

Memories PHILADELPHIA STORY

By Dianne Nielsen

While we have had many adventures attending conferences and conventions, I don't think I will ever forget my first SIA Convention, In Philadelphia.

Eileen, Catalina, Joyce and I decided to drive to convention together. Marney, MaryLynn and Tanna were in a car ahead of us! Our drive to Gananoque was quite uneventful but that was all to change when we reached the border crossing!

When we pulled up to the border, Marney, MaryLynn and Tanna were already at the checkpoint in a different lane, speaking to the border guard. A large motor home was in the outside lane, apparently being processed. We waited dutifully until the lane ahead was clear and the light was green and started to approach the control booth. Suddenly, the guard started gesturing wildly for us to back up. Marney's car was just leaving the crossing when she was directed to backup as well!

Six border guards, with weapons drawn, ran across the lanes in front of us and pulled the driver out of the motor home. They proceeded to body search and handcuff him before marching him back across all lanes and into the office!

We all sat, dumbfounded at this display of machismo! We were finally signaled to approach the booth where the border guard proceeded to admonish us saying, "Do you not know what armed and dangerous means? How would you like it if your friends were shot...? I was in the war, and it is not pretty...."

Needless to say, we were all stunned by this turn of events! When the border guard calmed down, we were asked for our passports. The guard called out our names, one by one.

"Dianne", - reply "Yes"

"Catalina" - reply "Yes"

Joyce" – reply "Yes"

"Eleanor" - **SILENCE**... we were all thinking, oh oh, who is Eleanor, then, from the back seat, quietly, after what seemed like forever, "Yes", from Eileen!

After a further lecture from the border guard, we were released traumatized, to continue our journey.

So, we now know that you never really know a Soroptimist until they have to acknowledge their REAL names. Adventures with Soroptimists!