

Bay Ridge Family Suffers Bizarre Bird Attack



These two unsuspecting ladies fled after being warned that the gentle animals they were feeding had a history of sporadic violence.

By Craig McGuire

In a scene straight out of a Hitchcock classic, a Brooklyn family was recently victimized by a vicious assault in Bay Ridge.

Last Saturday at approximately 5:30 p.m., on their way to their car after visiting a family member at Victory Memorial Hospital, 699 92nd Street, the MacDonald family was attacked by a flock of birds on the corner of 92nd and 7th Avenue.

The flock, consisting of geese, chickens, wild pigeons, and a rooster belongs to Poly Prep Country Day School, 92nd Street and 7th Avenue. The couple had parked on 7th Avenue and had to pass the flock, which was behind an eight-foot high mesh fence.

"We stopped to look at the birds and even threw them a few chips," said Thomas MacDonald. "That was when they began scaling the fence and squirming under the gate. At first we thought it was cute."

"Before we knew what was happening they were all over us, and when we ran out of chips they began pecking at us," said Eileen MacDonald.

"We weren't doing anything to them, we weren't teasing them," said a visibly shaken 9-year-old Mary MacDonald. "They just kept pecking and pecking and pecking. What animals!"

"I find it hard to believe the McDonalds were innocent of any malicious be-

havior," said Poly Prep Principal Willem W. Willems. "The children at the school interact with these gentle birds on a regular basis and we have never had any incidents."

The three family members received numerous lacerations to the face, scalp and hands while attempting to ward off their attackers, and were treated and released from Victory Memorial. According to Thomas MacDonald, it was their thick winter clothing that

prevented additional injuries.

Following the initial attack, the family fled across 92nd Street and made a dash for the emergency room entrance.

"I had just stepped out for a cigarette when I heard this awful noise behind me," said Billy Donnelly, a hospital security guard on duty at the time of the attack. "I saw two people running towards me being attacked by a swarm of all kinds of birds."

"I'll tell you the truth, I really didn't think they were going to make it," said Donnelly, a retired New York City police officer. "The two adults were half way across when they realized the birds were slowly dragging the child back towards the fence."

"That was when it hit me. I just reacted," said Eileen MacDonald, who ran back and scooped up her daughter.

"As they came running

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