

## She 'writes' 4 books a year

# Braille typist lets fingers do reading

Story: SUSAN TAUBER  
Photos: MINDY SAUNDERS

Norine Kernick writes a book every three months. When she's through with it, she sends it to a place in Iowa and never knows what happens to it after that.

happens to her manuscript after she drops it in the mail, the Rochester woman doesn't mind not knowing whether it's bound in hard or soft covers or who reads her work. Mrs. Kernick doesn't write the books for fame. She writes them to help blind people.

When Mrs. Kernick is writing her

books, she's retyping manuscripts into Braille for blind people to read. Sitting at her special Braille writers, which look like a typewriter but only has seven keys, she transcribes adult Bible lessons supplied by Board of Missions of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod.

"The fact that we have Leader Dogs

for the Blind in Rochester got me interested in blind people," Mrs. Kernick said. "In my church bulletin from St. John Lutheran Church, I saw an announcement for people to learn Braille either by correspondence or by class."

"I was working then as an elementary school secretary in Rochester and wondering what I was going to do when I retired. I'm not one of those people who can sit around and do nothing."

"So I decided to take the correspondence class while I was still working."

Mrs. Kernick studied under Betty Reithal, who had been teaching Braille in Birmingham for 10 years. The former secretary at Woodward Elementary School said Mrs. Reithal talked her into taking the class after learning that she types.

"SHE SAID DOING Braille is just like typing. But it's not," Mrs. Kernick said.

For two years, Mrs. Kernick worked daily. Since she was still working, she studied from 6-7 every morning and again at night. It took her two years of studying before she got her accreditation.

On the wall behind her desk in the sunny, wood-paneled room in which she works, Mrs. Kernick has two certificates. One is from Library of Congress and states that she's a volunteer Braille transcriber. It's dated July 16, 1975.

The other certificate certifies her to do Braille work for her church. The art of Braille was foreign to Mrs. Kernick before she began her lessons. She said she never realized it was so hard to learn.

"If it hadn't been for my teacher, I think I would have quit a few times."

Mrs. Reithal really encouraged me. "When she would hand back a paper with mistakes marked all over it, she would write a note saying, 'Don't be discouraged. You're coming along fine.'"

The first thing Mrs. Kernick learned in Braille was the alphabet. Since there are six dots in a square space used to write everything, the task wasn't easy.

SHE LEARNED on a slate covered with heavy manila paper. Placing a metal slate across the rows, marking the spaces for each six-dot cell, Mrs. Kernick learned to punch out each letter or number, working right to left instead of left to right.

"We worked right to left because the blind person reading this turns to page over to feel the dots," she explained.

After mastering the alphabet, Mrs. Kernick got into the more complicated areas. She had to learn contractions for certain letter combinations and words.

For instance, instead of punching the word "about" she learned to use the contraction "ab." Symbols for

"ch," "ar," "the," "that," "in" and many others are used because they use less space.

Now Mrs. Kernick uses her Braille writer instead of the slate and is able to work much faster.

"I can type a page of 25 lines in 15 minutes. But my teacher can do a page in six minutes," she added.

Mrs. Kernick's work isn't completed once she types a page. She has to check for mistakes. Only three are allowed per page. Mistakes are erased by taking a wooden dowel and flattening the paper where the Braille writer has typed a raised dot.

Then Mrs. Kernick proofreads every line again. Before she mails off her two-inch-thick stack of pages, she reads every page once more for errors.

"MY HUSBAND William helps me proofread now, and I make fewer mistakes with his help. He watches the printed page, and I read the Braille copy out loud, including all punctuation."

"I really have to be careful about mistakes. If there is one dot out of place, it changes the way the Braille reads."



Norine Kernick can't use any eraser laying around the house to erase mistakes she may make in typing Braille. She has to use a special wood eraser that

smooths out the raised dot. She erases from the front side of the paper.

**Dr. James M. McClinchey, D.D.S.**  
**FAMILY DENTISTRY**  
Freeway Medical Plaza  
38215 W. Ten Mile Road  
Suite 3  
Farmington Hills, MI 48024  
HOURS BY APPOINTMENT  
Saturdays & Evenings Available  
474-2280

**FIREPLACE OWNERS**  
10% of all fires in the home are caused by unclean chimneys. When was the last time yours was cleaned?  
For Info call 581-5299  
A Bit of England  
CHIMNEY SWEEPING  
Call 581-5299

**Alpine Country Kitchen**  
**FREE COFFEE** with the  
**early bird special**  
2 Eggs  
Hash Browns  
Bacon or Sausage  
Toast, Coffee Free  
\$1.92  
6 am 11:11 a.m.  
Mon. thru Sat.  
FEATURING DAILY SPECIALS  
ALSO FEATURING (Both Locations)  
HOMEMADE PASTIES-PIES-SOUPS  
GREEK SALADS-ALPINE BURGERS  
No. 1 1200 S. Millford  
Highland  
887-6513  
**Sunday  
Brunch  
Special**  
2 Eggs, Any Style;  
Bacon and 3 Butter-  
milk Pancakes. All  
for \$1.69  
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
No. 2 41602 W. 10 Mile  
& Meadowbrook-New  
(formerly Danny Burton's)  
349-8655

**Want to Build & Furnish Your Own Home?**  
**Just Arrived: Dollhouses**  
• Furniture Kits • Miniature Accessories  
• Structural Shapes • Tools  
• Finishing Materials  
• Owned & Operated by Model Builders  
• Everything for the Model Builder  
**Joe's HOBBY CENTER**  
33419 Grand River at Farmington Rd.  
Farmington  
477-6266  
Daily 11-8 Sat. 10-6

**Dr. James A. Siskosky and Dr. John R. Anderson**  
announce the opening of their office for general & family practice  
in the  
Freeway Shopping Plaza  
38467 10 Mile Road  
Farmington Hills 48024  
478-6770  
Hours by appointment

**RENT SOFT WATER THE CAREFREE WAY!**  
And when you do, you'll discover that your skin is softer, your hair is on washing materials because you won't need to buy fabric softeners, your beverages taste better, even hot!  
Our Heavy-Duty Multi-Purpose Reynolds Fully Automatic Water Conditioners REALLY remove rust and iron hardness and prevent for as little as \$11.00 a month.  
Call us Today!  
**REYNOLDS WATER CONDITIONING CO.**  
Michigan's oldest water conditioning company  
CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-572-5575  
Serving this area since 1931.

For Family Fall Fun  
**A Cornucopia of Crafts: TIN & PEWTER**  
OCT. 20-21-22  
WEEKEND  
Demonstrations of pewter working, tin smithing and tin spinning. Plus some 50 additional crafts. Also enjoy: costume with raffles, waiting until 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.  
Greenfield Village & Henry Ford Museum  
Dearborn, Michigan

**Free**  
1 Face Cord  
Mixed Hard  
woods with  
each  
EnergyMizer  
Save!  
**PRE-WAY ZERO - CLEARANCE 36" BUILT-IN FIREPLACE ENERGYMIZER**  
Hurry, Supply limited! Real wood burning built-in fireplaces, UL approved, hot install almost anywhere... easily installed. We have all Class "A" Chimneys in stock, too! 36"  
Rep. \$565  
Total Savings \$140  
**American HOME CENTER**  
31245 West 8 Mile at Merriman in Livonia  
476-6240 • 537-2645

**CAREER NIGHT**  
LEARN HOW YOU CAN SUCCEED  
AS A REAL ESTATE SALES COUNSELOR:  
• How do you get started?  
• What does it take to become a professional?  
• How does the future look in the real estate business?  
• What type of person does it take to become successfully involved in real estate sales?  
• What are the working hours?  
• What is the earning potential?  
William Hitchcock will answer these and many more questions for you.  
**HITCHCOCK GALLERY OF HOMES**  
TUESDAY OCTOBER 24  
7:00 PM  
METROPOLITAN BANK BUILDING  
ON GRAND RIVER AT FARMINGTON RD.  
FARMINGTON  
No Cost! No Obligation!  
RESERVATION REQUIRED  
Call Today! 478-4100

**LEARN TO BOWL**  
or  
**LEARN TO BOWL BETTER**  
Merri-Bowl Lanes  
"Where the Good Times Roll"  
OPENINGS WEDNESDAYS AT NOON  
Call or, better yet, stop in Merri-Bowl Lanes 429-2900  
Merri-Bowl Lanes  
30950 Five Mile  
Livonia, Michigan 427-2900

**PROFESSIONAL EYE CARE AT REASONABLE PRICES!**  
All Lenses 100% Guaranteed For One Year.  
We participate in Ford and Chrysler Vision Care Programs  
• Eye Examinations  
• Prescriptions Filled  
• Glaucoma Testing  
• Lenses Replaced  
• Fine Selection of Quality American Made Frames  
• Contact Lenses  
• Frames Repaired  
• Satisfaction Guaranteed!  
**DR. SAUL LINICK, Optometrist**  
Call Now for an Appointment  
PHONE: 427-0230  
**LIVONIA/PONTIAC CONSUMERS CO-OP OPTICAL**  
15420 FARMINGTON, LIVONIA  
427-0230

**Sweetest Day . . . .**  
Sat. Oct. 21st  
**ROSES \$8.99 doz.**  
**Mothers-In-Law Day**  
is  
**Sunday Oct. 22nd**  
Surprise her with  
**LADY BETTY CHOCOLATES**  
**Laurel Hill** GIFTS AND FLOWERS  
HIGHLAND LAKES SHOPPING CENTER  
W. Seven Mile Road (behind Little Caesar's)  
349-2380