

**GASCONADE COUNTY REPUBLICAN**

**GERMAN STUDENT SURPRISED  
AT TALK OF WAR**

"In no other country I have visited have I heard so much talk of war," marveled Elisabeth Noelle, exchange scholar at the University of Missouri from Germany. "Your country is so large, so powerful, that it seems very strange to me to find here such universal discussion and speculation upon war."

"In Germany, Berlin is closer to the Polish border than Columbia is to Kansas City and we are forced to build up a larger army, but we do not want war. No European country does. We are afraid of war."

Miss Noelle was surprised that Missouri had compulsory military training, for she feels that we have nothing to fear even from a general European conflict.

Regarding newspaper stories of German and Italian air forces in Spain she says, "There are so many stories. The German papers say that facts have been exaggerated; French, English and American presses write 'authentic' stories about German and Italian interference. If there is such interference, it is beneath the surface and denied by the government. No one can tell what is true and what is not true."

Besides her astonishment at the American attitude toward war, Miss Noelle was equally surprised at American customs. In Germany she explains, girls do most of the hitchhiking, while here only boys hitchhike.

She was also surprised that many American girls date younger boys. "I cannot understand," she mused, "what girls of nineteen or twenty can find interesting in a boy of eighteen or nineteen. Boys of that age have little experience in life, and their outlook is limited." She suspects that some American girls date, not from an interest in their dates, but merely to improve their social standing and apparent popularity.

When asked if women smoked in Germany, she seemed amazed at the question. "Why not?" she parried. "All over the world women smoke. Why not in Germany? Though for myself," she confided, "I do not like to smoke. I tried it when I was 13, when I went to my first dance, and I did not like it so—" She spread her hands expressively and shrugged, "I do not smoke."

"Schools here are very different from the schools of Germany," she said. "At home we do not go to classes all the time. Most of our work is done in individual study and research in libraries and laboratories. During the summer we are given the opportunity of working in factories or on farms where we learn of our nation function."

"Students who replaced workers, in factories are not paid, but the money goes to the worker they displace, allowing a laborer a vacation. Last summer I worked in a tobacco plant and during harvest time on a farm. Students are not compelled to do this type of work unless they choose, but most of them like to do it as it gives them a better understanding of life in their own country, and they are better able to appreciate domestic conditions."