

Visitors rode by hayrack from pavilion to the woods

# Sweet thing Visitors flow to Maple Sugar Days

The cold stopped the flow of maple sap Saturday at Homer Lake, but not the flow of visitors to the Maple Sugar days.

The subfreezing weather hampered the collection of maple sap, which is boiled to make maple syrup but the people just kept on coming.

The collection of the sap requires freezing nights and thawing days. The night was freezing but the sun did not peek through the clouds to warm the trees.

The visitors, who are usually treated to an outdoors exhibit of sap collection spent most of their time at displays inside the Homer Lake pavilion.

Syrup made from sap collected from the Homer Lake grove of sugar maples was served up with small pancakes. Sassafras tea was served piping hot to warm some chilled bones.

Displays on old style rope making, candle stick dipping and basket weaving kept the attention of the crowd while warming up from the outdoors demonstration of sap collection.

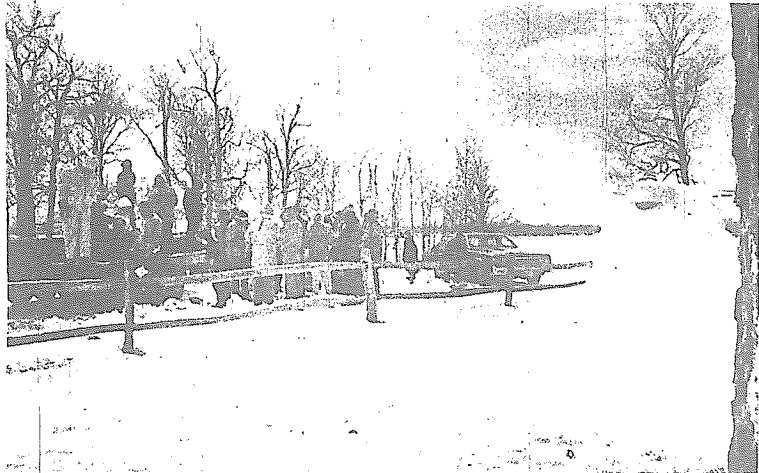
The exhibits continue today, from 1 to 5.



The sap is boiled to drive off water to make the syrup



Kenny Earl of St. Joseph puts the drill to sugar maple



Plastic jug for collecting sap hangs on tree while visitors gather around fire

Morning  
Courier  
photos by  
Jerry Lower



Steve Smith, Martin Maske, and Charlie Tico, at left, serve up small pancakes to people to try with the fresh maple syrup