

Nagata Team Brings Art To Hosiery

When Nancy Lach sits down at her computer terminal she creates a variety of patterns. It may be dots, squares, stripes, parrots, ducks in flight or cats.

The picture she finishes on the screen is merely the beginning of a process which puts her "sock-art" on people around the country.

Nancy is part of Adams-Millis' Nagata team responsible for the design, engineering and production of many of the company's hosiery patterns.

Gilbert Hine is special projects engineer for the Nagatas among other machinery. Judy Stone is plant stylist at Plant 1 in High Point and Rodney Wilson, head fixer, works closely with the team in translating the computer design into fabric on the Nataga machines.

"I try to look in many different places for source material that will translate well to the computer," Nancy explained. "This can include magazines, books, greeting cards, etc."

Nancy's background includes study in art at the University of North Carolina and textile design at N.C. State University. She also has done sweater design,

poster design and costume design in Raleigh before joining Adams-Millis last year following graduation.

"I wondered at first about how I could apply my art background to socks," she said. "Now I've found so many things we can do with them. I now have a great appreciation for socks."

She has applied both her art and textiles background to her job at Adams-Millis.

"We have to always keep in mind what the knitting machine is able to do," she said. "I have to keep it simple, if possible. We have to consider different yarns, colors and other factors."

These things she has learned by doing.

"We have had to adjust some designs maybe eight or more times on some socks," she explained. "Other designs have knitted well from the first run. Often what we end up doing is a give and take of pattern complexity to achieve a more knitable sock."

Her involvement in design has changed her personal outlook on hosiery.

"We're very conscious of producing socks that satisfy both the client and the consumer. This is another aspect of give-and-take that we



Nancy Lach Generates Design At Computer

deal with."

Although she admits to being more accustomed to paper and pen for drawing, she is growing used to the computer. She said men's sock patterns usually are more quickly completed than the more complex women's hosiery.

As many as four men's sock patterns might be completed in a day. Others may take several days to complete.

One of the advantages that Nagata provides is the ease of changing the knitting machine from one sock pattern to another.

"The computer allows us a whole range of complex patterns that were never possible before," she said.

Once the design is completed in the computer it is transferred to a cassette tape. The tape is then loaded into the Nagata knitting machine which translates the

design into the sock.

Gilbert, in his research and development role with the Nagata, recalled discussions when plans were being considered to purchase the machinery about two years ago.

"When we were considering buying the equipment, I said that a man who wore the same plain cotton style sock 99 percent of the time for the last 20 years was

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Richardson, Welch Win Scholarships

John K. Richardson and Karen R. Welch have been named winners of the James H. and Jesse E. Millis Scholarship at High Point College for 1986-87.

John is the son of Joyce A. Richardson, Mount Airy Plant 2. Karen is the daughter of Louise C. Smith, High Point Plant 7.

Winners of the scholarship are chosen on the basis of grade point average.

Chairman Millis extended his congratulations to the winners upon their announcement. He will make a formal presentation to them later.

A-M To Purchase Maro Hosiery

In a joint statement, James H. Millis, Sr. Chairman, and Robert M. Bundy, Jr., President of Adams-Millis Corporation and Norman Weiss, Chairman and President of Maro Hosiery Corporation, have announced their agreement in principle for the purchase by Adams-Millis Corporation of Maro Hosiery Corporation, which is a closely-held North Carolina "S" corporation engaged in the manufacture and marketing of hosiery.

Millis stated that Adams-Millis plans to operate Maro as a business entity separate from the parent. Adams-Millis will retain Weiss and the current management and policies of Maro.

Maro Hosiery Corporation has approximately 1,300 employees and a half a million square feet of manufacturing facilities located in Thomasville, Lumberton, Mebane, Hildebran and High Point.

The company is licensed to market hosiery under the Wrangler, Bill Blass, BVD, Disney, Bronzini, Adolfo, Dunlop, Oscar de La Renta, John Weitz, Diane Von Furstenberg and Lanvin trademarks.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1985 Maro Hosiery Corp. had net sales of \$73.7 million, which would equate to net earnings after taxes of approximately \$4.4 million. The purchase price of approximately \$36 million will be paid in cash which Adams-Millis Corporation plans to borrow from one or more financial institutions.

The acquisition, which will be effected in early April 1986, is subject to a number of conditions common to transactions of this type.

The execution of a definitive purchase agreement and the approval of the Adams-Millis Board of Directors, the required government agencies and the five shareholders of Maro are some of the conditions.

Millis went on to say that this acquisition is in keeping with Adams-Millis' long-term strategy of improving our market position and share-value for our shareholders.

Weiss expressed pleasure in having structured a transaction which is favorable to all parties and which insures the continuity of current management and is also in the best interest of the employees of Maro.