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Objects: La Salle Stenotype Machine

Old and New

Joe Strickland compares the 1950s stenotype machine to his newer model.
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The keys are in the same position. The keys mean the same things. The thing that's different is everything else. And so for example, the touch on this, I can scroll these wheels and I can make the depth of touch be almost like this. Whereas this machine has a depth of stroke that's this deep. So that means you're doing a lot of this. So the minimizing movement helps you with speed. The other thing obviously is that this machine has a computer in it, and it's translating my steno into English instantaneously. And it has an LED screen. And it has a search feature. For example, back in the day when they would say, "Joe, could you read that back, please?" You have to dig in this tray of paper and do this until you find what it is they want you to read. And it's all in shorthand. So you know, you have to switch your brain to the read-shorthand part of it. Whereas on this, you can hit a key and it'll jump to where you want to go. You know, things like that. It's everything is so much better and faster and more accurate now, so.