

What Would You Do?

The banging on the front door began at about 10:10 PM on the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 6th. I was in bed, asleep and Janet was reading. The house was dark aside from her reading light.

We both blundered out of bed, she a bit ahead of me, both heading for the front door. I tried to stop her as I also tried to get my pants on. I thought about the revolver...but she was already at the door, opening it.

A young Wellsboro police officer appeared in the doorway. I don't remember his exact words, but he basically said that someone had turned us in for leaving our dog, Kodi, out in the cold. I invited him in to get more information and he continued explaining.

At this point, I invited him to come in to the kitchen where Kodi was asleep on the rug. The officer petted him a bit, apologized for the intrusion, and left. Before that he had mentioned that he had walked around to the back of the house. He had obviously not seen Kodi since Kodi was inside. The next morning I walked around that side in the snow and found his footprints.

I had first asked him who had turned us in and on what basis, since Kodi was inside sleeping and for the past few nights had been. I'm paraphrasing here since I do not remember his exact words, but basically he said that he did not know who had actually made the false allegation.

For a day or so I thought about what had occurred. At first we were incredulous that someone could do this, and second that they could remain anonymous. Then I stopped at the Wellsboro police station to hopefully get some answers. It was late morning and no officers were present. I used their call box to make contact, and about 15 minutes later, an officer appeared. I asked him if he would contact the officer that had come to our home and have him contact us. Nothing happened. I went back several days later and spoke to the young officer who had been at our house that night (and another accompanying officer), again asking them for more information on who to contact. After several more days and no information, I contacted a friend and he suggested that I contact the mayor. This I did. I explained to him what had happened. He called the police chief and the chief called me and gave me the name of the person who had called the accusation in. Apparently that person is an officer with the Humane Society of PA.

I called that person several times over the next few days and got no answer. Finally I called a third time and she answered. Briefly I explained who I was, what had happened that Wednesday night, and asked her to give me the name of the person who had made the false accusation. She said she could not do that. I then asked her what her organization would do if this person did this again. No clear answer.

Some background: My name is Kerry Gyekis. I live on Fischler St. At the back of our home is the woods which goes up over the top of the ridge.....No homes. No one can see the back area of our home close to the house...not even our neighbors (who are both good friends). Kodi, when he is outside, which is a lot of the time, has a platform with a foam bed on it. He can literally look in the kitchen window and tell us if

he sees a bear, wants to come in, etc. He is an outdoor dog. In fact he works with me on timber sales all over PA and Upstate NY. I wear a transmitter and a revolver and he wears a receiver and a sheep bell. He has spent all 8 years of his life doing this with me...and...he loves to sleep outdoors.

But...on nights usually below 10 degrees F, I bring him in and he stays in, even when he tells me he wants out. That Wednesday, Feb. 6th, and the night before it, he had been in for that reason. It was cold.

So...no one can see the area where Kodi sleeps unless they are at our back door. Period. Whoever made this accusation did so without any basis in fact. They put the young officer's life and ours in danger for some reason.

Was this simply a person who had seen Kodi outside sometime...in other words a "do gooder" without a clue? Or...was this someone with some other agenda? At this point in time I would like to speak to them and determine if they understand what they've done and their motives for doing so. I proposed this to the police initially, asking the policeman if he would help me as a mediator. He did not want to do that and frankly, I understand that.

I've spoken with several lawyers, several policemen, the mayor, the Tioga Emergency Communication Org, Clint Owlet's office, The Tioga County Right to Know person, and the American Civil Liberties Union. We shall see.

Again, I would ask you....What Would You Do?

