

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

Hobby turns profitable

and the syrup boiled until it became sugar.
"They're must have been about \$100 worth of syrup in that pan," Mrs. Crabill said." It bought how disappointed he was going to feel."
So Mrs. Crabill saved the day and concocted a recipe to convert the sugar hack to syrup. They added more sap to the sugar and began boiling the substance again.

the sugar and began boning the source stance again. It worked.

The sugar didn't look like commer-cial products. Tom said. It had dark wavy lines in t. Since he doesn't have the technique for handling the sugar, the solidified sap would do him little coord.

the southheu sap wouth on than three 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 glilon 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.

porator.

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

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

deteriorates.

After the sap is boiled to the right consistency, it's moved into the kitchen were 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.

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friends in the second later later later later later later Lugging buckets hung on trees isn't an easy task as Mrs. Crabill and her an easy task as Mrs. Crabill an daughters, Ellen, 9 and Karen, cently 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.

"These havets are heave," the said

Free concert set Sunday

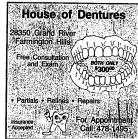
The Farmington Community Band will feature Professor Charles E. Owen, percussion instructor at the University of Michigan, as marinaba soloist at its annual concert honoring handicapped and senior citizens on April 1st at Farmington Hijh School. Titled "American Music - Our Heritage," the performance is free but 477-3882.

'Pirates' debuts

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

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, 25550 Liberty. The talk is sponsored by the City of Farmington Beautification Committee. Refreshments will be served.





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