

# Alternative jury procedures attempt to reduce inconvenience to jurors

**Editor's Note:** The following is the second of a two-part series on the jury system. Last week's article dealt with the selection process in Morrow County. This week's story is about some alternative methods of calling jurors to serve and about News Editor Steve Powell's recent call to jury duty.

By Steven A. Powell  
Many areas of the United States and in Oregon are attempting to change outdated jury policies.

Most of the changes involve the circuit court policy of

calling for 40 jurors for every trial.

Four Oregon counties (Washington, Klamath, Clackamas and Jackson) now have the jurors call the night before a trial to find out through a recorded message which 12 of the 40 jurors have been selected randomly by a computer to serve the next day. A few alternates must also show up. The other 20 must stay near a phone and be, at the most, within a half an hour's drive of the courthouse if the voir dire process eliminates too many of the jurors.

In Dallas County, Texas the voir dire questioning is done at the beginning of the three-month period they serve. Trials take place the same two days every week and the jurors alternate on those days. They do not go through the voir dire questioning of the jurors every trial. With a population of 1,500,000, about 70,000 jurors are chosen for the 60 courts every year. Jurors receive \$6 a day and the yearly cost of the program is \$1 million.

Multnomah County, which uses virtually the same process as Morrow County except on a larger scale, spends \$544,000 a year for 6,000 jurors for 32 courts at \$10 a day.

A phone-in system in New York has saved thousands of dollars and countless wasted hours by jurors. All the people on jury duty report for a two-week term and are given numbers. They call every night and if their number is mentioned, they must come to the courthouse the next day.

I served on a jury recently and found it to be very uncomfortable and emotional.

Some of the jurors said that it was their civic duty to serve while others tried to fight and get out of it. Ten were dismissed for various reasons

and eight showed up the day of the trial. Some of the jurors seemed to be offended by

some of the questions asked but the defense attorney said he just wanted to make sure

his client would not be "hometowned."

Of the six jurors that were selected, two had served before and the rest were "rookies."

Corinne Miles was one of the veterans. She said within the last four years, she has been on two justice court juries and one grand jury. She said she was not happy with the jury selection process in Morrow County because she feels a person should be taken off the jury lists for more than one year. She said it is her duty to serve but does not think it is fair that others do not have to.

Dallas Harsin was the other veteran and despite being only 26, this was the fourth time he had served on jury duty and he said he also knew of some people who had never served.

We sat on a driving while under the influence of alcohol case and I found it very hard to sort out the truth from opinion. It all seemed to be opinion and the defense made it tough not to feel sympathetic toward the defendant.

Judge Charlotte Gray instructed the jury that all of the jurors had to agree on the verdict. She also said the jury had to ignore the consequences of the verdict and follow the law even though the jury

may not agree with it. Those were very tough instructions to deal with.

The defense attorney stated that it was not a civil case where money is the only loss but a criminal case. In a civil case, the jurors do not have to agree unanimously but must figure out a percentage of who is right and who is wrong and then grope in the dark for a money figure without any guidelines. This was a criminal case in which the state had to prove guilt "beyond a reasonable doubt."

The jurors all breathed a sigh of relief when one member said she did not think the state proved guilt "beyond a reasonable doubt." It seemed that everyone felt that way, but each thought he was the only one and did not want to speak up.

Being a juror is a tough position to be in. Jurors are amateurs who are unsure of the law and what is truth and opinion and the professional attorneys try to sway the jury one way or the other. Jurors can't ask questions but must be silent and listen. It still is better than having one person, a judge, decide on a case because a judge has feelings too and the more people involved, the more fair a verdict seems to be.

If called to jury duty, expect a long day with a lot of delays. The jury voir dire process itself took 1½ hours for only eight jurors to be questioned. Even though it was an interesting day, it was not worth the \$10.08 I received for being on the jury. I felt ripped off because with the mileage, I should have received \$10.48.

## Lexington news

• Delpha Jones • 989-8189

Lexington Grange met on its regular meeting date with the Master Barbara Cutsforth presiding.

The evening started with a potluck supper followed by Irish violin music played by Mrs. Kenneth Smouse and a talk by A.K. Felt, administrator of Pioneer Memorial Hospital, on the long range plans for the hospital.

He also stated that there are vacancies in the nursing home area for the first time in many years.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Melby of Boardman and Mr. Melby's sister from North Dakota were Lexington callers Sunday.

Mrs. Glenn Miller and daughter, Mrs. Rick Paulus of Hermiston were Heppner and Lexington callers Friday. Wendy Miller, who has been staying at the Hughes home in Heppner, returned home with them where she will enroll in school.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bloodsworth have moved to Pendleton where Mr. Bloodsworth is employed. They had been making their home in the trailer house at the ranch home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Marquardt.

Guests of Eula Bloodsworth Sunday were her granddaughter and family Mr. and Mrs. David Anderson and children of Umatilla and a son and family Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bloodsworth.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Steagall returned home this week from a few days visit with a daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Greg Levva, in Wilbur, Wash.

Word was received by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Martin that his mother Hortense Martin, who resides at Terwilliger Plaza in Portland, fell breaking her hip. She had major surgery at Good Samaritan Hospital in that city and will be confined there for some time. She was 90-years-old her last birthday, and a long time resident of Morrow County.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Howard spent a few days recently in Seattle visiting friends and relatives.

Mike Kane is home after a few weeks spent in Venezuela where he was employed.

Lee Wagenblast returned home this week from a five-day vacation at Lincoln City with friends. She received word that her mother-in-law, Carrie Wagenblast, is still a patient in The Dalles General Hospital. She has been there for several weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wagenblast and sons recently returned to their home in Odessa, Wash. from a vacation in Yuma, Ariz.

Mr. and Mrs. Vilas Ropp and daughter of Depot Bay returned home after a visit at the home of her parents Mr. and Mrs. Gene Majeske.

**Thank You**

We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to our many customers and friends in this area for their support of our business these past nine years.

We are well aware of how important loyal customer support is to a small community business. Without this relationship, a small community business cannot play its part in supporting itself and its community.

We will really miss the daily contact we had with all of you through the store. Many thanks again to a great little community!!

Sincerely,  
Dick and Lynnea Sargent

## Fair coronation set for April 19

The committee on Women's Activities met Monday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Norman Nelson.

Plans were made for the coronation of the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Court to be at the Lexington Grange Hall April 19. It will start with a potluck dinner, with the grange furnishing the meat dishes, followed by a program.

The Queen and Court will be introduced and crowned.

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IN THE SIXTH JUSTICE COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON  
FOR THE COUNTY OF MORROW

STATE OF OREGON )  
County of Morrow ) ss: No. 2070

TO: Steve Powell

IN THE MATTER OF THE STATE OF OREGON, and in pursuance of an Order issued out of the Sixth Justice Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Morrow, and to me directed and delivered by the Justice of the Peace of the Sixth Justice Court, you are hereby summoned to be and appear at the County Courthouse at Heppner in the said County and State on Friday, February 15, 1980 at the hour of 9:00 a.m., to serve as a Juror for the trial of causes pending in the said Court.

Witness my hand this 5th day of February, 1980.  
L. D. PETSCH, Sheriff  
Morrow County, Oregon.

By: *Pauline Wenter*  
Civil Deputy

REPORT FOR JURY DUTY  
Courthouse, Room 223  
Heppner, Oregon.

10.090 (1) An employer who discharges or refuses to discharge, intimidate, or coerce any employee by reason of the employee's service as a juror in a court of law, shall be liable to the employee for the amount of the employee's lost wages and benefits for the period of the employee's absence from work because of such service, plus reasonable attorney's fees.

Subpoenas like this one from the Morrow County Sheriff's office call jurors to duty.

**APRIL Savings**

Prices Effective April 10-11-12

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Western Family Bacon 1 lb. pkg. <b>1<sup>09</sup></b>  | Oregon Chief 12 oz. pkg. Beef Wieners <b>99<sup>c</sup></b> | Pork Steak <b>89<sup>c</sup></b> lb.                 |
| Bumble Bee 15.5 oz. Red Salmon <b>2<sup>69</sup></b>   | Betty Crocker 22 oz. Pie Crust Sticks <b>1<sup>19</sup></b> | Kellogg's 16 oz. Rice Krispies <b>1<sup>19</sup></b> |
| Nabisco 15 oz. Double Stuf Oreos <b>1<sup>09</sup></b> | Heinz 14 oz. Ketchup <b>2/99<sup>c</sup></b>                | Marina 4 pak Bathroom Tissue <b>1<sup>09</sup></b>   |
| Cucumbers <b>3/85<sup>c</sup></b>                      | Pink Grapefruit 10 lb. sack <b>5/1<sup>00</sup></b>         | Snoboy 2 lb. Cello Carrots <b>39<sup>c</sup></b> ea. |
| U.S. No. 1 Potatoes <b>59<sup>c</sup></b> each         | Top Dog 15 oz. Dog Food <b>5/1<sup>00</sup></b>             |  |

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Meat Dept. 676-9288

**Help Yourself Save Money  
Help America Save Energy**

You are probably using more electricity, gas, and oil than necessary. By using our monthly tip you can identify ways of reducing energy use and costs, and help the nation conserve energy.

✓ **Weather-stripping/caulking**—look for air cracks around doors, windows, and other openings, such as around pipes and ducts. Seal them by caulking or weather stripping. Heat and air conditioning escape through cracks.

If you need additional help with your home inspection. Please call the Heppner office 676-9146. Home energy audits provided to our customers at no charge.

**Columbia Basin Electric Co-op. Inc.**