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

### **Stenography and Shorthand**

Joe Strickland defines shorthand and machine stenography.  
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Well, stenography is basically shorthand. And shorthand has evolved over the years from pen shorthand, which some people are familiar with, like Gregg pen shorthand, to machine shorthand. So the stenography that I employ and that the House Official Reporters employ is, is machine stenography, which is just basically shorthand. So instead of typing the word “those” with, you know, “T-H-O-S-E,” we strike a chord, sort of like you do on a piano. And we write “T-H-long O-S.” And it makes the sound of the word “those,” but you’ve only stroked the machine one time. So you shorten and shorten and shorten. And you, you end up with phrases that allow a human to listen and write instantaneously at speeds from minimum 225. And then I know people who write 300 words a minute but they’re like freaks of nature. And for example, “House of Representatives.” How many syllables is that? “House of Rep-re-sen-ta-tives.” So that’s seven strokes on the machine. But I wrote it, write it in one. And anybody who works here would write in one. So it’s just a way of shortening the spoken word so that it can be translated into text, which is basically just a, a voice-to-text kind of translation. And of course, now everything is done by computers. So when we write on our computerized machine, the machine instantly translates it into English. And, and it’s the same technology that’s used in live captioning for the hearing impaired on television. When the guy’s standing on the side of the waves crashing, and he’s talking about a big storm coming, and instantaneously the captioner is writing what he’s saying, and it’s being translated as closed captions on the television. It’s the same process.