

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

EMERGENCY ASSISTANT IN FOOD PRESERVATION

MARICOPA COUNTY

June 1, 1944 to August 26, 1944

Mrs. Martha E. Fees

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

The Emergency Assistant in Food Preservation was employed from June 1st to August 26th. Her time was divided between three counties - Navajo, Apache, and Maricopa. She worked in Maricopa County during the absence of Miss Grace Ryan, Home Demonstration Agent.

Maricopa County, in the heart of the Salt River Valley, is a big agricultural region. However, because of its warm climate, long growing season, and easy availability from other agricultural regions, it has an abundance of fresh food the year around. Food preservation is not the necessity in Maricopa County that it is in some other sections of Arizona. A great deal of food preservation - canning, freezing, and dehydrating - is carried on in Maricopa County as homemakers seek to conserve the surplus.

In answer to requests, the Assistant gave four demonstrations on canning figs and tomatoes. Both of these foods are found in abundance in the Salt River Valley in the summer. The Assistant also gave two demonstrations on canning chicken in response to requests. The use of a can sealer was demonstrated in canning chicken at one of the meetings.

The Extension office in Maricopa County has a new electric dehydrator and the Assistant worked with it in dehydrating grapes and figs. The Assistant gave a demonstration on dehydrating grapes to a group of homemakers.

The Assistant conducted two pressure cooker clinics in communities that had not been previously served. A total of ten meetings were held with 58 homemakers in attendance.

While in the office, the Assistant answered requests on many problems of food preservation. Bulletins were distributed to 76 homemakers, covering a variety of problems in food preservation. Pressure cookers were brought into the office to be tested, and the Assistant supplied information on the care and

operation of the new Victory model pressure cookers.

The Assistant wrote five news articles in order to inform homemakers of the time and place of the demonstrations. The Assistant was also the guest of Mrs. Maude Longwell, Women's Editor of Arizona Farmer, on her radio program.