

Lady Sintana's birds returning to the wild

By HELEN ORDNER

Lady Sintana's neighbors are right that eagles, hawks, owls and other large birds are seen at her home and then aren't seen, she said.

This was reported at an "emergency" meeting of several south DeKalb neighborhood associations after they learned that they have an acknowledged practitioner of witchcraft as a four-year neighbor.

Sintana holds federal and state licenses to rehabilitate injured birds of prey and is widely known for her work in this field.

Any eagle found injured in this area will likely be brought to her, she said.

"She does a fantastic job with injured birds, rehabilitating them and returning them to the wild," said a spokesman for For Pet's Sake. "Not many people would spend the time and money like she does."

Veterinarian Dr. Mike Brandon commented that "the way she cares for her animals places her in the top ten percent of owners."

She has been bringing her dogs to his office, a few blocks from her home, for four years now, he said.

"She brings them in if they are lame, have a cough, or simply not eating. Not many pet owners would spend the time and money she does," he said.

It was speculated at the community meeting that there is a connection between stones in Sintana's backyard, and the alleged disappearance of animals.

State Sen. John Parrish told the civic groups that he had checked vets for two miles around and animal-care organizations, and that none had heard of Sintana.

Brandon said that his office lists Sintana as the Rev. Candy Lehrman or Ravenwood Church and Seminary Inc. and might not have connected the names if Parrish called there. He had no knowledge of such a call, he said.

Brandon said he has received threatening calls since he gave Sintana permission to use his parking lot when religious observances are held at her home.

Sintana said she has one dog, a collie/shepherd named Rasputin. She gave another, E.T., to her daughter. The grown daughter and E.T. were visiting her when Parrish knocked unexpectedly at the door, she said, and the dogs barked, "sounding like a zoo."

For a time, she said, she gave a home to a stray dog which wandered into her yard, along with providing needed shots and spaying. He wore three collars, she said, including a tight metal choke collar, long outgrown. She advertised, interviewed people, and placed him with a family which still brings him back to visit.

That, she said, is how he disappeared.

Commissioner Bill Brown also spoke at the community meeting, stressing that an official decision would not be made on the basis of anyone's religious beliefs.

Parrish told the group "I don't know what's going on, but Ray Charles could see something going on. Southwest DeKalb and Rainbow school children walk up and down that street. Who says they won't recruit your child? They've got to go."