



**THIS SUGAR HOUSE** was meant to become the family garage but Ray Zira Jr. of the Scotch Settlement Road, about one mile from Bigelow, talked his parents into letting him use the building as a sugar house. Although the Gouverneur High School student is only 16 this is his fifth year of making syrup, and his first with enough to sell. He gathers the sap after school and boils nights or on weekends.



**ADJUSTING THE PLUGS** in the evaporator. In this particular instance Ray is letting more sap run into the back pan.



**MIKE ZIRA, 12,** assists his brother Ray, 16, in the gathering of sap to be boiled and made into maple syrup. Ray has 100 buckets that must be emptied every two days.



**TEMPERATURE control** is very important in the boiling process. Here Ray checks the thermometer through the steam.



**RAY ZIRA borrows** his father's tractor to gather the sap so he can begin boiling. From 30 to 40 gallons of sap is needed for one gallon of syrup.



**THE FINAL STEP IS PACKAGING** the product. The syrup is put through the filter tank at a temperature of 190 degrees which provides an automatic seal.

## Bigelow youth operates own maple syrup business

A 16-year-old high school student, Ray Zira Jr. of Bigelow, is probably the county's and one of the state's — youngest maple-syrup producer. Although his business is on a small scale, this enterprising young man has built it up over the past five years.

His first attempt at making syrup was five years ago when the family lived in Connecticut. The 11-year-old youth learned about the business from a neighbor who had 4000 trees tapped. Ray decided he wanted to make syrup so he "stuck" spouts in three red maple trees. For boiling he used a five-gallon pot on an outdoor fireplace. His total harvest was one baby-food jar full of syrup.

The next year he expanded. A neighbor gave him buckets and spouts and his evaporator was a drier tub used over the same outdoor fireplace.

When the family, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Zira, Sr. and two younger brothers, moved to their present home on the Scotch Settlement Road near Bigelow, Ray was still interested in syrup making.

In his third year of boiling Ray used a 4 x 4 evaporator pan propped on cinder blocks. He produced enough syrup for the family but the pan was so badly scorched that it was no longer usable. This incident only served to spur the youth on.

Last year, what was meant to be the family garage, became Ray's sugar house. A 3 x 6-foot evaporator, rebuilt from parts donated by neighbors and friends, together with parts purchased at

an auction, was set up and Ray was in business for himself.

This year Ray has a hundred buckets, also all donated by persons interested in the boy's business venture. These people include Mrs. Leona Clark, Bill Reynolds, and Clarence McAdam. He tapped the last of February "because I couldn't wait to get started." To date he has processed 25 gallons of syrup. He gathers the sap after school and does his boiling either at night or on the weekends.

His younger brother, Mike, assists with the gathering. Mike likes the syrup but isn't as interested as Ray in making it.

Ray has received help from his grandfather, Frank Zira of Rockville, Conn., and from his school-bus driver, Bob Pratt. Mr. Zira helped financially by sending money to purchase wood for the evaporator. Mr. Pratt donated wood, and Mrs. Leona Clark, Bill Reynolds and Clarence McAdam gave the boy materials for his sugar house, without which as he said "I wouldn't have a business."

He is presently experimenting with the making of sugar and plans to make this a part of his sales next year.

An ironic twist to this young business man's story is the fact that Ray is a diabetic and cannot enjoy his product.

## Scouts plan KAB Day

Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts in the Gouverneur area will be working together April 29 on a joint project to keep America Beautiful. KAB day is being sponsored on the National level by the Girl Scouts of America. Plans for the project in this area are being made by Cadette Troop 253 under the leadership of Mrs. J. H. Phillips, Miss Nancy Blood and Miss Drane Kelsey.

**Committees Named**  
Serving on the Organizational Committee are Cathy Cavallaro, chairman, Elizabeth Stevenson, Kim Watters, Sheila Todd.

**Chest X-ray available here next Tuesday**

The TB-RD Association of the Seaway Area Inc. is conducting a Chest X-Ray Survey the week of Monday, April 17 through Friday, April 21 according to Herbert C. Harwood, president.

The survey is sponsored by the Seaway area in cooperation with the New York State Department of Health and the Health Departments of the Schools, Colleges and Industries which have requested this service. There is a nominal charge of \$1.00 per x-ray.

The mobile unit will be in Gouverneur at the high school from 10:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 18.

Employers are providing this "fringe benefit" and it is hoped that all school, college and industrial personnel will take advantage of this opportunity to have a quick and easy health check-up. Mr. Harwood said in concluding his announcement:

**Publicity Committee:** Julie Ellison and Kathy Phelps  
**Refreshments:** Jodi Gonyeau, Brenda Griffin, Stephanie Phillips and Lisa Burke  
**Purchasing Committee:** Ann Brodrick and Maria Hamilton  
**Tree Committee:** Alice Kapfer and Sherry Dalton

**Area Designation for Work Committee:** Gouverneur area: Christine Marsh, Amy Burke, Christine Hendricks, Balmat-Fowler area: Emmy Groat, Debbie Jo Besaw, Margy Groat, Debbie MacTurk, Kathy Bartell and Kathy Baker

**Equipment Committee:** Marily Leonard, Beverly Drake and Tammy McQueen

On Saturday, April 29, litter will be picked up, more litter barrels will be painted and placed in needed places around the village. Cemeteries will be raked as well as lawns of elderly people who are unable to do their lawns.

### Safe Driving Class Saturday

Three hours of classroom training in safe driving practices is required as a prerequisite for obtaining a driver's license. Proof of completed training must be presented when scheduling a road test appointment.

The next Three Hour Safe Driving Practices Class will be given at the Gouverneur Junior High School on Saturday, April 15 in Room 307 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. The fee is five dollars and certificates of completion will be issued at the conclusion of the three hours of instruction.

Please enter through the Junior High School parking lot located on Rock Island Street.

**Trees Available**  
The Tree Committee has announced that 200 six to eight inch Scotch Pine trees have been received from the New York State Department of Conservation. Anyone wishing to have a tree planted on their lawn or on the lawn of their place of business please call Alice Kapfer at 287-2899 or Sherry Dalton at 287-2899. The committee asks that a green stick or facsimile be placed where the tree is to be planted wire or screening should also be available to place around the tree for protection.

Richard Foster will be issuing instructions to the Scouts on the procedure for planting young trees.

**Children urged to register for boating course**

Registration for the New York State Young Boatman's Course will be held Monday, April 17 at the senior high school cafeteria. Children between the ages of 10 and 16 are eligible.

Boys and girls in this age group must complete this course to operate a powerboat alone on New York State waterways. Upon satisfactory completion of this course, each youngster is awarded a certificate to operate his or her own boat safely, and without adult supervision.

Parents are urged to attend this registration night to sign consent slips for their children.

Armand Beaujeu will teach the course.

### Unclaimed pictures at TP

Several pictures with no identification have been unearthed in the process of rearranging the filing system in the news office. Some of these pictures are very old, and some are more recent, in frames.

There are also a few books, including a ledger, Deacons and a scrapbook. If the owners of these pictures and books would stop by the Tribune office (upstairs) they may be reclaimed.

### Scout Handbook Rally Saturday

Competition for first, second and third place awards in each event and over-all first, second and third place awards will be held Saturday at 2 p.m. when Oswegatchie District Boy Scouts of America's Handbook Rally gets underway at Gouverneur High School auditorium. The public is cordially invited.

District Commissioner A. J. (Red) Marchione, general chairman, announced invitations have been extended to the following Boy Scout units: Troop 20, Hainesboro; Troop 25, Edwards; Troop 29, Newton Falls; Troop 36, Cranberry Lake; Troop 37, Star Lake; Troop 42, Russell; Troop 59, Richville; and Troops 21, 22, 75 and 90, Gouverneur.

Members of Explorer Posts 21, Gouverneur; 91, Edwards; and 92, Star Lake have been invited to assist members of the rally committee. Mr. Marchione announced.

Competing units are urged to arrive at the school by 1:30 p.m. to permit the rally to begin promptly at 2 p.m. Mr. Marchione said.

Refreshments will be available in the school cafeteria through the courtesy of Mrs. Lacey Jones and members of Senior Girl Scout Troop 28.

The rally will feature competition in hand boat skills including knot tying, signaling, compass relay, map symbol relay, first aid, and dress relay, uniform badge placement, relay and juggling.

WEATHER		
	H	L
Tuesday	59	27
Wednesday	54	20
Thursday	51	17
Friday	58	17
Saturday	51	17
Sunday	41	27
Monday	41	14

## Anti-shoplifting workshop in Methodist Church tonight

A State Commerce Department anti-shoplifting workshop, in cooperation with the 4-H councils of St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties, is scheduled for tonight, Wednesday, in the United Methodist Church.

The session beginning at 8 p.m. is conducted by Mark Thompson, president of the St. Lawrence County 4-H Council.

Introductory remarks concerning the seriousness of shoplifting and its impact on the State's economy will be given by Evelyn King, senior business consultant of the State Commerce Department's Bureau of Industrial, Service and Corporate Development.

### Applications available for camp sponsors

Lake Colby Environmental Education Camp will be open this summer to young campers interested in participating in this excellent out-of-door experience, according to John E. Wilson, Regional Director, Department of Environmental Conservation, Watertown.

This summer program is for both girls and boys between the ages of 11 and 13 years. Applicants must be sponsored by a responsible organization such as 4-H and Game Clubs, Service Clubs, League of Women Voters, 4-H Clubs, fraternal organizations, Parents-Teachers Association, snowmobile groups, etc. Any organization may sponsor two campers per week at a fee of \$45 per individual.

An information leaflet and application form is available at the Department of Environmental Conservation, Regional Office, 104 Padlock St. or Box 84, LeRay Street, Rte. 37, Watertown, N.Y.

Sponsoring organizations should choose applicants for their interest in the out-of-door and their eagerness to participate in a program of this nature. Alternate applicants should be selected in case the first applicant cannot attend. Applicants selected on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Mr. Wilson stated that applications will be accepted during April. For more information call 784-6596 or 782-2797.

## Rescue Squad to distribute cards locally

In its continuing effort to raise funds to meet operating costs and to buy new equipment, the Gouverneur Rescue Squad will conduct its bi-annual coin card drive this spring.

The squad is planning to purchase a new ambulance. This will be equipped for long transfers and car accidents, and will serve as a command post during searches. Money collected through the coin cards will be used for this purpose, as well as for other needed equipment.

A breakdown of the 128 calls answered by the squad is as follows: Gouverneur 96, Fowler 15, DeKalb 5, Oxbow 7, Macomb 3, Edwards 1 and Russell 1.

### Auxiliary plans membership drive

Committee chairman and board members made reports concerning the auxiliary project, and activities at the April Board meeting of the E. J. Noble Hospital Auxiliary. President Nori Groat presided.

The newly formed Action Committee stresses that auxiliary members go out into the community. This committee will be working on new methods of keeping the public informed of hospital legislation, hospital functions and auxiliary activities.

Chairman of the dance committee Diane Olson is organizing the "Arts Ball" to be held May 6th at the Gouverneur Elks Club. The Cross Country team will provide the music and there will be a midnight buffet.

Volunteers including senior citizens are working hard at the Kinney Nursing Home. Lillian Gaines stated that volunteers are needed in all areas.

A committee has examined the possibility of purchasing new diapers for the hospital.

A membership drive will be held soon. There is some way in which everyone in the community can help our hospital, and nursing home. Let an auxiliary member know that you would like to join.

# GOUVERNEUR TRIBUNE-PRESS

Northern New York's Greatest Weekly

VOL. 85 NO. 32 — GOUVERNEUR, N. Y.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1972

18 PAGES, 2 SECTIONS — Fifteen Cents