

Joe Strickland
Chief Reporter, Office of Official Reporters

Objects: La Salle Stenotype Machine

Machine Maintenance

Joe Strickland remembers the maintenance required for older stenotype machines.
Interview recorded November 14, 2018

On the older ones, you always carried ink. And you always carried a spare ribbon. And you always carried oil because they get noisy, too. So had to, you, you oiled them. You kept—sometimes the ribbon would get ripped. And so you'd have to stop the job and pull out the ribbon, and put in a new ribbon. And now you're covered in purple ink. But other than that, there's not a lot of adjusting to be done on these things. You have to stop to change paper because the pads of paper are about this tall. And when you run out of paper you have to just stop and refeed the paper. With these machines, the maintenance is kind of like maintenance on your computer. You send it to somebody every year, you know, and let them do—because I'm, we, there's no ribbon. There's, there's nothing really that I can do to maintain this machine because it's a computer. And so I don't want to mess with it. It costs too much.