

Lew draws on dual heritage

Foreign affairs expert named Leisure Worlder of Month

Professor Lawrence M. Lew of Leisure World has his feet planted firmly in the rich heritage of two cultures, China and the United States, with a background that has given him special ability as an expert in foreign affairs.

Lew, who resides at 691-E Avenida Sevilla with his wife, Grace, has been selected Leisure Worlder of the Month for March by Rossmoor Corp. for his contributions in foreign-policy and diplomacy.

He modestly admits that his ability to read and write fluently in both Chinese and English gives him an edge in keeping up with foreign affairs, especially when China is emerging as a major world power.

It is one of the "Big 3," Lew explains, sharing the spotlight with the United States and Russia, and as such, China could not continue to exist in isolation.

Professor Lew was graduated magna cum laude from the University of Nanking and he completed graduate work at the University of Chicago.

Since that time, he has been a college professor, senior expert on foreign affairs and administrator and consultant to many departments and bureaus of the Chinese, United States and British governments. His work has taken him on trips around the world three times.

He is sold on the American way of life. "You have to remember," Lew said, "that from 13 colonies in just 200 years, it became the strongest nation, and it is also the youngest nation."



Lawrence M. Lew

Problems that plague the United States today do not change that fact, added Lew, who views the America's events with the perspective of an historian.

"We suffered a few times," Lew said, noting that the United States has survived Civil War and two World Wars, one to fight despotism and another to deflate a dictatorship.

The walls of Lew's manor reflects his Chinese heritage, with an impressionistic Chinese landscape on one wall of his living room set off by the delicate strokes of columns of Chinese couplets on another wall.

Inside the hallway near the Lew's atrium is a family photo gallery of the couple, their four children and six grandchildren.

One of the couple's daughters is presently working on a magazine in Peking, while other children are scattered in Hawaii, Minneapolis and one in the Los Angeles area.

Lew, who taught at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill., for 20 years, enjoys working with young people. "It keeps you young," he added.

He later taught at Chapman College, including a semester aboard Chap-

man's World Campus Afloat.

When he is not preparing for the frequent lectures he gives, Lew relaxes by taking leisurely walks through the community.

Lew also doesn't have serious concern for Watergate, or former President Richard Nixon's recent visit to China.

"I don't question the intent of Nixon," Lew said. "He was invited" by the Chinese, and Lew said Nixon's presence there will not have an impact on foreign affairs.

Watergate was a "sordid affair," Lew concedes, but Americans are too introspective about it. "America is a very good democracy, one of the best," Lew added, "but that does not mean that American democracy will not misbehave!"

He does believe that it is important for Americans to observe other countries and learn to appreciate the differences in their cultures.

To help Leisure World residents enhance their understanding of foreign affairs, Lew leads a discussion group, the Foreign Policy Association, where about 140 residents study and discuss current issues in eight subgroups. The group meets from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. the first and third Wednesdays of the month in Clubhouse 2.

And world traveler Lew, who has lived in Leisure World for four years, is happy in his retirement home. The Lews looked at communities in Florida and other parts of California before selecting their present home.

The combination of balmy Southern California weather and secure, pleasant surroundings in their own private home appealed to them. Lew added, "Leisure World is unique."