

THE JUMP-UPS

Verses by PAUL WEST
Drawings by WM H. LOOMIS



The Jump-Ups, chilled by social frost, were just about to go
Away from Newport, where 'twas plain they'd never stand a show,
When who should come upon the scene but Mrs. G. Howe Rich,
Who raised the hopes of Genevieve again to concert pitch.

For strictly in the inner set was Mrs. Rich, you know,
And when she took the Jump-Ups 'round it made them quite the go,
Which pleased, of course, fair Genevieve but made Jim shake his head,
"Cause, gee, I hate society, with all its stuff," he said.

"Ungrateful wretch!" cried Genevieve. "I almost think it's true
'Pigs' ears won't make silk purses' when I hear such talk from you.
Still, I must try to lift you up, and so to-day I went
And entered you, my dearest, in the tennis tournament!"

"Lawn tennis! Gosh!" exclaimed poor Jim. "I never saw the game!"
"What difference?" answered Genevieve. "You'll play it just the same.
I'll buy a book about the rules; you'll study them each day,
And you'll be fit by Saturday—that's when you have to play!"

Well, when the fateful day arrived she sought the tennis court
And thrilled to sit among the crowd, the swells of highest sort;
For everyone was talking of the "Unknown Jump-Up" who,
'Twas said, it was expected some astounding things would do.

Then out came Jim, an abject sight, ashake in every nerve.
His adversary faced him and the balls began to serve;
And Jim—he couldn't see them and he cried: "Hey, not so fast!"
Till finally, by hook or crook, he landed one at last!

His face beamed bright as up it sailed and vanished o'er the wall!
Somehow he thought he ought to run and, spite the shouts of all,
Into the net he dashed pell-mell! It fell and then, alas!
Struggling, entangled in its folds he sprawled upon the grass!

The gay Casino rang with jeers and when they picked him out
He shuffled off, a shame-faced oaf, pursued by such a shout!
"Oh, Jim!" cried Genevieve, that night, "again your worst you've done!"
"Me! Why?" asked Jim, "I hit that ball as fur as any one!"