

Newsletter286

Keith's Corner/McGill News

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Maytag Washing Machines

Some people have asked me just how and why did my Mom drain the washer into the back yard.

Here is the Maytag.



Notice the black hose on the right side.

The hose is attached to the bottom of the washer and is used to drain the washer. It drains it by simple gravity flow. The reason Mom could not drain it in the house is due to the fact that there was not a drain on the floor. Because of gravity flow she could not drain it in a sink, bath tub or even the toilet.



This is an enlargement of the drain fixture. Notice the convent hook to hang the hose on the side of the washer. Also notice the hose threads to hook on a garden hose to run the water out of the house.

The long thin lever to the right of the hose, was the lever to engage the wash tub to the motor. It moved from side to side.



The fabled “wringer” that so many of us McGill urchins got our fingers into by accident. Actually, it was by not paying attention. You had to feed the wet clothes into the middle of the two rollers and sometimes your fingers went with the clothes. The top roller would rise up as the clothes went thru and it was adjustable.

To the left of the wringer, you can see a lever with a black knob. That, when turned from side to side changed direction of the rollers. If you pushed down on it then the whole wringer assembly could be pivoted on the large tube that holds it. If you got your fingers in the roller, you had to push that lever to the middle to stop the rollers. You could also grab the handle and lift the cover off the top of the rollers and allow the top roller to rise up enough to get your fingers out.

Laundry day was a lot of work and took a lot of time.

Old Photo



This photo was probably taken in the early 1940s. The group was doing some sewing for the WWII war effort. They are standing on the south side of the 6th, 7th and 8th grade building. You can see the K-5 building on the left. Bonni Wuennecke sent me this photo and asked if I could identify anyone. Let me know if you can.