



The Bartoschs: Dad, Mother, Jo Ann, Inga (at the piano), Mary Jean, and Gretchen. Kris is absent.



Nine-year-old "tomboy" Gretchen, who has adopted Mary Jean's love for sports, gets an able assist from her.



There's no steady beau at present, but Mary Jean dates and enjoys a good dancing partner.

Meet Miss Somebody from Iowa

Mary Jean Bartosch of Davenport joins Family Weekly's gallery of "unknown" cover girls

Photos and Text by OZZIE SWEET



An artist needs a model, and Jo Ann, 18, finds Mary Jean a wonderful one—"so patient" (beautiful, too).

BIG SISTERS don't always come highly recommended by little sisters. An exception is the Miss Somebody I found in Davenport, Iowa. Mary Jean Bartosch is just as nice as she looks, say her four sisters—Jo Ann, 18, Inga, 15, Kris, 12, and Gretchen, 9. Each can give reasons for saying so.

"She's a wonderful model for my art work—so patient," explains Jo Ann, the "talent" of the family. Mary Jean, who is 19, hopes she can save enough money from her job as head cashier at an apparel shop to help Jo Ann through art school.

Inga is outgrowing that sloppy teen-age stage, and her older sister's clothes-sense and popularity among boys give her valuable tips on growing up. Mary Jean, she says, doesn't give the "nagging" kind of advice, but the "suggesting" kind.

Kris' favorite occupation is making dresses—for herself and her dolls. Mary Jean, an accomplished seamstress, lends a hand whenever she has time. "We learn a lot from each other," Kris says.

Gretchen is something of a tomboy, and Big Sister knows what that's like, too. In her "youth" at Davenport High School, Mary Jean played basketball and was a softball star as well.

There are some natural frictions, of course. Mary

Jean and Jo Ann are the same size and often wear each other's clothes. "The fastest dresser is the best dresser," Jo Ann says.

Mary Jean also is "first sergeant" in the household of Ernest and Edith Bartosch. Hers is the thankless job of making sure each girl does her chores. "She does more than her share," Mrs. Bartosch says, "so there aren't any resentments."

Mary Jean's family lives in an old, comfortable frame house which Mr. and Mrs. Bartosch, both handy with tools and ideas, have remodeled from kitchen to staircase. Mr. Bartosch, an electrician, also has fixed up the basement for the girls, and it serves as a romantic spot for entertaining beaux one night and a raucous playroom for Gretchen's tribe the next.

Mary Jean's dreams include traveling ("An airline stewardess' job would be wonderful!") and, afterward, marriage and a home life like her parents'. She enjoys swimming and golf; in the evenings, good music and dancing—"no, not with anybody special, not yet."

I get the feeling her sisters are glad of this. A big sister, if she's like Mary Jean, is a real Miss Somebody to have around.

COVER:

She's beautiful, industrious, and hails from Davenport, Iowa. She's Mary Jean Bartosch, photographed by Ozzie Sweet, and the seventh Miss Somebody in our current cover series. See story above.

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