

The Montreal Star

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 1968



Staff Photo by Gerry Davidson

LAWYER-ENGINEER FAMILY: James Feng, Montreal's first non-Canadian born Chinese lawyer, his wife Lorenza,

who is an engineer, and their 15-month-old daughter, Lila. "Lorenza and I both think Canada is great," says Mr. Feng.

Gone is the pigtail

Chinese here excel in careers and lawyer Feng is example

By WILLIAM WARDWELL

There was a time not so long ago when, to numerous Montrealers, mention of a "Chinese" conjured up the image of a man (perhaps with pigtails) bent over a flat-iron in a laundry. Or a restaurant waiter dispensing Chinese chop suey (which according to legend isn't Chinese at all, but a dish concocted in San Francisco).

If you're wondering whether the image should be changed, take a look around. Elements of Montreal's 10,000-member Chinese community have entered many of the professions, and by all accounts are doing well.

At McGill University and Sir George Williams University alone, there is an aggregate enrolment of about 400 young Chinese men and women headed for professional careers.

Another milestone in the trend was established the other day by James S. Feng. He was called to the Bar of Montreal, and became the first non-Canadian-born Chinese admitted to the practice of law here.

James Feng, 34, is a slight, energetic man who speaks French, English, Chinese of course, and sundry dialects including the Cantonese largely used in the Chinese community here. He also has enough education to make most people his age turn green with envy.

He was born in Shanghai, where he received his early schooling before the family moved to Hong Kong. He attended Hwakin College there and acquired his BA.

Then he went to Taiwan University Law School and emerged four years later as a Bachelor of Laws. He came to Canada in 1958, attended McGill and in 1960 had his master's degree in law.

Lawyer Feng recalls with a smile that he had no special ideas about staying in Canada — except that he met Lorenza Lu at McGill. She is from the Philippines. To make a long story short, they were married in August, 1961, and now there are three in the neat apartment on Van Horne avenue. Daughter Lila is 15 months old.

ance in police court (he intends, incidentally, to specialize in civil law).

And although he had a six-month wait on his hands after applying for landed immigrant status, Mr. Feng says Canadian immigration laws have made applicants from the Orient a lot more welcome than they were a couple of decades ago.

"Lorenza and I both think Canada is great," he says. "And while we've been to several other cities, we think Montreal is the greatest."

If you aren't among the many who know his wife, here

is a thumbnail sketch:

Lorenza Lu Feng is pretty. She is a B.Sc. in engineering from St. Thomas University, Manila. She came to Canada in 1959 and holds a master's degree in engineering from McGill, plus a Ph.D. from the University of Ottawa.

She is a special lecturer at Sir George Williams three days a week on heat-transfer, and at Marianopolis College two days a week in physics.

Just in case that isn't enough to make them dyed-in-the-wool Montrealers, Lawyer Feng is a stout supporter of Les Canadiens.