

the
ELECTRON
tube

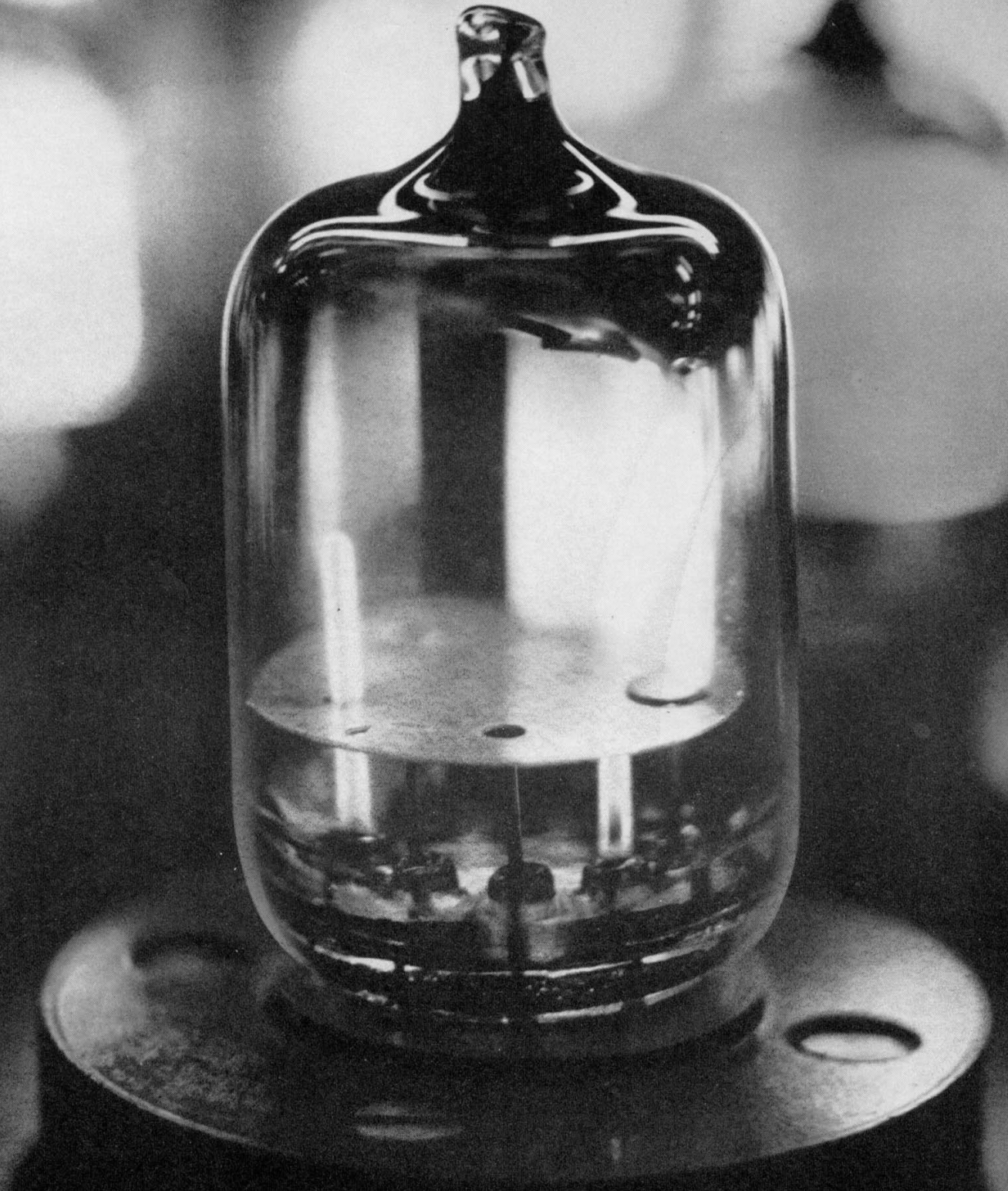
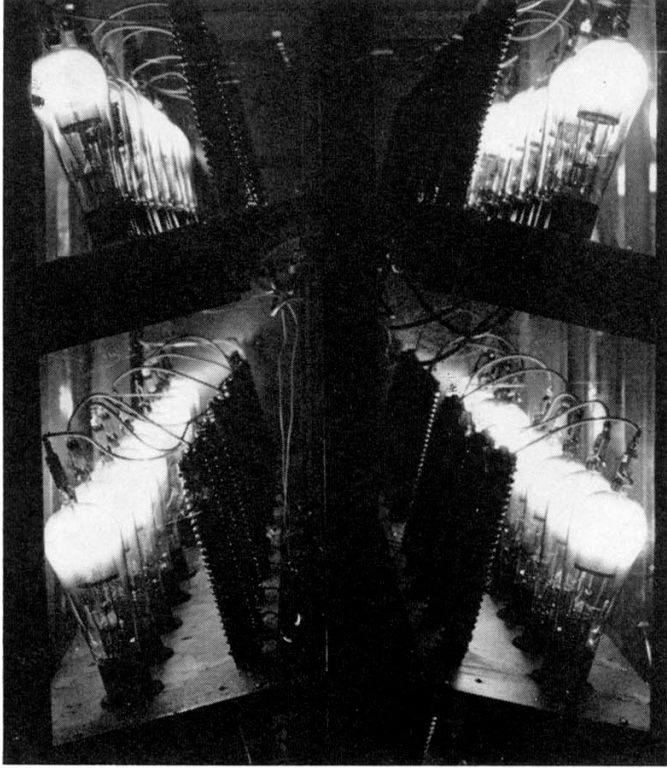


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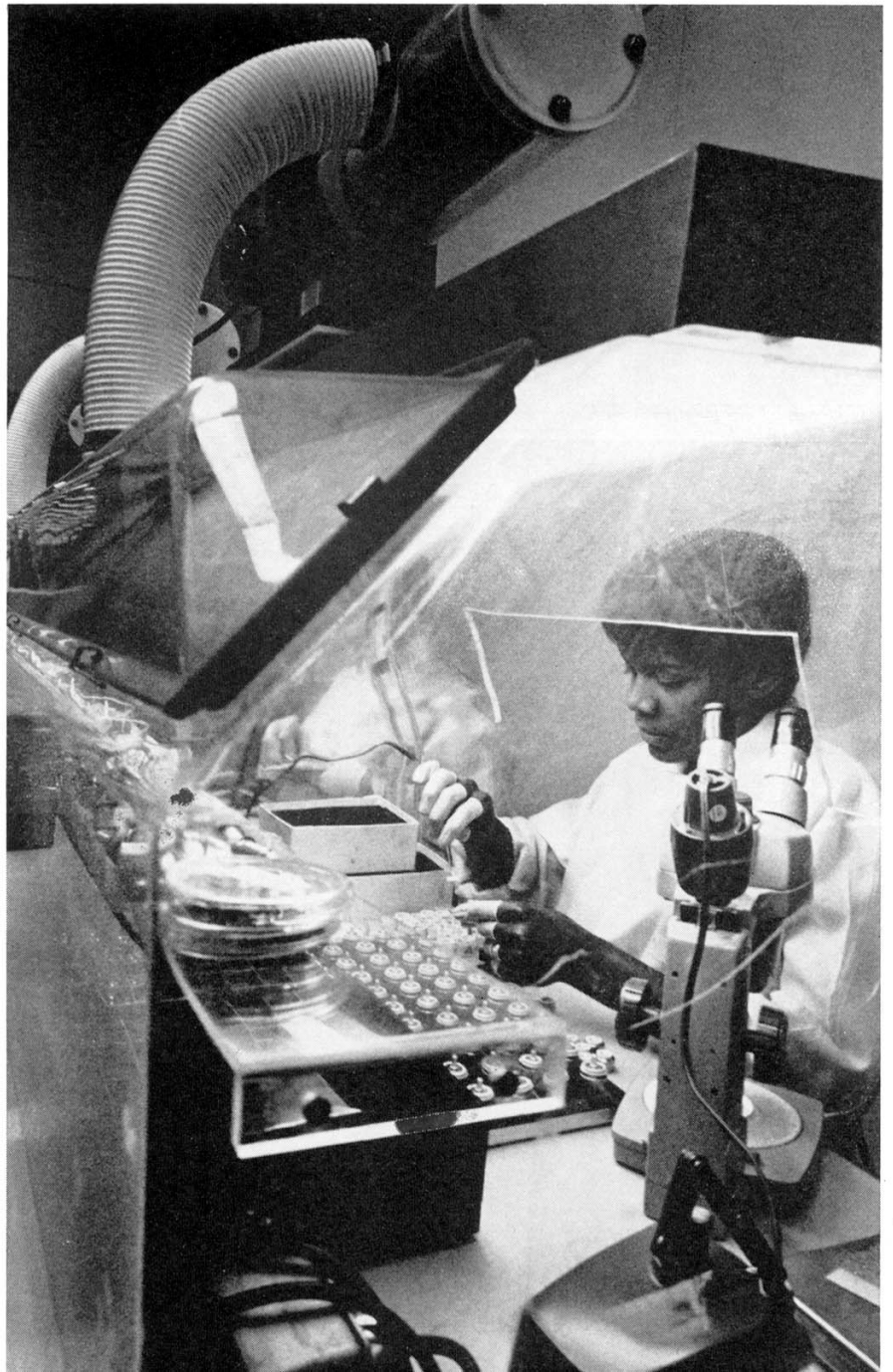


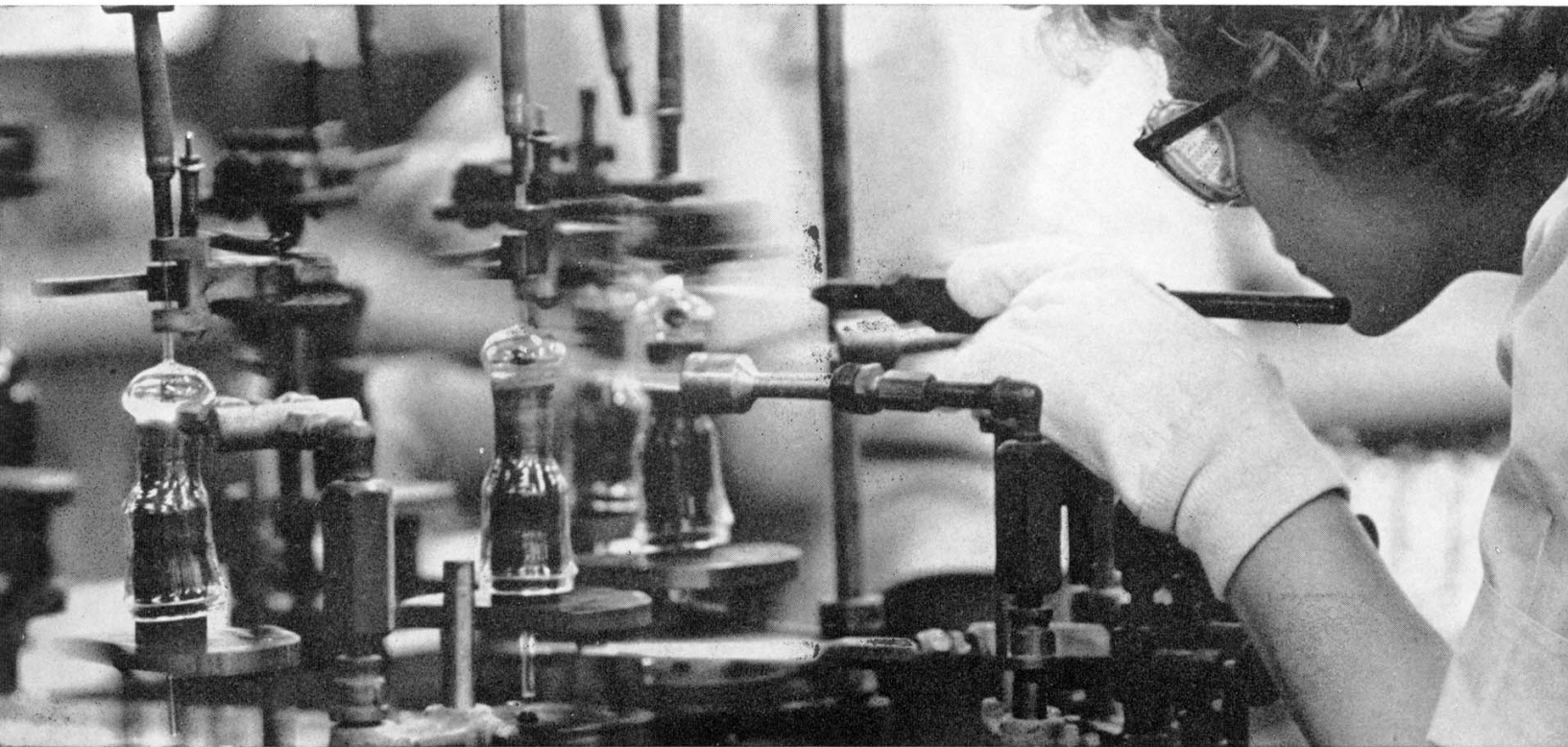
An eerie glow radiates from these rectifier tubes on the aging rack at the Kansas City Works.

In lint-free clothing and dust-free atmosphere to prevent the slightest contamination, Evelyn Taylor assembles planar triode tubes.

From the electron tube sprang modern telephony, radio, television, radar and other marvels that have made our time an Electronic Age. Lately the tube has lost some of its indispensability and much of its glamor to those comparative newcomers in electronics, the transistor and the whole family of semiconductors. But the old workhorse is far from dead. Tubes can still do some jobs semiconductors can't, or can't do as well or as economically. So, with tubes used in many major products, and with replacements needed for maintaining tube-using equipment for many years to come, the tube shop at the Kansas City Works today is a busy place. *WE* magazine turned Leonard Stern loose there with his camera.

A cold cathode tube takes shape on the production line at Kansas City.

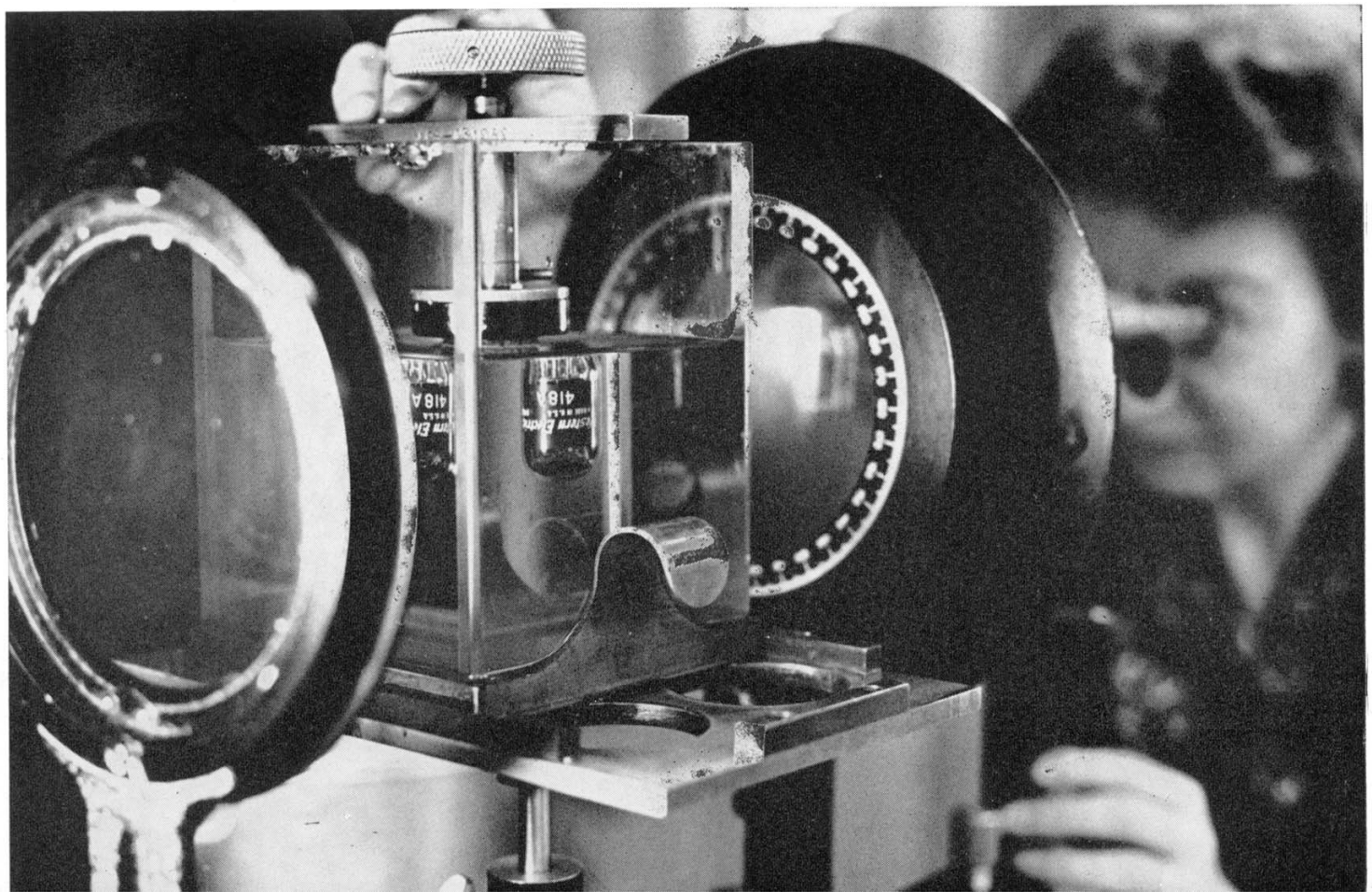




All parts of the tube must meet rigid quality standards. Maxine Detillier (below) inspects glass envelope with polarized screen test device which reveals stress points that could cause breakage.

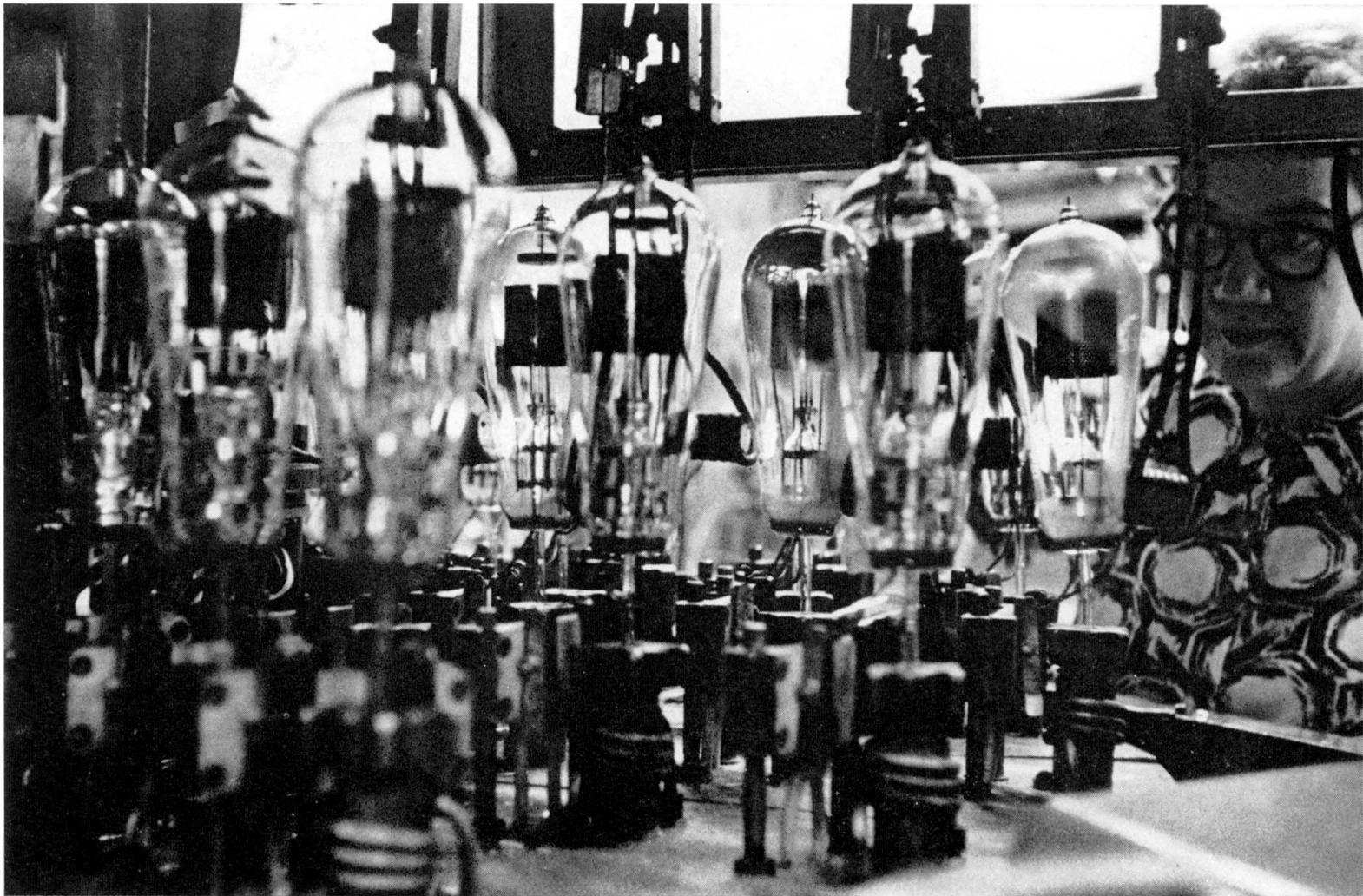
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Tubes are rotated through a succession of flames which gradually soften and shape, bond or seal the glass in various steps of manufacture. Directing flame here is Roberta Roberson.

Seated before an array of dials as formidable as those in a jet pilot's cockpit, Pat Frank tests planar triode tubes. They are used in microwave radio relay stations.



Seen behind a battery of rectifier tubes is Kansas City's Lois Benshoof. In this process a coil heats the internal parts of the tube and the air is pumped out.