Dishwasher Traces its Roots to Woman Inventor Josephine Cochrane

The KitchenAid Division of the Hobart Manufacturing Company Limited is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the KitchenAid home dishwasher which traces its roots back to the 1880's when Josephine Garis Cochrane designed and built the first dishwasher for her own home use.

Mrs. Cochrane formed a company - Crescent Washing Machine Company - to sell her dishwasher to the restaurant market. By the time of the 1893 Columbian Exposition, her enterprise was so well recognized that she sold all of the machines used in the concessions at this World's Fair. These machines received the diploma and medal "for best mechanical construction, durability and adaptation to their line of work."

In 1926, Hobart Corporation of Troy, Ohio acquired Crescent which continued to be a leading supplier of commercial dishwashers under the Hobart name.

Research on the home dishwasher continued, and in 1940 Hobart introduced the first KitchenAid home dishwasher. KitchenAid had developed the technology to market a home model at an affordable price, and the technology was also available in homes to properly heat water and soften it when necessary.

Today, KitchenAid dishwashers sold in Canada are manufactured in Owen Sound, Ontario.

Approximately 24% of the wired homes in Canada have automatic dishwashers. In the U.S., the figure is 30%.

One of the major advantages of a home dishwasher is time saving. A recent university study figured that 16.2 months per month, or 25 eight-hour working days a year, could be saved by using a dishwasher.

Family health is another major consideration. A study by the University of Louisville School of Medicine showed that the dishwasher gets dishes significantly more sanitary than hand washing. In the Louisville study, samples of hand-washed dishes had an average bacteria count of 590. But dishwasher-washed dishes had an average count of less than 1, and no bacteria at all could be found on 74% of the dishes. (Public health standards permit a count of up to 100 for restaurant dishes.)

One reason for this increased sanitization is that human hands cannot stand water over about 120°F while the dishwasher uses water between 140°F and 150°F. In addition, stronger detergents are used in the dishwasher, and dishes are dried with sanitized air rather than with a towel that may have been used for other purposes around the kitchen.

Dishwasher washing of dishes also means less breakage of glasses and dishes and less scratching of silverware.

Today, features such as locking pins on dishwasher racks make them more stable for the safe loading of easily breakable items. Adjustable racks also allow loading unusual or odd-shaped items.

This year, an estimated 300,000 Canadians will purchase new dishwashers, and KitchenAid offers them the above advantages, and energy-saving features to both. All KitchenAid dishwashers include the energy-saver button which allows the customer to save energy by selecting no-heat drying.

I've got a Secret

As anyone who lives in a small town knows, it's hard to keep anything secret. If someone on a village council gets a payoff for installing parking meters along the main drag, people will soon hear about it, one way or another.

In cities, that natural flow of communication breaks down. Information may never get around -- unless people make an effort -- when so many live and work in different worlds. Office and home may be even further apart in attitudes to life than they are in miles.

And when you get to the biggest organizations of people -- to international corporations and national governments -- secrecy turns into a fetish. Information doesn't get around at all. It stays in double-locked filing cabinets, on documents market "Private," "Confidential," and "Secret," out of bounds to everyone without proper authorization. Any information that does get out, such as press releases or annual reports, is carefully checked by corporate vice-presidents and public relations officers to ensure it says nothing more than it should.

The former federal government's mantra for secrecy even kept it from telling an engineer working on defence contracts that his security clearance had been lifted. So he didn't know he wasn't supposed to see the documents that he was eventually arrested for possessing. Some of them he had written himself. Others had been sent to him by different departments -- which had not been informed of his revised status either.

And cabinet ministers in that same government -- to give them the benefit of the doubt -- were apparently kept in the dark about the activities of their own security forces.

Granted, those are extreme examples. But they reveal a pervasive pattern of thinking, in which secrecy becomes a basic principle. For secrecy, in the end, always works against its owner. If you have no secrets to hide, you never need fear that they may be discovered and used against you.