

**Joe Strickland**  
Chief Reporter, Office of Official Reporters

## **Objects: La Salle Stenotype Machine**

### **“Fly on the Wall as History Is Happening”**

Joe Strickland reflects on the historic nature of being a House official reporter.

*Interview recorded November 14, 2018*

But I do wish I had kept a journal, that, you know, everybody always goes, go, they always go, “Did you keep a journal?” And I go, “No. I didn’t keep a—” I should have kept a journal. Like just the other day, a thing popped up on my Facebook. Well, now how long has Facebook been around? Not that long, right? And I had posted—“Oh, I just reported George Soros today at work.” You know, and I didn’t remember that I had done that. And so I go, man, I wish I had kept track of all—I actually do have a list of the people, you know, Hamid Karzai and people, you know, that, that—and I know all the reporters at the House do. They all have their list of people that they’ve reported. And the ones that are most important to them and all. But it’s, it’s the feeling of being a fly on the wall as history is happening. That’s what really turned me on about it. And that’s what I try to make people realize when they would think, yeah I don’t know if I want to come here. It’s like the best job! It is. If, if what you’re going to do is sit in a room quietly and listen to other people talk, you know, they’re going to run for President. You know what I mean? It’s like, it’s history.