“For many years, I have been searching the Northeastern section of the United States for an orthopedic shoemaker who makes a quality, well-crafted shoe that looks good, feels comfortable and is reasonably priced. I had resorted to having my shoes made overseas where there are still craftsmen who take pride in producing a fine orthopedic shoe.

“Recently, I found Tim Noonan at Noonan Shoe Company, Cutler Street, Warren, Rhode Island. To my delight, he is a wonderful orthopedic shoemaker and a pleasure to do business with. Members who need handmade orthopedic shoes will find it well worth their while to travel to Warren. I don’t think he could work through the mail because he needs first to measure and size the shoe correctly. This took over two hours, but when the shoes arrived, they were perfect. His phone number is 401-247-0110.” Arthur Rabson, arrabson@yahoo.com

“I spend a lot of time on my scooter and developed hip pain and lower back pain which were relieved if my foot was in another position. In thinking about how to raise my foot while using the scooter, I thought of trying a foot stool used by guitar players. I bought one, and now I take it everywhere. It is lightweight, can be collapsed for storage, and is inexpensive. You can purchase one at your local music store for $12-15. They are less expensive online, but you pay postage.”

Karen Hagrup, ilomama@sbcglobal.net

“I have worn cloth, Hoke-type corsets made in Warm Springs (the Brace Shop of the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation is now called the ReTech Department of the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation) for 50 years. I tried locally available (Los Angeles), off-the-shelf corsets but none provided the comfort nor the functional benefit of a custom-made corset. I gladly incurred the expense of travel to Warm Springs for replacements every few years.

“I was very disappointed 18 months ago to learn that Warm Springs could no longer make corsets. I discussed my plight with several Los Angeles orthotists before being referred to Craig Johnson (Royal Orthopedic, PO Box 2441, Cypress CA 90630, 562-430-6651). Craig’s grandmother was an orthotist who had designed a corset at the request of Dr. Jacquelin Perry at Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, Downey, California.

“Craig’s design that he learned from his grandmother differs slightly from a Warm Springs corset. He achieves a body-contoured fit by piecing together three panels of cloth in contrast to a single piece with darts for shaping. For me, the result has been a corset that is equal to, if not better fitting, and reaffirms that there is no substitute for a corset custom-made and custom-fitted by a meticulous craftsman.

“I’ve been afraid about the future because I was outliving my brace makers. So it’s a comfort that Craig Johnson is almost 20 years younger than I. By the way, Craig says corset is an old-fashioned term; binder is the modern term.”

Chuck Wuller, cwuller@gmail.com

“It is difficult to appreciate how great they are from the photos.”