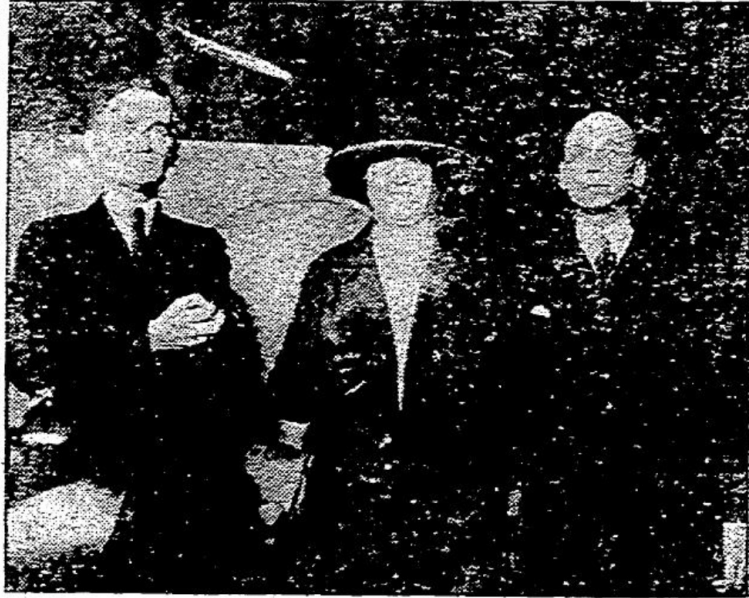


Mount Valenta Eggert - First Woman Juror- Valenta Eggert is on the Board of the Harris County Equal Suffrage Association

**Counsel Agree to Have Woman as Juror
No Matter What the State Law May Be**



From left to right: Judge Ewing Boyd of the Fifty-Fifth District Court who accepted the "first woman juror" on this week's jury panel; Mrs. M. G. Eggert, the woman juror, and O. M. Duclos, district clerk, who drew Mrs. Eggert's name on the jury. Behind them is the jury wheel from which each week's venire is drawn.

Whatever may be the Texas law as to whether women may sit on juries, Mrs. M. G. Eggert, "the first woman juror," was accepted by opposing counsel in a civil case Thursday in Judge Lewis' County Court at Law with the agreement that neither side would contest her eligibility.

It was pointed out that there might be some question as to her eligibility, as the old statutes prior to the woman suffrage amendment

provided that jurors shall be "male persons."

Points of law were being argued before Judge Lewis at the afternoon session, however, and if the case is decided on issues of law Mrs. Eggert for the second time this week will lose the opportunity to assist in deciding a case.

The case was of Vance Johnson, minor, suing through A. Johnson as next friend, against W. O. Burge, for \$200 alleged to have been part payment on a stock of merchandise in Shepherd, San Jacinto County.



Valenta Eggert



Municipal Book of the City of Houston, 1922, edited by Norman H. Beard.

Mount Valenta Eggert's photo was included with the other Harris County Equal Suffrage Assn. board members at the Marilyn Burgess event.

At one point, Valenta was on the Houston censor board with Gussie A. Young. Gussie was the Executive director of the Harris County Equal Suffrage Assn.

The Houston Chronicle
17 March 1921

Mount Valenta Eggert - first Woman Juror- Valenta Eggert is on the Board of the Harris County Equal Suffrage Association

WOMAN JUROR REVIEWS WEEK

"If women knew more of what takes place in courts there would be less domestic trouble and fewer divorces."

Such is the verdict of Mrs. M. V. Eggert, "the first woman juror," at the close of a week on the jury panel in the district and county courts.

"It has been a delightful experience, one of the most valuable weeks in my entire life." Mrs. Eggert declared Saturday. She served on two juries but in each case there was an instructed verdict.

"While I thought that perhaps women might have worked more rapidly, I found that the secret of wise decision is taking time to think," said Mrs. Eggert. "This is profitable training for women as well as for men."

"I saw much of that finer nature and that most tender of all virtues—sympathy—in the eyes of men as they reviewed the many regrettable



Mrs. Thos. H. Eggert
Sec. Censor BOARD

Municipal Book of the City of Houston, 1922,
edited by Norman H. Beard.

things that find their way into courts."

Mrs. Eggert expressed the hope that the legislature will "awaken to the fact that the old statute still reads that all jurors shall be male persons."

"I served through faith and courtesy," she said. "I hope to be summoned again some day and before that time I hope that women can serve as 100 per cent jurors under the law."

ILL FATE FOLLOWS FIRST WOMAN JUROR

Ill fate is following Mrs. M. V. Eggert, the "first woman juror." Twice she has been selected on a jury and each time there has been an instructed verdict.

The second instance occurred late yesterday in Judge Lewis' County Court at Law, but Mrs. Eggert had the satisfaction of being "foreman" of the jury and signing the verdict.

Vance Johnson, a minor, suing through A. A. Johnson, obtained an instructed verdict for \$200 against W. O. Burge.

"I still have hopes of helping to decide a case," declared Mrs. Eggert.

Valenta was
foreman &
signed the
verdict!!
Pretty cool.

The Houston Chronicle, 20 March 1921, p. 38.

The Houston Chronicle, 18 March 1921, p. 9.

Mount Valenta Eggert- First woman juror in Harris County.

Wednesday. Anyway she had the satisfaction of having sat in the jury box.

In Judge Lewis' County Court at Law Leslie James was on trial on a minor traffic law charge. Mrs. Eggert was one of the jurors.

The court, however, saved the jury the necessity of deciding the case by ordering an instructed verdict for the defendant. He held that the state had been unable to substantiate the charge.



Mrs. Thos. H. Eggert
 Sec. censor BOARD

Municipal Book of the City of Houston, 1922,
 edited by Norman H. Beard.

The Houston Chronicle
 16 March 1921, p. 21.

WOMAN JUROR HEARS COUNTY COURT CASE

Mrs. M. V. Eggert "the first woman juror." almost had to decide how she was going to vote in a case

First Woman Juror Serves In Harris County Court

Mrs. M. V. Eggert, Harris county's first woman juror, served on her first case Wednesday when Leslie James was tried in Judge Lewis' court for violating the highway traffic laws. The prosecution failed to "work up" a good case against James, so the judge gave the jury instructions to the effect that the man could not be found guilty, lacking evidence.

So Mrs. Eggert on her first case did not have an opportunity to use her judgment, but she seemed pleased with the experience, nevertheless. Another man, who appeared not displeased with Mrs. Eggert, was the defendant, who smiled a "No" when asked if he had any objections to Mrs. Eggert sitting on his jury.

The Houston Post, 17 March 1921, p. 7.

Harris County's First Woman Juror Qualifies

Harris county had its first **woman juror** sworn in Monday morning, when Mrs. M. V. Eggert of Houston told Judge Ewing Boyd in the Fifty-fifth district court that she wanted the experience—she wished to serve for the experience and that she did not claim exemption.

So now the card in Clerk Riesel's desk in the court room reads "M. V. Eggert, a lady." It seems the initials deceived the court into selecting Mrs. Eggert and when she appeared and denied herself the privilege of an excuse, the clerk simply wrote by her name "a lady."

This is the first time that a woman has qualified in the courts of Harris county for jury service, although the opportunity has been theirs since the summer of 1919, when they were first allowed the privilege of suffrage.

Last paragraph:

"This is the first time that a woman has qualified in the courts of Harris County for jury service, although the opportunity has been theirs since the summer of 1919, when they were first allowed the privilege of suffrage.

Note from Rae: I am not sure if this is correct.

The Houston Post, 15 March 1921, p. 9.

WOMAN DECLINES EXCUSE FROM DOING JURY SERVICE

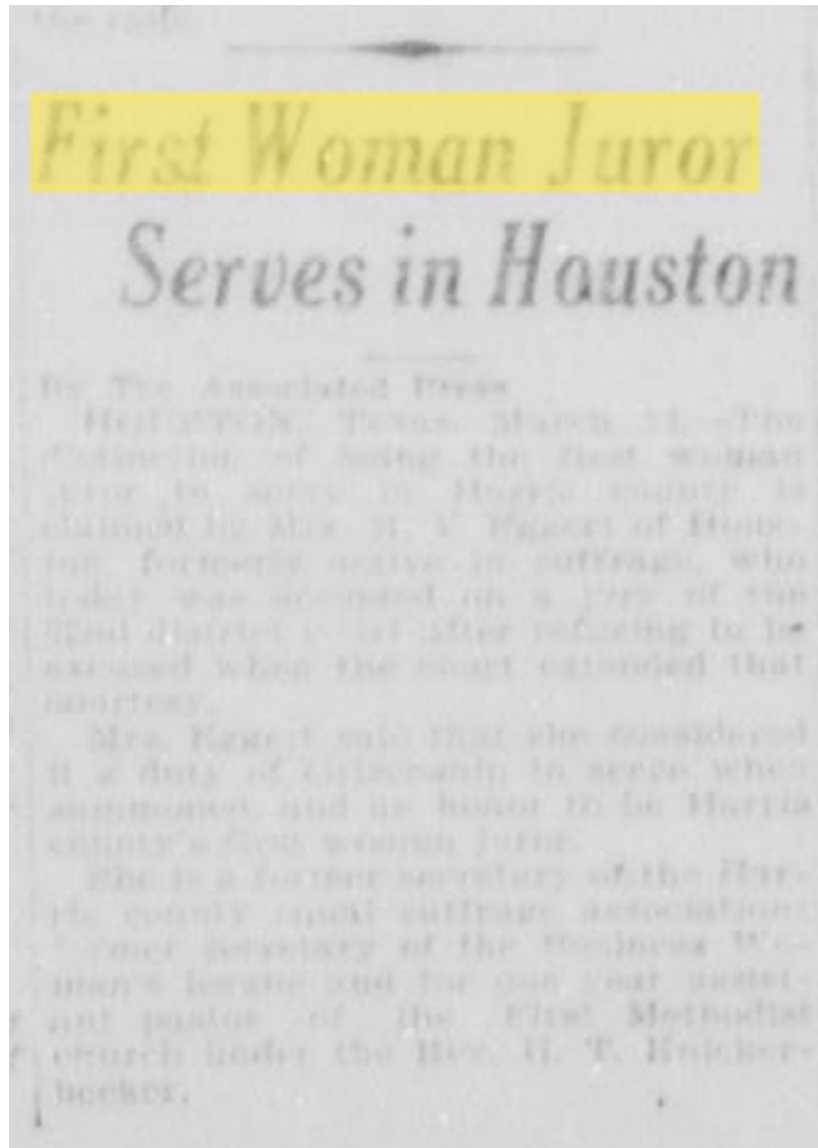
Houston, Texas, March 14.—For the first time in the history of Harris County a woman juror has been called and sworn in on a jury panel.

Mrs. M. V. Eggert of Houston, formerly active in suffrage work, was today accepted on a jury of the Fifty-Second District Court, and refused to be excused when Judge Ewing Boyd extended that courtesy.

"I consider it a duty of citizenship to serve when I have been summoned, and I consider it an honor to be Harris County's first woman juror," Mrs. Eggert said.

Mrs. Eggert is a former secretary of the Harris County Equal Suffrage Association, former secretary of the Business Women's Club and for one year assistant "pastor" of the First Methodist Church under Rev. H. T. Knickerbocker.

The Clifton Record, Clifton, TX
18 March 1921, p. 7, col. 1.



Corpus Christi Caller, 15 March 1921, p. 1, col. 6

Unfortunately, this image needs work. It appears to be from the Texas Associated Press. Specific words match the ones from the Clifton Record so I think the two articles are the same. Rae

All articles are on Portal
to Texas History

Added 27 July 2021

Woman Declines to Be Excused From Doing Jury Service

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Gainesville Daily Register,
16 March 1921, p 5, col. 7.

Added 27 July 2021