

## Who's who here? Joel Sater is!

Joel Sater, Marietta publisher of the **Antiques News**, has been selected for inclusion in the newest edition of **Who's Who in America**.

Sater's comment to the **Susquehanna Times** on his selection as one of the most eminent people in the U.S. was: "I don't know why they picked me...Do you?"

He is listed on the new **Who's Who** as a free lance writer, journalist, and author.

He has written "Antiquing with Joel Sater," a column syndicated in 110 newspapers throughout the country.

He is the author of innumerable guides to antiques.

Sater founded the **Antiques and Auction News** 12 years ago. It has now grown to a circulation of 70,000 issued every other week, and is the major popular antiques publication on the eastern coast.

A graduate of the University of Iowa, Sater is now completing work on a master's degree in American Studies at Penn State,

where he is studying under the direction of Dr. Irwin Richman, who resides in Bainbridge. Sater states he has learned from Richman how to discover coherent relationships between apparently isolated facts, "pulling together loose strings."

Sater's master's thesis is on the subject of the architecture of antique shops, which are always housed in old buildings, originally erected for another purpose.

For Sater "antiquing" is not just a satisfying form of sentimental nostalgia. He considers the antique business as making "a major contemporary ecological contribution." The present use of antique houses and furnishings by an increasing number of people constitutes the major recycling going on in our economy. "The antiques industry is the only industry that relies exclusively on existing products," says Sater.

He points out that "the antiques business is primarily a young people's

business. Seventy-five per cent of the buying and selling of used goods is by people under 40.

He also pointed out that the bulk of antique products being traded are not very old objects, but date from 1900 into the 1940's. **Art nouveau** (from 1890 to 1915) and **art deco**, also called "Rockefeller Gothic" (from the 1930's) are popular, and growing.

Sater's own tastes run to these more recent antiques, of which he is an omnivorous collector.

It is the kind of people who are interested in antiques that make his work satisfying. Regardless of nationality, "antiquers" have much in common all over the world.

Recently while shopping in an antique mart on the Left Bank in Paris, Sater asked the price of a small item.

The woman tending the stand immediately replied, "Dix francs. (Ten francs)" She hesitated, and then added, **mais, pour, vous - huit.** (but for you-eight.)'



Joel Sater

## Gatling gun cuts carbine company to pieces as Fencibles skirmish

Last Saturday and Sunday the Lancaster Fencibles hosted a skirmish at the Columbia Fish and Game Sport Farm. About 800 people from five states attended.

The Fencibles are to the Civil War what the Donegal Rangers are to the Revolution. Their uniforms and weapons are those of the 79th PA Volunteer Infantry, which fought in many battles of the War Between the States.

Activities include carbine target competition, an old-fashioned ball, dress parade, and a duel between a carbine company and a gatling gun.

Both the company and the gun had to shoot a piece of wood in half at 50 yards. The first to do so won.

From the first, the carbine company didn't stand a chance, even though they were firing at a 1" by 8" board, while the machine gunners had to demolish an 8" square oak barn timber. Owner Will Ellis, firing 1500 .45 cal. bullets per minute, sawed through the post in about 30 seconds, then swung his carriage and quickly cut through the board, at which the carbines were still popping futilely. The crowd applauded this im-

pressive display of firepower.

Mr. Ellis afterwards explained the mechanism of his Gatling gun to the **Susquehanna Times** reporter. It is a replica of an 1865 model, used at the very end of the Civil War. He built it himself in 181 hours, using old pipes for scrap metal.

The gun, which Mr. Ellis describes as "the kind Custer left at home," was once entered in a similar contest with an M-60, the latest U.S. Army heavy machine gun. The Gatling won. "This gun has a hitting force of 16 tons per second", Mr. Ellis informed us.

Other weapons from the period were in abundance, including knives, bayonets, muskets, and revolvers.

The Fencibles are very careful to maintain historical authenticity in their uniforms as well as their fighting implements. Some even use special cloth, similar to that of 100 years ago, to make the pants and shirts. The uniforms are modeled on those of a soldier of the original Fencibles, photographed in 1866 in Penn Square.

Ten years ago the Fencibles participated in the reenactment of the battle of Gettysburg. Three thousand other shooters partici-

pated in Pickett's charge along with them. About 35,000 spectators were on hand as well.

At that time they constructed a barn which they burned during the "battle" because a barn had burned during the real Pickett's charge. Today they are considering building a wooden bridge partway across the Susquehanna River for the purpose of burning during a possible skirmish.

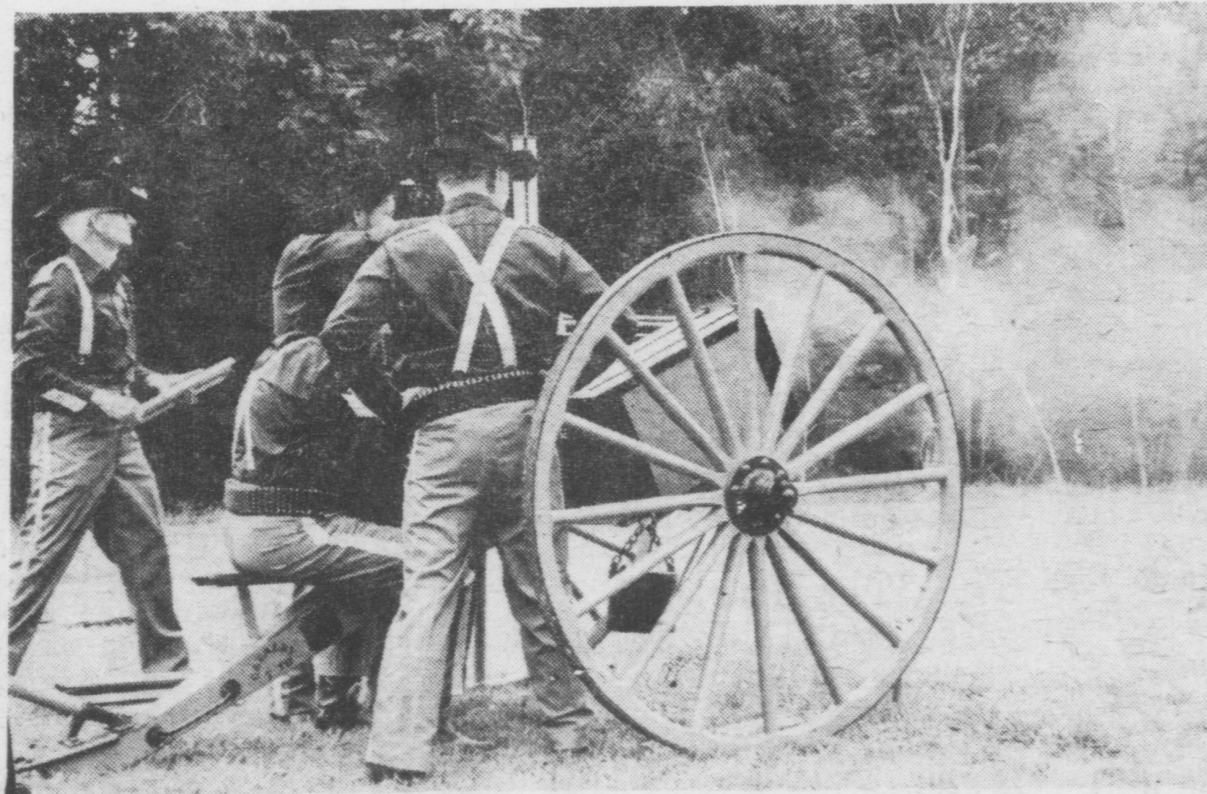
The origin of the name "Fencibles" is uncertain (perhaps their moniker derives from the fact that they practiced offense and defense) but goes back to

Revolutionary times. The Fencibles who fought in the Civil War were organized around 1820. Later they served as President Buchanan's honor guard. They were the first unit to leave Lancaster in 1860 to fight.

Despite their head start, the Fencibles did little fighting for the first nine months of the war. They guarded bridges in Maryland. After they were disbanded, however, many ex-fencibles enlisted with the 79th Infantry and saw combat all over the East.

There were a number of stands selling weapons and

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Will Ellis and assistants firing Gatling gun



Confederate troops engage in carbine competition.