

THE WILD CATS

THE MEMBERS OF THE CLUB INCUR THE DISPLEASURE OF THE ORGANIZATION, AND ARE NOTIFIED THAT THEIR LIVES ARE IN DANGER-THE UNIQUE NOTICE THEY RECEIVED, ETC.

(Copied from The Atlanta Constitution-May 26, 1886)

The Wild Cat Club has blacklisted two of its members, and threatens them with a painful and mysterious death. Charlie Forsyth and Talmage Pendleton are the two blacklisted Wild Cats.

The Wild Cat Club has made for itself a history in Atlanta. It is an organization which operates after the mantle of darkness covers the earth, and is made up of young white boys whose ages range from twelve to fifteen years, but whose cunning and daring challenge the admiration of the most reckless and devil may-care frontiersmen. The club has had an existence in Atlanta for the past three years and a half, and during that time its members have committed some of

THE MOST PROVOKING

and uncalled for acts, and yet, notwithstanding, the hard work of good detectives have managed to secret their identity with a single exception.

But dissension has arisen in the club, and if it does not go to pieces of its own accord soon the probabilities are the detectives will be able to acquire sufficient information to break it up. The club has been quite [quiet] nearly two weeks, and during that time no lawn gates have been moved and no midnight rings at the door bell have been reported. The police have been unable to account for the club's inactivity, but yesterday morning a member of the force found a unique card pinned to a post which probably explains the club's inactivity. The card was in keeping with

THE DEEDS OF THE CLUB

and as the policeman looked at it a cold shudder ran down his back, and he tore the card from its post and carried it to police headquarters. The card was:

THE WILD CATS

Skull & Xbonz Graphic

NOTICE

CHARLIE FORSYTH AND
TALMAGE PENDLETON HAD
BETTER LAY LOW FOR THEY

ARE LIABLE TO GET SHOT
BY THE WILD CAT CLUB

WILD CAT CLUB

DETECTIVES AT WORK

When the card was laid before Chief Connolly he thought he had a solution to the membership of the Wild Cat Club, and at once detailed an officer to look into it. The officer began a search for the two blacklisted members, but declines to tell what he ascertained. He says, however, that the club will probably hold a meeting in a few nights and disband for good. The card, so the detectives say, was pinned to a post where the Wild Cats always meet when going on a raid. Since its appearance in Atlanta the Wild Cat Club has made a reputation. Its members turn out about one and two nights in the week, and for two or three months they have their fun. Then they let up, and for two or three months nothing more is heard of them. They generally operate in portions of the city remote from the regular beats of patrolmen. One night they will do

THEIR WORK IN ONE WARD

and on the next night they will work in another part of the city. They never do anything that would land them in jail, but they manage to provoke good citizens at a terrible rate.

One of their favorite amusements is to tie a string to a door bell about midnight, and then while one member carries the other end of the string into a convenient tree the others secret them

selves near by. Then when everything is quiet the Wild Cat in the tree gives the string a vigorous jerk or two and the door bell can be heard clattering a block away. The sound naturally arouses the sleeping household, and crawling out of a warm bed someone goes to the front door. Of course

NOONE IS FOUND AT THE DOOR

and the one who has answered the ring goes back to bed, but no sooner is he comfortably fixed in bed than the bell rings again, and again the front door is opened with the same result. This is kept up until either the household declines to open the door or the Wild Cats get tired and leave. Another piece of amusement to which they are partial is to take a stout, strong rope and tie one end securely around the front door handle and then tie the other end to a tree in the yard or to the front gate. This effectually locks the family in the house, and the next morning when the door is unlocked it cannot be opened until the rope is discovered and cut or untied. The Wild Cat Club has moved more gates than any team could carry off. They will slip a front gate from its hinges and carry it a half a mile, just to make the owner mad. They have been known to build fences across streets with the gates, and upon one occasion carried all the lumber away from a building a half a mile and built a fence ten feet high across a street. The night old man Brown was hurt by his wagon being upset the Wild Cat Club was out, and it is generally believed that they strapped the gates which upset the wagon across the street.

THE WILD CATS AGAIN

THE SECOND MANIFESTO NAILED TO A TELEGRAPH POLE
THE CLUB THREATENS THE ENTIRE POLICE DEPARTMENT WITH
INSTANT DEATH-8STREET LAMPS DEMOLISHED AND
GATES. REMOVED-ALICE WRIGHT FINED -TRACING THE DIAMOND
ROBBERY

(Copied from The Atlanta Constitution, May 29, 1886)

The Wild Cat Club is on the rampage again. This time the club is after the police department, and the members of the Department are pretty badly scared up.

The club issued another manifesto Thursday night and pinned it to a telegraph pole in the heart of the city. The manifesto was almost an exact counterpart of the one published in the *Constitution* a few days ago. It was a wicked looking paper, and attracted the attention of every one who passed near it. The crossed bones and skull were more ghostly looking than if they had been real, while the dirk looked as pointed as a needle and as sharp as a razor. The pistol was as large as a small cannon, and looked like it held a dozen lives in the barrel. The placard was tacked to a telegraph pole, where a great many persons saw it. In fact, quite a crowd gathered around the pole at one time, and the crowd drew a patrolman. When the patrolman read the notice, he took it down and carried it to Chief Connolly, who has laid it carefully away. The placard warns policemen and newspaper reporters to leave the Wild Cat Club alone, or "some of you will get shot some dark night when you are turning a corner by the Wild Cat Club."

The placard caused a great deal of amusement before it was removed from the telegraph pole.

Night before last some one removed several gates on Windsor and Cooper Streets and failed to place one where it could be found. The gate belonged to Hon. Mr. Scruggs, and yesterday morning he reported the loss at police headquarters. When Chief Connolly, yesterday morning, heard of the removal of the gates he ordered a detective to take the matter in hand and give it a thorough and, complete investigation. The Chief says that he intends to trace the midnight fun makers down and will make them suffer when he ascertains who they are. On the same night a dozen gates were moved on Whitehall Street and a fence built across the street with them.

"You talk about Wild Cat Clubs," said Jack Bagby, the city lamp lighter, last night as he sat near police headquarters, "but I tell you they take the cake. Last night some one broke up four street lamps, smashed them into fragments. Why, they have actually taken them off the posts and carried them away and hid them so effectually that I could never find them. One night they filled a square lamp full of mud, and when the boy opened the door and stuck his hand in to light the lamp it scared him nearly to death."