

barrier, we could hardly communicate. There they were, using a universal language and obviously carrying on a much better conversation.

In Warsaw, Poland, I managed to lay claim to another hat, but East Germany was a dry well for trading.

Now having acquired these collectibles, the next challenge was to get them back home. When we left Poland going to East Germany, all the passengers on the bus ahead of us had to disembark and some

of their bags were opened. Coming into the Soviet Union, all our bags were X-rayed, and the bus was driven over a mechanic's pit. Border guards checked the top, inside, storage areas and under-carriage. As things turned out, I managed to squeak through five border crossings.

What an uneasy feeling. I left the Eastern Block countries with a more realistic view of the way of life there, and a great appreciation of the new additions to my precious collection. ■

If you can't beat them — join them

by Patricia Parker

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October 31, All Hallows Eve, is a time when ghosts and goblins and things that go "bump" in the night are visible in every community across the country.

Canmore, Alberta, a small town of about 5,000, located on the Trans-Canada Highway four miles east of Banff National Park, is one such place. Canmore residents welcome these creatures of all

sizes with open arms. But it wasn't always like this.

In the 60s and 70s, when the Canmore Mines Ltd. was operating, the impact of vandalism was realized as November 1st dawned. On one occasion, dynamite was stolen from the mine by some hooligans who hoped to blow up the Bow River bridge linking the mineside of Canmore with the town proper. The attempt proved unsuccessful.

There was a local businessman whose clientele was predominantly teenagers. He stored garbage, which was mostly used paper cups and plates, in a shed at the back of the commercial property he