

Private detective Robert J. Sawdon . . . the high fees make his job worthwhile.

daily nebraskan

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Investigators—eyeball to eyeball

Continued from p. 1

tell if someone's lying. He said his methods also came from reading books.

Doing detective work requires a "certain amount of discipline," he said. For example, he said he won't drink if he's working.

Most techniques used by private detectives, investigators and security personnel working for agencies come from police experience. However, there is no amount of investigative training or experience required to be licensed as a private detective in Nebraska.

The Nebraska secretary of state is responsible for licensing private detectives. He determines whether the applicant has the proper training,

Otherwise, Nebraska statutes requires only that detectives be 21 year old, a U.S. citizen and be "of good moral character, temperate habits," and have a "good reputation for truth, honesty, and integrity."

'That's really what it's all about-that you're a reputable person," one investigator said. A detective usually doesn't testify in court, but turns his evidence over to whomever hired him, he said.

There are three kinds of applications made to the secretary of state's office. One is for licensing as an independent private detective. Another allows a detective to operate an investigative agency. The third application is for plain-clothes investigators and security guards licensed only to work for an agency.

Every person who files an application from Lincoln is investigated by the Lancaster County attorney's office.

Each independent detective and agency also must be bonded in the amount of \$10,000. The bonding, and the license, must be renewed every two years.

Nebraska Sec. of State Alan Beermann said that no complaints against detectives have surfaced since he took office two years ago. He also said his office has received one complaint letter in the last five years.

Beermann said he hasn't refused to renew any licenses, although about three to five detectives leave agencies each year who might have been refused.

Another retired member of the Lincoln Police Department is president of a detective agency. Arthur Aksamit formed Security Services in 1963 while he was a detective lieutenant for the department. He retired in February.

About 40 persons work for Security Services, most of whom are security guards for banks and businesses. The agency has two investigators besides Aksamit.

Clients who need a private detective frequently are insurance companies, Aksamit said. A recent case involved investigating a girl "trying to nick" her insurance company.

The girl was sueing for a \$150,000 claim for back injuries from a car accident. Aksamit's detectives came back with film showing the girl bowling and horseback riding, he said.

One useful tool often mentioned by private detectives was a camera with a telephoto lens and high speed film.

Aksamit was reluctant to talk about other specific tools and techniques, as were the other detectives.

"Who knows," he said, "next week we may be investigating you."

Nebraskan for the Daily Nebraskan next semester. Positions to be filled include news jobs open

Applications are available for students interested in working

Positions to be filled include news editor, managing editor, staff artists, writers, copy editors, columnists, cartoonists and advertising account representatives. All positions are salaried except for account representatives who are paid commissions

Applications are available in the Daily Nebraskan office, 34 Nebraska Union, Interviews will be scheduled for early May.

John Robinson



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