

# Palmyra resident re-creates Civil War-era Gatling guns

**GATLING** from page 1

19 years and, for the next six months, toured the Smithsonian and other museums that had original Gatlings on display.

He made rubbings and took measurements of the guns. Upon his homecoming, and with the help of a machinist friend, Pugsley began building his dream gun.

"I learned to build everything from scratch, right down to the screws," Pugsley said. "You can't just go to Ace Hardware and buy Gatling gun parts."

Eight years later, Pugsley crafts a 9-millimeter, 32-inch barrel version, as well as the full-scale 54-inch one and three sizes in between.

The 54-inch model requires about 1,000 hours to build. Pugsley produces only two a year, despite frequent 84-hour work weeks. Currently, he's got five on back order.

Weighing 300 pounds, the gun's essential accessory is either a two- or four-wheeled white oak

carriage, called a caisson. The gun's 10 barrels spit out a steady barrage of bullets as quickly as its operator can turn the crank. Fully dressed, the gun costs a minimum of \$55,000, a fraction of the \$250,000 an original fetches.

Pugsley said taking on a Gatling-armed soldier in the Civil War while equipped with the standard muzzle-loader of the day was akin to squaring off against other-world technology far more advanced than today's guns.

"It would be like going against a phaser-equipped Martian while carrying an M-16," he said.

Also among Pugsley's arsenal of weapon-building know-how is the Hotchkiss revolving cannon, another throwback to the Civil War era. The five-barrel artillery piece "comes in all sizes, shapes and calibers."

Pugsley said he built 1- to 6-foot barrel versions of the crank-operated cannon.

To do what he does, Pugsley is federally licensed by the Bureau of

Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. His annual \$3,000 Class 10 license permits him to build approved bombs, missiles and mines.

Of course, all Pugsley wants to build are the Gatling and Hotchkiss guns he calls his children.

Pugsley crafts all his wares with the \$250,000 worth of milling, tooling and welding equipment he has crammed in a 24-by-30-foot garage on his small acreage 6 miles southeast of Palmyra.

Unassembled drums, center shafts and other Gatling parts awaiting completion are strewn among the blocks of brass and steel similar to those from which they were milled.

Pugsley said he could charge more for what he does, but didn't want to because, unlike his wealthy patrons, money wasn't his motivation.

"I'm the only one in the world who does this," Pugsley said. "If it's going around and it's got more than one barrel, I made it."

# Defense delivers video evidence

**TRIAL** from page 1

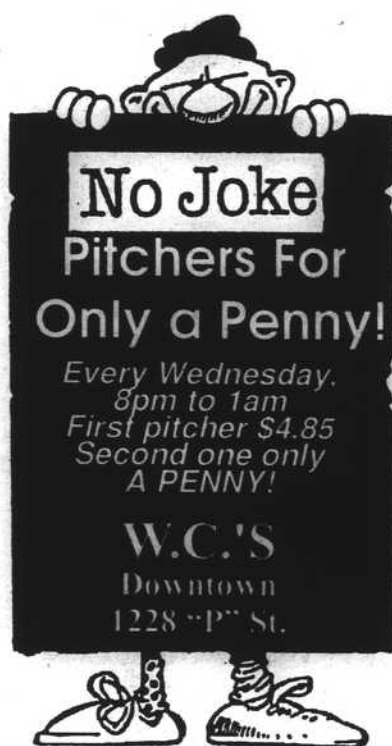
Several witnesses previously testified that three shots were fired. Lahners showed there were gaps in the wood fence, but Chief Public Defender Scott Helvie said the gaps were only about 1/2-inch wide.

Nebraska State Patrol Sgt. Mark Bohaty, a firearms and tool-mark examiner with the state crime lab, was Lahners' last witness. Bohaty ran tests on the bullet removed from Cole and

an empty bullet casing found in Willis Brown and Abdul Muhammed's apartment.

Brown and Muhammed were friends of Washington, and they were reportedly together the night of the shooting.

Bohaty said the slug taken from Cole was fired from a .38-caliber pistol. With markings on the bullet, Bohaty could narrow the gun to seven manufacturers.



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# Lied gets small fund raise; UPC given half its request

By SARAH BAKER  
Staff Reporter

The Lied Center for Performing Arts got drastically less funding than it requested, while the University Program Council received almost half its budget increase request from the Committee for Fees Allocation Tuesday night.

The Lied Center requested a 40 percent increase in its 1997-98 budget request, an amount totaling \$128,000. Instead, CFA allocated the Lied a 5 percent increase from the 1996-97 budget, totaling \$96,233.

Members of CFA said they had various reasons for not approving the Lied's request. According to a subcommittee report, the council didn't think the Lied Center's schedule warranted an increase greater than 5 percent.

"It is difficult to determine the Lied Center's need for additional funding, and thus, we could not justify an allocation increase of 40 percent," the report stated.

The subcommittee stated that the Lied's budget gave students too many discounts on tickets.

Students can get tickets for 50 percent off the public price. However,

when they buy tickets in bulk, students get up to a 60 percent discount. In 1994-95, students paid only 41 percent of tickets' true value.

The way the budget request was written also complicated the subcommittee's decision.

"This task was especially challenging since many specific amounts have been recategorized since last year and major portions of next year's budget are still undetermined," the subcommittee stated.

Also discussed at the meeting was the University Program Council's budget recommendation. UPC asked for an increase of \$9,090, which is a 9.6 percent increase from last year's budget.

CFA later recommended and approved a 5.62 percent increase for UPC, or \$6,300.

The committee based its decision on the essential work that UPC does for university students. The committee didn't outline how UPC should spend the money.

"The new budget allows for the UPC to allocate its funds in any area that it chooses," CFA member Tina Carter said. "Needs change on campus from year to year; that's why we didn't specify funds."



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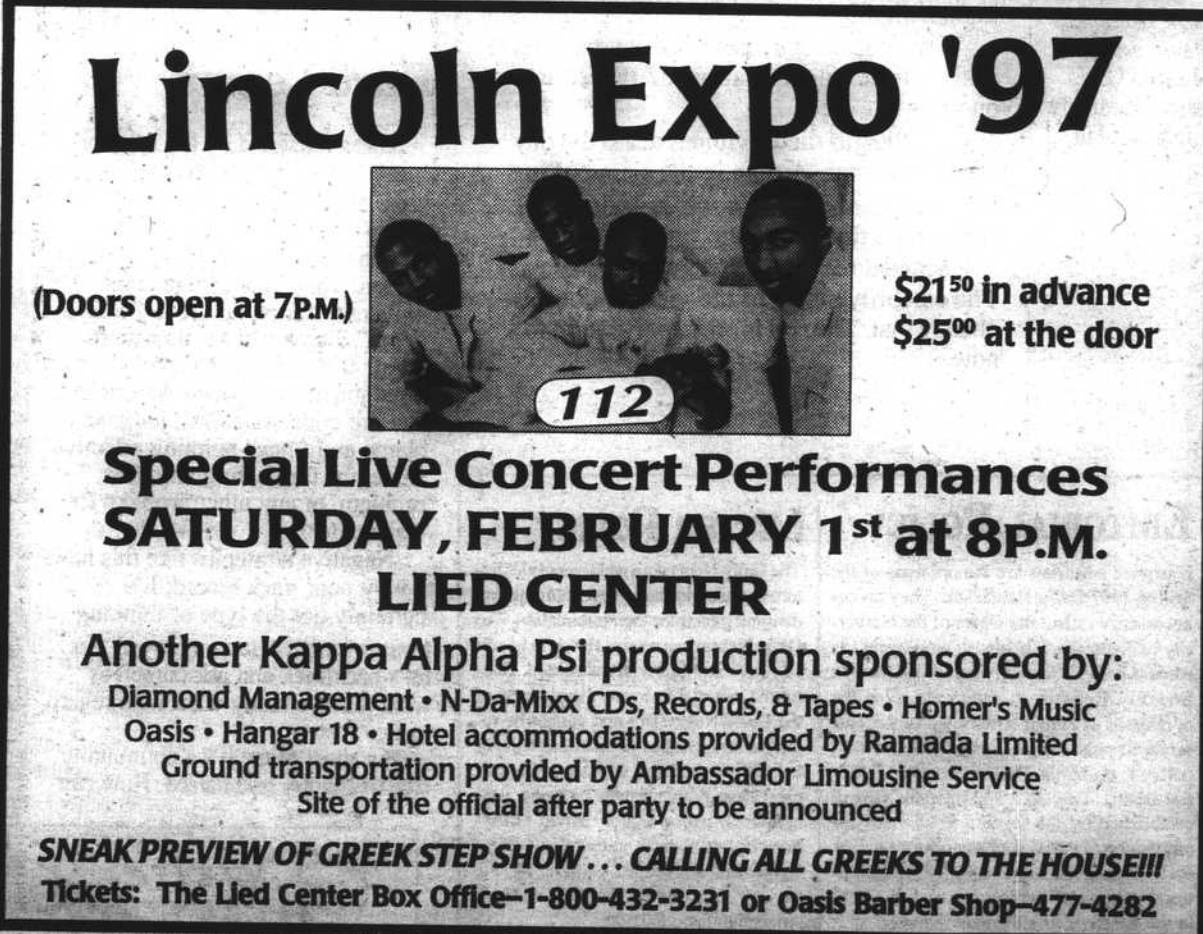


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