

none was found at Ravenwood, and Lady Sintana says she has for years lead youngsters away from drugs. The teen-ager, who told her original story to the ministers, later agreed to cooperate with Lady Sintana's attorney, Tom Maddox.

Says he: "She is particularly vulnerable because of her religious beliefs. That's why people will bring questionable charges."

His first case with the high priestess involved a charge of aggravated assault. Seems someone reported a fire at Ravenwood where a ritual was in progress. Firemen found Lady Sintana holding the ceremonial knife, called an athame, and from that came the charges, which were later dismissed.

The latest warrant for her arrest was approved without a preliminary hearing or investigation, Maddox says, and without drugs.

"What angered me the most was that they knew these charges were worthless. Under Georgia law there is no way to get a conviction without seizing the substance, except if the police officer sees it. It's absolutely ludicrous. It's harassment."

Maddox, who knew nothing about the craft before meeting Lady Sintana, has learned to respect her.

"I've really enjoyed learning about wicca (witch) history. I have a great respect for her, whether I believe it or not," he says. ". . . There's so much misunderstanding with regard to stereotyping witches. Everyone immediately assumes she worships the devil. Very few people take time to understand or care. They react viscerally."

Lady Sintana says she foresees Ravenwood's destruction. But to her way of thinking this is all a process of growth. Her dream is to see more Ravenwoods, spreading the teachings of wicca throughout the country.

"Holy wars, pitting god against god, certainly is not what I call an evolved way of thinking," she says. "Wars are waged for God and country. I can't imagine God having anything to do with the destruction of the soul."

She tells the story of one furious woman who came into Ravenwood, shouting that everyone there should be burned alive.

She recalls saying to the woman: "You think yourself a Christian, I presume, and you believe in the devil? Isn't it interesting that you come into my home demanding that the devil's work be done, death for myself and my grandson. Take your Christian devil out of my home."

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