

Laundry

11-24-2014 by Harry Zirkelbach

Laundry has had to fascinate children since Adam and Eve. Imagine, getting clothing clean, simply. A tittle soap, scrubbing, clean water. The task from day one, assigned to the Lady of the house. For most that meant the Mother, except in later times; the rich and famous delegate laundry to still another female group.

When Mom and Dad bought their first home, it had electricity, important because Mom was the first neighbors to have a Maytag washing machine. That also had a mechanical pivoting hand-operated Wringer. Turn the crank, water galore removed from the clean clothes, falling into a wash tub, partly dry clothes taken outside into fresh air for full drying. What boy or girl didn't love to help Mom when not in school?

Beautiful music accompanies this while we admire the passing years removing the male from laundry, making it a dirty female word.

The first condo my wife and I owned, our nine children now moved away, was in Aurora, a 111 unit complex in four buildings, called Edenbrook. The same people who manage the machines here at Windsor Gardens, had that contract. Then modern Maytag machines, seldom breaking down, excellent service anytime some irregular moment arrived. The price per load, 50 cent, wash, or dry.

That management came to our Board (Barbara and I were on the Board), proposed to raise the price to seventy-five cents. Not new machines (ours were a year or so old), just price increase. Their enticement, Edenbrook would be given the lion share of the increase. The Board accepted. The change made. Local commercial entities, price much higher. Edenbrook's residents didn't scream, used the machines with the same regularity.

Now change is being proposed for Windsor Gardens. Wisely we are retaining that competent service.

Some background. The decision to relocate the manufacturing of Maytag from Iowa to Mexico went smoothly, but the quality of the machines immediately collapsed. OK for weekly home use, disastrous for commercial many daily usages.

Enter an American manufacturer making commercial machines. That company's machines will be introduced here. Daughter Jo sells appliances, approves the new appliances selected (doesn't rep them).

Have a complaint? Line up.

Windsor Gardens has chosen the right Service supplier, machines. The replacement on the coin slot with computer card deserves attention.

The twenty-five slot required any price increase to be in that increment, two bits. Shouldn't. A Credit Card makes cost increases possible in any denomination.

It is reasonable that Windsor Garden Management should be get a surcharge for the use of our space for these machines. Choose that sum, then price the cost for wash and dry accordingly.

The washer uses our water, electricity; drier electricity only. Simple math allocated these two expenses. Add intended surcharge, viola, the fee for both wash and dry loads.

To many it seems unreasonable to charge twice the amount for washing. What would you recommend to our Board and Management?