

4 MAY 68

Forget Your English  
--Mandarin 'Swings'

## Lagniappe

IF SOME ONE were to ask you which language is spoken the most in the world, would you say English, French, Spanish or German? In every answer you would be wrong.

According to Capt. Henry Spicer Jr., director of International Relations at International House, it's the Mandarin language spoken by 555 million people. Next comes English spoken by 309 million, and Russian spoken by 183 million is third.

Another surprise is that Hindi spoken by 178 million ranks ahead of Spanish with 174 million and German with 120 million.

Following those are Japanese, 101 million; Arabic, 94 million; Bengali, 94 million; Portuguese, 93 million; Malay-Indonesia, 78 million—and would you believe French rounds out the even dozen absolutely last? Capt. Spicer's figures show it's spoken only by 74 million persons, give or take the few New Orleanians still using it in this the 250th Anniversary Year of "America's Most Interesting City."

Concerning the world we live in, Capt. Spicer says, "I realize there are many different angles from which people may be viewed but I think it will be admitted that language, culture and geography are pretty strong racial ties."

Today, the captain feels, there has been a great awakening by the people of the world to the fact there is a better life and that they can have a great deal to say about the way they exist and what to do about it.

"With a view to the importance of this restlessness to our future, I thought it might be interesting to take a look at the various languages in the world and compare the major ones as to their standing vis-a-vis the number of people using them," Capt. Spicer concludes.

Anyone for Mandarin, Russian, Hindi, for better communications?

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SEEMS ZSA ZSA GABOR was not the only person unaware of the reason for antebellum costumes and old-fashioned coiffures during the Spring Fiesta.

Crickette (Mrs. Edward J.) Harrell was having her hair appropriately dressed in a beauty salon for one of the Candlelight tours in which she was to receive in the Hotchkiss patio when a strange lady passed her chair and remarked, "Gee, honey, I try to keep up with the very latest in hairdos, but you have more courage than I have."

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MAY ISSUE of Venture mag reports a change is occurring in the familiar scrawl, "Yankee Go Home," on the walls of the world's trouble spots. A touchingly ironic one

is taking its place: "Yankee Go Home—and Take Me With You!"

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POTPOURRI—Some of the socialites who enjoyed portraying their alter-egos in Bob Cahlan's exhibit of theatrical costumes at the Orleans Club were Mary Allen Corder as Jean Harlow; Phoebe de la Houssaye as Arlene Francis; "Peps" Walker as Fanny Brice; Molly Taggart as Helen Hayes; Marta Weese as Mary Martin, and Claire de la Vergne as Mae West . . . Shirley and George Rhode III cancelled their reservations for the Derby in Louisville today at the last minute; their 10-year-old daughter Glenda underwent an emergency appendectomy at Mercy . . . Ladies on Mrs. Harry Platters' "stuffing and mailing committee" for tomorrow's Leukemia Society's gala in the Auditorium's Coker Room, at which the French crown jewels will be seen in a fashion show, had to do double duty; seems the first batch of invitations had the important word, "Leukemia," spelled without the first "e," so they had to unstuff and wait for a second printing.

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HITHER AND YON—Sunny Schiro, back on the social beat, looking her charming self again (after another whip-lash setback) in the receiving line at Mayor Vic's black-tie party at the Presbytere honoring the visiting OAS dignitaries. Same soiree: Admiral Pierre Charbonnet, resplendent in dress uniform, making one of his farewell appearances prior to transfer to fleet duty at Jacksonville, Fla., in a fortnight. Clay Shaw renewing old acquaintances among many hemisphere friends . . . Tina and Hal Roberts among the many of the mayor's formally-attired guests repairing to Brennan's for a late supper following the reception . . . Mary Maud Stirling, a St. Francisville belle in antebellum costume, "receiving" as a special guest of Frosty Blackshear's at the windup of the Spring Fiesta's patio tours . . . Kay and Jack Greene home from a look-in on her parents in Greenville, S. C., where they also reunited with her brother, George Chaplin (former editor of The Item) and wife Esta, who had come over from Hawaii for the Newspaper Editors convention in Washington; 'twas the first family get-together in 25 years.

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SHOW BIZ—Marguerite Piazza checked in from Memphis last night for a voluntary appearance tomorrow at the St. Jude Fiesta Internationale from 10 a. m. to 10 p. m. in the Auditorium . . . Gallery Circle director George Patterson has cast most of the thespians for his upcoming "Ivory Tower" (based on the treason trial of Ezra Pound), opening May 31, but has the S.O.S. distress signal out for four men between the ages of 30 and 50; call him at 524-1270 . . . Theater-buff H. Lawrence Fischer spotted a photo of a clean-shaven Sev Darden Jr. in the April 8th first issue of the new New York magazine; he opened at the Court theater opposite Joan Darling in "Leda Had a Little Swan."



THOMAS GRIFFIN