



Back in 1949, Mary Leith of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin was *real* happy she'd kept her old Maytag washer. That year, it was determined to be the oldest Maytag in the Fond du Lac area, so Mary received a brand-new machine, according to grandson Walter Leith of Fond du Lac.

The local Maytag dealer, Rosenbaum Inc., had a contest to find the oldest Maytag, and Mary's was chosen. In this photo from Walter, Mary is receiving the washer along with her guarantee from L.E. Rosenbaum.

Factory records determined Mary's washer was made in April 1916. It appears to be a Model 43, which was made to be run by a gasoline engine. Walter remembers cranking up the engine for Grandma

The new washer, of course, was electric. But there was a temporary hitch.

"When she won the new washer, the farm

buildings and two houses on the farm were not yet completely wired," Walter says. "So, with her old washer gone, Grandma had to revert to the washboard for a few months while the new Maytag sat unused until the house was wired."

No Blue Mondays. Maytag made wash-day easier for the lady of the house and gave her extra time for other things. Why not spend a little of *your* extra time with *Reminisce EXTRA*?

The "EXTRA" in the title means that it's published in the months when *Reminisce* isn't. It's a great way to spend some of your "extra" time because *RX* has the same fond memories and cherished photos, and, as you'd expect, a few extra items not found in *Reminisce*.

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Reminisce
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EXTRA

Welcome to The Good Old Days!

EVERY DAY was washday at the Maytag plant in Chicago in 1935, where a multi-man assembly line turned out tub after tub of the labor-saving machines.

This photo, shared by Larry Fast of Salem, Oregon, was found at a garage sale. "The lady who sold it to me said her grandmother worked there," he informs.

Henry Ford is credited with creating the modern assembly line, and Maytag must have agreed this was a good idea. It no doubt worked great because, just like cars, these Maytags had wheels and could be moved to the next assembly station with ease.

Many a housewife praised the day her very own Maytag arrived. As *Reminisce* readers know, washday in the good old days was not much fun. Water had to be heated, often on a wood stove, and dumped into a copper boiler, and the clothes had to be scrubbed on a washboard.

These Maytags are electric. But even before electricity came to the country, farm wives used Maytags powered by gasoline engines. Whatever the power, it was better than "armstrong".

Yes, life was a lot harder years ago. But, as the fond memories and cherished photos in each issue of *Reminisce* prove, it was also a lot simpler, and often, more fun.

If you have a sharp 8x10 black-and-white photo of a scene from yesteryear, why not send it in? Please check the Contributor Guidelines on page 56 first.

Now that we have that all cleaned up, let's fold ourselves into a comfortable chair and press on through another memorable issue.

On Our Cover

SNOW FUN. Winter offers plenty of amusements like sledding, snowball fights, snowman-making and skiing. The girl in this photo from J.C. Allen and Son, hand-colored by Marcy Merrill, was having a good time on the slopes. Get a load of the size of those skis and ski pole. You had to be strong to go skiing in the good old days.



Welcome to The Good Old Days!

THE QUALITY of their music wasn't all that great, admits Doris Buechler of Belleville, Illinois. "But we were loud!"

That's Doris strumming the guitar at far right as the "Traveling Rangerettes" tried to draw customers to the Eidman Sales Co. tent. This was in the summer of 1939 at the St. Clair (Illinois) County Fair.

"We traveled to small towns and played for homecomings and country dances," Doris relates. "Once we played at a talent contest at a local high school and won second place."

"We even played 21 consecutive Saturday nights at a dance hall in a town 7 miles south of Belleville," Doris says. "Our group stayed together for 3 years, until World War II began and gasoline was rationed."

"I have two fond memories—the music and being the office girl," Doris recalls. "Oh, and by the way, all five of us are still living in Belleville!"

You may not still live in your hometown, but if you kept a sharp black-and-white photo from those days, check out the guidelines on page 33 and send it in. But don't get agitated if you can't find anything. Readers like Doris have shared enough photos and memories in this issue to spin you clean back to the past!

On Our Cover

PICTURE PERFECT. "I was 3 when this photo was taken in 1921," writes Doris Tonry from Elyria, Ohio. "Mother made the dress, and my grandmother knitted the sweater and cap for my doll, 'Johnnie Boy'. I still have him." The photo was hand-tinted by Marcy Merrill.

