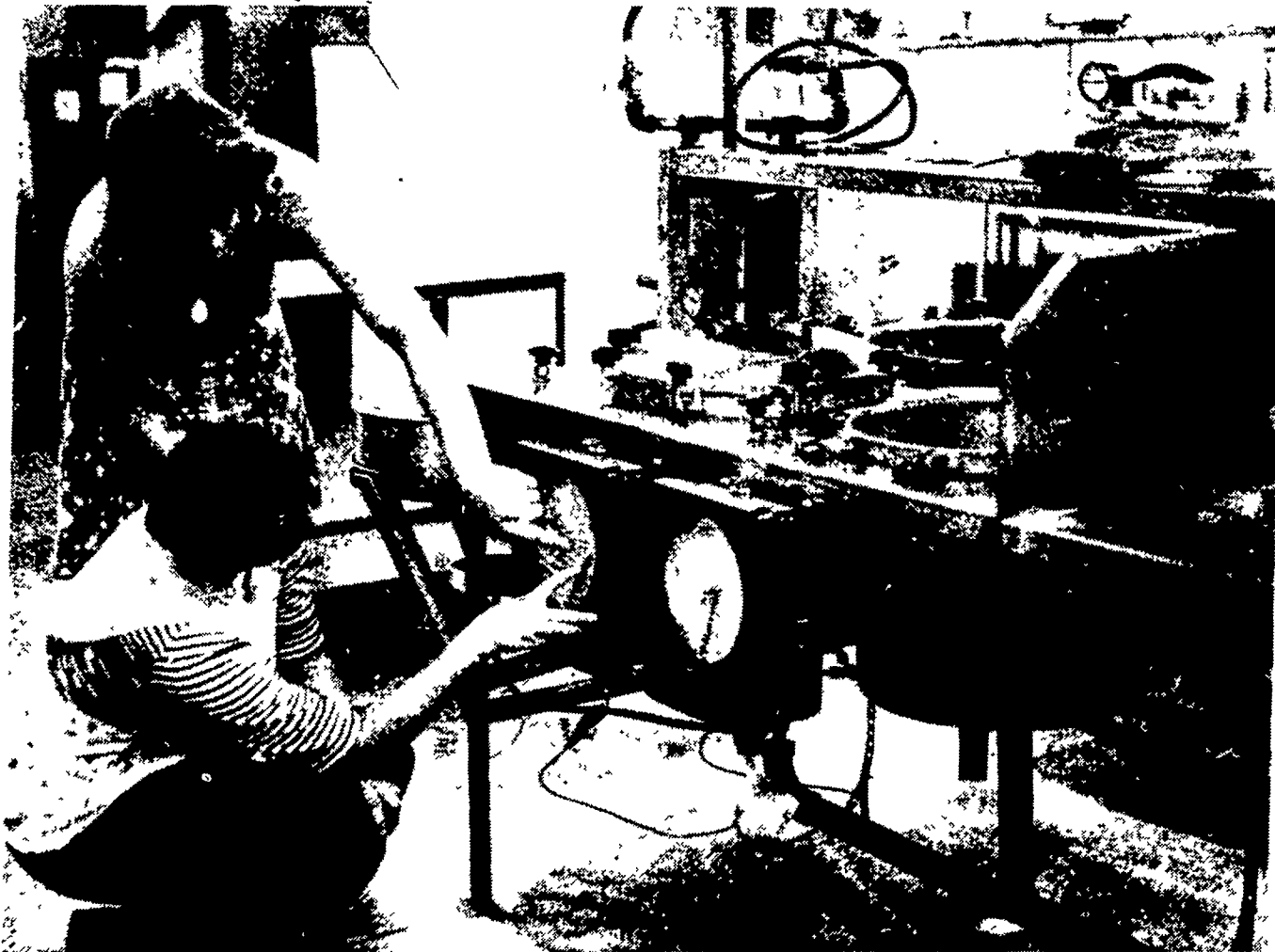




Chris Beaton, Marietta, (left) and Nancy Donley, Drytown, (center), both canning aides at the Marietta canning center, go through a practice

run with the steam kettles at the facility. Showing them how to perform the operation is Maxine Kress, supervisor of the center.



Tammy Fincher and Karen de Vitry, both of Marietta, check the gauges of the pressure cookers at the center.

Canning center

[Continued from Page 1]

equipment now found in the basement of the Marietta borough hall was that used in the Lebanon operation, although Lancaster County's Community Action program, which is co-sponsoring the program with the borough of Marietta, has purchased some new equipment.

While the Community Action Program is associated with low-income individuals, Ms. Kress makes it clear that any resident of Lancaster County will be able to use the facility. An, Doris Thomas, Lancaster County Extension home economist, has endorsed the project, saying she will be referring county residents to the center.

"I'm for it 100 per cent,"

stated Mrs. Thomas, "because I don't think a home canner can do it cheaper, and assistants will be available to help the novice."

The fee for canning at the center will be five cents per pint and ten cents per quart. As yet, the price on jelly jars is undetermined.

To use the facility, the first thing a homemaker must do is call for an appointment.

"We have to make appointments so that we can schedule our equipment," stated Ms. Kress. The center, which has four pressure cookers, one atmospheric cooker, one blancher-sterilizer, two steam jacket kettles, a juicer-pulper, two stainless

steel prep tables, a cooling tank and three portable working tables, is set up to accommodate six people at a time, which makes appointments necessary.

"We'd ideally like to have our patrons call us two days in advance," she stated. "For instance, if they know they are going to pick peaches on a certain day, they should call us ahead of time and we will try to schedule them."

The only items a potential canner needs to take to the center are the produce, other staples such as sugar and spices, jars and lids, a hairnet or bandanna, and a box in which to carry out the canned produce.

"We do sell jars here, if the patrons need them," explained Ms. Kress.

Sold, at cost, are regular quart and pint mason jars, half pint quilted jelly jars,

regular and wide mouth dome caps and lids, and the Ball Blue Book on canning. All the equipment in the center is by Ball Corp., of Mucie, Ind., who gives a course of instruction on using the equipment.

Ms. Kress does point out, however, that individuals buying their jars at the center must use them there.

"We use all two-piece lids here, also," she said. "We do not use paraffin." Paraffin can't be used since all jellies, jams, and preserves must be done in a water bath.

"Water baths won't change the texture of jelly, but if they will heat it through and through so that there are no cold spots which promote the growth of molds," she said.

Small items provided at the facility are plastic

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