Apres Tout

By Caroliers Judice
Women's News Reporter

Cajuns are known for their insistent joie de vivre. When they say "Je vous rends visite," they really mean "visitation!"

Their warmth is contagious and contact with them lights a spark in the heart.

But, there is a facet — an aspect of the Cajun character that outsiders seldom see. This facet, too, is in the manner in which they give directions in negative.

Let us suppose that a husband is explaining to his wife directions to an office in the city hall where she must conduct business and to which she has never been.

"Now, you know where the main entrance of the courthouse is, don't you?" he asks.

The wife replies in the affirmative. "Well, don't use that door, go around to the side door. When you get into the hall you'll see there's an office door to the right. That's not the office you want. A little further to the left of you will be a small window with a ledge through which the window you're supposed to use about my age doing some book work. He's not the man you'll talk to. Keep on going straight until you get to a large office. Right as you enter there is a main door, but don't talk to the man at this desk." At this point the wife's head is in a swirl and it is definitely a relief to hear, "Talk to the man behind the desk located at the right of the main door. Name's Thibodaux.""

Fishing Places

This same man who delights in verbally sending people on wild goose chases given directions to his friend on how to reach his favorite fishing spot. "You pass through Breton Bridge," he explains while the friend listens eagerly. "When you get just on the other side of Breton Bridge, you're going to see a road going to the right. Don't take that road. Keep going straight. About four miles out of town there is a foot in the road. Near the left fork is a big white house with a wide gallery and chickens in the yard you're looking for."

"That's not the road you take — you take the one that forks right. Go about five miles that way and you'll come to a church with a gravely road running to the right of it. That road won't get you there. Keep going straight until "...

Of course, by this time the husband who has only several hours to devote to fishing has arrived in Henderson where he has always fished before anyhow!

We are close friends of a man and his wife and they reside in one of the suburbs of the city. Their water supply comes from an electrically run well. Several years ago when winter temperatures were dipping regularly the man boarded that the temperature would be in the twenties by mid-afternoon. He hastily picked up the phone to call his wife.

"Well, instructed," he told her. "You'll have to draw the pipes and see that the well is kept warm. Are you listening?" She said that she was listening.

"Well, first go down the back steps and to the back outdoor faucet. At the base of the faucet you will notice a small spoked wheel. Step back and turn the wheel to the right. Be sure and step back because if you don't the water will spray your feet. Now, go back to the kitchen tap, open both hot and cold faucets halfway. Do the same thing with the laundry fausses and with the bathtub faucet. Now go outside again to the pump house. You will notice that a large stone has been set against the pump house door. There is a light bulb hanging down to the well. Twist the light bulb to the right, not to the left, because if you twist it to the left it will fall off and break. Right below the light bulb is the switch. Press it and the light will come on. After you have done this, close the pump house door and put the chain against the door again. Now, did you understand that?" She said that she did.

"Now repeat these directions to me," said the husband.