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German Girl, Refugee Student, Visits Albany



Dagmar von Hagen
German Refugee Student

Dagmar von Hagen Takes Course In Journalism on Rotary Grant

These are happy days for Dagmar von Hagen, 20, a German refugee student who is spending six weeks in Albany.

Dagmar knew a great deal of sadness in Germany, during and after the war. Her father, a major in the German army, was killed in action. An uncle, her father's brother, was hanged for taking part in a plot against Hitler in 1944. Her grandparents were imprisoned in a concentration camp for their part in the plot, which failed to overthrow the dictator.

She is a student at Keuka College, on a Rotary Club scholarship. She was sent to Albany for six weeks' field work with the Albany County Tuberculosis Association. The one-year Rotary Club scholarships for foreign students provide for six weeks of work in community activities during their college courses.

They are rated as seniors and have all the privileges enjoyed by seniors.

During her stay in Albany, Dagmar is living at the home of Mrs. Walter Bennett, 1674 Central Ave. Mrs. Bennett's daughter, Marjorie, is a student at Keuka.

JOURNALISM MAJOR

Dagmar is majoring in journalism at Keuka, but there was no opening available for her to work on a newspaper during her six weeks leave. She has been in this country three months.

The von Hagen family, Dagmar said, belongs to the German nobility. Her father owned a big farm in East Germany.

"When the Russians came," she said, "they killed everyone who owned property. After they had seized our home and our father had been killed in action, we fled to West Germany, where the English were. We lived in Freiburg, near Hamburg, during the rest of the wartime and after the war was over.

"I want to stay in this country. When my year's college work at Keuka is over, I hope I can get a newspaper job. During these weeks I have been here in Albany, I have been especially happy."

Colleges as we know them in America do not exist in Germany, Dagmar said. They have a university system, but it is almost impossible for any one but youths from wealthy families to follow through the courses.

"It takes six years or more," she said, "and the procedures are very complicated."

At Keuka, she said, the Rotary scholarship students can choose whatever courses of study they prefer. Regardless of whether the courses are freshman, sophomore or junior,