

Cheese please: Laurel and Barb Ettien talk about Tonet in front of the cheese factory run by the Tonet

Farmers Co., where Laurel is the manager. The cheese factory operates seven days a week.

Mistaken identity fits to a 'T'

By Gary Dodge

Press-Gazette

TONET — This Kewaunee County community got its name by mistake.

It was supposed to be named after the Jonet family, but the post office made a mistake and changed the letter J to T, says Marjorie DeMuth, E683 Kewaunee County K.

"They say it's a mistake, and you have to laugh about it," she says.

**Press-Gazette photos
by Joan Gutheridge**

But De-

Muth, 62, says she can't recall whether any relatives ever tried to correct the error.

The Jonet family isn't the only one with claim to the community name. Another local account says the community first was named after a different family.

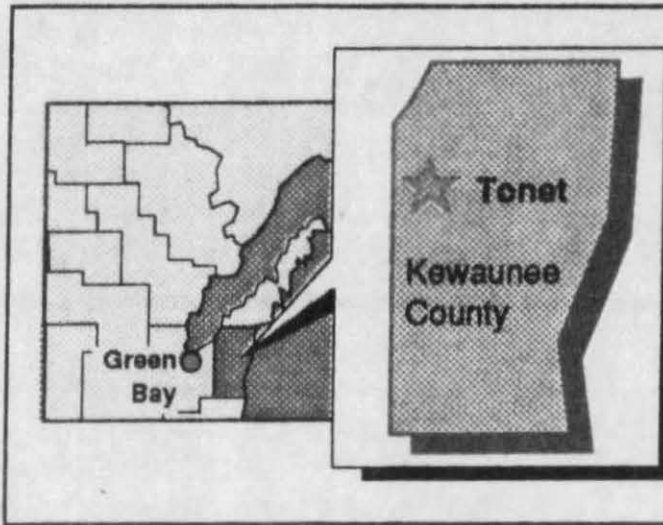
Quintal Paque, who once owned a general store here, used to say the community was named Martinville, after the Martin family, DeMuth says.

"The Martins were lawyers. I don't know if it's a big joke or not," she says.

Tonet is on Kewaunee County K in the town of Red River near Luxemburg. It is about 17 miles from Green Bay.

DeMuth's great-great grandfather, Peter Jonet, came here in the late 1800s and helped develop the area. Provisions were shipped in from Bay Settlement, DeMuth says.

Peter Jonet built a saloon, which was passed down in the family. Today, her cousin, Pete Jonet owns Pete Jonet's Bar, E702 County K.



The Tonet file

- **Population:** 20 (estimated by residents)
- **Religion:** St. Martin Catholic Church
- **Education:** Most students attend the Luxemburg-Casco School District
- **Businesses:** Pete Jonet's Bar and Tonet Farmers Co.
- **Main road:** Kewaunee County K

Paque's General Store and a blacksmith shop closed over the years, and a tough farm economy forced some farm families to sell their land, DeMuth says.

The snowmobile club's annual corn roast was discontinued about 10 years ago, residents say.

In recent years, many younger families moved to the area.

The 100-year-old St. Martin Catholic Church is struggling to survive, and might close because it's one of four churches that the Rev. Florian Resheske tends, DeMuth says.

"It will keep operating as long as we can have a pastor," says DeMuth, caretaker of the 70-member church.

Tonet residents stay close through socials sponsored by the St. Ann's Society. After funerals, meals are held at Jonet's tavern, she says.

Pete Jonet, 63, who has operated the tavern 33 years with his wife Lucy, says area people gather at his tavern mostly

on weekends.

"It ain't bad. It's just like everywhere else. You know everybody around," he says.

In summer, an old-timers baseball team plays other communities for a quarter barrel of beer. The loser buys, Jonet says.

People also travel to Luxemburg to join bowling leagues.

The Tonet Farmers Co., Route 2, Luxemburg, has served area farmers since 1916, says manager Laurel Ettien, 52.

The company makes 6,000 pounds of cheese, seven days a week, which doesn't allow Ettien and his wife Barb, 52, any vacation time, he says.

The couple's sons, Kevin, 22, and Laurel, 28, who also work at the cheese factory, keep busy preparing their stock car for Friday night races in Luxemburg.

■ **Next week:** Lakewood in Oconto County



Typical Tonet: Above, Pete Jonet takes time out to relax while on duty at the Tonet tavern that bears his name. He owns the business with his wife Lucy. At right, Marjo-

rie DeMuth mows the lawn at St. Martin Catholic Church in Tonet, where she is the official caretaker — indoors and outdoors. The church is 100 years old.

