

The fashion plate

St. John knits offer timeless wearability

By RUSTLE SHAND

"Hello summer: here comes fall," was the message of Bob Gray, president of St. John Knits, when he visited Saks Fifth Avenue. Troy last week.

He brought not only his fall line of fabulous knits to the designer salon but his hand-crafted, off-shore racing boat named "Miss St. John" to the Somerset Mall display area.

Bob Gray believes "the difference between a man and a boy is the cost of his toy" and his beautiful boat with its leather upholstery reflects the quality workmanship, sleek lines and shiny hardware of his knit dresses.

The St. John label reflects year-round investment dressing in knits that travel timelessly.

Soft suiting is the signature of the slender, classic three-piece suits. Many have accented pleated skirts which flatten across the tummy so there is no bulk. The jacket tops are primarily cardigans in two lengths. One just covers the hip bone, while the other shortens to two inches below the waist.

SEVERAL SUITS are belted in gold, epoxy-touched chain, and one carries a new open-cut gold abstract SJ button. The gold hardware, called "body jewelry" eliminates the necessity of adding lots of gold jewelry for these packable knits. Gold earrings are all you would need.

The soft-tied Qiana blouses, teamed with a

skirt and cardigan jacket, also may be worn vested. St. John has added a man-tailored trouser to the line this year, creating a complete travel wardrobe that will pack in a mini-suitcase, travel for days and look as though it never saw the inside of a suitcase.

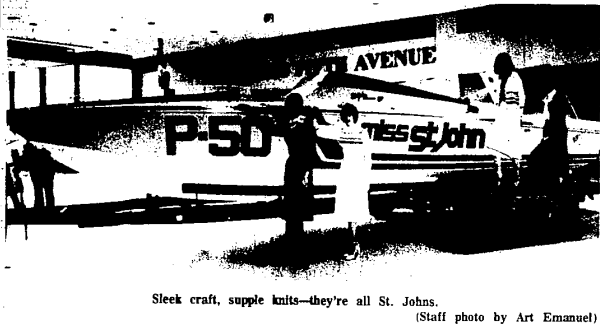
Priced from \$160 to \$300, the St. John knits guarantee flattery in the slender classic look which is a principal part of the fall fashion silhouettes. Predictions are that it will be a year for suits, softened with a feminine blouse and the more refined look of slightly cropped jackets.

ST. JOHN KNITS are constructed in California on hand-operated knitting machines and all the trim is hand crocheted. Black and bone is the color statement for fall with chammois the new color.

Their yarns are wool and rayon blends, particularly good for transition, or all soft-hand alpaca, or blends of alpaca and wool.

Linda Cramer, St. John fashion representative, said she wears her knits year-round. "Length is the only thing that goes out of style," she added. "Our knits can be re-blocked to change length two inches without losing any size dimension."

Saks fashion director Ken Dewey said "the soft knit suiting for fall almost dictates sheer legs and high-heeled shoes," and recommends adding a Chanel-type chain shoulder bag.



Sleek craft, supple knits—they're all St. Johns.

(Staff photo by Art Emanuel)

Village musters fire fighters

Antique fire engines, brimming with tons of water, will be capable of dampening everything but enthusiasm during Greenfield Village's Antique Fire Apparatus Muster on July 2 and 3.

The owners of about 60 old-fashioned fire engines, hose carts and hand-pumpers will gather for the event, demonstrating old-time fire-fighting techniques and the fun of a firemen's field day.

The activities include parades through Dearborn both Saturday and Sunday at 11:30 a.m., contests of skill and chance, and water-pumping exhibitions. Old equipment is exhibited on the village green between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. both days.

Another highlight is the waterball competition, in which two squads of firemen, working their pumper fire engines, each try to force a ball across the other team's goal line with a stream of water, drenching each other and, possibly, nearby onlookers.

Dalmatians, the original firehouse dog breed, will take over the activities field each day for

obedience demonstrations to be staged by the Dalmatian Club of Detroit.

Antique fire engine collectors throughout the Midwest will compete in balloon-breaking and potato-peeling contests.

The competitors include both individual owners of antique apparatus and members of existing volunteer and regular fire departments.

Fire companies will also compete against the clock, extinguishing a simulated fire.

Elsewhere in the village, visitors may watch craftsmen practice such nearly forgotten skills as broom-making, pewter-ing, tin-smithing, wool dyeing, and candle dipping. The steamboat Swanee will be in operation, along with two century-old steam locomotives, Model Ts, and horse-drawn carriages and wagons.

There is no additional charge for the Antique Fire Apparatus Muster beyond the regular Greenfield Village admission of \$3.50 for adults and \$1.50 for children ages 6 through 12. Children under 6 are admitted free.

Swim, tennis classes at Y

Registration for classes for adults and juniors in swimming and tennis will open July 5 for the term which begins July 11 at North-west Branch YWCA, 2390 Grand River, Redford Township.

Junior swimming and tennis classes are designed on a four-week, eight-lesson term. Adult swim classes meet once a week for eight weeks through the end of August, and adult tennis lessons meet twice a week for four weeks.

Volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, a program of the Volunteer Action Center of United Community Services, has weekly listings of agencies needing volunteers. Further information about these agencies and over 200 others that need volunteer services may be obtained from the Volunteer Bureau, 642-7272.

HOTLINE CRISIS Center in Lathrup Village, needs volunteers to serve as hotline listeners. The position requires someone with an active concern for people who call in. The listener helps the caller to sort out his feelings and values in a non-judgmental manner. The next training program will be Aug. 21-24. Time commitment is for one three-hour period each week.

MICHIGAN CANCER in Southfield is looking for volunteers to help with preparations for their greeting card program. Work will begin at the Berkeley office in July, mailing out brochures. No training is required and hours are flexible.

Drivers are urgently needed to drive patients to clinics, and hospital appointments. Teens are also needed to help stuff envelopes. This would be a good group project for young people wanting to assist in a community service program.

REHABILITATION CENTER in Southfield is looking for volunteers interested in presenting evening programs such as music or slides on a regular basis. Hours are 4-5:30 p.m. Groups would be welcome here. Also needed are volunteers over 18 to play cards or work with crafts on a one-to-one basis.

FURNITURE RESOURCE CENTER in Pontiac, an agency that collects and redistributes usable furniture and other household items to poverty-level families, needs volunteers to work in the office and to drive trucks.

Office workers answer the phone, schedule truck pick-ups, assign furniture, and assist clients who come to pick up furniture. A commitment of one-half day a month is preferred. Truck drivers work one Saturday morning every four or five months.

Mrs. Wiseley to head league

Mrs. Arthur Wiseley of Bloomfield Hills is the new president of Child Research Center League. She assumed her duties at the organization's recent annual meeting.

Assisting her in 1977-78 will be her first vice-president, Mrs. Howard Brunel of Farmington; second vice-president, Mrs. William Appleborn of Birmingham; third vice-president, Mrs. John Berry of Garden City; recording secretary, Mrs. Nick Madias of West Bloomfield; corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. Peter Acquisti of Bloomfield Hills; and the treasurer, Mrs. Gerald White of Troy.

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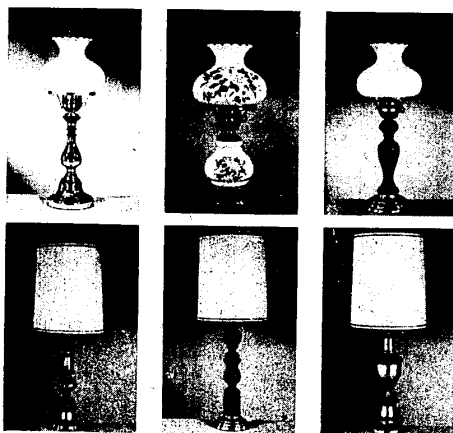
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