

Leisure Worlders

OF THE MONTH

Jim and Alice White

LAGUNA HILLS—Jim and Alice White. A couple worthy to be called musicians, speakers, teachers, travelers, organizers, artists, mentors, scholars, entertainers, parents and grandparents. Added to the list this month is the title "Leisure Worlorder of the Month."

The Whites met while they were doing post-graduate study at the University of Chicago. Jim had graduated from the University of Virginia with a Master's degree in economics and served on its faculty as an instructor in accounting. At Chicago he was on a fellowship for graduate research in public utility management. Alice came to Chicago following her graduation from Beloit College and a Master's degree in French from Marquette University. Additionally she had been in France for a year's study on an international scholarship.

Before completing his Doctorate at the University of Chicago, Jim took a job with a Chicago accounting firm as a management analyst and Alice returned to her teaching of French at Dakota Wesleyan University. Shortly thereafter, Jim's career took an unexpected turn and he found himself behind the teaching podium at Lawrence College. At the end of his year at Lawrence, Jim became associated with General Motors in the development of an engineering executive training program at Flint, Michigan. This pilot venture was very successful and developed into the widely acclaimed General Motors Institute, whose fully accredited degree programs are now extended to some of the nation's largest companies. After 17 years, Jim left the Institute for assignments as executive and consultant in industry, including participation in the early space navigational and missile guidance projects sponsored by NASA. Throughout this time, there was plenty of activity going on with Alice, too. While living in Flint and Grosse Point, Michigan, she devoted herself to raising a family, working with the Girl Scouts and teaching the piano. She still practices at least an hour each day. Her four-hand piano duets with Agnes Neumann are famous around Leisure World.

Music runs in the family, as Jim played violin in the Flint Community Symphony and in the Laguna Hills String Ensemble. He has a collection of violins, and he loves to explain the background and unique characteristics of each one.

After Jim's retirement, the Whites took their first of many trips abroad. It is on these trips that Jim compiles material for another of his avocations, photography. He was instrumental in starting the photographic program at Leisure World. He helped equip and set up the Clubhouse Four darkroom facility, and he organized classes for budding shutterbugs. He uses his photographic expertise to produce audio-pictorial presentations which feature selected color slides, synchronized narration, background music and sound effects. His programs range from "El Mundo Sereno, The Story of Leisure World, 1964-1974," to American and European travelogues, including the Royal Wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana. Alice didn't waste the trips abroad, either. As she travels, she sharpens her French. Back home at Leisure World, she works with a French conversation group that has met regularly each Monday for the last ten years.

Alice's talents stretch well beyond the fields of language and music. Many Leisure Worlders know of the stuffed animals which she fashions from leather, mink, wood and other materials. A life-sized and very life-like replica of the White's poodle, Monsieur Philippe, sits on the back of their couch. She has also made elephants, lions, horses; almost any animal one can imagine, even a unicorn! She also does some oil painting, her favorites being landscapes and flowers.

Jim has an interest in opera and theater. He has assisted in the production and direction of several performances of the Laguna Hills Theater Guild. In addition, he is an active member of the Toastmasters and the National Speakers Association. His current platform talks include such varied topics as: Americana, Astronomy, the Energy Crisis and Profiles in Humor.

Since coming to Leisure World, he has used his talents as a Mutual Director, president of the Moulton Kiwanis Club and as an elder of the Presbyterian Church. He is also a thirty-second degree Mason, a Fellow of the Standards Engineers Society and is listed in "Who's Who in the Midwest," (1968) and in the "Dictionary of International Biography," published in London, England (1970). He is also remembered as Master of Ceremonies for "BIJOU" a Kiwanis-sponsored benefit. Alice keeps her name in the Leisure World spotlight by offering piano music at various club meetings and frequent exhibits of her stuffed animals at the annual flea market. She is also a fifty-year honorary member of the American Association of University Women.

Jim and Alice have been married 55 years. They have three children and seven grandchildren.