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# Life on the San

By Peter Stack

The jurors who gave up 16 months of their lives, to decide the murder charges against six San Quentin men "went through an extraordinary human experience that was both sad and, in its way, satisfying," said one of them yesterday.

"It's impossible to explain how we did it to anyone who wasn't involved," said juror Sandra Irish, 26, a bank clerk from San Rafael.

"I would say that it was the most emotional, the most taxing, the most serious thing I've ever had to do," Mrs. Irish said. "But all of us being together for that long really says something to me about the capacity of human beings to work together."

Mrs. Irish said — as did other

jurors yesterday — that she will now devote all of her time to "putting my life back together and getting on with things."

Before she answered a summons /, for jury duty Mrs. Irish said she was "living a plain, reasonably happy life" as a young married woman who worked as a note clerk for Wells Fargo Bank.

"Little did I know 'way back then that I would be involved in something that really tested all of my thoughts and personal feelings, that took me away from my husband, and that . made me feel sometimes very terrified and alone," she said.

"I don't think I ever want to go through it again, even though I feel satisfied in a way, and I made some friends among the jurors. It was

totally different than my life style, because I could never stand to live out of suitcases in a hotel room" Mrs. Irish continued.

"To tell you the truth, I just don't understand how I was able to get through it all and still do what I think was a responsible job of participating in the verdict, she concluded.

Other jurors yesterday echoed Mrs. Irish's views. One said that "the only thing that saved us was the ability to laugh and have a sense of humor about some of the everyday things in life."

"We argued about everything. That's the way it had to be so that everyone could express their own personal viewpoint," said forewoman Cara Shipley, 29, of Corte Madera.

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# Quentin Jury

"All of us took the law, the instructions by the judge, very seriously, and we tried to set aside our personal sympathies towards the defendants as well as the victims."

Some days the jurors would return to their hotel in San Rafael — where they were sequestered — tense, irritable and hardly speaking to one another. On such days, the jurors said they argued fiercely, and seemed to be making no progress in the case.

On other days, when they made headway, the jurors said they returned to their hotel ebullient and even giggling.

Soon, however, they tired of the rigorous routine, which required that they get up early in the morning, face a full day in the small jury room at the Marin

courthouse, then be shuttled in a small school bus to their evening meal at a restaurant.

After dinner, all 12 jurors (plus two alternates) were allowed to watch television on one set. A bailiff had to approve of every program they watched, and would abruptly turn off anything suspected of being news.

"I'm so sick of restaurant food that I'm going to spend months and months eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches in my own kitchen," said Mrs. Shipley.

The jurors said the hardest part was / to keep from talking about the case during the trial — even to their spouses — for the 16 months of the trial, before they were sequestered to seek verdicts.

The second most difficult thing, they said, was their inability

to communicate with the outside world while sequestered.

"A lot of the time I was very upset and I couldn't sleep at night," said Mrs. Shipley, "I wanted just to be able to talk to my husband, and a few times I can remember I just wanted him to hug me -

"It was the depressing thing I've ever encountered. I felt sorry for the people who got killed, I felt sorry for the inmates who were on trial, and all the inmates.

"This whole thing seemed horrible for everybody involved, and I felt sorry and sad all the way through.

"I feel we did the best job we could, but it's the hardest thing I've ever done in my life, and probably the hardest thing I'll ever have to do — from now on, life has got to be a piece of cake."

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