

Number twenty-two in a series

by Elizabeth Sweeney Herbert

I went back to work in a defense plant **THIS IS HOW I KEEP HOUSE**

Ten-hour days in an aircraft factory
were too much... until she found
that an automatic washer and dryer
saved Saturdays for her family



Weekdays Dotty has to leave home at 7:00. She drives across Long Island, shows her pass and is on the job by 8:00

Mother gone, the boys finish breakfast under their father's eye before he's off for his train and bank job in New York



Most weekend meals at the Bunyans' are picnics with the children, on the steps or out by the fireplace in the grove, for time with them and time in the sun is precious when you're away from home twelve hours a day, five days a week

DOTTY BUNYAN is one of thousands of American housewives who have gone back to defense work, lured by high wages and pressed by high living costs. She handles orders for parts at the huge Grumman Aircraft plant on Long Island. Her problems are those of any woman trying to do two jobs at once—too little time with her family and too many dirty shirts and dirty dishes and socks with the toes out. They are the problems that more and more women with families must face as America's defense effort booms, because the only big reserve of adults not already working are these women.

There is, McCall's believes, one way out—to speed housework by mechanizing it as work has been mechanized on the farm and in the defense plant. To test this belief, McCall's installed an automatic washer and a dryer in Dotty Bunyan's basement. Turn the page to see how it worked out.



GEORGE LAZARNICK



Grandparents live next door, look after boys during day and fix their dinner, which Dotty has partly prepared

Before she got her washer Dotty spent Saturday doing chores



Bundling the week's wash off to a public laundry, and home again, took the heart out of Saturday mornings



Between loads of washing Dotty rushed in and out of nearby stores, finished some of her weekly marketing



Preparing the main dishes in advance for the next week's dinners took much of each Saturday afternoon



Arthur Bunyan worked too—to make a pleasant basement laundry for the new equipment they soon were to get

GEORGE LAZARNICK



But Saturdays are freer now. She can wash any old night

This is the new equipment. "I regret I ever tried to get along without it," Dotty says. "Now I get all the wash out of the way during the week. It's easy to run down and start a tubful before dinner and dry it afterward. Best of all I like not having to plan a 'wash day'—just gather up a load and do it"

THIS IS HOW

I KEEP HOUSE

continued

"The time we save is
our time for each other"

THOUGH washing wasn't the only work that could have been speeded up by good equipment (Dotty has her eye on a home freezer now to simplify shopping and meal-getting), washing was the biggest sore spot. It cut deep into her Saturdays. She had put the boys into jeans to save washing. She had put herself and her husband Arthur into nylon underwear to save ironing. She was sending Arthur's shirts to the laundry. But every Saturday morning, inescapably, no matter how much she wanted to be with the boys, there sat the laundry to be packed off to the public laundry in the nearby Greenlawn shopping center, washed, and packed home again. Dotty felt driven, the boys harried.

But it's different now.

Today, with the automatic laundry equipment in the basement, Dotty lets the washing do itself week nights during dinner. And she has been marketing on Fridays in the evening. So Saturdays are days at home now. They still are pretty active. There still is cleaning. There still are main dishes to be prepared for dinners for the coming week. But all this can be done at home with the children. It can be finished in time for a picnic lunch with them out by the fireplace in the grove. And in time to soak up the sun while she helps Arthur in the garden, the sun she hardly sees weekdays except through the Grumman Aircraft window.

Arthur put half an acre into garden last spring, and Dotty often spends Saturday afternoons running the tractor for him. Three pluses here: fine fresh vegetables, time together and out-of-doors for both



"I have extra time because I don't iron a lot of the things I used to. I've found I don't have to iron things like pajamas, underwear, bedding and rough tablecloths if I take them out of the dryer not quite dry and fold them at once"



"I do bedspreads, blankets and curtains while cleaning. There's no need to wait for a good drying day now"



With the help of Dotty's extra income, the Bunyans have finished off the second floor, paneled a game room, are re-doing the living room and kitchen