

## Technik im Wohnumfeld -

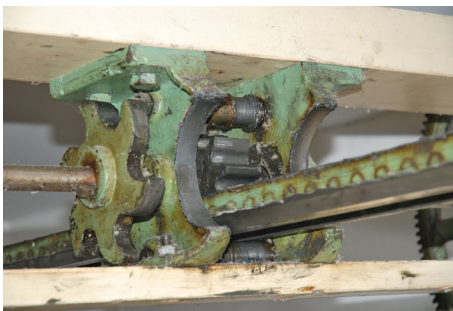
### The washing roll now and then

There was an electric mangle, fabricated by the L.A. Thomas Maschinenfabrik, Großröhrsdorf in the direct neighborhood. The mangle made the structure of the freshly washed laundry smooth and eliminated the shabby, ragged and crinkly look.



Children under six were not allowed in the mangle room. When I reached that age I was allowed to enter the room with

my mother for the first time. I was overwhelmed by the size of the instrument and could study it from a respectful distance. A huge heavy wooden chest moved on two rolls. The laundry was rolled accurately. The laundry was literally squeezed smooth by the pressure of the chest. Outages were not unusual in the early 50ties. Thus, a couple of times I experienced the light going



out during the procedure and the rolls stopping. In such cases a cast-iron crank handle could be attached to an adapter on the crosswise drive shaft. I often handled this crank handle. After getting going skill was needed to get an appropriate constant and judder free rotation frequency. Later on I focused my interest on the brilliant mechanical construction. The rotating motor moved a cog wheel which caused the lengthwise movement of a long, divided drag-bar and directed the chest. The direction could be changed at the end of the drag-bar by raising or lowering the drag-bar and changing the position of the cog wheel above or under the bar. It sounds confusingly complicated but it makes the construction so robust and reliable that it is still in use today and makes the laundry sparkingly fresh and soft. I do not know of a modern washing roll that can do a better job!

An example can be found today in my housing area in the Dresden Teutoburgstrasse. The mangle is in a separate building of the building corporation Johannstadt and has been kept in a good condition ever since and is still used by the tenants.

