

Mystery Writer Reaches for the Sky

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Now that **Rex Stout's** current Nero Wolfe whodidit, *THE COUNTERFEITER'S KNIFE*, is drawing to a conclusion (page 38), the time is ripe for our tale of two young gunslicks who jumped to a conclusion. They are Chris and Reed Maroc, aged three and four and a half. We find them (right) in grandfather Stout's study in Danbury, Connecticut. (The house is in Danbury; its mailbox is across the state line, in Brewster, New York.) The boys' mother had told them not to bother grandpa because he was busily involved in a counterfeiting plot. The boys deduced that he was making bogus currency and decided to apprehend him. "They had a point," says Stout. "It could be argued that all fiction writing is counterfeiting."

Grandpa had the scene re-enacted, with authentic costumes. But the photograph won't make the youngsters liable to charges of false arrest. "A reconstruction," says Nero Wolfe's creator, "is no good as evidence."



Rex Stout and his grandchildren.