

Hemingway's St. Louis Blues

By IRVING JOHNSON

ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S been looking all over the world for the right St. Louis woman. In 25 years he's found and married three and has a good notion of what it means to have and have not.

For brawny, bearded Mr. Hemingway has at last learned that findings are not always keepings. Two of the perfect trio have long since left him and apparently the third's going.

The new arrangement of the muscular writing man's personal St. Louis Blues is by lovely blond author Martha Gellhorn, who married him five years ago in Cheyenne, Wyo. Now Martha's back on the west bank of Old Man River polishing up her lines for a fall divorce.

The slim inspiration for Hemingway's "For Whom the Bell Tolls" says the wedding bells won't toll for her again for some time.

They tolled first for Hemingway in 1921 when he married Hadley Richardson, of an old St. Louis family. The farewell to arms came in 1927 when Hadley yielded up the rising young author to Pauline Pfeiffer, her old friend from St. Louis.

Ernie and Polly pledged undying love in Paris and traveled in Europe for years. Then they settled down in Key West, Fla., and that's where Hemingway met Martha. Polly got a divorce in November, 1940, and Martha replaced her in 17 days.

Mischievous Mr. Hemingway was devoted to each of his wives and each was the inspiration for one or more of his best sellers.

They were not alone in sharpening his literary skill, however. A titled English girl stirred him to write "The Sun Also Rises" toward the end of his first marriage.

For all his preference for St. Louis belles Hemingway was born in Oak Park, Ill., 47 years ago. He was a reporter and drove an ambulance in the first World War.

He came home and married Miss Richardson. The newlyweds went to Paris and in 1923 "Three Stories and Ten Poems" was published. Afterwards came "In Our Time" and "The Torrents of Spring."

Hadley was walking in the clouds. She knew she was his inspiration.

Hemingway's literary stature increased with "The Sun Also Rises." A little later the Hemingways entertained a fashion writer from St. Louis. The visitor, Pauline Pfeiffer, took over the job of inspiring Hemingway and Hadley got a divorce and departed with her son, John.

Hemingway kept on writing. "Men Without Women" appeared in 1927 and his masterpiece, "A Farewell

to Arms," two years later. Patrick and Gregory Hemingway were born and Ernest wrote "Death in the Afternoon" and "Winner Take Nothing."

Polly loved his next book, "Green Hills of Africa," best of all. She had been there with him and knew she was his inspiration.

In the late 30s, the family returned to America and lived at Key West. Martha Gellhorn, a reporter, was sent to interview the novelist.

Martha, while roaming around Europe, had married and divorced Count Bertrand de Jouvenel, a gentleman journalist.

Love smote Hemingway and the St. Louis blonde. Martha's assignments and the novelist's trans-Atlantic passages often kept them apart, but the romance flourished.

Meanwhile, Hemingway's fistic

prohess was unveiled. In 1937 he said he slapped down Author Max Eastman. Eastman said he dumped Ernest on his head and Hemingway boldly challenged his adversary to battle for \$1,000—winner take all.

The authors spatted over a piece by Eastman called "Bull in the Afternoon," in which he wrote: "Come out from behind that false hair on your chest, Ernest. We all know you."

Hemingway, rightfully proud of the hair on his chest, said that's why he slapped his contemporary. Who hit whom was never established. The slugging novelist's second ring engagement took place two years later in a New York night club, where he claimed a one-punch kayo of a broker—who showed his muscles and went down without a hit.

Between battles Hemingway wrote "To Have and Have Not" and "The Fifth Column" and everybody knew this was for the stylish Miss Gellhorn. Then he dedicated his greatest work, "For Whom the Bell Tolls," to Martha, who had already won a measure of fame herself with "The Trouble I've Seen" and "A Stricken Field."

The second Mrs. Hemingway decided on a Miami divorce and Martha took over for five years.

And down in Sunny Cuba Mr. Ernest Hemingway is now listening for those old St. Louis Blues for the third—and perhaps last time.

Each of the Writing Giant's Wives Was a St. Louis Woman and Each, in Turn, the Inspiration for One or More of His Books. Now He's Sad and Lonely, Strummin' the Blues.



The Wedding Bells Tolled Three Times for Brawny Mr. Hemingway—and Three Times an Ex-Loving Wife Has Bade Him Farewell to Arms



The Awesome Author and (Above) Blond Martha Gellhorn—the Third and Last? of the St. Louis Wives.

European Photo

Illustrated by R. F. SCHABELITZ