The Complete FARM

Field tests by *Farm Journal* show hours saved by water system, water heater, washer, dryer and ironer in a farm home.

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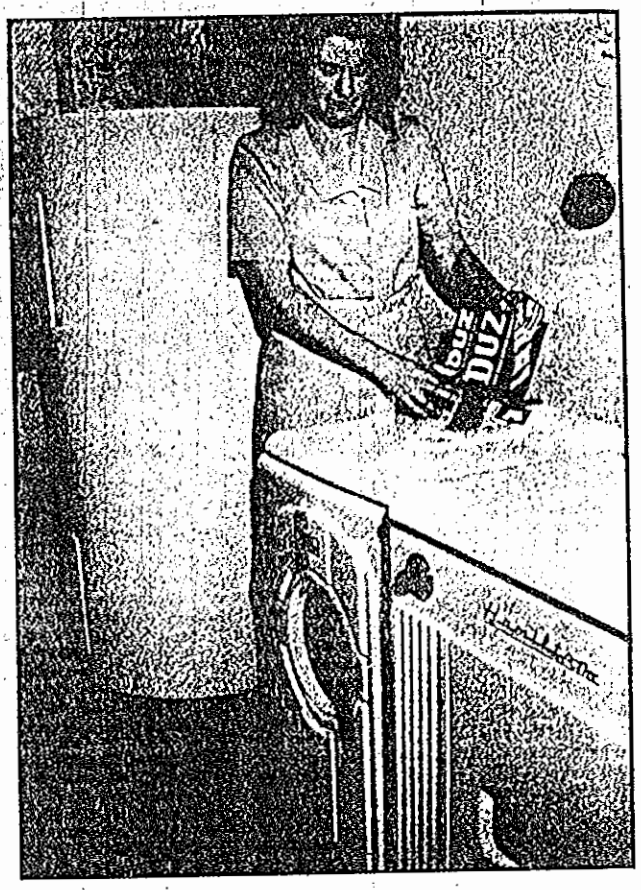

NO one will question that doing the family laundry is a long and tiresome task. To find out just how long, and tiresome it is, *Farm Journal* initiated a series of studies contrasting the hand method with the use of electrical equipment. Choosing 15 farm wives in as many states, they compared the labor, time and steps required for doing laundry.

The families did not have electricity when the first phase was started. For a period of three months they kept records, the questions for which were carefully worked out by persons familiar with the problems involved. Electricity was then installed and the families were given a water system, an electric washer, ironer and an automatic iron, and in some cases an electric water heater and electric dryer. They again kept records for three months of the labor and time involved in doing laundry, using the electrical equipment.

Farm Journal asked the REA to supervise three of these studies. One family they chose was that of Paul J. Verett of Floydada, Texas. They are a young couple and have three small children. Mrs. Verett did her washing in a house in the yard, and used a gasoline-powered washer. She heated the water in a wash pot in the house and hung her clothes on a line in the yard to dry. She used the old-fashioned sad irons for the ironing and heated the irons on a kerosene stove in the kitchen.

Efficiency Improved

Mrs. Verett has the reputation among her neighbors of being an efficient housekeeper. But this family is an excellent example of what electrification does to raise living standards. Last September, after electricity had been connected, an "achievement day" display was held by the Crosby County Home Demonstration Club. The Verett home was chosen as the display project and over 100 people attended. The Veretts had spent more than $800 in painting and repairing their home, making such alterations themselves and always keeping efficiency and convenience in mind. Mrs. Verett said the laundry study had made her realize how much labor and time she wasted on her household tasks.

During the first phase of the laundry study Mrs. Verett did the laundry 12 times in the 13 weeks period, washing 461 pounds of clothes, weighing 932 pounds when wet. These wet clothes were taken to the clothes line, requiring more than 5 miles of walking. To bring these clothes into the house when dry required more than 4½ miles of walking.

After electricity was installed the Verett family was given all of the equipment, including an automatic washer and dryer. Mrs. Verett did the laundry 13 times, washing 422½ pounds of clothes in the automatic washer. They were placed in the dryer and all of the labor and time involved in walking to the clothes line were entirely eliminated. It even *reads* easier!

In the first phase 682 gallons of unheated water were used, and 188 gallons of heated water. She carried this heated water 2,208 feet. The family had a windmill and Mrs. Verett attached a hose to a spigot in the yard, thus eliminating any carrying of unheated water.

BEFORE: Mrs. Verett, without the benefit of electricity had to work hard to get her heated water.

Ironing was no cinch when a big wash had to be done by hand, in addition to other chores.

LAUNDRY

AFTER: Installation of appliances, Mrs. Verett uses as much hot water as she should, washing becomes easier. With an ironer, she no longer spends those long hours on her feet and doesn't have to force that smile.

After the installation of the water system and the automatic water heater, Mrs. Verett used 744 gallons of unheated water and 992 gallons of heated water.

More Hot Water Needed

Bearing in mind that Mrs. Verett did 38½ pounds less clothes in the second phase, it is important to note that she used 804 gallons more of heated water. That is almost as much water as she used for her entire laundry in the first phase. These studies have proved that the farm wife does not use enough water, especially *hot water*, to get her clothes clean.

The amount of walking done during each of the 13 weeks studies was carefully recorded and Mrs. Verett wore a pedometer while performing her laundry duties. When the first phase was over she found she had walked more than 26 miles, spending more than 47 hours doing it! When she had her electrical equipment she had walked 6.3 miles in the second 13 weeks period and she had spent 9 hours doing it. A saving of more than 38 hours in time and 20 miles in walking.

Not a little of this great saving in time and steps can be attributed to the dryer. Considering a single day in the study, Mrs. Verett washed 31½ pounds of clothes, walked a total of 6,600 feet, and spent 3 hours and 15 minutes on the task. In the second phase, doing exactly the same amount of laundry, she walked 660 feet and spent 44 minutes on the task.

Careful records were also kept on the ironing operation. Mrs. Verett ironed 12 times in the "before" phase and ironed 217½ pounds of clothes. She spent 53 hours a week on the task and walked 7.8 miles in doing it—a lot of walking.

In the "after" phase she did her ironing 13 times and ironed 182½ pounds of clothes. She spent 22¼ hours on the task and walked .7 miles in doing it. This is a saving over the old method of 30¼ hours in time and 6½ miles in distance walked.

More Rest

Not only in time and walking distance saved, however, was the electrical equipment of benefit to Mrs. Verett. In the first phase she stood the entire 53 hours. In the second phase she sat down 9½ hours in using her rotary ironer. She used her automatic hand iron for the remaining 13½ hours.

To compare a single day in each of the studies, before use of the electrical equipment Mrs. Verett ironed 16½ pounds of clothes, walked 3,300 feet, spent 5⅓ hours on the task, and stood up all of the time. In the second phase she ironed the same weight of clothes, walked 310 feet, and spent 1 hour and 36 minutes on the task. She stood up 56 minutes of this time and sat down the remaining 40 minutes.

COMPARATIVE HOME LAUNDRY DATA BEFORE AND AFTER ELECTRIFICATION

WASHING	Difference	Average per washing
No. washings in 13 weeks' period:		
Before..... 12		
After..... 13	1 more	
Clothes washed (dry wt.):		
Before..... 461 lbs.		38.4 lbs.
After..... 422½ lbs.	38½ lbs. less	32.5 lbs.
Clothes washed (wet wt.):		
Before..... 932½ lbs.		77.7 lbs.
After..... 885 lbs.	47½ lbs. less	68 lbs.
Unheated water used:		
Before..... 682 gals. (2.7 tons)		56.8 gals.
After..... 744 gals. (2.8 tons)	62 gals more	57.2 gals.
Distance unheated water carried:		
Before..... 480 ft.(*)		
After..... None	480 ft. less	
Heated water used:		
Before..... 188 gals. (3/4 tons)		15.6 gals.
After..... 992 gals. (3.9 tons)	804 gals. more	76 gals.
Distance heated water carried:		
Before..... 2,208 ft. (.41 miles)		184 ft.
After..... 0	2,208 ft. less	0 (**)
Distance walked to clothes liner		
Before..... 26,740 ft. (5.06 miles)		2,228 ft.
After..... 0	5.06 miles less	0 (***)
Distance walked to bring in clothes:		
Before..... 23,685 (4.54 miles)		1,973 ft.
After..... 0	4.54 miles less	0 (***)
Distance walked during washing operation (13 weeks period):		
Before..... 53,113 ft. (10 miles)		4,383 ft.
After..... 8,080 ft. (1.53 miles)	8.47 miles less	621 ft.
Time spent on washing operations:		
Before..... 47 hrs. 12 mins.		3 hrs. 56 mins.
After..... 8 hrs. 58 mins.	38 hrs. 14 mins. less	3 hrs. 46 mins.

IRONING		Average per ironing
No. times ironed in 13 weeks' period:		
Before..... 12		
After..... 13	1 more	
Clothes ironed:		
Before..... 217½ lbs.		18.1 lbs.
After..... 182½ lbs.	35 lbs. less	14 lbs.
Distance walked during ironing operation:		
Before..... 38,181 ft. (7.2 miles)		3,181 ft.
After..... 3,983 ft. (.75 miles)	6.45 miles less	306 ft.
Time spent on ironing operations:		
Before..... 53 hrs. 10 mins.		4 hrs. 35 mins.
After..... 22 hrs. 46 mins.	30 hrs. 24 mins. less	1 hr. 46 mins.
In doing ironing:		
Before, stood up..... 53 hrs. 10 mins		
Before, sat down..... None		
After, stood up..... 13 hrs. 25 mins.		
After, sat down..... 9 hrs. 26 mins.		
Pedometer reading at end of washing operation:		
Before..... 97,185 ft.		
After..... 29,720 ft.		
Pedometer reading at end of ironing operation:		
Before..... 40,590 ft.		
After..... 3,993 ft.		

First study begun—August 2, 1945 Second study begun—September 23, 1946

(*) Had a windmill and attached hose to spigot in yard. This distance for turning water on and off.
(**) Automatic hot water heater installed.
(***) Electric dryer installed.