INTRODUCING . . Ester Timbancaya

By . . Miriam Lidster

A delightfully charming young lady is Ester Timbancaya. Ester was born twenty-three years ago on the Island of Cayo, Palawan, one of the 7,107 islands of the Philippines. She is the eldest of nine children, and, according to Ester, when teasing, "the darling of her father". There are 87 spoken dialects in the Philippines. Ester speaks five dialects – Cuyono being the dialect spoken on her home island – a little Spanish, and English. They speak English in many of the schools in the Philippines, and the lectures in her undergraduate college courses were given in English. When Ester was four years old she moved with her father and mother to Puerto Princesa, which is the capital of Palawan province. There they lived until she had finished her high school education. During the war they were forced, for safety reasons, to return to the island of her birth. Her grandmother still lives in the heart of this island. "Here", Ester says, "the water is sweet and good, not brackish and salty as on the coast". Her father was in the Philippine army, and often he would slip away to see them and bring them goodies – powdered milk and chocolate from the GI rations of the U.S. Army. After the war they returned to Puerto Princesa, where Ester was enrolled for the first time in school. Her mother placed her in the third grade, and except for a break of teaching in her father's school before coming to Stanford, she has been studying ever since.

Ester came to Stanford University a year ago September 12, as one of the ten students who were chosen to receive an Associated Student Scholarship. In her one year in this country she has dissolved many hardened folk dancers into new born enthusiasts for the dance of the Philippines. Who but Ester could have Sally Harris, Ace Smith, Rafael Spring, Edith Thompson, Dick Crum, Al Pill, and chosen members of the San Joaquin Valley High School football teams dancing the bamboo dance, Tinikling, on a hot sultry August evening at Folk Dance Camp in Stockton?

Everybody enjoys dancing the "Tinikling"

DANCERS DANCE BETWEEN TWO LONG BAMBOO POLES, CLAPPED IN DEFINITE RHYTHM AND DANCERS SHOW THEIR SKILL AND GRACE BY NOT HAVING THEIR FEET CAUGHT BETWEEN THE POLES.

Yes, Ester, all 96 pounds of her, is a Physical Education major, but her first love is dance. After finishing her Master's degree last year, Ester received a School of Education Fellowship grant in order to con-