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The world of a private eye

Sterling author busts some gumshoe myths

BY FAITH MAYER FAITH594@MSN.COM



John Lajoie

STERLING — If you've ever sat watching someone solve a case on a TV crime drama and thought to yourself, "I can do that," you are not alone.

According to private investigator John Lajoie of Sterling, just about everyone thinks he or she (or someone they know) can be a PI.

The truth is, the job is complicated and demanding and not everyone has the skill set required, he says. The good news is that Lajoie is inviting us into his world for a few

short hours through his book "Trials and Tribulations of a of a Real Life Private Eye." "Trials and Tribulations" is an book that outlines many of the cases has worked on in the course of as a private investigator.

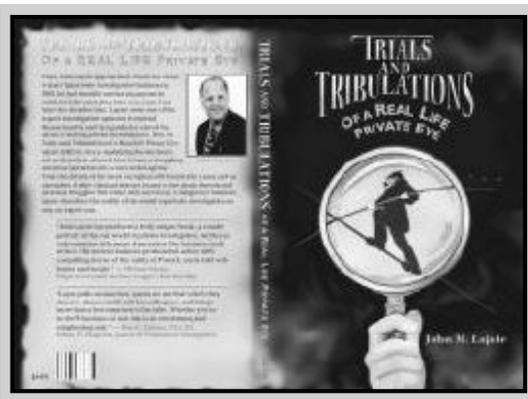
"The book is a combination of how I was raised and the lessons I've learned integrated with my career," Lajoie explained. He is the owner of Lajoie Investigations in West Boylston and employs 10 private investigators.

Unknown to Lajoie, the seeds for his latest book were planted when he wrote his first book entitled, "How to Become a PI."

"This was a how-to for people who want to get involved in PI work but aren't sure what's required to make that happen," he said.

"Someone suggested adding anecdotes to the first manual. Pretty soon anecdotes became chapters," he added.

The book was not a blockbuster, but it can be obtained through Lajoie for those interested in learning more about the work required to become a private



The cover of Lajoie's book, with the old-fashioned privateeye symbol – the magnifying glass.

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investigator.

Lajoie learned about PI work through a series of life events. He started Lajoie Investigations in 1989 after much soul searching and an a-ha! moment or two.

“I went from high school, to the military, where I learned discipline, to caring about where I was headed, into marriage to an understanding of the importance of education, to my job at Commerce Insurance, to here,” Lajoie said.

“Growing up on Belmont Hill in Worcester, I spent much of my life as a regular bluecollar person. My first job, out of the military, was with Commerce Insurance. I was a field investigator for them. In that time I had an epiphany about where I wanted to be. I decided that I wanted to become an investigator myself,” he said.

In his new book, Lajoie points out he journeyed from being a man lost to a man found. He hopes plenty of readers will take the journey with him.

“It is my goal to sell 50,000 books so it will become a bestseller,” he said.

With the media currently focused on crime dramas, Lajoie also harbors hope of seeing a reality show formed around a chapter or two of his book.

“A movie deal would be nice too,” he quipped.

In the book Lajoie talks about community service and how it is most important to him to give more than he receives.

“You don’t get anywhere in life without help; you don’t get anywhere alone. I saw a quote once that really impacted me. It said, ‘I like to give a little because I have been given much.’ That made a big impression on me,” he said.

“When I was growing up I read the Hardy Boys constantly and I wanted to grow up to be Frank Hardy, instead, I grew up to be John Lajoie,” he said.

A nationally known PI, Lajoie hopes to see his profile increase as the book becomes known. Who knows, he said, maybe he’ll even get Oprah’s attention.

Throughout the book, Lajoie speaks negatively of only one person, author Mickey Spillane, for the damage he’s done to the reputation Mike Hammer.

“There are no Mike Hammers out there,” Lajoie said. “I want there to be more John Lajoies out there. I want to separate the myth from the reality. This book hammers this home.”

“Trials and Tribulations of a Real Life Private Eye” took 10 months to write in threeto four-hour time blocks. It is being published by AuthorHouse.

Lajoie will hold a book signing on October 22 at Tatnuck Booksellers in Worcester. The books will be distributed in New York, Providence and Boston. To obtain a copy check out amazon.com or www.authorhouse.com.



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