

The Swiss are one of the smallest minority groups to be found in Door County; this is the story of one of those Swiss immigrants, John Bertschinger, and how he came to Door County. After trying many lines of work, he and his brother Paul built the Alpine Resort, which has been in business since 1921 in Egg Harbor. The resort is now managed by Paul's son, William.

The story of John Bertschinger's life is told by his son, Arthur, now 88 years old.

"My father came to America (from the German-speaking part of Switzerland) a hundred years ago, in 1887," Art recalls. "But my grandfather came before him. He worked for the Pabst family, on their big farm near Milwaukee. (That farm was in what is now Wauwatosa, on the ground now taken up by Longfellow Junior High School. When this writer lived in Wauwatosa back thirty years ago, the remains of the Pabst milkhouse still existed in the back yard of the apartment building where he lived at 76th St. and North Avenue.) My dad worked as the Pabst head herdsman. He worked there for two or three years and he saved up \$300. Dad sent the money over to Switzerland to my grandmother so she could come over. She came to New York, and then to the Milwaukee area."

Grandfather Bertschinger then took up farming near Port Washington, at Canalsville, and that is where young John and Paul Bertschinger and the other Bertschinger children grew up. When he got old enough to work, young John Bertschinger got a job working for other farmers for 50 cents a day, and cut cordwood for a dollar a cord.