

DeKalb witch up to her old tricks

Lady Sintana, DeKalb's most famous witch, brewed up a firestorm last summer when she ignored a county ruling forbidding her from operating a church and threatened to sue anyone who tried to stop the full-moon rituals at her home.

The cauldron was stirred by nervous neighbors ("We don't want to see another Waco or Jim Jones situation over here," said one) and by state Sen. John Parrish of Decatur ("Please don't send us another devil.")

Lady Sintana, a former burlesque dancer whose real name is Candy Lehrman, didn't understand what all the fuss was about. "We don't sacrifice animals, we don't worship Satan, and we don't have wild orgies in the yard," she said. All the Ravenwood witches do is follow an old variety of the Wiccan religion

that predates Christ and believes in love, peace, magic and psychic power.

By ignoring the ruling, Lady Sintana faced a possible court summons and fine — but she got neither. The county attorney took no action against her, and when the complaints died down, the county closed its file on the dispute, said Ray Longmire, DeKalb's assistant director of development.

On Oct. 31, as usual, the witches held Halloween, their most sacred holiday, at Lady Sintana's house off Interstate 20. She hired an off-duty policeman to stand guard as a precaution, but there was no trouble.

Even so, she has installed a pond with a fountain out back and plans to put up lattice work bordered by roses, to block off the view.

People who want to peep at the witches' ceremonies "will have to hang out on the roof," she said.



PARLENE KARAS / Staff

Lady Sintana stands in her yard within the circle of stones that had her neighbors in an uproar. The picture was taken in August at the height of her infamy.