





VERSATILE CHINESE CHORUS GIRLS CONGA TO LATIN-AMERICAN JAZZ RHYTHMS

Life Goes to the "Forbidden City"

San Franciscans pack Chinatown's No. 1 night club

At 363 Sutter Street, in San Francisco stands "Forbidden City," the No. 1 all-Chinese night club in the U.S. Here each evening Californians flock to watch a talented floor show that ranges from slumberous oriental moods to hot Western swing. San Francisco is numerically ill-equipped with Broadway-style cabarets. Its citizenry eats at home, dances at hotels. When "Forbidden City" opened two years ago, it filled a local cultural need. It has prospered ever since.

In décor, "Forbidden City" blandly jumbles rice-paper screens, lighted fishbowls, college colors and football trophies. Somehow the net result is satisfactory. Its tri-nightly floor show as blandly scrambles congas, tangos, tap numbers and snaky stuff from the Far East. Chinese girls have an extraordinary aptitude for Western dance forms. As singers, not many achieve success according to occidental standards. But slim of body, trim of leg, they dance to any tempo with a fragile charm distinctive to their race. Opposite you see gracious Jadine Wong performing her chaste "Dance of the Moon Goddess."



LI TEI MING, 22, SINGS HER HIT NUMBER: "WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING"



Stanford students Louis Reese & Ray Diekemper thumbingly apply chopsticks to chow mein. More adept is Singer Ming.



The dancing Mei Lings supply classy cosmopolitan motif. Here they do a slick tango number entitled *Clair de Lune*.



In conventional ballroom style Stanford students Ray Diekemper and Robert Breckner dance with Dorothy Sun and Li Tei Ming.

"Forbidden City" (continued)



Chinese chorines twirl lariats in Western number, "Pony Boy." Some of the girls in floor show are paying their way through college by working nights at "Forbidden

City." In two years since the club opened, its show has won national fame. Its minimum: \$1 week-nights, \$1.50 weekends. Its clientele: 10% Chinese, 90% American.



Jadine Wong, 21, is a native San Franciscan, high-school graduate. Her father runs a Chinatown store. Miss Wong specializes in oriental numbers, can also jitterbug.



Noel Toy ("The Chinese Sally Rand") majored in French at U. of C. until money ran out. She doesn't drink, go out with men. One night last week her bubble broke.