

MAPLE SYRUP

DIGEST



Vol. 26 No. 2

July 1986

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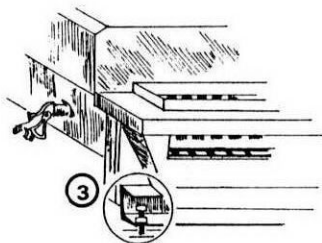
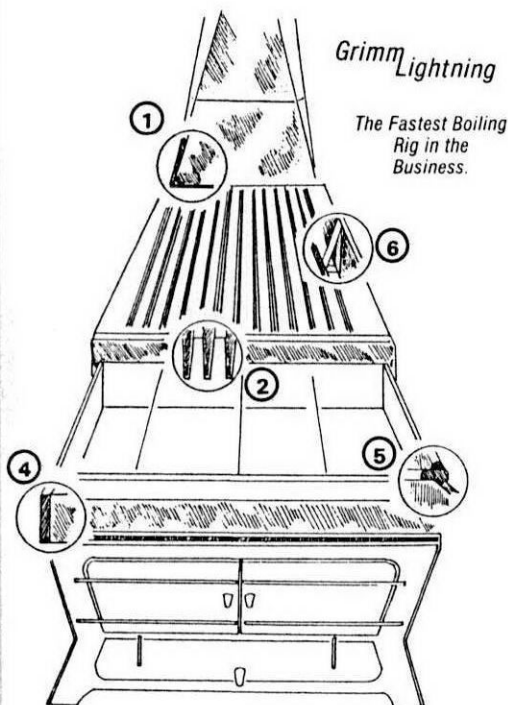
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Editorial

In most areas this year's maple syrup crop was disappointing to say the least. The warm states, Ohio and southern Pennsylvania had good crops. The colder areas produced from 50 to 80 percent of average with some as low as a third and Wisconsin possibly even lower. Still further north in some small areas of Quebec, they managed to get past the hot week in late March that ruined it for most of us and ended up with quite a bit, although it was fairly dark. This is the first time I can remember having such a poor crop over almost the entire maple producing area.

In the February issue I predicted we should produce a good crop this year because conditions were favorable. I still think they were good but, as in every other year, the whole ballgame depends on getting the right weather during the season. It was good for two weeks. There just wasn't enough of it.

Now if producing maple syrup was like growing grass on your lawn, there'd be a big surplus. I take care of a 40 acre park as a part time job. We also mow about four acres here at home only because we don't know what else to do with it. It used to be pasture, rolling and cut up too much for crops. Pasturing is out because my livestock consists of one German Shepherd dog and I hate to see brush grow up. Then we have 8 acres of Christmas trees and found out the hard way two years ago that keeping it mowed was the best defense against mice.

I realize this is too much to mow but I guess we're stuck with it for a while. What I can't understand is, why does it have to grow so fast. The warm weather in March started it early and we had to begin mowing in April which is extremely unusual. May was quite dry but the grass grew faster than ever. One farmer mowed alfalfa on May 26th that was 3 foot high.

How come maple trees have to have perfect weather in order to run sap but grass seems to grow anytime, regardless of the weather and grow, and grow, and grow!!

Maybe our research folks ought to switch over on a different track. They've worked for years on better ways to get the sap out of trees but by golly, sometimes they're like a dry cow - if they don't want to let down, nothing's going to make them. If they could just make trees produce sap like lawns grow grass, maybe I wouldn't mind mowing so much.

By the way, I don't go to Florida in the winter. I may have to shovel some snow but I don't have to mow lawn all year 'round.

COVER PICTURE

New sugarhouse built by Robert Pripps, Springstead, Wisconsin, using Univ. of VT. plans. It houses a 30" x 10' Small Brothers evaporator supplied by 400 buckets.



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New Hampshire News

The 1986 Maple Producers Meeting was held at Plymouth, N.H. January 26 with good attendance reflecting the growing interest in Maple Production in N.H. A grant was received from the N.H. Tourism Department to print 50 thousand copies of the **Sugar House Visitors Guide** developed by John Conde to be distributed by the Visitors Information Center, Department of Agriculture and Department of Tourism. Copies for distribution by N.H.M.P.A. members are available at cost. There will also be distribution in Southern New England.

A Maple Cookbook has been developed and \$3,000.00 was voted to have it printed. A dealer in spurious sirup (57% cane and corn) from a neighboring New England State was invited by Commissioner Taylor of the Department of Agriculture to keep his product out of N.H.!

A motion from the floor honored John Conde for his work as Secretary over the past 5 years. John is on sabbatical leave for six months to study the maple industry of the Northeastern U.S. and Canada and to develop sources of information from the industry for New Hampshire producers.

Officers elected were Roy Hutchin-

son, Pres; K.R. Moore, 1st V.P., David Dearborn, 2nd V.P.; Henry A. Peterson, Secy; and Larry Moore Treasurer.

Speaking on Tree Dieback (conifers and hardwoods) was Dr. Vogelmann, Chairman of the U.V.M. Botany Dept. discussing problems on Camel's Hump, Mt. in Vermont. A 20 year study indicated that minerals such as heavy metals are increasing while magnesium is decreasing in both soil and trees. He also pointed out that maple sirup has not reflected these changes. The talk was followed by several workshops.

Enthusiasm for the 1986 crop was high since sirup carryover was light and new and expanding enterprises were many. Just before the calendar indicated sirup season was right around the corner it was reported several producers with some last years' sirup disposed of the "old" crop at low prices.

The 1986 season started late and collapsed in 70 to 80 degree weather ending in many areas by April 3 and though sap was reported sweeter than it was the last few years most producers ended the season with 33% crop while a few fortunates made about 50%. Consequently most producers to stretch supplies have been packing in small containers and gallon prices, when available, have been \$20 to \$29.

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THE MAPLE INDUSTRY
by - Adin Reynolds

I have been told this "must be printed."

Mary Lou and I are really blessed to know friends like Adin. We feel very humble.

Lloyd Sipple

To all members of the North American Maple Council
- And this certainly includes the Digest editor -

I don't know what words to use, to show my appreciation for all the Get Well and Greeting cards, phone calls, gifts and even flowers, but I want you all to know that it has been a great and rewarding experience to have known and worked with so many of you, even dating back before the birth of the Council. Maple folks are GREAT.

My Sincerest Thanks.
Adin Reynolds

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ONTARIO REPORT

The 1986 Maple season in Ontario got off to a slow start with very little syrup made in February. The season started the first week of March in the Southwestern areas and the rest of the province got started closer to the middle of March. The season ended in the Southern areas with summer weather conditions experienced at the end of March. The Northern areas made more syrup in April with the weather returning to more sugaring type temperatures.

The crop was reported good in areas bordering Lake Erie with most of the SouthWestern part of Ontario reporting $\frac{3}{4}$ of a crop. The rest of the province ran from $\frac{3}{4}$ of a crop to about $\frac{1}{3}$ crop.

The demand for syrup was excellent and very few producers have syrup left for sale.

ONTARIO SUMMER TOUR

The Ontario Summer Tour is in Waterloo area on July 17 and 18. For more details call Mel Weber 519-669-8253.

The Ontario Annual meeting is to be held on October 3 and 4 at the Lumina Resort in Dwight, Ontario. For details call Ross Boothby at 705-635-2461.

The Ontario Association is looking for more exhibitors at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. All Forms are to be in by the first week of October. For more information call John Butler at 705-322-2231.

Bill Robinson

VERMONT MAPLERAMA

Maplerama, the annual educational gathering of Vermont sugar makers and their friends, is scheduled this year for July 18 and 19 at Vermont College in Montpelier, Vermont.

Hosted by the sugar makers of Washington County, this year's program will

focus on maple decline and will include talks by specialists, exhibits of sugar making equipment, field trips to the woods and sugarhouses, a maple banquet, the Maple Olympics, and a chance to renew friendships with other maple producers.

Registration for the two-day session should be mailed in as early as possible. A registration blank accompanies this article. Note should be taken that a \$6 late registration fee can be avoided by sending registrations prior to July 1.

The registration desk will open at 9 a.m. on Friday morning, July 18, at Vermont College's Noble Hall. Exhibits will also open at that hour in the book room at Noble Hall.

At 10:15 Dr. David Houston, Principal Plant Pathologist from the USDA's Northeastern Forest Experiment Station in Hamden, Conn., will discuss "Maple Decline." His talk will be given in Alumni Hall.

Following a box lunch served from the cafeteria in the basement of Alumni Hall, Dr. Walter C. Shortle, Project Leader of the USDA Forest Service Experiment Station in Durham, N.H., will speak on "Tree Health and Response to Wounding and Infection in Maple."

In the afternoon two field trips are planned. One will go to a nearby sugarbush to view maple decline from its early signs to advanced cases. The second will look at crown dieback in its early stages.

In the late afternoon the "Maple Olympics" will be held on the college green and exhibits will be open from 4 to 7 p.m.

The annual banquet will be held in Alumni Hall at 7 p.m. preceded by a cash bar.

Saturday morning participants will leave by bus at 9 a.m. to visit the Bravakis operation in Worcester. Here they will see wood chipping demonstrations, wood chip handling systems, a wood chip fired evaporator, and the

application of chipping to sugarbush development.

The buses will converge at the Marshfield dam at 12:30 where a box lunch will be served.

Attendees will then split into two groups. The first group will visit the David Houston sugarhouse and operation as an example of good management. The second group will visit the Glen Goodrich place where an old bush is being restored and a new one developed from it. After brief visits the two groups will switch locations. Buses will then return to the Vermont College campus.

Those planning Maplerama 86 include Paul Cate, Harry Morse, George Fitch, Everett Palmer, Garth Warren, George Cook, UVM Extension Regional Maple Agent, Gary Deziel, Washington County UVM Extension Agent, Washington County Forester Russell Barrett, and Everett Willard, Vermont Department of Agriculture.

For Further Information: Paul S. Cato 802-223-2951 or write him at Calais Stage, Montpelier, VT 05602.

1986 NEW YORK MAPLE TOUR

The 1986 New York Maple Tour will be held **July 21 and 22** in Washington and Warren Counties which are located in the North Hudson region of eastern New York.

The tour will be based at the Sheraton Inn in Glens Falls which is easily accessible off of Interstate 87 at Exit 19. Transportation to the tour stops will be supplied with the use of buses. Tour stops will include several excellent maple operations which exhibit good marketing, production techniques and sugar bush management. Early room reservations can be made at the **Sheraton by calling Lyn Resse at (518) 793-7701**. It is important to

state that you are with the New York State Maple Tour.

For more information contact Lewis J. Staats, Extension Specialist, Maple Programs, Uihlein Sugar Maple Research-Extension Field Station, Bear Cub Road, Lake Placid, NY 12946

COUNCIL MEETING

The North American Maple Syrup Council annual meeting will be held in the Center of Vermont, Rutland, VT. Ont. 26, 27 & 28. For more information, contact Bridget Bowen, Rutland Co. Extension Service, Rutland, VT. 05701. Tel. 802-773-3349.

Evenings or weekends call Bill Clark, 802-325-3203. Any manufacturers or dealers wishing to put in a commercial display should call Bill Clark.

CONNECTICUT REPORT

Remember the sugaring season of 1981? The sap was sweet, everyone made light amber syrup for most of the season and what production! All we had to worry about was how to get rid of all that light syrup.

The sugaring season of 1986 is also deeply etched in our memory. The sap was sweet and remained sweet for three weeks. The syrup was light, but that is where any similarity to 1981 ended. The only thing lacking was a decent flow of sap.

1986 will be remember as a poor season - following a poor season. As the third week of March rolled by, many Connecticut Yankees were crying in the front pan because syrup production was down to 60 to 75 percent of normal and the season was over. We didn't feel any better when we heard that it was even poorer to our north and west, except that our two to three dollar per gallon price rise will be acceptable.

Old timers around here still talk about March of 1945 when the shortest season was squeezed between a cold opening and record warmth that soared to 81°F. So, cheer up, things just have to get better.

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION

The Maple Syrup Producers Association of Connecticut (MSPAC) with 145 members is active and growing under the leadership of its President Rich Norman, Coordinator Ken Sherrick and Secretary-Treasurer Barbara Atwood.

The 10th Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held in the Norfolk area on Saturday, Nov. 8, 1986. Sugarhouse visits, refreshments, discussion on quality control and perhaps a slide show will precede the business meeting. Dealers will be invited.

Connecticut hopes to have a good representation at the NAMSC 27th annual meeting in Vermont this October.

Darrell Russ

PENNSYLVANIA MAPLE COUNCIL

This Years Agriculture Progress Days will be held at Rock Springs near State College, PA on Aug. 19, 20 & 21. The maple booth there will be operated by the Potter-Tioga Maple Producers Assoc.

The Fall meeting of the Pennsylvania Maple Council will be held on Sept. 25, the day before the Pennsylvania Maple Tour, at Grantsville, MD.

PENNSYLVANIA MAPLE TOUR

The 1986 Pennsylvania Maple Tour will be held in Somerset Co., PA and Northern Maryland on Sept. 26 & 27. Headquarters will be in Grantsville, MD. For more information call James Bochy, Somerset County Extension

Service, Courthouse, Somerset, PA.
15501 Phone 814-445-8911

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN



What a Spring! A 104 year record drought in Alabama and Minnesota with record rainfall for April and May. This can be expected in a country of our size but who would expect a poor crop throughout the maple belt. That's the picture I have from my reading, listening and talking.

Some of the pricing rumors frighten me. We don't have a government support price, (personally I'm glad we don't). We must weather the ups and downs of Mother Nature with thoughts for our consumers. We want them to continue using Pure Maple Products, so my hope is that the pricing of syrup does not create a dilemma for producers but reflects a responsible attitude for our future.

Of course, when one is out of syrup, where you have your price is not critical.

Hope the summer doesn't record any extremes.

John Kroll

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Heidi Gardner, Cohocton, NY, Rebecca Buel, Gilboa, NY, Lisa Ann Hayes, Croghan, NY

AMERICAN MAPLE MUSEUM

Saturday, May 17th, the annual opening of the American Maple Museum was a huge success. The day was warm and sunny. Between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. a tremendous amount of pancakes and sausage were served. Following the breakfast five young ladies competed for Miss New York State Maple Queen. Contestants were: Nancy B. Frank, Marathon, representing Cortland County; Rebecca Buel, Gilboa, representing Schoharie County; Lisa Ann Hayes, Croghan, representing Lewis County; Karen Keefer, Croghan, representing Lewis County; Heidi M. Gardner, Cohocton, representing Allegany - Steuben Counties.

Miss Buel was selected as the 1986 New York State Maple Queen. She is the daughter of Raymond and Betty Buel. She is a junior at Gilboa - Conesville High School. Rebecca is an honor student participating in music, sports, and many extracurricular activities. She is active in church functions. Rebecca is also Schoharie County Maple Queen.

Her first alternate is Heidi Gardner, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Irwin Saxton, of Cohocton. Heidi is a junior at

Wayland Central School, an honor student, pursuing a Regents curriculum. She enjoys music, sewing and writing, and is the Allegany - Steuben Maple Queen. Second alternate is Lisa A. Hayes daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hayes of Croghan. Lisa is a senior at Beaver River Central School. In addition to her scholastic activities Lisa enjoys music, art, and sports. Lisa is the present Lewis County Maple Queen.

Following the pageant two outstanding leaders of the Maple Industry were inducted into the American Maple Museum Hall of Fame. They are: Russell M. Davenport of Sheburne Falls, Maine, and Dr. Robert Morrow of Easley, South Carolina. Mr. Davenport is a quality maple syrup producer and has served on local, state, regional and national maple association boards of directors. Dr. Morrow was a professor in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University. His major contributions to the maple industry includes research and demonstrations of maple production practices. Dr. Morrow was head of the research at Cornell experimental maple sugar bushes located at Lake Placid and Ithaca.

RUSSELL M. DAVENPORT

Russell M. Davenport was inducted into the American Maple Museum Hall of Fame in Croghan, N.Y. on May 17, 1986 with his wife, Martha, at his side.

He has been in the sugar business all his life and remembers "helping" his grandfather when he was 3 years old in the old sugar house. He took over the boiling from him in 1945 during his high school years. He has been a director of the Berkshire-Pioneer Maple Producers' Association and the Massachusetts Maple Producers' Association for 21 years. He helped re-organize the Berkshire-Pioneer Maple Producers' Assoc. into the Mass. Maple Assoc. in 1976 when he was coordinator-treasurer. He was president of the state association 1967-1970 and coordinator-treasurer from 1969 to 1982. He was chairman in 82-83 and instrumental in forming a committee for the recognition of leaders within the maple industry.

In 1981 he became factory representative for Hillside Plastics Sugar Hill Jugs and has attended many of the state maple meetings since then. He has been a member of the Massachusetts Agricultural Promotion Board for 5 years and still is. He is on the Sire Selection Committee for Eastern Artificial Insemination Coop. for 2 years, a Shelburne Grange member, Massachusetts



Martha and Russell Davenport

Farm Bureau member, on the local Agway Store Committee and the Town of Shelburne Planning Board. He and Martha have been managers of the maple booth in the Massachusetts Building at the Eastern States Exposition for the last three years.

Everyone tries to show up to help "sugar". They set about 5000 taps. The sugar house has an oil-fired evaporator and a R.O. with 1500 taps pumped directly into it. Annual production is up to 2200 gallons of syrup.

His hobbies include photography, hunting, fishing and promoting maple products.

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DR. ROBERT R. MORROW

Dr. Robert R. Morrow was honored at the American Maple Museum on May 17, 1986 by being placed in the Museum's Maple Hall of Fame.

Robert R. Morrow received his Bachelors of Science in forestry in 1942, Masters of Science in 1948 and Ph. D. in 1950, all from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse, NY. During World War II he served in the U. S. Navy.

His career as Professor of Forestry in the Dept. of Natural Resources at Cornell Univ. began in 1949 and continued to his retirement in 1983. His work in sugar maple started in 1951. Later he directed the establishment of the maple syrup operations at both the Arnot Forest near Ithaca and the Uihlein Sugar Maple Field Station at Lake Placid, and directed research and production at both of these facilities. His many papers and bulletins on Maple sap syrup production have benefited maple



Robert and Betty Morrow

producers throughout the northeast. Throughout his career Bob expressed a desire to provide accurate, useful information developed from precise data collection and careful observations.

Bob and his wife, Betty, now reside in Easley, South Carolina, where he keeps busy working on various species of Rhododendrons.

Coombs

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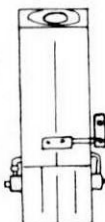
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- 1 - 4 x 13 King evaporator with steam hood.
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THE DECLINE AND DEATH OF VERMONT'S MAPLES

by Sam Cutting, Chairman of The Vermont Maple Industry Council

INTRODUCTION:

Throughout my twenty-six years of involvement with maple syrup and the farmers who produce it, I have seen many plagues come and go. We have had complete defoliations, serious insect infestations, and storm damage which has wiped out entire sugarbushes. We have always been able to roll with the blows; these were normal, natural jeopardies faced by everyone involved with raising an agricultural product. We are now faced by a new enemy that is NOT NATURAL, it is created by man, and it is fatal to our resource, the maple tree. This new enemy is known as acid rain.

Researchers from our universities, federal and state agencies, and governments of foreign countries recognize this hazard. Because they are scientists, they want 100% surety before proclaiming this to be an unnatural disaster to our maple trees. As Vermont maple syrup producers, those who live with the trees, depend on them, and have inherited the love of these great trees passed down by our forefathers, we cannot stand by and watch them die while we wait for the conclusive results which may be too late.

It is not just the economics of maple, even though, in its broadest aspect, maple is a fifty million dollar plus industry in the rural State of Vermont. It is the fact that the maple is high on the list of the great trees of the Northeast---it is the major tree species in climax forest of many regions. Maple of course is not the only tree affected by acid rain; we have seen serious declines in spruce, beech, ash, hemlock, birch, alder and larch.

FACTS:

Vermont maple producers are witness-

ing unexplained deaths of Sugar Maples never before seen. Affected trees, for the most part, are at higher elevations and Western exposures. All ages of trees are affected. Vigorous healthy trees in ideal growing habitats are not spared; they go as quickly as weaker neighbors. It is not a slow prolonged death; once noticed they are often dead by the following year. A study by the University of Vermont Botany Department is illustrated by the attached graph. The line indicates the presence of abnormally high concentrations of aluminum, (solubilized by acid) and vanadium (a product of fossil fuels) in the cross-section growth rings of a sugar maple tree.

All meteorological, geochemical and biological evidence points to the fact that emissions going into the atmosphere from the Midwest are settling in the Northeast in the form of fog, clouds, rain and snow. There is no doubt in my mind that it's the straw that breaks the camel's back---ACID PRECIPITATION IS KILLING Vermont's maple trees. . . .

SOLUTIONS: (from a layman's point of view)

Emission controls must be put into effect immediately. . . Who pays?---The Taxpayer. I do not feel all the burden of cleaning up the atmosphere should fall on a particular industry or state. We as Vermonters should be willing, as should all other Americans, to help pay for the clean up of our environment.

CONCLUSIONS:

The chestnut tree is gone. . . The elm tree is gone. . . Do we let the maple go too? It's only a tree, but then, aren't we as humans eating and breathing the same as this great tree?

I.M.S.I. NEWS RELEASE

WASHINGTON MARCH 17, 1986-- Immediate action is needed to save the maple industry, according to a delegation of the International Maple Syrup Institute (IMSI) in Washington for a day of meetings with Congressional leaders.

At a press conference in the National Press Club this morning David Marvin, president of the IMSI, said that the Lewis-Davis report "falls far short of recommending a concrete clean-up plan." The U.S./Canada study on acid rain made 14 recommendations including intensified research but the IMSI contends they will not remedy the devastating effects of acid rain on the maple industry.

In response to the report, the Institute launched its own special petition which was sent to President Reagan and Prime Minister Mulroney signed by more than 4,000 members of the maple industry. The petition calls for an end to negotiation and the adoption of a program to

reduce the sources causing air pollution in both countries.

According to Paul Lamontagne, executive director of the IMSI, the Institute has called upon Prime Minister Mulroney to urge President Reagan, at tomorrow's Washington Summit, to adopt a concrete action plan which involves both legislative and financial commitments. This initiative is essential to preserve employment for the tens of thousands who earn their livelihood from maple - and to ensure the continued supply of maple products.

The urgency of the acid rain issue has led the IMSI to join forces with organizations such as the National Clean-Air Coalition to help highlight the pollution crisis on American and Canadian political agendas.

If prompt action is not taken, continued destruction of sugar maples may lead to the end of the commercial maple industry in North America within the next 20 years.

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MAPLE PRODUCERS GO TO WASHINGTON

On March 17, 1986, one day prior to the "Shamrock Summit" between President Reagan and Prime Minister Mulroney, a maple producer's delegation went to Washington D.C. to urge support for acid rain legislation. The delegation consisted of twelve maple representatives from five states and provinces. Members of the delegation were, New Hampshire: David Scanlan, Director IMSI; New York: Mr. & Mrs. Earl Parker, and Mr. & Mrs. Roger C. Sage, N.Y. Maple Producers Association; Quebec: Rene Gonthier, Producer, Paul Lamontagne, Executive Director IMSI, Gaston Rioux, General Secretary, General Secretary Quebec Maple Producers Cooperative, and Mary Rolph, IMSI; Vermont: Wilson Clark, President Vermont Maple Sugarmakers Association, Sam Cuttings, Chairman of Vermont Maple Industry Council, Robert Howrigan, Member of Vermont Maple

Industry Council, and David Marvin, President IMSI; Wisconsin: Lynn Reynolds, Secretary North American Maple Syrup Council.

The day consisted of a pancake and maple syrup breakfast press conference sponsored by IMSI and the National Clean Air Coalition. The balance of the day was spent calling on Senators and Representatives of the various maple producing states making them aware of the seriousness of acid rain deposition on maple trees and its resulting effect on maple producers. The congressional representatives were urged to support strong acid rain legislation which will reduce atmospheric pollutants.

Members of the delegation were well received and were generally optimistic about the reception they were afforded. The industry was well represented and the delegation certainly made its message known to government officials.

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LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

President Ronald Reagan
United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Reagan,

I respectfully speak to you as the Secretary-Treasurer of the North American Maple Syrup Council. The council consists of 13 State and Provincial Maple Syrup Associations. They are Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Nova Scotia, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Wisconsin. This organization represents approximately 10,000 Maple Syrup Producers across central and eastern North America.

The North American Maple Syrup Council at their recent annual meeting in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania went on record as supporting strong legislation for the reduction of acid rain. The following resolution was adopted unanimously by the Council:

"(The Board of Directors of the International Maple Syrup Institute resolved 9/22/85 to petition government policy makers in the United States and Canada to take immediate steps to reduce the sources causing atmospheric pollution and deposition, which are closely linked to forest decline and mortality. Specifically, we believe it is unwise and unwarranted to delay air-pollution clean-up efforts pending further research, although we agree that on-going research is urgent. The future of the North American Maple industry may be irreversibly jeopardized.)"

HOURS:

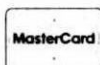
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We, the maple syrup industry of North America, have a very serious problem and desperately need your help to solve it. Acid rain is killing our precious maple trees. We know the composition of acid rain, we know industrial pollutants contribute to the cause of acid rain. And we are certain that acid rain is a cause of maple decline.

Our industry defines maple decline as "the gradual loss of vigor, growth, and the eventual reduction in productivity of the maple tree". We believe that acid rain is causal to maple decline and that they are directly related. We desperately require research to determine this causal relationship.

However, your immediate help is required to reduce atmospheric pollution. I assure you that the problem exists throughout the maple syrup producing

areas of North America now. In a 1985 survey conducted by the North American Maple Syrup Council, eighteen States and Provinces reported detection of acid rain damage and the resulting maple decline.

The maple syrup producers of the United States and Canada constitute a significant and close-knit industry. We love our industry, our maple trees, and our environment. All three are threatened. The enforcement of environmental pollution is beyond our direct control. That is why we need your help in leading our two nations to clean air once again.

Mr. President, I sincerely request your support in working with our Canadian friends toward eliminating the acid rain scourge from all of North America. During your Summit Meeting on Tuesday, please cooperate with the Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney in offering a solution to our two countries' mutual problem. Your strong support may save our industry.

Thank you for any considerations you can give to our industry and its acid rain problem. Your help is sincerely appreciated.

Very truly yours,
Lynn H. Reynolds
Secretary-Treasurer

The above letter was also sent to:
Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Ottawa,
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REPLY FROM DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. Lynn H. Reynolds
Secretary-Treasurer
North American Maple Syrup Council
Route 2, Box 326
Hortonville, Wisconsin 54944

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

We have been asked by the President to respond to your letters of March 12, 1986, in which you express your concern, as well as the concern of the North American Maple Syrup Council, about the possible effects of acid rain on maple trees.

We, too, are concerned about the declines that have been observed recently in maples and several other kinds of trees. Within the last 2 years, the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program (NAPAP), the Federal inter-agency research program on the effects of acid rain, has greatly expanded its efforts to identify the air pollutants or other agents that are causing these declines. The NAPAP budget for terrestrial effects of acid rain was doubled from 1984 to 1985, then doubled again from 1985 to 1986. The current budget is slightly over \$24 million in that area of research. This phase of the program is being carried out principally by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Forest Service.

The effects of acid rain on forests is the newest area of research in the inter-agency acid-rain program, and is at the same time possibly the most baffling in terms of causes. Besides acid rain, air-borne oxidants, insect infestations, disease, drought, and various combinations of these have been postulated as the cause of forest decline. Until the researchers have developed some basis for identifying the cause or causes, the

regulatory agencies cannot know what kinds of controls, if any, should be instituted to halt the decline.

The Joint Report of the Special Envoys on Acid Rain, which the President fully endorsed at his meeting with Prime Minister Mulroney of Canada on March 19, 1986, calls for an even greater effort to determine the role of acid rain in forest decline. NAPAP will give this area of research very close attention during the coming months. Please be assured that the concerns of the North American maple syrup producers will be considered as the knowledge gained from the NAPAP research program is applied by EPA to regulatory decisions related to air quality.

Sincerely yours,
Dallas L. Peck
Director

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United States

* All statistics are in pounds.

STATE	1983	1984	1985
Maine	89,600	110,185	110,180
Mass.	224,000	286,400	265,000
New Hampshire	940,800	1,125,000	1,013,690
New York	2,632,000	3,659,090	3,470,780
Vermont	5,554,000	5,840,720	5,785,600
TOTAL**	12,532,000	N.A.	10,643,720

**These figures include production from Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Minnesota, Michigan, Connecticut, but not Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Indiana.

Canada

* All statistics are in pounds.

PROVINCE	1983	1984	1985
Quebec	24,000,000	21,497,400	27,200,000
Ontario	1,722,000	2,472,000	2,965,000
Nova-Scotia	227,138	227,600	200,990
New Brunswick	147,790	162,570	141,880
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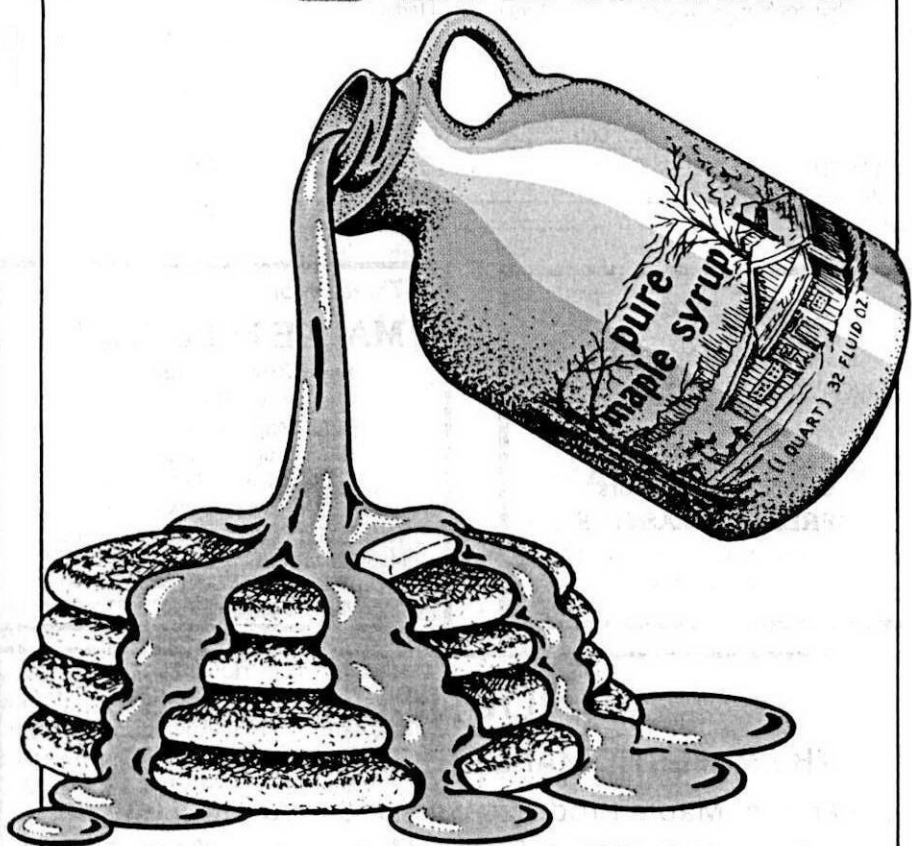
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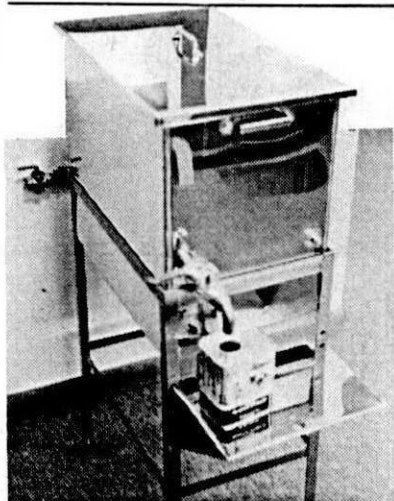
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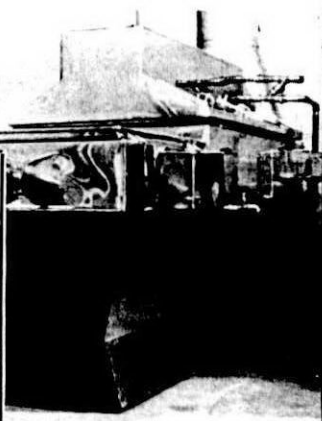
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TAP ROOTS

WHY SAP RUNS:

When I first started making maple syrup about 50 years ago, I had no idea what made sap run and I heard many conflicting stories on the subject. Nothing made much sense until I heard an explanation which I think was made by Dr. Willits at a New York Maple Tour about 1950. (Yes, the New York Tours started before that time and have never missed a year since.) Dr. Willits summarized years of research done in many different places.

Sap doesn't run, it is forced out. On any day in the spring that it warms up above the freezing mark, the warm air on the surface of the tree creates a pressure in the tree that forces the sap out. The pressure may be as high as 40 P.S.I. but usually no more than 1 or 2 P.S.I. Sometimes the tree warms so slowly it develops so little pressure you get practically no sap flow. That's why it doesn't run some days when you think it should.

The sap is not coming up from the ground at the time it is running. When there is a pressure in the tree it can't pick up any water from the ground. The amount of sap is limited to what is stored in the trunk in the vicinity of the tap hole. This usually lasts from 1 to 2 days, then the tree will not run until after it freezes and warms again. When it freezes, the cooler air on the surface produces a vacuum and the tree picks up water from the ground to replace what has run out. This water absorbs sugar which has been stored in the tree from the summer before and is ready to flow out when the air warms again. In other words, the tree acts like a big piston pump making one stroke a day.

There's no such thing as "the first rising of the sap" or "the second rising." Trees have to be full of sap all winter or they're dead. Since pressure pushes the sap out, it can't be coming up from the

roots at that time. Also, I heard of an experiment years ago where they found that taps made 30 foot high ran more quickly than taps near the ground in the same tree.

In another experiment a 10" tree was cut off in the winter when it was frozen and held upright in a wash tub so it had no connection with it's roots. The first warm day it was tapped and it ran as good as others around it. It didn't run much after that because it couldn't replace the water.

There's an old saying that sap runs best with the wind in the west, sap runs least with the wind in the east. That's about right but sap also runs good when the wind is in the north if it's warm enough but it won't run with a south wind regardless of the temperature. No one seems to know why.

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WISCONSIN PASSES ACID RAIN LEGISLATION

Wisconsin Governor Earl signed an acid rain bill which will reduce atmospheric pollution approximately 25% by 1993. This state legislation may set the precedent for other states to follow with their individual legislation to reduce acid rain. Governor Earl considers this strong legislation and it is generally accepted by the clean air coalitions and other environmental groups. Certainly tougher laws would have been desired, but this is an encouraging start.

Wisconsin maple producers showed strong support for this legislation and were instrumental in providing pressure for passage. It is expected that this Wisconsin Acid Rain Legislation may be the model for acid rain action by other individual states, but it is recognized that national legislation is required to insure uniformity in enforcement.

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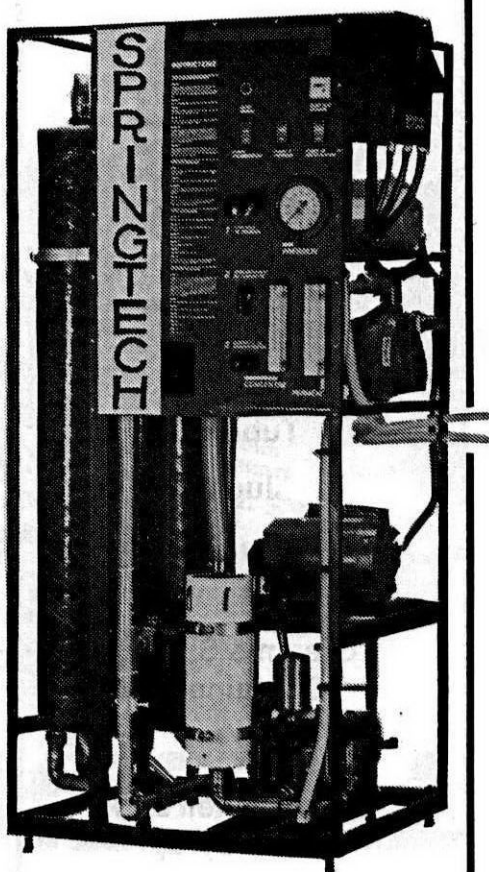
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WISCONSIN FALL MAPLE TOUR

This year our tour was held on Oct. 5th in Langlade County. We had registration, coffee and donuts at the Langlade County Fairgrounds. After a brief get-together, 105 people boarded buses and our tour began. Much to our dismay, Mother Nature decided to register as an on again-off again tour goer. But we didn't let her dampen our spirits too much!

Our first tour site was a 590 acre dairy farm with 320 milking cows and 200 head of young stock. The cows were milked 3 times a day in a rotary milking parlor. They milked 17 at one time on a carousel.

The second stop was at the Don Kakes' family sugar bush. They have 900 taps, all on galvanized pails with covers. Their evaporator is a wood fired 4' x 12'. The only equipment used in his woods is a tractor to gather sap with. When the snow gets too deep, he puts steel wheels on with a set of "tip toes" that works great in alot of snow.

Stop 3 was at Rine Ridge Farm, where in 1985 2,000 gal. of syrup was made. They tapped 4,000 trees and also bought sap. Adolph, his son and grandsons make syrup in a 6' x 20' oil fired evaporator. When not busy making maple syrup, the guys are busy with their large grading and storage system for seed potatoes.

By this time, everyone was starting to think about our noon meal. The ladies aid of St. Peter's Lutheran Church prepared an excellent meal. Rev. Spengler thanked us for joining them for a "small noon lunch!" Wonder what he calls a dinner if that was a "small" lunch? Fantastic job ladies!!

After our meal, we had a short meeting. The syrup makers of the year were announced. They are Lawrence and Elmer Siefert from Florence County. The maple syrup operation is Lawren-

ces "hobby" which turned into a "large, family, physical fitness group!" Lawrence is the cook and Elmer is the woods chief. They were presented wooden buckets with plaques.

A "small" momento was then shown, to be given to Adin Reynolds, who was unable to be with us. It was a 3' wide sap sac handle, engraved, with a super, large, sap sac hanging on it.

We were then introduced to two Vermont maple syrup makers. They called me and asked for information about our tour, so they could join us. They are Lucille and Robert Williams from Middlebury, VT. Thanks for joining us!!

From the church, we boarded our buses and toured the Polar Mfg. Co. where core stock is made for the veneer industry. It is a steam operated sawmill that employs in excess of 50 people from Langlade county area.

Then on to the Gress evergreen nursery. This is run by their family. They produced 650,000 trees in nursery beds in 1985. They also sell 7-9 thousand Christmas trees every year. On about 2 acres of land, they grew ginseng and showed us some that was drying.

From here, we went to the Vilas Neiginfind maple operation. This started out small, with just mom and dad making syrup for the family. Then as the family grew, they had to enlarge to have enough work to keep everyone busy. They now have a 4' x 10' wood fired evaporator and tap about 1,000 trees, using all plastic bags. They are also dairy farmers.

Now, we all went back to our vehicles and headed home to think about the long, hard winter that is suppose to hit us this year. But then, there is always spring with the smell of maple syrup in the air once again.

Thanks to everyone who put so much work into making our tour so great!!

Gretchen Geape

ARCHIE'S SUGARBUSH

Dear Mr. Editor:

My wife, she sez, "Honest Archie," sometimes she calls me truthful Archie, "Why don't you tell that nice Mr. Editor man about the hydraulic ram?"

Well it wuz like this: Our big sugar bush is probably the best bush in the country. The trees run so much sap, all 4% or better, we couldn't keep 5 gallon buckets from running over. We only had help enough to gather them twice a day. We'd tried some plastic tubing the first year it came out. It worked so well we decided to tap the whole dog-goned she-bang with it.

The biggest problem we had to solve was this: the bush sloped the wrong way, away from the sugar house. Since there was no electricity at the foot of the bush to run a pump, I thought mebbly a hydraulic ram would work.

Now in case you don't know, a hydraulic ram is a gadget that will push water up a hill higher than the spring. The trouble is, you need a lot of water 'cause it wastes about 10 gallons for every gallon it pushes up the hill.

Well, shucks, we only had 5 evaporators back then, all six by sixteens, but that bush ran so good we couldn't begin to use all that sap anyhow, so we went ahead with it. The first run worked fine. It was a small one, only about 10 gallons per tap. We thought we had it made. Then we got a good run.

There's a state road along the bottom of the bush and there was so much sap discharged from that ram it plugged up a culvert and washed out 3 blocks of concrete pavement. Cost us \$1800 a block to replace it (union rates).

The next day we had the first "sap house" sale in the county and sold the stupid ram.

Your truthful friend
Archie

CLASSIFIED

SPECIAL OFFER: Weston Hot Pack units - \$1640. while supply lasts. Will heat syrup instantly. Small Brothers, USA, Inc., Box 714, Swanton, VT 05488 (802) 868-3188

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FOR SALE: 6 x 17 wood fired Grimm arch. Lightning flue pans (6 x 7) (6 x 10) steam hoods, stack, preheater. Call now 607-967-7228

FOR SALE: Memtec R-75 RO; 5' x 13 Leader w.f. evap. complete; 5 x 10 Waterloo flue pan; 5' S.B. woodsaver; 2 x 4 and 2 x 5 gas finishers, and other miscellaneous equipment. Call 607-656-4058 for details. SMADA FARMS Route 41, Greene, New York 13778.

**DEADLINE FOR
OCT. ISSUE. SEPT.-2**

What happens when the experts in maple tubing get together...



The creators of this new line of tubing have 25 years of experience in maple tubing. The system was developed in conjunction with Small Brothers to better serve the needs of sugarmakers.



Side clip for ease in rolling up your lines



Long tapered plug for secure fit

Nail hole for year round installations

Ultra sharp fitting ribs spaced for super grip

VACUUM TIGHT FITTINGS THAT ARE COMPATIBLE, WITH OTHER BRANDS.

- *Guaranteed against manufacturer's defects* •

Fittings & Tubing in Natural Forest Green.

- Blends with the environment. Color absorbs infra-red rays to promote quick thawing.
- Translucent to allow infra-red rays to control bacterial growth in sap.



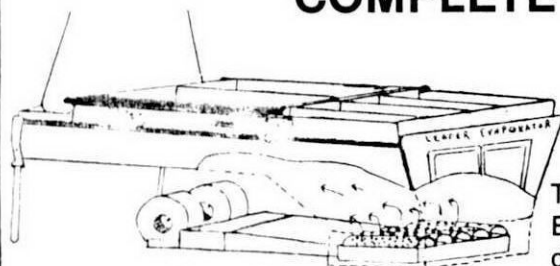
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EVAPORATORS

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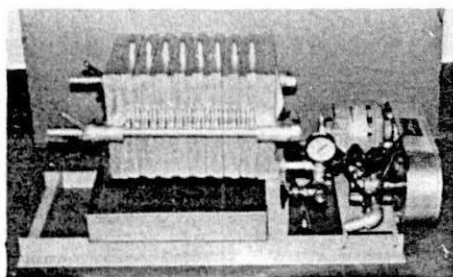
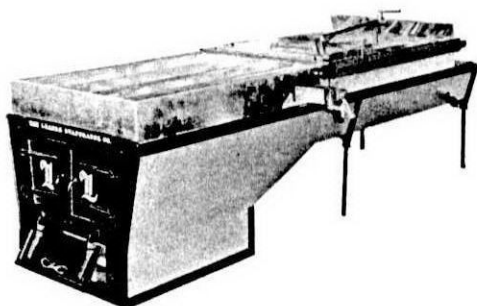
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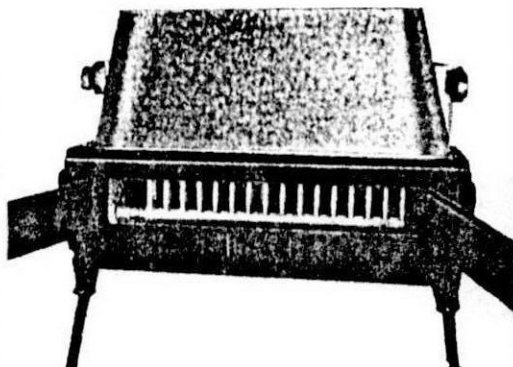
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COMPARE QUALITY BEFORE YOU BUY

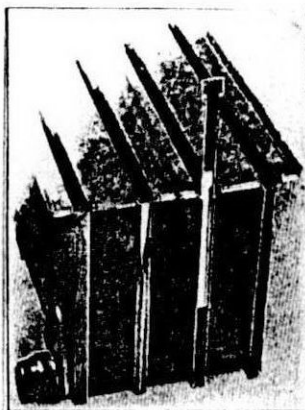
REAR VIEW OF LEADER ARCH

We have built the rear of the Leader arch of the same quality castings, featuring wide doors for the convenient cleaning of flues. It is very essential that flues be kept clear of soot and carbon if best results from fuel are to be obtained. A flue brush is included with each rig. Note the seamless drawn copper drain pipe 1 1/8" square, firmly soldered to the bottom of the flues which, through a 3/8" hole in each, are quickly drained, flushed and automatically cleaned.



Have A Good Season

LEADER FLUE CONSTRUCTION



Notice the double locked seam construction used in our flue ends resulting in four thicknesses of metal at this point. The ends are then saturated with hot solder. Each step is carefully brought out in the picture at the left. To give added protection the flue ends at the front of the flue pan which come in direct contact with the flames are also soldered on the inside. These sections are then fastened together by a special method of locking seams which ensures a tight rigid joint. This method eliminates

any danger of moisture accumulating in the seam itself. The inside of a Leader seam has never been known to rust out. Notice heavy brass flange securely attached to end of drain pipe and side of flue. Here again you see that extra quality found throughout the LEADER.



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