

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

of the

EMERGENCY ASSISTANT IN FOOD PRESERVATION

APACHE COUNTY

June 1, 1944 to August 26, 1944

Mrs. Martha E. Fees

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT  
Mrs. Martha E. Fees  
Emergency Assistant in Food Preservation  
Apache County

The Emergency Assistant in Food Preservation was employed from June 1 to August 26, 1944. Her time was divided between three counties - Apache, Navajo, and Maricopa. She was in Navajo and Apache Counties during the absence of Miss Alice Beesley, Home Demonstration Agent who was on leave and in Maricopa County during the absence of Miss Grace Ryan, Home Demonstration Agent.

The part of Apache County served by the Agricultural Extension Service (the rest is part of the Indian reservation) occupies one of the colder regions of Arizona with a relatively short growing season. It is a mountainous region and therefore is somewhat isolated from the rest of the state. Most of the year's food supply in many communities is canned during the summer months, using produce from home gardens or that shipped in from nearby states. Therefore, home preservation of food is a "must" in this section of Arizona. One homemaker remarked to the Assistant, "If we don't can, we don't eat."

With this kind of motivation, homemakers are eager for information that will improve the quality of food and ease of preservation.

Because pressure cookers are essential in canning non-acid foods, the Assistant conducted a series of pressure cooker clinics in Apache County in order to get the cookers in good condition for the canning season. Nine clinics were held and a total of 118 cookers were tested in Apache County. Gauges were checked against a mercury manometer and safety valves were checked against a master gauge. The Assistant spent considerable time with homemakers regarding the care and use of safety valves. The Assistant also spent considerable time explaining the care and operation of the new Victory model pressure cookers.

The Assistant returned to Apache County the last part of August to conduct a leaders' training meeting for the purpose of demonstrating the water bath method of canning fruits. The meeting was held at Vernon and leaders from 2 communities as well as homemakers were present. Special emphasis was placed upon using sugar substitutes to extend the sugar ration. Other demonstrations were not held because it was felt by Miss Alice Beesley that the community canning centers in the remainder of the county would take care of the needs of those communities.

The Assistant distributed 38 bulletins on miscellaneous subjects as requested by homemakers in Apache County. In addition, each owner of a pressure cooker was given a pamphlet to explain the care and operation of cookers and many canning record blanks were distributed to homemakers to facilitate her report on food canned at home.