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Anna is still flying the

ONLY today was it possible to read the several numbers of the Observer that arrived during the summer, writes Anna Yates from Douglas on the Isle of Man. As I have a 14-bedroom guest-house all private reading has to await the departure of the last guests at the end of September.

With interest, I read about the two Swiss ladies who have lived in England so many years, but the interest heightened when I read the name of Marietta Waltow – I knew her in 1952-1954, when I lived some miles from her hotel. Due to many personal happen-

ings we lost touch, as I went back to live in Manchester.

I too, left Switzerland at 13, having lost my mother. I came to my godmother, originally planned for two years, but the war started six months after my arrival in Manchester and so my father thought it would be safer to remain in England. It was 1947 when I returned.

Meanwhile, I settled well at school (due to evacuation four schools!) then college of domestic science for institutional management training, and I was matron at a school in Cheshire. I was lucky

enough to meet a merchant navy officer, who insisted I must visit my Swiss home again, to see if I could settle to a married life in England.

I returned to Wohlen/Aargais where I had a wonderful new mother – but being so much in love I returned to England and marriage.

I have two daughters but when they were only aged 1 and 2, their father died on the other side of the world.

I returned to my aunt's, where after some few years I was fortunate to marry again – a wonderful father for my daugh-

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ters. But being very much older perhaps it was to be expected: I again became a widow, to marry some two and a half years later and then to come to the Isle of Man, taking my aunt, then 84 (now 93) with us.

I love the life on the island, the life of making my guests happy – it is a compensation for again losing a husband (through cancer). I can at least make others happy. With a large Swiss flag fluttering from the roof, this is my bit of Switzerland, where I try to carry out my father's instructions at 13 on Zurich station – "always remember you represent your country – as you are with others, so our beautiful homeland will be judged".

I am lucky enough to have Swiss contacts here. I wrote to the Swiss Consul for addresses of any Swiss on the island. He asked me to send six open letters which he would forward.

Four people replied and every Wednesday four Swiss women meet – to speak French, though we are Swiss German, but it is our way of practicing French, and of meeting socially and because perhaps we call it a class, we make the effort of keeping up these meetings, until now, after several years, we have also become firm friends.

We also have a new "member", a young Swiss woman, who also has a guest house. She has a very young family.

Here in the guest house I can often welcome the Swiss from home (Switzerland) and since my father came to live with me, recently a widower at 84, we have visitors very often, both as private and official guests. Our young Swiss mother has managed (though having an English husband) to teach her children Swiss German. So we feel we are creating our Swiss colony abroad!

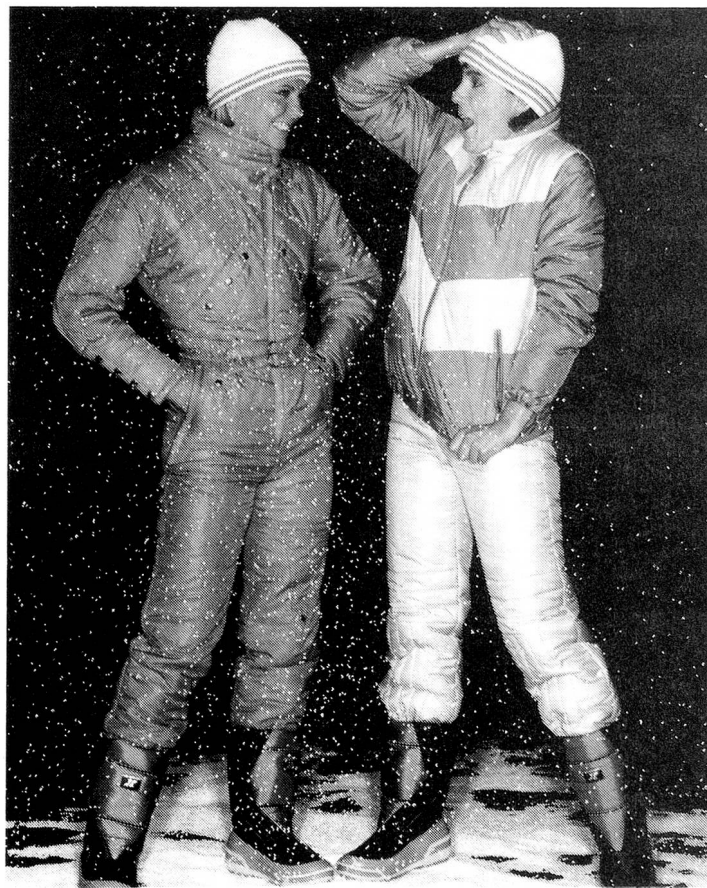


Two outfits for the man in your life. The one-piece has deep pockets and elasticated waist and cuffs; while the quilted jacket has zip out sleeves, and colour co-ordinates with the salopettes.



These two would certainly not be missed on the slopes. The girl's outfit is a snug all-in-one with matching gilet, and the boy's is a chevron stripe jacket with matching salopettes.

WINTER GEAR FOR SKIERS



Strong vibrant colour is a must, and these outfits come in kingfisher, fuchsia and silver. On the left, a comfortable and flattering one-piece with extended shoulders and plenty of fashionable stitching and press studs. On the right, a chevron stripe jacket with zip-out sleeves worn with warm salopettes.

If you are going ski-ing this winter, then there really is no excuse for wandering around the slopes like the Abominable Snowman.

The big, bulky "Yeti" look is way out of fashion.

The biggest fashion news on the ski slopes is the one-piece jumpsuit – well cut, chic and colourful.

Designers are using bright, rainbow primaries or soft, sugary ice cream colours and both look very attractive.

And you don't have to spend a fortune to look good for one or two weeks in the year.

The chain stores have caught on to the winter sports boom and are producing attractive, practical ski wear at sensible prices.

There's no excuse for being seen on the slopes in an anorak' and stretch pants.

Modern fabrics and manufacturing techniques mean that you can have the fashion you want and the protection you need all wrapped up in the same outfit.

All our selected outfits are available now from large branches of British Home Stores, so you can kit out the entire family in one shopping trip.