Mystery Writer Reaches for the Sky

Now that Rex Stout's current Nero Wolfe who-did-it, 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."

Saturday Evening Post, Jan. 28, 1961

STOUT KINGS FOR REX STOUT

... Rex Stout, Brewster, N.Y., famous author and creator of the "Nero Wolfe" character, caught these 20-pound kingfish recently while fishing off Blind Pass with Dr. N. B. Selleck of Paradise Island, friend of the writer for many years. They fished from Roy's Fishing Center, Blind Pass Bridge.