

APPLIANCE DOCTOR

Come on folks, buy the doctor's book

In the year 1990, during lunch with radio's Master Handyman Glenn Haege, I was asked "Joe, why don't you write a book about the appliance industry." No one had to ask me twice because I jumped at the opportunity to become an author. I figured that if I could put in writing much of the knowledge needed by consumers and every



JOE GAGNON

home in the country had appliances I might be able to sell several million books.

Let me tell you, it doesn't work that way. I haven't even come close to the first million.

I spent every spare moment of my days and nights sitting with my Macintosh pounding away at 80 words per minute. This 22 months of my life resulted in the first and only book published which took an in depth look at the complete major home appliance industry. Fear of a lawsuit is probably the only thing that prevented others from doing so in the past.

I remember two and a half years ago when the first 1,000 copies arrived from the printers and the work involved in removing them from the truck. I also remember having to autograph many hundreds to consumers who had pre-ordered the book at different home shows. My right hand was raw and hurt for days. For 22 months, the book was a pain in the butt and not the book is a pain in my heart.

Every year I make appearances at home shows in the area which draw many thousands of homeowners. I sit there in the booth with my white doctor smock on and a stethoscope around my neck and answer thousands of questions from consumers. Along side me sits my publisher and helpers who sell the book and pass it to me for autographing.

It is the greatest feeling in the world to be in this fortunate position and let me tell you that I never forget where I came from. Now, you're asking, "OK big guy, how come you've got a pain in your heart over this book?"

It's the people who ask questions or walk right by and then don't buy the book who cause the pain. I don't care about the money, what I care about is

knowing that every person needs the information in the book. Homeowners come into my store by the thousands and tell me their tale of woe about being ripped off or wanting to know what products to buy and where to buy them and yet the book is right there on the counter. The book costs less than \$15, yet these very people will waste hundreds of dollars because they don't have the information they need before making a decision.

I did a radio show on the biggie WABC in New York City a few weeks ago where I offered at no charge to the radio listeners my two little booklets (dryer and refrigerator). That two hours of radio show resulted in 5,000 requests for the FREE little booklets.

A few days ago I received this very prestigious award from the Toastmasters International for being able to serve and communicate with the community. I don't think I'm doing such a great job because the consumer is still walking by the book without buying it. If I ever win the lottery, I will give it away free. Right now, I can't afford to.

The result of doing a radio show on the great voice of the Great Lakes and writing this column for the O&E has

created over 10,000 requests for the free booklets and thousands of phone calls to my store. These people aren't calling to chat about the weather, they're all calling to seek information which is written in the book.

I will not be around forever and the information in the book is good for a long time to come. I am not writing another book, so please buy this one so you can be a more aware consumer and I don't have to worry about your anymore. That way, no more pain in my heart.

PS - To this date, the author of "First Aid from the Appliance Doctor," Joe Gagnon has not taken one cent in profits from the many thousands of his books already sold.

The book is available at all Damman Hardware stores and major book stores across the country. The ISBN number is 1-880616-60-9 published by Master Handyman Press Inc.

Joe Gagnon, the Appliance Doctor, will answer your questions about maintaining and repairing large appliances. Gagnon is president of Carmack Appliances in Garden City and does a weekly radio program on WJR-AM.

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Decorating classes help spruce up home

Haberman Fabrics in Royal Oak has lined up a group of home decorating classes.

Call Haberman Fabrics at (810) 541-0010 for information.

Scheduled classes are:

• Decor 103: Create a Roman Shade, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays, June 8-22, \$40. Get hands-on instruction for making a working Roman shade using the Goeling® system. The first session will be a demonstration and selection of fabric and notions. The remaining classes will complete the construction (maximum finished width for first projects, 46 inches). For "beginner plus" experience (comfortable with sewing machine, some sewing experience).

• The Real Thing: Traditional Slipcovers, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, July 8-24, \$60. Slipcovers are the decorating rage again. Learn to make a fitted slipcover for a side chair or simple armchair in class before you tackle that sofa. Participants will learn The Four Seasons Bonsai Club of

first on muslin, then transfer the customized pattern to decorative fabric, then sew the removable slipcover. Plan to bring your chair to the first class with a helper to get it up the stairs. Some sewing experience required.

• Tuck and Tie Simple Slipcovers Seminar, 5:45-8:45 p.m. Thursday, July 11, \$15. If you are looking for quick and easy ways to update old, tired furniture and pillows with fresh, new fabric slipcovers, this is a seminar you won't want to miss. Even if you are a non-sewer, you can give your home the "casual chic" look featured in top decorating magazines and books. No sewing experience required.

• Bedroom Facelift, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, July 13-27, \$30. In this hands-on class, participants will create a duvet, a fresh, removable cover for a well-loved comforter, quilt or bedspread, and pillow shams. Learn simple techniques for sewing zipper or button/flap closures and welting or decorating.

Free bonsai workshops scheduled

Michigan will present "Bonsai Circus," simultaneous workshops and demonstrations by bonsai experts, 2-4:30 p.m. Sunday, May 28, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 814 N. Campbell, between 11 Mile and Gardenia in Royal Oak.

Admission is free. The public may

Learn how to sketch your ideas for your trees, identify plants and prepare your soil. Other informative presentations will show training, wiring and pruning techniques, and using correct pottery and tools to help.

For more information, call (810) 354-6119.