

WHAT ARE YOUR CHANCES OF BEING CALLED TO SERVE FOR JURY DUTY?

(By Fraser-Raney, Q.C.)
 What are your chances, ladies, of being called for jury duty? It is suggested by Mr. Hugh Garner—writing in Saturday Night—that the chance of being struck by lightning is about the same.

The procedure by which jurymen are selected is very democratic, and is in keeping with the acknowledged importance of the right to trial by jury as one of the bulwarks of our British democratic system.

First of all, in Halton, either you or your husband must be upon the last revised assessment roll as the owner or tenant in respect of real property having a value of \$400. Then the mayor, clerk and assessor must place your name on the local municipal list of persons who in their opinion are "from the integrity of their character, the soundness of their judgement and the extent of their information the most discreet and competent for the performance of the duties."

The Town Jury Selectors then forward to the County Selectors a list of the requested number of those selected, taken alphabetically in the first place, and then by lot. The County Selectors, who are the County Judge, Warden, Treasurer and Sheriff, have already met and decided how many jurors they will need for the year, and from the lists supplied by all local municipalities in the county they prepare the jury list, roughly three times the number required for all courts to be held during the ensuing year. If you have passed these various stages and your name is on the jury list—then your name is liable to be selected for the jury panel for any court which may be about to sit.

Of course there are many exemptions applicable to both men and women and some additional applicable to women only. For example, anyone over 70 years of age or under 21 is exempt. So is the wife of a court officer, constable or lawyer. A nun, or a registered nurse, and any woman upon receiving jury notice can ask for and obtain exemption for one year. If however, you are not exempt and your name has been drawn for service at the next jury court you still may not actually be called upon to sit on trial jury. Assuming that you have been notified that you must attend court and are not exempt, it is a very serious offence for which a fine may be imposed on the discretion of the trial judge, not to obey the Sheriff's notice.

When court has convened you may find that there are only one or two jury cases and there will be many more jurors available than are required. When the case is called, twelve slips of paper with names on them are selected by lot by the Court Clerk from a box after just being well shaken up. But suppose your name is called, if either counsel for the plaintiff or defendant so decides he can challenge up to four of those called to step aside without giving any reason and a greater number for good cause.

Furthermore, the Trial Judge in his discretion may decide from the particular nature of the case that the jury should be all men (or for that matter all women) so you see this business of being selected for a jury is complicated and your chances of serving even if you

want to are very remote. However, having been called for duty and selected to act with respect to a case, the trial begins. The strangeness of the surroundings, the court procedure, and the crowd of strange faces will probably have worn off by the time plaintiff's counsel has explained to you, the jury, what the case is all about.

The jury is required by law to decide between two conflicting sets of witnesses—what the true facts of the case are—and who is to be believed. The evidence is presented, and afterwards counsel address the jury. This is where the jury really occupies the centre of the stage. Counsel for each side of course seeks to persuade the jury that his witnesses are the only ones telling the truth, and to enlist their sympathies. Such an appeal for sympathy, it has been suggested, may have greater weight with a woman than with a man. However, no case is so simple that a decision will not be affected by many arguments, and this is where the judge comes in.

After counsel have done their best on behalf of their respective clients it is the Judge's duty to direct the jury as to the law, and as to his view of the material facts involved, but the Judge always makes it clear that it is for the jury to decide who they wish to believe. Spectators have noted many times that after counsel have appeared to sway the jury by their oratory, the summary of the facts presented by the judge is what the jury has relied upon in reaching its decision. There is no reason whatever to believe that the presence of women on the jury will alter the collective attitude of the jury in this respect.

Finally after the jury has retired to consider its verdict, a foreman is first selected who later presents its findings to the court. What goes on in the jury room after that is secret. As a rule it is sufficient if ten jurors agree. However, in some cases a minority of jurymen hold out against the majority opinion and in that case a new trial must be ordered. The oath that each member of the jury takes is in substance—to faithfully and impartially, without fear, favor or affection perform the duties entrusted to him or her. It is a most serious offence for any one interested in any case to attempt to speak to a juror about any case being tried and of course a criminal offence for a juror to violate his oath.

There is no reason to believe that the findings of juries partially composed of women will be less creditable than those of juries composed entirely of men. On the contrary it is to be expected that any woman selected for jury duty will be at least as high minded, practical and honest as her opposite member of the male sex, and furthermore that the restraining influence of a woman in the jury room will add something to the collective wisdom of a jury which it has lacked heretofore. Certainly I do not think that the public at large or the legal profession in particular have anything to fear from the inclusion of women upon trial juries.

A tired driver is a dangerous driver.

Chronicles of Ginger Farm
 Written Specially for the Acton Free Press by Gwendoline P. Clarke

Well, I wonder how many readers of this column went to the International Hobby Show in Toronto. Quite a number, I hope, as it was well worth going to. A friend and I took time off last Friday to visit Toronto—and we had quite a day. Went by early morning train, did a bit of shopping before the crowds arrived, and then on to the Coliseum. It was wonderful finding all the exhibits in one building—so much easier on the feet. Even at that by 2 p.m. we were glad to sit in at Mrs. Aitken's Cooking School and rest a bit.

Now what I shall tell you about first? Naturally, if you were there you don't need me to tell you about anything. But if you were not there you might like to know my impressions of this Hobby Show.

Leathercraft... everything from wallets to pictures, in tooled or carved leather. The pictures were a new departure and were most attractive. And there were boxes of carved leather, book covers, brief cases, overnight cases and scores of smaller articles. There was also a lady's handbag, beautifully tooled, done by a man completely blind. Paintings... all kinds of them—in oils and water-colours—portraits, scenery and still life. We didn't see many of the futuristic variety. There were pictures by Winston Churchill and Viscount Alexander, our former Governor-General. Churchill's were mostly of quiet, natural scenery—one could easily imagine how it rested his weary mind to paint them. Alexander's had more action and in our humble opinion, they were the better pictures.

Pottery... obviously art from the potter's wheel is far from dying out. There were several wonderful displays. Rugs... hooked and braided—of wool and rare beautiful designs and shading. What hours of close work were involved in the making. Quilts and crocheted tablecloths. Not too many of either but the work was of the best.

Needlework and petit point... a marvellous exhibit. The first thing that caught my eye was "Queen Mary's Carpet"—but I knew it couldn't be. Upon inquiry we were told that when the original Queen Mary carpet was on display at the C.N.E. two years ago, a group of enterprising ladies studied it very closely. Then they bought a colored photograph of the carpet, and by means of a magnifying glass copied it on canvas, square by square. Quite an ingenious undertaking. But there was this difference between the original carpet and the copy. In the copy the background was one colour, you remember, owing to wartime difficulties Queen Mary could not always match her background colours. And the copy also has all the designs going one way. Queen Mary, if you remember, had her squares in reverse from the centre of the rug.

At this same exhibit there was a fascinating display of pictures in petit-point—large and small, even down to the size of ear-rings and cameo brooches. And all this work was done by a group of ten women in the Mount Pleasant district of Toronto.

Lambert Lodge... a collection of work done by the aged at Lambert Lodge. This was more than an exhibit—it was tangible proof of happy hours of occupation by busy fingers which must automatically have brought peace of mind to the workers. We all need to remember that something to occupy the hands is fundamental to contentment in old age.

Shell work... several exhibits of this particular craft and much of it very dainty and original—particularly the pictures, done with the tiniest of shells.

Artificial flowers... in crochet, wax and nylon. Very nice indeed. Oh yes, and I even found pillow lace at the Danish exhibit. Wood-carving, stamp and coin collections, costume jewelry, African violets, rabbits, hamsters and song birds; violins made from Canadian wood; weaving, needlework, model trains and dolls—impossible to mention them all in detail—but they were there, from England and Europe, Scandinavia and Asia. And if this Hobby Show was a brain-child from the fertile mind of Kate Aitken, then we owe her a debt of gratitude. This first show was good but it is my guess that next year it will be "bigger and better than ever."

Leaving the Coliseum we came through a district that was like a forest of television sets and I wondered how much handcraft was done in homes where there was a television set—and if there was any danger of television killing creative art. Personally I don't think, where a hobby has already been developed, it will do much harm, but it may discourage young folk from developing along the same lines.

YOUNGER GENERATION

A small boy went to Sunday school for the first time. The teacher told the class the story of the three Hebrew children, Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego. On his return, his mother asked what the lesson had been about.
 "My shack, your shack and a bungalow," he replied.

MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRIBUTES SURPLUS

For the first time, members of Halton Co-operative Medical Services will have a loan unit credit from the surplus which has been built up. This was decided by the Board when discussing the financial statement and auditor's report at the Board of Directors meeting. Each member will be credited with his portion of the surplus until such time as the fund has increased sufficiently to assure adequate protection, when it will be paid back to the members.

It was pointed out that the net earnings are the result of overcharge and this is the correct way of treating it. Halton Co-operative Medical Services, during the seven years of its existence, has increased its membership from 157 to

nearly 1,100 members. A Surgical Plant is now under consideration and will be adopted as soon as sufficient applications are received.

At the Board of Directors meeting, considerable discussion also took place of Workmen's Compensation for farmers and plans were made for G. J. Beach of the Workmen's Compensation Board to address an open meeting on the subject.

REALLY SAFE BOOT

A crowd in London, England, watched George Denton deliberately place his foot in the path of a double-decker bus. The big wheel passed slowly and completely over his toes and George withdrew his foot—unharmful. He was testing a new British Standard specification

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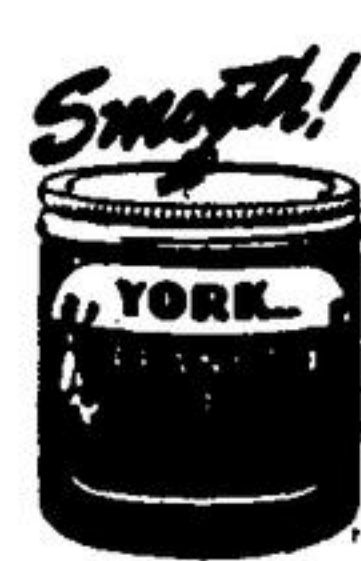


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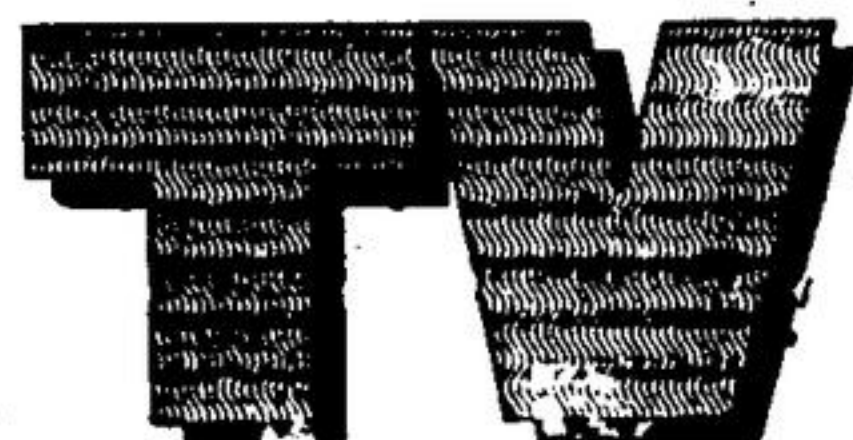
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