

924-D Avenida Majorca
Laguna Hills, 92653
11 October 1982

Dear Joan,

I'm glad we did have a chance to meet the other day as I find it easier to write when I can visualize the other person.

I assume you want basic biography, and that you will wish to expand further on the braille transcribing, the reason for my having been selected. So there follow brief jottings.

Born 1914 in Copper Country of upper Michigan. Came to California with parents and younger sister (now also living in LW with husband), in a Ford that was even then second-hand. Still remember looking out of back of Ford at Mother toiling up last slope of one of the Rocky Mountains carrying a rock which she intended to put under the rear wheel if car couldn't make it and started rolling backwards. It did do just that but Dad turned wheels into mountainside.

Educated in Southern California, Huntington Park highschool, UCLA for 3 years. Quit to get married in 1934 to George Bregar, chemist. Lived mostly in Southern Cal except for about a dozen years in Orinda when husband was transferred to San Francisco office.

Widowed by sudden death of husband in 1969. Had bought LW manor in 1967, used it for weekends, moved in for good after his death.

2 daughters, 4 grandchildren. Sister in LW, brother in Huntington Beach.

Never worked for pay. Usual round of room mother, PTA, Girl Scouts. Looking for something when girls were older, remembered ~~neighbor~~ blind neighbor from past, and taught self braille. Joined braille group in San Fernando Valley 1964. Found group here just beginning. Most groups with common interest need one person as focal point. I filled that need in LW for the local transcribers. I still fill it. My title is Assignments Chairman. I act as liaison with Braille Institute in Los Angeles for whom we do most of our work. We also fill requests from blind people who need help in a hurry for school or job in our area. We do pleasure reading for schoolchildren, who need something besides plain textbooks in braille. While in Encino I was on the team which brailled the Jerusalem Bible; while here our own team did the Koran. Complete range of subject matter. "I answer questions, hold hands, tear books up, put them back together, make sure we are all doing the book the same way, check over mine and others' work etc, etc. April 1981 received award as volunteer of year from Braille Institute.

Became a library volunteer soon after settling in LW, still am, catalog mysteries and fiction.

Brisk 1-mile morning walk, 1/2 hour swim later in day for fitness.

Astronomy club, have served on their board in past.
Interested in genealogy and family history

I hope this gives you enough basis for your interview. I'm usually home in the morning about 9 after my walk; keep trying till you get me, and let the phone ring on as I'm deaf and don't always hear it at once.

Joan Majorca Bregar