

Meet Miss Somebody from South Carolina



Though not a sports lover, Dinah enjoys a game of golf with her dad.



Here is our first "unknown" cover girl
of 1961—a Dixie belle named Dinah Coggin

Photos and Text by OZZIE SWEET

ON THE BASIS of my second swing through the South scouting Miss Somebodies for FAMILY WEEKLY, I have to confirm what I only suspected the first time: popular legends of Southern hospitality and the beauty of Dixie belles can't be overstated.

I scoured main streets, soda parlors, and high-school classrooms and saw scores of candidates. But it was in Anderson, S.C., that I found Miss Somebody—honey-haired Dinah Coggin, barely 16 and as fresh and winning as any fairy-tale princess.

The 5-foot 5-inch, 115 pound youngster is understandably one of the most popular girls in her 11th-grade class at Hanna High School in Anderson. Although she has no "steady" and emphatically prefers it that way, it would be something on the order of a minor cataclysm in Anderson if our Miss Some-

body were found sitting at home on a date night.

At an age when many young girls are at the painful change-over stage from tomboy to young lady, Dinah is startlingly poised and feminine without being movie-star sophisticated.

"All parents seem to remember when their daughter was a tomboy," her mother, Jeanette Coggin, says. "But Dinah never did undergo the usual metamorphosis for the simple reason that she has always been more interested in 'girls' things' than boys' games. She struggles along at golf with her dad and takes her turns at bat in her 13-year-old brother Bobby's softball games, but she'll be the first to admit that she's not very good at either."

Right now Dinah is trying to decide on a college. "I'm not getting very far, though," she admits. "I can't decide whether I want to go to an all-girls' college or a coed university."

"She really wants to model more than anything else," her mother says. "Dinah is a very normal teenager, and I think this is a normal ambition at 16. If she can model in her spare time and not let her schooling slip, I think it would be wonderful."

Almost as much as modeling, Dinah looks forward to summer vacation. That means a family tour through Florida, where the Coggins lived until they moved to Anderson six years ago, and a chance to see old friends and relatives. It also means long days at the seashore for Dinah and a sun tan that is the envy of all her friends when she returns home.

Her greatest thrill? "That's easy. Being picked as Miss Somebody. I've read about the previous Miss Somebodies in FAMILY WEEKLY, and I've always thought to myself: 'Some of them are only my age. If I could only be as lucky!' But it didn't seem likely until you came along. Thanks for picking me."

I knew that she meant it. I left Anderson and Dinah Coggin to find another Miss Somebody, feeling refreshingly optimistic about our much-maligned, perhaps little-understood, teen-agers.



Prom night finds Dinah displaying the poise and beauty for which Southern belles are noted.

COVER:

Dinah Coggin, the first Miss Somebody of 1961 on Family Weekly's cover, lends her wholesome charm to the great outdoors. Ozzie Sweet photographed her. See above.

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