



Collecting the valuable sap, Tom Crabill begins his yearly hobby-sales venture. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Hobby turns profitable

(Continued from page 3A)
and the syrup boiled until it became sugar.

"They're must have been about 1500 worth of syrup in that pan," Mrs. Crabill said. "I thought how disappointed he was going to feel."

So Mrs. Crabill saved the day and concocted a recipe to convert the sugar back to syrup. They added more sap to the sugar and began boiling the substance again.

The sugar didn't look like commercial products, Tom said. It had dark waxy lines in it. Since he doesn't have the technique for handling the sugar, the solidified sap would do him little good.

This year, Tom borrowed a flat metal pan called an evaporator to process his sap. The sap is boiled outdoors instead of in the family's home, putting an end to Mrs. Crabill's fears that Tom would spill a gallon of maple syrup all over the family room floor.

THE EVAPORATOR is heated over a rectangular arrangement of bricks that look like a long barbecue. Tom stacked the bricks this year for the evaporator.

After the contents of the aluminum buckets are poured into the evaporator,

the sap boils for two days before it turns to syrup. It takes 40-50 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of maple syrup.

The sap can stay in the buckets for a day before it's poured into the evaporator. After a day, the quality of the sap deteriorates.

After the sap is boiled to the right consistency, it's moved into the kitchen where it's heated on the stove and strained. If the sap contains sugar, more heating will dissolve it.

After straining, it's bottled in pint and smaller bottles. The syrup is then ready for sale.

The pint bottle that Tom sells to friends in the subdivision represents a lot of labor.

Lugging buckets hung on trees isn't an easy task as Mrs. Crabill and her daughters, Ellen, 9 and Karen, 7 recently discovered.

Tom and his father were vacationing in Canada when the daytime weather turned warm and the nights remained cool. That's perfect sap weather. The sap ran so fast that Mrs. Crabill and the girls couldn't keep up with it and finally quit the project.

"Those buckets are heavy," she said. "I was afraid I would break my back."

Free concert set Sunday

The Farmington Community Band will feature Professor Charles E. Owen, percussion instructor at the University of Michigan, as marimba soloist at its annual concert honoring handicapped and senior citizens on April 1st at Farmington High School.

Titled "American Music — Our Heritage," the performance is free but

tickets are required. They can be obtained at the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department in the Farmington Hills Administration Building, 31555 W. Eleven Mile Road.

For more information, call Marion Daniel at 474-1180 or Paul Barber at 477-3382.

'Pirates' debuts

The St. Bede Players will present Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance" April 5th through 8th at Southfield-Lathrup High School auditorium. Tickets are \$3.50 for adults, \$2

for students and senior citizens, and are available at the box office or by contacting The St. Bede Players, 28558 Lathrup Blvd., Lathrup Village, MI 48076. Tickets may be used at any of the four performances.

Wild flowers talk set

Hartley Thornton, environmentalist and lecturer, will speak about wild flowers for maintenance free landscaping on Saturday, March 31, at 1 p.m. at the Farmington Library, 23550 Liberty. The talk is sponsored by the City of Farmington Beautification Committee. Refreshments will be served.

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CHIROPRACTORS SEEK RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS

The International Pain Control Institute is presently engaged in what is the most extensive research program ever undertaken by the chiropractic profession. This research is directed toward determining the relationship between health problems and spinal misalignments and utilizes a screening process called Contour Analysis.

Volunteers are being sought for screening. Contour Analysis enables taking a three-dimensional picture (called Moire photograph) of the topography of the surface of the spine to detect spinal stress deviations. This analysis will be correlated with leg deficiency, patient symptomatology, and levels of spinal tenderness. An analysis of this type can reveal such things as normal and abnormal stress patterns, spinal curvature, muscle spasms, muscle imbalance, spinal distortions, and scoliosis. A consultation and report of findings will be given to all participants.

This is a public service program for participating volunteers. The doctors are contributing their time, service, and facilities for the program. Anyone wishing to be a volunteer may telephone participating doctors directly for information or an appointment.

Dr. Herbert A. Applebaum
27592 Schoolcraft
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Dr. Walter S. Gross
27620 Five Mile
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