Keeping Posted

Mr. Stout's Idea of Fun

When mystery novelist Rex Stout, who has written 30 books about Nero Wolfe, is tired out from concocting a criminal puzzle and then unconcocting it, how does he relax? "The trouble with my hobbies," he feels, "is that I'm over-hobbied." Although the page 30 author and his wife live in the relaxing town of Brewster, N.Y., Stout avers that the only place he could be utterly content would be on a strip of ground alongside the grandstand in Yankee Stadium, where he would have a small building ("or a tent would do"), a pool of deep, cold water, rows of vegetables and a border of flowers. Inside the building or tent he would be conducting three activities: cabinetmaking, playing chess, and arguing with somebody about something. Outside, three other activities: gardening, cooking on a grill, and fishing in the pool. Meanwhile, he would be watching some ball team, no matter which, whaling the daylights out of the Yankees.

Rex Stout and his wife Pola.