

# Braille transcribers look for newcomers

Thursday, September 13, 1979

(FBC)

Fall classes formed to teach new volunteers the art of transcribing written material into Braille begin October in Livonia, Oak Park and Farmington Hills.

Barbara Reid, speaking for the Tri-County Braille Volunteers, asked persons who have time to give in volunteer work to reminisce upon the familiar childhood game of blind man's bluff.

"With a blindfold over our eyes, we would be spun around and then grope and stumble across the room trying to find in on one of our playmates, so somebody could be 'it,'" she said. "But in the world of sightless persons, the blindfold never comes off."

"Sunsets, stars, the flight of a bird

exist only in the imagination of a blind person."

FOR MANY generations, reading was not something a blind person could do for himself. Now, the science of Braille opens up the world of the printed word to more and more blind people around the world every year.

The system of raised dots was developed by Louis Braille, a blind man, as a means for the blind to read more than 55 years ago.

Braille is used in textbooks, general literature, scientific journals, restaurant menus, travel schedules and greeting cards. Even the elevator buttons in many public buildings now carry Braille floor markings.

In Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties, the Tri-County Braille Volunteers go into their 21st year of transcribing, answering requests from schools, agencies and individuals.

Math transcribing, a specialty for the veteran transcriber, begins at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 3, in Oakland County Training Center in downtown Farmington, underwritten by the Allen Park, Taylor, Northwest, Motor City, University and Western Lions Clubs.

The Lions Clubs, known for their work with the blind, accepted the new project because "the math transcribing is so greatly needed in this area," Mrs. Reid said.

NEWCOMERS can join a Wednesday

morning class, beginning Oct. 3 in Carl Sandburg Library in Livonia; a Tuesday afternoon class starting Oct. 9 in Oak Park's Congregation Beth Shalom; or a Wednesday afternoon or Tuesday evening class beginning Oct. 2 and 3 in Nardin Park Methodist Church in Farmington Hills.

Practice can be done on a Braille machine in the volunteer's home. All classes meet once a week and continue throughout the regular school year.

Inquiries for newcomers will be taken by contacting Faye Jackson, 967-3362.

Certified transcribers who are interested in the new math classes are asked to contact Ruth Peters at 543-5775.

## Focusing on homes, furniture and cars

Focus will be on antiques — automobiles, furniture and houses — in three non-degree courses offered by the Oakland University Division of Continuing Education, beginning the week of Sept. 17.

John A. Conde, of Bloomfield Hills, curator of transportation collections for the Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village, will trace the history of the American automobile from the 1890s to today, touching on the humor and nostalgia of the

eras, in the non-degree course "The Great American Car Ride."

Original photos and illustrations from rare catalogs and owners' manuals will be available for viewing from Conde's collection that spans nearly 35 years. The course will be conducted from 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays for five weeks, beginning Sept. 19, at Harrison High School, Farmington Hills.

Birmingham architect William Lyman, an authority on American an-

tique furniture, will show slides made in his personal slide collection, which includes rarely photographed pieces. Investment possibilities will be discussed.

A visit through the restored Hunter House (1822) in Birmingham will be arranged by the instructor, who serves as

its acquisitions chairman. The course will be conducted from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursdays, beginning Sept. 20, on campus at Rochester.

"Restoring Old Homes for Profit and Fun," an eight-week course for those who want to preserve historic homes or

simply adapt older dwellings to modern living, will be offered from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Mondays, beginning Sept. 17, on campus.

For information about the courses and about registration, call the Continuing Education office, 377-3120.

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