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Win or lose in Atlantic City, Anita Johnson has solid backing from fellow New Bernians. It is a tribute to her that thousands in her home town not only want her to do well in the Miss America Pageant, but feel she has an excellent chance.

To single out one individual, even somebody as attractive and talented as this year's Miss North Carolina, and predict she will fall heir to the crown is risky business. Dozens of very outstanding contestants are destined to be disappointed in Saturday night's affair. Anita could be one of them.

Whatever the outcome, this much can be safely said. Among the entries from every state in the Union there will probably be many who aren't as talented. Miss North Carolina actually has so many talents that settling on just one for her bid at Charlotte, and now at Atlantic City wasn't easy.

Anita demonstrated for judges at Charlotte that she is thoroughly capable of singing a popular type song in an entertaining and polished manner. Already she does show tunes like "As Long As He Needs Me" from the Broadway success "Oliver" with the touch of a seasoned professional.

Her choice of this number for the North Carolina and Miss America pageants was a wise one. However, offhand we can think of numerous popular songs that we feel sure she could have also rendered very effectively.

As a vocalist, Anita isn't restricted to so called popular music. She can handle folk songs a very appealing way, projecting intensity of feeling, as she does with popular melodies, that is convincing. It is convincing because there's nothing phoney about it.

As an instrumentalist, she plays the guitar, madolin, accordion and piano creditably. For an amateur, she is well above the average as a tap dancer and has considerable potential in this field. Her training in ballet has been limited, but here again it isn't wild thinking to conjecture that with good instruction, and her determination and splendid body coordination, she could, over a period of years, develop into a ballerina worthy of the name.

Unfortunately, the audiences

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Fashion Note

Miss North Carolina's official presentation gown, a gift from Cone Mills, along with numerous other outfits worn by Anita in this issue of The Mirror, was designed by a fellow North Carolinian, Luther Winborne Self. It is one of Cone's white velveteen, has princess lines and portrait neckline. A floating panel extends from shoulder to floor. The sweep of the skirt and panel are embellished with pearls and crystals and edged with ostrich plumes.

