

# E-VADE MECUM

1. Something a person carries about for frequent or regular use.
2. A book for ready reference; manual; handbook.  
[1620-30; < vade mecum lit., go with me]

*The ASRA is committed to advancing the court reporting profession by promoting court reporters as experts in the field of verbatim shorthand reporting; by providing continuing education to its members; and by advocating quality service, high ethical standards, and state-of-the-art technology.*

## THE START OF AN ADVENTURE

- by Jenni Leriger



Me at Keukenhof, the spring flower festival

Moving is a pretty big job. It's an even bigger job when your move isn't down the street, but to another continent altogether. My husband and I had the chance to see a dream come true when I got a job as a scopist (working my way up to writer) at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, Netherlands. We had been dreaming of a big adventure together before we settled down into a mortgage and kids, so this was perfect for us. Then came the job of packing up our lives and starting a new one, a job that is still ongoing.

We had been renting a one-bedroom apartment in Spruce Grove. We considered our options for our belongings. Renting storage space is surprisingly expensive, although we didn't want to sell off our furniture, etc.. We did a massive purge and were able to convince our parents to let us store our stuff in their basements. They're pretty fantastic parents, so of course they obliged! We decided to keep our car, and my parents agreed to temporarily take care of our two cats. We will be bringing them over here once we find our own apartment. It's surprisingly easy to bring your pets with you when you move to another country, especially from Canada. All our cats needed are microchips and up-to-date rabies vaccinations.

We each filled two suitcases with clothes and personal stuff; upon arriving here, we were able to stay in the furnished company-owned staff apartment until we find our own home. You can rent fully furnished places. Most properties are owned by someone who rents it out through a makelaar (real estate agent). The makelaar charges a finding fee, usually equivalent to the first month's rent. There are places, however, that charge less than that, though, and sometimes you can rent directly from the owner themselves, which then eliminates that fee.

cont...

There's the usual things to start over. We need to get a Dutch bank account for rent and other bills to be taken out of (we kept our account at home). My husband needs to apply for residency since he is staying longer than 90 days, and upon receiving that, then he can work. We had to keep our Alberta Health Care and set up travel medical insurance, once we find a place to live, unless utilities are inclusive, we will have to get that set up as well. But of course, that's all just details!

The real fun has been exploring this gorgeous city! The Hague is close to the North Sea; we live in Scheveningen, which is right on the beach. The area we are in is so green, full of parks, trees, and tons of different kinds of birds. It's perfect for outdoorsy people like us who don't like living in a city. We walk most everywhere or take public transit; my bus ride to work is exactly 7 minutes long, and the buses and trams usually come every 15 minutes. Most people here travel by bike; lots of people have cars, but when you consider the reliability of public transit, the availability of space to park your car, and the ridiculously high price of gas, that option is less attractive. We crunched the numbers, and the amount we spent at home to run two vehicles dwarfs the amount we expect to spend on public transit while living here, so that's been an eye-opener, although here it is far easier to get away with not having a vehicle.



building in Delft, very close by to the Hague

There is a great market on the street next to us every Thursday where you can get great deals on flowers, produce, meats, etc. And don't even get me started on the food. Let's just say it's a good thing I have to walk everywhere because everything just tastes amazing, not to mention all the specialty cheese shops, chocolateries, bakeries, etc. We haven't made it to the pancake house on the beach yet, but I've heard good things.

It's really easy to get around without speaking Dutch. Most people speak English, and if they don't, it's still fairly easy to understand. I spent some time learning my pronouns and prepositions, and now I can figure more things out. It's a learning process, and we have to remember that we are in their country, and we can't get frustrated if they don't speak our language or follow our customs. One example would be that in the service industry, it's not customary to receive outstanding service like we would at home, but on the other hand, it's also not customary to tip. Given the price of eating out here, that works out in our favor!

cont...



Keukenhof

I personally love the grocery shopping. We shop at a chain store called the Albert Heijn. There is one a block away from where we live. Usually I go every day or two to get our groceries. It's great because instead of stocking up on food we might not eat, I get what I'm going to need for the next few days and we eat it all. Plus you have to shop more often because they don't use preservatives in the food here. We've been able to find a lot of the same groceries we would find at home, haven't been able to find others, and have found all kinds of new things to add to the table.

We are a train ride away from anywhere cool. Since getting here three weeks ago, we've been to Keukenhof (the tulip festival), Amsterdam, surrounding towns, and as I write this, this weekend we're going to Bruges in Belgium. We have lots of plans in store for the summer, and many of our friends and family are coming to visit while we're here for the next year, so many adventures will be had with them.

That would be the hardest part, though; we had a really vibrant social life at home and had a really hard time leaving all our family and friends behind, but thanks to Facebook, we still feel connected and love being able to share our adventures with everyone back home and still keep in touch with what they're doing!



Scheveningen Beach, five minutes from where I live

Living in Europe has been my dream since the first time I visited when I was 18, and I feel so lucky to be able to do this with my husband and best friend. When I think about all the things we're going to get to do and memories we're going to have, I'm just so glad for being given this opportunity! Just another example of one of the many doors that court reporting opens. ✨

Thank you, Jenni, for sharing your experience with us. I hope we'll hear more about your adventures in life and work as they unfold over the next year!

We'd love to hear about your experiences, whether you've travelled the world or stayed close to home,  
reported at a famous trial or in a strange situation.  
Share that epiphany you had at work  
or even the relief you felt to be done at the end of the day.  
Inspiration can be found in unlikely places!

## JOURNAL INTERVIEW

On February 15, 2008, [Joanne Mankow](#) was interviewed by Nick Lees of the *Edmonton Journal* about her reporting experiences. We already know what an amazing person she is, and now so does the rest of Edmonton!

Following is Joanne's comments on the article and a link.

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

"NAIT Media Relations is always on the lookout for stories about interesting products or people in order to promote the institution and its programs. In early February, Mr. Nick Lees contacted NAIT's Media Relations department, searching for a story idea for his column in the *Edmonton Journal*.

Raquel Maurier, whom I had previously met during an interview for *AlumNAIT*, remembered me and arranged for the two of us to meet that afternoon.

Nick is a remarkable person himself. Originally from the United Kingdom, he has travelled extensively and experienced many adventures. I could have spent the entire time listening to his stories, but he was there to listen to mine.

Like so many people, he was fascinated by the reporting skill and the wonderful experiences and career doors it opens to us.

It was a privilege to spend the afternoon with him and contribute to promoting our profession and the LRR program at NAIT in a positive way."

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

Read Joanne's interview here: [Interview](#)

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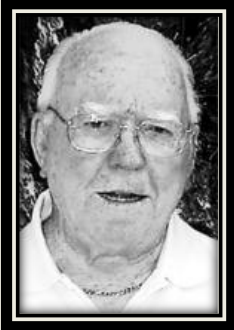
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## PASSINGS



Leslie John Pearce  
passed away on  
January 4, 2008.



Olga Snow passed away on  
December 29, 2007.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NEW ARRIVAL!

Lori and Dean Stocco welcomed Delilah Ann into the world on February 3, 2008.

### NEW ARRIVAL!

Karen and Wes Munro welcomed Cole Cameron into the world on November 21, 2007. He was 7 lbs, 9 oz. Cole is doted on by all, especially his big sister Olivia.

### WEDDING!

Danielle Vanderveen and Nathan Harmata to be married in Edmonton  
June 28, 2008.

Please send your announcements to Aline McDougall at [alinemcdougall@asraonline.com](mailto:alinemcdougall@asraonline.com)

### Interesting Court Reporting Facts

\*Thank you to the Calgary Government Reporters for allowing us to reprint this as “taken from depo.com”

- Charles Dickens’ early days as a court reporter in London’s Parliament became a subplot in “David Copperfield”.
- The court reporters in the O.J. Simpson trial took down more than 1 million lines of trial transcripts.
- Actor Harvey Keitel began his professional career as a court reporter at Century Reporting Company in New York City.
- The court reporter who accompanied Richard Nixon during part of his 1968 presidential campaign delivered transcripts of television show appearances to the media faster than the networks.
- A former stenographer for Paramount Pictures founded the Mattel Company and introduced the world to the Barbie doll.
- The federal judge who later became the first commissioner of baseball began his career as a court reporter.
- Actresses Michelle Pfeiffer and Kim Delaney once studied to be court reporters.
- Court reporters have recorded the most historical events in this century: Nuremberg war crimes trials, Jonestown murders, airline hijackings, terrorist trials, presidential inaugurations, congressional hearings, atomic bomb hearings.
- Court reporters have taken depositions or court proceedings of multitudes of the rich and (in)famous: Elvis Presley, Bill Cosby, Joan Collins, Jimmy Hoffa, Frank Sinatra, Isley Brothers, Jacqueline Kennedy Onasis, Muhammad Ali, Alex Haley, Michael Bolton, John Lennon and Yoko Ono, and Ethel Merman.

### LINKS

[ASRA](#)

[NAIT - LRR Program](#)

[NCRA](#)

[CHHA-Ed](#)

[CHHA-National](#)

[ASRA Online Research Page](#)

[ASRA Employment Opportunities Page](#)

[ASRA Corporate Sponsor Page](#)

[Examiner Information](#)

[ASRA Library Page](#)

[CSRAO](#)

[BCSRA](#)

[Court Reporters Catalogue](#)

[Stenocast](#)

[Mozy Online Storage](#)

**ASRA CART Boot Camp  
Spring Seminar Comments  
April 12, 2008  
Red Deer College, Red Deer**

**Food/Facilities**

- Excellent. Really enjoyed getting breakfast, lunch, and cookies. YAY! I think the room was fabulous and comfortable, not too big, not too small.
- Liked warm food. Theatre cold.
- Excellent lunch and comfortable seats. You could hold seminars here again!
- Breakfast – great. Lunch – awful.
- Great breakfast. Wish there was just a little more padding on chairs.
- Breakfast – very good. Facility was better than hotel.
- Nice food arrangement.
- Great. Cookies were awesome.
- Food the best ever.
- Good breakfast!
- Great.
- Facility is great. Would like to see it again.
- Very good.
- GREAT!
- Good food.
- Very good!
- Facility was good, but I kind of missed having table space.
- Food was excellent – loved the cookies!
- Excellent!
- Food was fine but pasta's hard to eat with a plastic fork.
- Good food. Not as comfortable as the hotel setting. I liked the leg room and table space at the hotel more.
- Wonderful food! Room was good, but seats not very comfortable.
- Excellent.
- Great! Would have been nice to bring in something to drink during seminar.
- Great food! Great facilities! Easy to find/easy parking.
- Outstanding food (and service) If RDC is ½ cost of hotel, this is a great venue, especially with such good food service.
- Food was very good. Facility was easily accessible. Free parking and lecture hall was very good.
- Good.
- Excellent – come here again!
- Great breakfast! Nice to have hot food! Easy to find.
- Not the greatest, but it was just fine.
- Good facility. Breakfast – excellent. Lunch – okay. Snacks – good.

cont....

**ASRA CART Boot Camp  
Spring Seminar Comments  
April 12, 2008  
Red Deer College, Red Deer**

**Suggestions for future topics**

-I would have liked this boot camp to have been at least a fall convention that goes over two days. It was a little rushed, but still totally informative. I like when there is a question period as I learn lots from other members' questions.

-Water bottles

-Another steno swap??

-Case CATalyst breakout sessions.

-Closed captioning. CATalyst.

-“Case” break-out. CART Specific?

-Need more time scheduled to cover things at a more digestible pace.

-Physical care of your body – healthy eating, chiro, exercising, etc.

-Nikken – total body health that helps aches and pains. Work internationally. Focus groups going on at the same time for different software.

-Young professional issues. “State of the “profession” – current and future vision (better title needed!)

-One or the other as one topic for part of the day, then more reporting specific sessions for rest of day.

-CATalyst Boot Camp. More bloopers!!

-CATalyst Boot Camp. Balancing work life and home life (transcript work)

-Money. Income. How to obtain a better work-life balance. CATalyst Boot Camp.

-We got lots of information for dictionary building for conflicts, etc. Could we have a seminar for Dictionary Building where we spend a day bringing our equipment and just dictionary build.

Sandra German was great in that area and most people don't find time to do it, so a weekend of dictionary building would be awesome.

-Dictionary building to add entries to build database.

-It's all good. You did a great job!! A closed captioning seminar would be awesome.

cont....

**ASRA CART Boot Camp  
Spring Seminar Comments  
April 12, 2008  
Red Deer College, Red Deer**

**Presenters (Sandra German, Cindy Gordon, Janice Plomp)**

- LOVED EVERYTHING. I enjoyed every single topic. I have been CARTing for about 8 years and still totally learning so much. I feel that the presenters should be paid handsomely for the time and effort they put in to this day. I feel that we as members should have been charged way more.
- Wonderful. I always learn something!
- Great topic! Lots of information. Very relevant and inspiring.
- Great! Would like to have 2 days of Sandra and Janice. Handout font was too small though.
- Very good. Handouts were great and will be very useful. Thanks! A little too long of a day.
- We needed more time, but it was great! Two day conference??
- Awesome!!
- All info was very good. A little overwhelming for students.
- Cindy – very informative and helpful. Learned a lot about the deaf culture. Excited to learn more and interact more with people involved in this culture. Sandra – motivating, as always. Encouraging too!
- Awesome! Lots of great info even though I don't CART.
- Sandra is always a wonderful speaker. Smart, funny, knowledgeable. It was difficult for her to cover this topic for experienced/inexperienced people. Cindy really helped people understand HOH. Great. Janice really helped bring everyone on board. Basic, which is needed, and helpful hints for pros.
- Great information!
- Sandra excellent as usual. Good sense of humour. Janice – dry witty humour.
- Well done, but wish it had been spread over two days. Very interesting.
- Good Job!! Sandra – lots of good information and fun presentation. Cindy – very professional presentation – good informative. Janice – also very good information.
- Good presentations! Sandra was very funny and entertaining!
- Everyone was wonderful! Loved the humour.
- Very informative.
- Sandra's an entertaining presenter though too much information squished into the day. Janice was good though a bit of overlap with Sandra's
- Found the presentations good, but I would have liked it if had ended earlier because of the drive home. I did find most of the information VERY useful!
- Great speakers. Sandra is charming and funny. I" enjoyed her bloopers. She should teach! Lots of great and interesting new info.
- Excellent
- Very informative – a lot of info for one day however. Sandra is very entertaining.
- Really enjoyed all presentations and learned a lot that I can apply to my writing tomorrow whether in CART or anything.
- Very interesting. Well-informed speakers. Lots of great tips even for experienced CART providers (I'm on).
- Sandra always keeps things lively, fun and interesting. Janice did very well. Well-informed. Lots of great tips. Good job, Girls. Always great to hear other's styles.
- Many interesting points. I'm slowly getting my feet wet in CART and found this workshop came at a good time. This topic could have been spread over two days. Found it too rushed.
- Great.
- Informative. Good handouts for later reference.
- Very good and informative. Handouts are wonderful. Parenthetical and dictionary suggestions are GREAT!!
- Good information. Gotta love Sandra. ❁

## Interrupting Cow

-by Cindy James

REPORTER: I'm sorry, sir, but could you repeat what you just said?

WITNESS: Ummm...I don't remember.

REPORTER: You were saying, "I always get headaches when...." and then you kind of trailed off there, and I didn't quite catch that.

LAWYER 1: He said he always gets headaches when his mother-in-law comes to town.

LAWYER 2: I thought it was his brother-in-law.

WITNESS: Yeah, I'm not really sure. Maybe I meant my sister-in-law....

LAWYER 1: Just go with that.

Truth is, there really is a bit of a knack to interrupting and not throwing the whole show off kilter. Undoubtedly, we all learn our own tricks over time, but not without a few regrets along the way. For those of you who are a little newer to the field, here are a few things to keep in mind to help prevent that interruption from turning into disruption:

1. Use as few words as possible. If I didn't hear what was said, "Pardon?" seems to be most effective.
2. Try not to cut people off mid-word. If I need to clarify something, I find it helps to wait for someone to take a breath or (hopefully) finish their sentence.
3. If the word is unfamiliar (or possibly made up), I wait until the end of the answer or question, lean over a bit and say something like, "I'm sorry, but did you say 'a liquid' or 'illiquid'?" Better yet, if I have time to jot it down or flag the transcript, I make a note and clarify on a break.
4. If I can't hear that mumbler or soft-talker, my mic won't either, so I stay on top of these people but remain polite. I would rather drop something I could hear than miss an opportunity to get clarification for something I didn't.
5. I know a few fast-talkers who are pretty dang proud of the fact that they don't have to actually complete one word before moving onto the next. When asked to slow down, they go to the other extreme... and.... talk... very.... slowly... for... the... court...reporter. Invariably they can't continue at that pace and slip back into their caffeine- or possibly sugar-fueled examination within a few minutes. I try to let these people know (on a break) that they don't have to talk really slow but just take a breath once in awhile or have a sip of water.
6. I feel that quoting or reading well aloud is an acquired skill that many people do not have, and even fewer realize they don't have it. As a result, people will rush through the written text, especially if everyone has a copy (or everyone but the court reporter). If I'm sure I can get my hands on the material the person is reading from, I don't get too uptight about interrupting. Unless, of course, it appears that they plan to continue in this vein, at which point I will interrupt and ask the person to slow down, because I really just don't want to type that much.
7. There is a very small window of opportunity where you can ask someone to repeat. Grab it while it's there, or that opportunity is gone and you're left with whatever garble you have in your audio file or cassette tape, and that's just not fun.

As for the Interrupting Cow? It's my kids' favourite joke (they're five and three):

"Knock-knock."

"Who's there?"

"Interrupting Cow."

"Interrupting Cow Wh—"

"MOOOOOO!"

## 2007 NCRA CERTIFICATIONS

### RPR

Kim Stasiuk

### CRR

Lori Baert

Koreen Perry

Jennifer Jackson

Jeff Weigl

### CBC

Lori Baert

Koreen Perry

**GREAT JOB!**

## YOU EARNED IT!

The ASRA gives continuing education credits for passing an NCRA certification test.  
Contact Donna Gerbrandt @ [donnagerbrandt@asraonline.com](mailto:donnagerbrandt@asraonline.com)

Please send any convention pictures from the past 50 years to [sandragerman@asraonline.com](mailto:sandragerman@asraonline.com). She will accept digital or originals (which she can scan and return upon request). Please identify who is in the pictures, if possible.

We are looking for retired or former ASRA members to invite to our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in Banff. Please contact anyone you know or forward their information to [sandragerman@asraonline.com](mailto:sandragerman@asraonline.com)

Little Story  
-Elise Eichmuller

I am a student in the Legal and Realtime Reporting program at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and I am also a mother of an 8-year-old girl. I have been immersed in my studies as a court reporting student for the past two years and had thought that my daughter was quite aware of what I was doing when I sit in front of my little machine – apparently, I was mistaken...

My daughter, Mackenzie, and I were driving home from school yesterday with the radio blaring as usual. At the next red light, I glanced over to catch her singing and pretend-writing on a piece of paper with her pretend pencil. I asked what she was doing, to which she replied, "I'm trying to write down all the words so I can learn the song, but he's singing too fast." I nodded in agreement and told her I knew how she felt. She then stops, thinks for a moment and says, "Hey, mom, wouldn't it be cool if you could write so fast that you could write down everything that everyone says?"... to which I replied, "Yes, honey, it would be."

CART provider in the making? You decide.

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~

TOP TEN COURT REPORTER PICK-UP LINES

CREATED BY THE COLLECTIVE GENIUS OF:

**SARA DORAN  
ELISE (LI) EICHMULLER, AND  
KELLY TURNER**

STUDENTS IN THE LRR PROGRAM AT NAIT

10. WANNA HEAR ME SPEAK STENO?
9. YOU'RE SPEAKING AT 160 WORDS PER MINUTE. THAT'S HOT.
8. I HAVE ARRHYTHMIA WHENEVER YOU'RE NEAR ME, LIKE, TACHYCARDIA, BABY.
7. DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH A DANGLING MODIFIER?
6. I CAN GO FOR TWO HOURS WITHOUT A BREAK OR INTERRUPTIONS.
5. I GUARD AGAINST NOT ONLY THE FACT BUT THE APPEARANCE OF IMPROPRIETY.
4. PARDON ME? COULD YOU REPEAT YOUR PHONE NUMBER FOR MY RECORD?
3. LET ME SHOW YOU MY BRIEFS.
2. WANT TO SEE WHAT ELSE I CAN DO AT 180 PER MINUTE?
1. I'M THE ONLY GUY IN THE LAST THREE GRADUATING CLASSES... TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT, SWEETHEART.