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ORCHID FOR VISITOR—Miss Adriana Gaspar of Vienna, Austria, who was speaker at last week's Rotary Club meeting, receives a Sandhills-grown orchid from the Rev. Charles V. Covell, club president. The flower came from Carolina Orchids, Inc., on Midland Road. (Photo by Henry H. Turner)

**Austrian Student Charms Rotarians By Account of Conditions In Native Land**

**Student At Woman's College, Greensboro, Now Has Scholarship**

Meeting at the Country Club last Friday for their regular luncheon session, members of the Southern Pines Rotary Club and a dozen or more visitors and guests heard a young Austrian woman describe economic and political conditions in her native land.

Miss Adriana Gaspar of Vienna, now a student at Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, on a scholarship provided by the Greensboro Rotary Club, said that she thinks Austria can stand on its own feet economically and politically if the nation can regain control of its industries which lie largely in the Russian-occupied eastern part of the country.

Miss Gaspar, who charmed her audience with flashes of humor during her serious discussion of Austrian problems, was introduced by Charlie Phillips, director of public relations at Woman's College and past Rotary District president. Mr. Phillips was presented by June Phillips.

Austria was described as a small country, about the size of Maine, with a population of seven million, of whom some two million live in Vienna—a city which is a center of education, medicine, music and culture. Located in the middle of Europe, the nation has known many wars as armies of other countries fought back and forth across it. About 73 per cent of the country is mountainous, the speaker said, making agriculture difficult and preventing use of agricultural machinery in many places. The country is not self-sustaining agriculturally and must import food.

Austria is still occupied by the United States, Great Britain, France and Russia, Miss Gaspar said, but has one government which has a lower and upper house in the legislative branch, a prime minister and cabinet. The Communist party accounts for only about four per cent of Austrian voters, she pointed out.

**Education**

Education is on a high level in Austria, said Miss Gaspar, touching on a subject that brought forth more questions than any other in a question period that followed her talk. Austria had the earliest compulsory education system of any nation in Europe, she said. English is taught for eight years in all schools. Students start specializing earlier in Austria than in the United States and are almost completely on their own as university students. In answer to a question, she said that she preferred this system to the "mass" education of the United States, but that there are proportionately many more college and university students in this country and that the "classroom and assignment" method used here is no doubt designed to meet needs in this country.

Festivals, fairs and the tourist industry, featuring mountain climbing and skiing play a big part in Austrian life, Miss Gaspar reported. She said medical care under a "socialized" system is excellent. There are "probably more doctors than patients," she added jokingly.

The cost of living in Austria is about half what it is here, she said, but earnings are about a

quarter of what they are in this country.

Among the guests was Miss Ethel O'Brien of the New York office of the Congregational Christian Churches of the USA, who was introduced by the Rev. W. C. Timmons, D. D., pastor of the Church of Wide Fellowship. Miss O'Brien was visiting Dr. and Mrs. Timmons here.

Bob Dutton was welcomed back as a member of the club.

Rotarians were reminded that there will be no Friday luncheon meeting this week, because of the club's banquet for high school basketball teams Thursday night. However, a representative of the club will be at the Country Club at noon Friday to check off attendance by out-of-town Rotarians who want credit for attending a meeting. Visitors were also invited to attend the Thursday night banquet at the Country Club.

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