

## Witches Brewing After 2 Arrests

By TOM BAXTER

Atlanta witches think "religious persecution" may be behind the arrest of two of their members at the House of Ravenwood.

The two women, Lady Circe, who is visiting from Toledo, Ohio, and Lady Sitana, one of the operators of the house at 522 Moreland Ave. NE, were arrested Wednesday afternoon by Atlanta vice squad detectives.

Circe, whose name was listed on the police docket as Ms. Jeffrey Cather, was charged with violating the city ordinance against fortune telling. Sitana, listed as Ms. Candy Lehrman, was charged with operating a business without a license.

But Atlanta police who made the arrest won't have to worry about any evil spells being placed on them, according to Circe.

"One of them at the station asked me if we were going to charge him into a load, and I told him that nature had already beaten me to it," Circe said.

Circe was arrested while she was giving a \$15 "psychic consultation" to an undercover policeman.

She claimed the consultation involved the laying out of Tarot cards, "one of the tools of our religion," and did not involve fortune telling.

"He said my Tarot cards were marked. Can you imagine that? Tarot cards being marked?" she asked. Tarot cards, which have been used as a form of divining for hundreds of years, have different symbols from regular playing cards.

She said she had never been arrested before, but was not surprised by the action. "There's a lot more to this than meets the eye," she said.

Wes McKewin, a spokesman for the Brotherhood and Sisterhood of Wicca, which uses the house as a meeting place, said the group apparently is being "persecuted by the law for court talk."

He said the group had been assured by city officials before the house opened that, as a church, they would not need a business license.

"The Catholic church sells rosary beads, et cetera, et cetera, so why can't we?" he asked.

The house opened last Thursday with a good deal of media coverage. The Wiccans said they would sell several items, including incense, herbs and Wiccan costumes, and use the house as a place of worship.

The Wiccans claim kinship with the old European pagan religion which was supplanted by Christianity. They say they do not worship Satan because their religion doesn't recognize his existence.

Apparently, though, that part of their message hasn't filtered down to the Atlanta police.

"They're some kind of devil worshippers, I understand," said one night shift vice squad policeman who saw the two women being booked. "I'll tell you, I've seen a lot of things up here, but nothing like this."

Circe and Sitana were released from jail Wednesday night on \$100 bond each and were scheduled for a hearing Thursday afternoon.

## The Witch Hunt Is On??

*What you see on the left is part of a letter received from the "In-er Egg". If you will notice in the article re-printed from the "Atlanta Journal" the ladies were arrested for giving "Tarot (and readings", so this affects not only the "Pagan Community" but all of us in the "Psychic Field". Forewarned is fore-armed and lets not become victims if we can help it, either in the "Chicagoland area" or elsewhere. A friend of mine, a "practicing pagan" has a feeling that something bad is about to happen and it could be that she senses a "witch-hunt brew in the cauldron of ignorance".*

*"Justice-telling" in Chicago is a misdemeanor (check the "Municipal Code of Chicago- Ordinances... 193-22 and 193-25, subject to fines of \$ 25.00 but not more than \$100.00".... Look it up at your public library, every branch has a copy. These ordinances are enforceable at the discretion of the arresting officers which means that if a "bunco team" visits you and they find you are sincere and not practicing a "gypsy scam" they will not bother you, hopefully.*

*However, a lot depends upon your location as Inere Diamond certainly has had a great deal of trouble out in Schaumburg, so check your township ordinances against the Chicago area and see if they differ. And do write to the "Juror" of your personal experiences so that we can all share our knowledge \$5.... The "Midwest Psychic News" seem to have become a phone referral service so if you have a question or wish to locate someone, reader, psychic, etc. or something, book, product, etc. write and ask. It is difficult for my 76 year old mother to cope with new ages and questions that will seem to be of interest more than one subscriber will be answered in the "re letter". Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for your reply.*