, Ont., Canada, April 26, 1986.

Potter-Tioga Maple Festival, Coudersport, PA May 3 - 4, 1986.

Schoharie Co. Maple Festival, Jefferson, NY, May 3 - 4, 1986.

Wisconsin Maple Festival & Antique Museum, Reynolds Plant, Aniwa, WI, May 25, 1986.

Vermont Maplerama, Washington Co. VT., July 18-19. For information, call George Cook, Morrisville. (802) 888-4972.

North American Maple Syrup Council meeting will be held in the Centre of Vermont, Rutland, VT. Oct. 26, 27 & 28. More information in July issue.

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN



As I'm writing this it's the last day of '85. While you are reading it we'll be getting close to a new sap season. We wish you ideal temperatures for '86.

Another thing I enjoy looking for during sugaring is the return of the Bluebirds which were way down in numbers, partly because of starlings taking over their natural nesting sites. They have made a comeback thanks to the Minnesota Bluebird Recovery Program which encourages Bluebird trails.

This will be our fifth year of getting together with friends to build 50 houses in the early spring. It's a fun time and rewarding to see the birds come to the houses.

You people out east have had starling problems much longer and when we first heard of Dutch Elm Disease in your part of the country, I thought there would be a cure before it hit Minnesota. Now, ours are almost gone. Perhaps with others becoming interested and thinking about the problems of the Maple tree, new ideas will come forth and the outlook brighter as with the Bluebirds.

For all of us it's getting ready for the season and reason that ties us together. Let the sap flow!

John Kroll

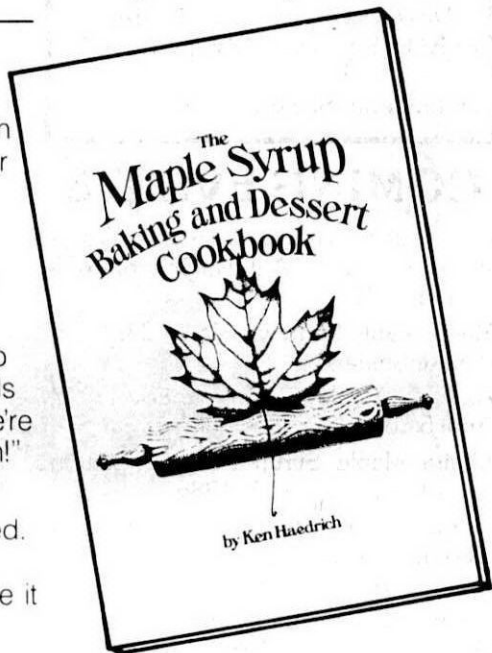
Here's a tasty way to increase your maple profits.

If your business is maple syrup, then we think you should know about our hot new cookbook. It's called *The Maple Syrup Baking and Dessert Cookbook*. And while we won't pretend any of our distributors are getting rich selling it, we do know it's added some pretty hefty sizzle to their maple syrup sales. In the words of one Massachusetts producer, "we're selling them as fast as they come in!"

Naturally, we're delighted by comments like that, but not surprised. Not surprised because we've put together a good-looking book, made it affordable (\$4.50) and filled it with original, toothsome goodies words cannot describe. Goodies like *Almond Nirvana*, *Pecan Pie Shortbread* and *Better-Than-The-Monk's Fruitcake*.

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MAINE NEWS

by T. A. Greene

Our 1985 Maine Maple Sunday was a great success. The official attendance by the public was estimated at 12,000 people. 19 producers participated. 153 gallons of Gifford's Famous Ice Cream were supplied and most producers ran out. Some producers did local radio advertising, while some supplied their guests with "made with maple goodies". Most producers had syrup for sale and many ran out of their immediate supply.

Now is the time to organize your ideas and your operation for an even bigger Maine Maple Sunday 1986.

ONTARIO REPORT

by Bill Robinson

We had a good showing of maple products at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. The Commercial class winner was Sugar Valley Maple Products of Indian River. The premier exhibitor and the C. P. Corbett trophy were both won by Vernon and Judy Wheeler of McDonalds Corners. The world Champion Award was taken by Doug and Isabel Wright of Cobourg for their entry of Maple Syrup in Canada #1 jug classes. The Royal also had the Ontario Association there with our sales booth which had an excellent sale of product as well as doing a good advertising job for our association.

The 1986 Ontario Summer Maple Tour is sponsored by the Waterloo district and is on the 17th and 18th of July.

The Ontario annual meeting is on the 3rd and 4th of October and hosted by the Algonquin Region and is in the Huntsville Region.

The marketing and promotional committee are coming out with a poster for use by the producers and also a brochure by Foodland Ontario. The next brochure out is for sugar camps open to the public. These brochures are to be all available for the 1986 maple season.

MASSACHUSETTS NEWS

by Jim Graves

On Jan. 11, 1986, the 40th annual meeting of the Mass. Maple Producers Assoc. was held in the lobby and cafeteria of the Greenfield High School. Dealers exhibited their equipment for sale and show in the lobby. After a chicken pot pie lunch was served in the cafeteria, we had two speakers.

Augustus Schumacher, the new Massachusetts Commissioner of Agriculture spoke on Massachusetts agriculture. The other was David Marvin, chairman of IMSI. He showed us the film "Frost and Fire" and spoke on the new direction of the Institute. Dave gave us a lovely slide presentation of his sugarhouse operation and tree farm.

The annual summer picnic in July, 1985, was held at Gould's Farm and Sugarhouse hosted by Edgar and Helen Gould.

The plans for this coming July have not been finalized. Future information on the 1986 summer picnic will be available by writing Mass. Maple, Box 207, Murray Rd. Ashfield, MA 01330 or calling 413-628-3912

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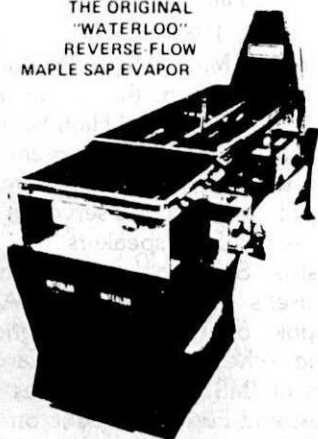
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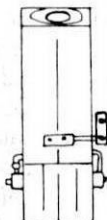
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SECRETARY'S NOTES

NOTICES

1. Reminder. Research proposals for consideration at the 1986 annual meeting must be received by July 1, 1986. For form and procedure of submitting, reference is to page 18, February 1985 issue of the Maple Syrup Digest.
2. Procedures and format for disbursement of funds for approved research projects will be forthcoming. We are new at this and it will require some time to assure that an equitable method of disbursement is established. Also, to the two projects already approved, assurance must be provided that the balance of funding has been arranged. This is the amount required above what the council approved and that which was donated.

SQUIRREL DAMAGE TO PLASTIC TUBING

by Ray Foulds

The Vermont Maple Industry Council has identified a heavier-than-average amount of damage to plastic tubing during the past year. Sam Cutting, Ferrisburg, Vt., Council Chairman has appointed a committee to deal with the problem and try to find a solution. The committee consists of Albert Smith, College of Agriculture, Burlington, Chairman; H. Brenton Teillon, Vt. Dept of Forests, Montpelier; David Hirth, Biology Dept., Univ. of Vt., Burlington; Philip Benedict, Dept. of Agriculture, Montpelier; Rex Marsh, VMSMA, Underhill; Sumner Williams, Proctor Research Farm, Underhill; Neil Pelsue, Col. of Agric., Univ. of Vt., and David Marvin, Johnson, Vt. Assistants are Diantha Howard, College of Agric., Univ. of Vt., and Bruce Parker, Univ. of Vt.

Pelsue will help plan and conduct a survey. Williams will act as coordinator to take necessary research action. The committee will investigate the possibility of using chemicals to control damaging rodents, including those substances causing a bad taste to the tubing and those which would kill the rodents. (Chemicals currently being used to control damage by rodents in Christmas tree plantations are thought to be too costly for maple orchards. Chemicals used in apple orchards have to meet environmental laws and be used in a way way to avoid damage to other animals and birds.)

A theory that most damage is caused by "juvenile delinquents among red squirrels or other rodents will be investigated. Most rodents do not actually eat the tubing or spouts - they just chew them. Some biologists feel that rodents such as squirrels must continually chew something to keep their teeth worn down - otherwise the teeth grow too long. The question of whether removing food sources (Hemlock, Spruce, etc.) will control rodents will be studied.

The survey by Pelsue will obtain more information needed to solve the problem. The survey will be tested among a few sugar makers and then sent to all members of the VMSMA. To be determined are such things as: Which rodents do the most damage; how much damage is actually occurring; at what time of year does damage occur; and what control measures already being used are effective.

Currently manufacturers are experimenting with chemicals which might be introduced into the plastic from which tubing is made so that it would taste bad to animals while at the same time it would not cause a bad flavor in sap or syrup.

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CONNECTICUT NEWS

by Darrell Russ

The 9th annual meeting of the Maple Syrup Producers Assoc. of Connecticut was held on Saturday, Nov. 9, 1985 at the W. B. Young Auditorium, University of Connecticut. Dr. David Schroider, Prof. of Forest and Plant Pathology, presented an illustrated program on maple tree diseases, decline and die-back.

After a refreshment break, Pres. Rich Norman called the business meeting to order. Membership has increased to 125 sugar makers. The Association participated in Connecticut Agricultural Day held on March 19th where sample jugs of Connecticut maple syrup were presented to members of the state legislature and the Governor. He reported last seasons syrup production was down a bit and the syrup was darker. However, flavor was good and sales strong. During the last season, the IMSI movie, "Frost and Fire" was shown to approximately 500 people.

Mike Girard reported there were some 525 producers in Connecticut making 21,000 gallons of syrup a year valued at \$500,000.00. He was congratulated on his election as Vice Chairman of the NAMSC and expressed his

pleasure in the Council's selection of Lynn Reynolds as the new Secretary-Treasurer and John Kroll as Chairman. The directors voted to renew our membership in the NAMSC, the IMSI and "Conn-Grown Assoc." They also recommended to support research of maple decline by supporting the proclamation of the IMSI. A petition to support Vermonts petition on air pollution was signed by many.

Officers elected for the coming year: Richard Norman, president; Elmer Sinclair, vice chairman; Barbara Atwood, clerk; Kenneth Sherrick, coordinator. Darrell Russ was appointed Field Editor to the Maple Syrup Digest and was presented a silver maple leaf inscribed with NAMSC for his service as delegate to the Council.

Directors elected for two years: Paul Williams, Steve Broderick and Michael Girard. Directors not up for election this year are Ray Paine, Jonathan Morris and Newell Atwood. The meeting adjourned after a showing of the Massachusetts Assoc. movie "Maple Moon" and a drawing for door prizes.

The Connecticut Maple Workshop will be held in the New Hartford area on Feb. 8, 1986. After tours of the Atwood and Beluche sugarhouses, a luncheon will be served at the Antolini School. Following a brief business meeting, Bob Coombs will put on a maple candy making demonstration. Maple equipment suppliers will be on hand to serve the sugarmakers.

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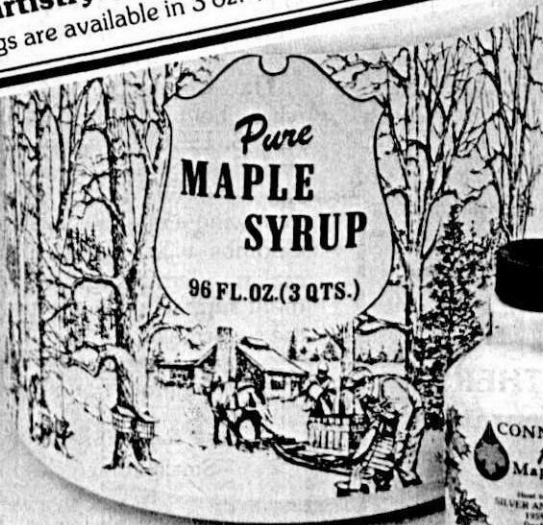
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MICHIGAN NEWS

The 26th annual meeting of the Michigan Maple Syrup Producers Assoc. was held Jan. 9 at Camp Kettunen, Tustin, Michigan with about 165 attending. The program included a presentation by Dale Minic on the importance of tubing maintenance. A report on the 1985 North American Maple Syrup Council meeting was given by delegate and Michigan Association President Frank Majszak. Also, a report on the cost of producing maple syrup by Dr. Karen Olson, Extension Specialist at Michigan State Univ.

During the business part of the meeting our 1985 Michigan Maple Queen was chosen. She is 16 year old Cindy Thuele, daughter of David and Connie Thuele of Ada, MI. Cindy will be crowned at the State Capital and will commence our 4th annual Michigan Maple Week to be held March 23 - 29. Activities are planned for the entire week throughout the state.

A Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 12, at the Town and Country Restaurant in Claire, Michigan.

Frank Majszak,
Michigan Field Editor

AMERICAN MAPLE MUSEUM

The American Maple Museum in Croghan, NY has set Saturday, May 17, 1986 for it's annual Maple Festival. Highlights of the day will include: Official opening of the Museum for the season, induction into the Maple Hall of Fame, State Maple Queen Pageant, maple parade, equipment and supplies displays, a pancake breakfast, and chicken barbecue.

One of the highlights of the festival is the induction into the Hall of Fame of two persons who have been instrumental in the maple industry over the years. If you have someone in mind you think

should receive this award, please send the nomination to: The American Maple Museum, Box 81, Croghan, NY 13327, by March 15, 1986, with a brief resume of his or her activities. Then get busy and get all the votes you can for this person before the above date.

The Museum committee has started planning for the 1986 N. Y. S. Maple Queen Contest. To be eligible contestants must:

1. Be a resident of New York State
2. Be between the ages of 16 and 21
3. Be a daughter of a maple producing family, or an employee of a maple producing family, or a girl sponsored by a maple producer who has spent at least 20 hours of service in his or her sugarbush.
4. Give a 2 to 3 minute presentation, oral or written, topic of own choosing, relating to maple syrup production.

Judging will include appearance, poise, presentation and knowledge of maple syrup production. It is hoped that each district of association will sponsor at least one or two candidates. Application forms may be obtained from: Mrs. Martha B. Campany, Box 82, Beaver Falls, NY 13305.

Schedule of events for the festival will be as follows:

- 7 - 10 A.M. - Pancake breakfast
- 10:30 A.M. - Inductions and Pageant
- 1:30 P.M. - Parade
- 2:30 P.M. - Chicken Barbecue
- All day - Games, displays, demonstrations. Museum and Gift Shop open.

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This man never allowed the effects to
show
This man has known pain
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This man is a married man
This man loves his wife
This man loves his children and grand-
children
This man owns the world in his heart
This man has his family
This man loves his God
This man loves his church
This man gives his thanks
This loves his life

This man has peace
This man loves his home
This man is devoted to his community
This man demonstrates his civic pride
This man loves his neighbors and friends
This man has no enemies
This man loves maple
This man loves people in maple
This man is loved by people in maple
This man is honored by his peers
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 This man has humility
 This man has concern
 This man has love
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 This man loves flowers
 This man loves animals
 This man loves freedom
 This man loves life
 This man is known by all
 This man will always be remembered
 This man does not need a name
 This man does not require titles
 This man is a legend
 This man deserves a tribute
 This man is a tribute
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 This man is Adin Reynolds, my father

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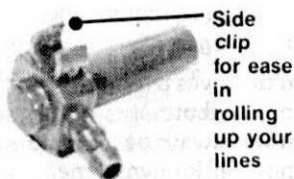
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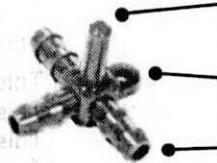
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MAPLE SYRUP
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1817**



Russ and Willis admire "the Drummond Giant". This maple is 38 inches in diameter at 4½ feet above the ground.

Clarence F. Coons
Provincial Agroforestry
Co-ordinator
Plant Industry Branch

The original sugar bush reserved for tapping when the land was cleared about 1815 contained 6 acres and has been tapped continuously by the Drummond family since 1817. Today the Drummond sugar bush covers about 35 acres and each year 2600 taps are set out. It is Ontario's oldest continuous family maple operation.

Around 1815, George Drummond began clearing and farming on Lot 37, Concession VI, Edwardsburgh Township, Grenville County. The land was part of a 3600 acre land grant given to his father, Colonel Peter Drummond, in 1804 following disbandment of the Loyalist Rangers Regiment at Quebec City.

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It was covered with a virgin mixed wood forest containing sugar maple, white elm, basswood, hemlock and white pine. About six acres of sugar maples were left for maple syrup production. In 1817 a log shanty was constructed and two iron kettles were hung.

FIVE GENERATIONS OF SYRUP AND SUGAR MAKERS

George was killed in 1838 at the Battle of the Windmill near Prescott. With the assistance of a pension, his wife Catherine and young son Peter were able to continue farming. Peter's eldest son, George, took over the farm in 1913 when his father died. George operated the farm until his death in 1933 when his sons, Russ and Willis took over. They operated it until 1970 when the present owner, George, bought the farm. It has been a Drummond tradition to alternately name the eldest son in each generation, Peter and George, making it a bit confusing to sort out the family tree.

While Russ and Willis operated the farm, they tapped 1800 each year. They also managed a dairy herd of about 45 holsteins, 100 apple trees and 3 acres of grapes. Their father had been an avid horticulturalist and grew the finest fruit and vegetables in the area.

The present owner, George Drummond operates an Equipment Rental business in Ottawa. He had continued to modernize and streamline the operation to the extent that today it is one of Ontario's most modern maple syrup operations.

THE SUGAR BUSH

Presently the sugar bush covers 35 acres. Each year 2600 taps are set out. The Drummond sugar bush has always been well known for its big sugar maple trees. The "Drummond Giant" stands majestically near the center of the woodlot. This huge patriot is 38 inches in diameter measured at breast height (4½ feet above ground). Two others stand close by, one measuring 36 inches and the other measuring 35 inches in diameter at breast height.

Russ and Willis recall that their father and grandfather would never put more than one tap in each tree. That practice was abandoned when they took over in 1933. In 1933 their father took a trip to Florida and Russ and Willis headed to

the bush to thin out the young trees that grew up in an old pasture field. They took out the yellow birch and the elm to give the sugar maples more growing space. Needless to say, when father returned home he was angered. The trees in this little grove today are growing well and are tapped each year. The pasture field had been cleared by their great grandfather about 1835. It was farmed for several years, then abandoned. The new growth appeared after their father stopped pasturing the woodlot. Present owner, George, is quite interested in continuing the job of thinning

In the early days, since only dead and dying trees were cut, it was necessary to cut fuelwood in another bush to provide enough for boiling.

On July 18, 1905, a disaster struck the sugar bush. A hurricane toppled 274 large trees, many of them maples. It took a couple of years to clean up the fallen trees.

THE SUGAR CAMPS

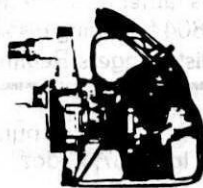
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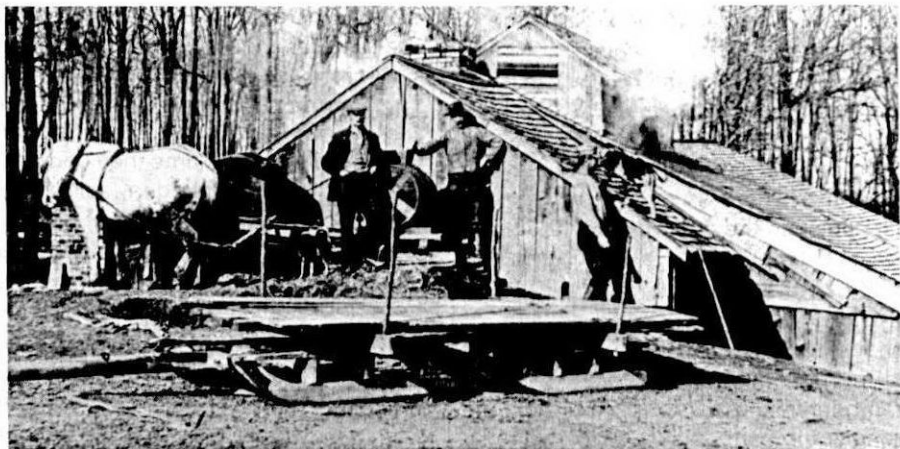
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The second sugar camp. Picture taken in 1897.

sugar camps on the Drummond farm. The first was built in 1817 by the great grandfather of Russ and Willis. It was a log building containing two kettles. The sap was stored in an underground storage tank at this camp and pumped with a wooden storage trough in the sugar house. This trough was a hollowed white pine log. From there the sap flowed into the kettles. The Drummonds still have the kettles.

The second sugar camp was located a few hundred feet southwest of the first. This camp was a much larger wood frame camp with ample room for wood storage. The camp was located at the edge of a slope so that the force of gravity could be used to transfer the sap from the gathering tank to the storage tank and then to the evaporator.

The 1900 this sugar camp was torn down and an even larger camp, 40 feet

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by 50 feet, was built. This larger camp provided storage for wood and approximately 1500 wooden buckets as well as four evaporators and a finishing stove. This sugar camp was a well-constructed building with a cement floor and was regarded at the time as one of the finest sugar camps in the area. It was used for 60 years.

In 1961 Russ and Willis built the fourth camp located on the same site as the previous two. It is a smaller building than the previous one but it houses all the modern maple syrup and sugar making equipment quite comfortably.

With its pleasant surroundings in the sugar bush, this neat and tidy sugar camp is certainly one of the most picturesque in the area.

SAP COLLECTION

At first, sap troughs were used on the Drummond farm. The trees were tapped with a tapping gouge which the Drummonds still have. About 1840 the first 100 wooden buckets were purchased from a local cooper in Spencerville. Peter Drummond was so impressed with them that shortly after, he commenced making his own. The large

buckets were made of white pine while the smaller ones were white cedar. Black ash was used for bands at first and later steel bands were used. Peter made the last wooden buckets on the farm about 1910. At that time they had about 1800 of them. Wooden spiles were made from elderberry.

About 200 wooden buckets were used by the Drummonds until 1969 on trees located across the Indian creek which passes through the woodlot. Because it was difficult to gather these trees after every run, the Drummonds found that during cold periods the sap would freeze and split the metal buckets. They did not have this problem with the wooden buckets. Wooden gathering barrels and tanks and wooden gathering pails were also used for many years. In

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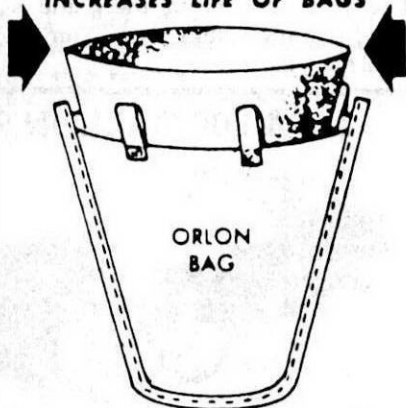
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The third sugar camp, built in 1901. Picture taken in 1909. Left to right: Willis Drummond, Jack Drummond, Will Gore and Jim O'Reilly (seated).

addition, large storage tanks were used to hold the sap at the sugar house. Gathering sap was always a big job in the early years but the family all helped. Occasionally neighbours and friends would be hired.

Before Russ and Willis took over in 1933, sap was never gathered or boiled on a Sunday. Their father, George, and grandfather, Peter, believed in strict adherence to observing Sunday as a day of rest.

Russ and Willis installed the first tubing in their bush in 1968. That year, 500 taps were set out on a gravity system. In 1969 a vacuum pump was in-

stalled utilizing a dumping unit made from a milk can. In 1972 two Surge milker pumps and a liquid release unit were installed. These two pumps have a capacity of 20 and 32 cubic feet per minute. They handled the sap satisfactorily for the 1600 taps on the system. George has had all main lines surveyed and levels have been established in the bush. He hopes to have all taps on tubing and vacuum in the near future.

MAPLE SYRUP AND SUGAR MAKING

In the early days on the farm, maple sugar was the main product produced. There was a room in the Drummond house referred to as the "Sugar Room" and sale of maple sugar would continue throughout the year. Maple sugar was produced in the old iron kettle which swung into the fireplace in the sugar camp.

About two gallons of syrup would be

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placed in the kettle and boiled down into about 18 pounds of sugar. Hard sugar was produced in one half and one pound cakes and stored in barrels in the sugar room at the house. The Drummonds also made a soft sugar from the later sap runs. After 1920 the demand for maple sugar was not as great and only small amounts were made. In 1971 the Drummonds bought a new maple sugar making machine and started making sugar in quantity again. George's wife, Marilynne, and Willis' wife, Marjorie, made about 90 pounds of maple sugar last spring. It is sold as maple paddies, chiefly to school children who come to visit the camp.

Kettles were used first, then flat pans for making maple syrup. The Drummonds bought their first flue type evaporator in 1896. It was a Lightning 2½' by 10' machine. Peter Drummond was so pleased with the operation of the machine that the following year he bought another. In 1899 he bought an evaporator 3 feet by 12 feet, followed by another of same size a few years later. These four evaporators were used until 1961.

The syrup was finished in a Lightning Star wood fired finishing pan 2 feet by 4 feet, purchased about the same time as the first evaporator. In 1961 when Russ and Willis built the present sugar camp they installed a new wood fired Lightning evaporator, 4 feet by 12 feet, which was used until 1970. In 1970 the arch was converted to oil for that year and covers were installed on the pans.

In 1971 a new oil fired Lightning covered evaporator, 5 feet by 16 feet, was installed along with a gas fired stainless steel finishing pan, 2 feet by 4 feet.

Maple syrup was always referred to as maple molasses in the early days. It was sold in 5 gallon cans that were made by a local tinsmith.

MAPLE VINEGAR

Maple vinegar was made and sold at

the Drummond Farm until about 1918. It was made from the sap obtained from the last runs which had a buddy flavor. The sap was boiled down to about one seventh its bulk. It was then removed from the evaporator and placed in white oak barrels.

A small quantity of good "mother of vinegar" or some old vinegar would be added. The barrels were then placed on their sides in the vinegar house with the bungs removed. A piece of screen was placed over the holes to keep out the flies. "Mother of Vinegar" is a slimy skin which forms on the surface of vinegar. It consists of a mass of bacteria which convert alcohol into acetic acid, the characteristic acid of vinegar.

The vinegar would be left in the vinegar house for about 15 months before it

was sold in the summer and fall. The Drummonds produced 100 to 200 gallons of vinegar each year which they sold for 20 cents a gallon.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNICS

Each year during the latter part of the 19th century and until 1912, the Drummond sugar bush was the site of this happy occasion which took place in the latter part of August.

The picnic was the major social event of the local Union Sabbath Sunday School. Parents and children alike,

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came by the dozens for this well organized event. Peter Drummond, the owner of the sugar bush at the time, was librarian and superintendent of the local Sunday School for 62 years.

Late August was the most appropriate time of year for the picnic since the mosquitoes and flies had disappeared from the bush, the weather was still warm, and the hay fields where many of the events took place had been harvested.

Each year, a stage was set up in the sugar bush and entertainment was provided by a guest speaker. Occasionally the Spencerville Brass Band would attend. There was a huge swing suspended from a towering maple for the children as well as games and races. There was baseball, lacrosse, football and cricket in adjacent fields for the teenagers and adults. Roast beef, veal, mutton and chicken pie were commonly part of the menu. In 1887 the picnic admission charge, which covered two meals and all events, was 10 cents for those who assisted in providing for the event and 25 cents for others.

Russ recalls a momentous occurrence in 1903 when an unexpected visitor from nearby New York state arrived driving an automobile. It was the first opportunity for many to see a horseless carriage. Upon its arrival, the baseball and football games immediately stopped, the music ceased and men, women and children all rushed excitedly towards the sputtering vehicle. The

car was a 1903 two-cylinder Ford Touring car, painted bright red and elegantly upholstered in leather.

The annual picnic was an occasion to hitch up your best horse to your best buggy, to meet your friends and neighbours, to participate in sporting events, to hear the finest music in the countryside echo throughout the sugar bush and to enjoy the biggest feast of the year. The Drummonds fondly remember many of the picnics.

The lore of the sugar bush, the nostalgia surrounding the boiling, and the joyous and eventful "Sugaring-off" parties have given the Drummond sugar bush a distinction in the community dating back many generations.

Today, although modern methods of syrup production are followed, this same distinction continues as busloads of school children and carloads of adults come to witness and enjoy the "Drummond Way of Life", a way of life for 157 years on the Drummond farm.

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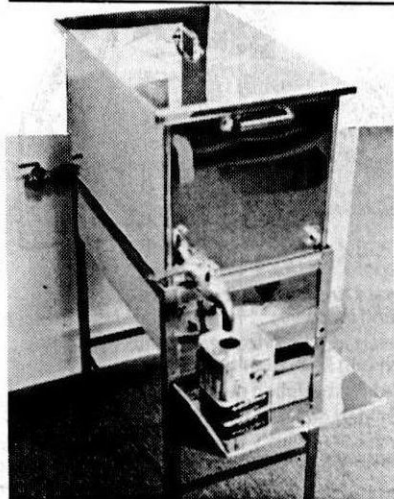
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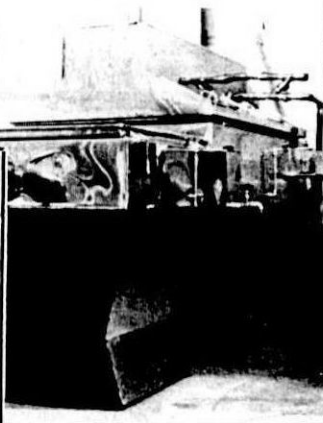
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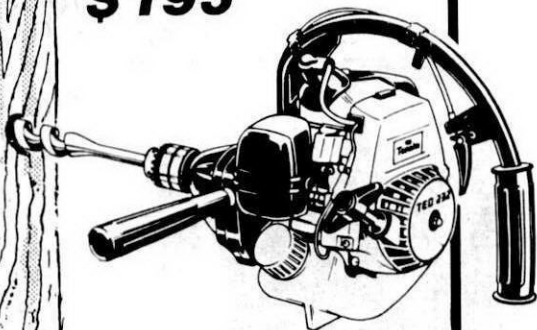
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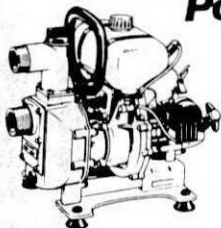
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Agents wanted for certain locations. Contact any of the owners.

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TAP ROOTS

TAPPING TREES

(Please read editorial on page 5. Lloyd Sipple).

It takes quite a bit of practice and experience to do a good job of tapping trees. I'll try to explain a few fundamentals and tips which I learned over the past 50 years and which may be of some help.

The basic rule for number of taps per tree is: A 10" diameter tree gets 1 tap and for each 5" diameter added to that you can add one more tap. If the trees are in poor condition or near houses where their value is higher, you probably should use one less tap per tree and never more than the rule allows.

Never use two taps close together for a bucket. This hurts the tree even more than using too many single taps. Two holes close together heal much more slowly than single holes.

Select an area on the tree that is free



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of old tap marks, at least 4" away horizontally (6" is better) and at least 12" vertically. It makes no difference if it is over a big root or under a big limb. Most

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trees "wind" to varying degrees and you'll probably miss the streak that comes up from the root anyway. You can tap on any side of the tree you want to. Research has proven that any side, North, East, South or West, will produce about the same amount of sap and the same quality. Just try to hit "good wood."

Use a 7/16" bit and bore 2" to 4" deep. Large trees with thick, white ring wood will stand deeper tapping. Woods trees or those with thinner ring wood should not be tapped as deep. Try to not hit any heart (brown) wood. There's no sap in it anyway and it may cause darker colored syrup. If you hit a seam or pocket that produces any black or rotten chips, don't use that hole. It will make the sap yellow. The old timers call it "stump water".

Some times old trees have been tap-

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ped for so many years at the same height that they are almost "girdled" with tap holes. In this case, tap 1 to 2 feet higher on the tree. This will usually give good results because it makes no difference how high you tap.

Don't drive the spouts too tight. Metal spouts should be just tight enough to hold up the bucket. Plastic spouts for tubing should be driven lightly with a 4 oz. hammer. Never split the bark. If they leak a little, they can be driven more later.

And, last but not least, don't plug the holes when you pull the spiles. They'll heal over faster if they're just left alone. If some sap runs after the season is over, it won't hurt a thing, but if you plug it and the plug sticks out past the cambium layer (inside edge of the bark) the tree may have to grow for several years before it can start to heal.

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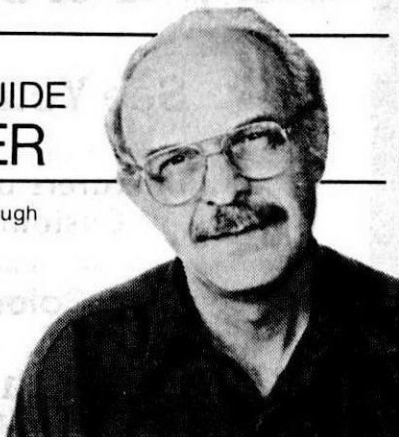
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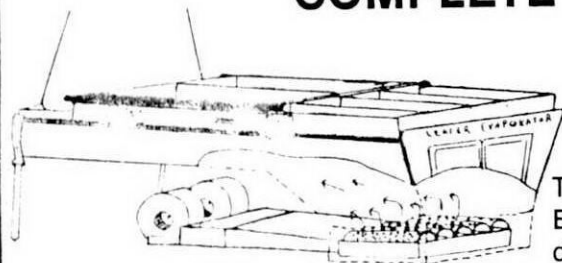
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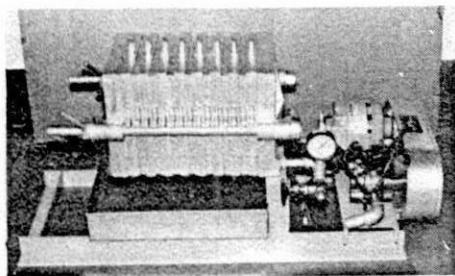
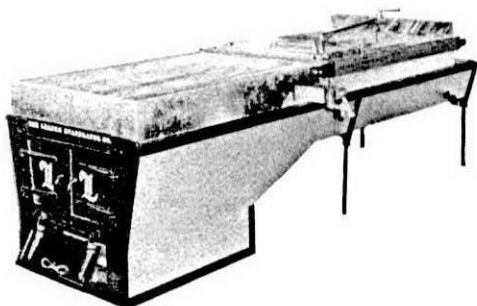
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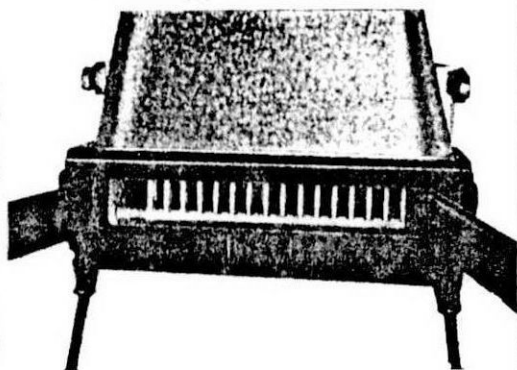
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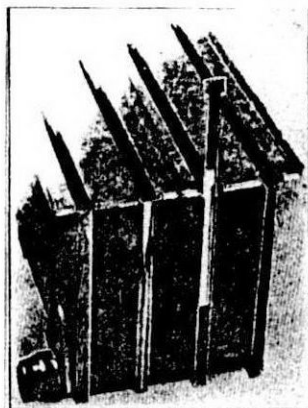
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