This week's community profile: Breed

Tranquility brings folks back

By Karil Van Boxel
Press-Gazette

BREED — The scenery provides a tranquil setting for residents of this Oconto County community.

The Rev. John Laatsch chose the Breed swamp with its beaver pond and mouth-watering blackberries as the most unique part of the community. A family of eagles has taken up residence on the north side Weso Flowage.

"It's very pretty," said Laatsch, 40, pastor of Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church since 1989.

Press-Gazette photos by Joan Gutheridge

The church was organized by German Lutheran farmers in 1911. The present building at Oconto County AA and Wisconsin 32 was completed in 1981 after a fire destroyed the original structure on May 4, 1980.

Lois Tuschy, 61, 10854 Highway 32, retired from Nu-Line Industries in nearby Suring and then turned a hobby of making silk-flower arrangements into a business, Flowers by Lois.

"It keeps me real busy, especially the weddings," she said.

Chester and Norma Giese, 13334 Highway AA, have lived here most of their lives. In spring, they sell vegetables and flowers they start from seed in their greenhouse. At Christmas, they offer evergreen garlands and wreaths.

Breed is a great area for fishing, hunting and snow skiing, Norma Giese, 57, said. The Nicolet National Forest and south branch of the Oconto River are nearby.

"Instead of hearing trains, now we hear the snowmobiles," she said.

Life in Breed is to Mildred Hamberg's liking. She returned in 1970 after 27 years in Milwaukee.

Since her husband died in 1987, she shares her house next to the church with one dog and six cats.

She doesn't like TV, but watches the birds from her window. "That's my entertainment," she said.

Old-timers remember the post office that closed in 1966, the blacksmith's garage and the grocery store.

"We still have a parade on July Fourth," said Claudia Pongsegrau, 83, who closed the Breed General Store in 1973 after 35 years. "You wouldn't believe you could get so many cars or people in this town."

Travelers may stop at Corky Flynn's bar on Wisconsin 32 for a Friday night fish fry. Down the road on AA is Ted Flynn's tavern in the oldest building here. A hotel used to be upstairs, then it became a dancehall and now it's an apartment, said Ted Flynn, who was raised in Breed and is retiring next year.

"This is about the busiest place in town," he said. "Something's going on here every night."

Flynn sponsors horseshoe, pool, darts, volleyball and baseball leagues there.

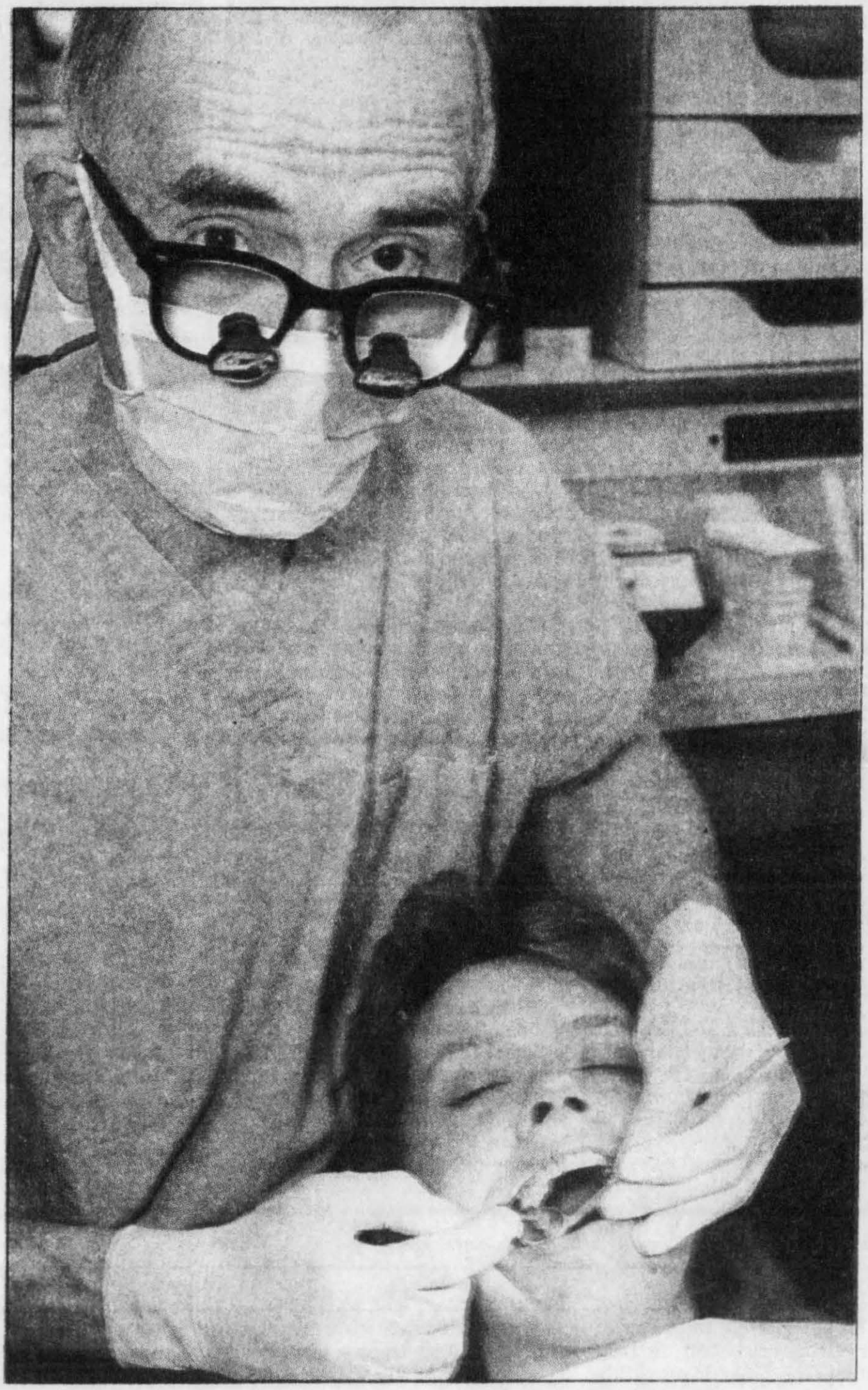
The Piso Airport on Wisconsin 32 is owned by Nickolas Piso, Milwaukee. He has a hangar for his Cessna 170 airplane and a public airstrip.

Piso plans to retire here. His parents homesteaded here in 1904 after leaving the Ukraine.

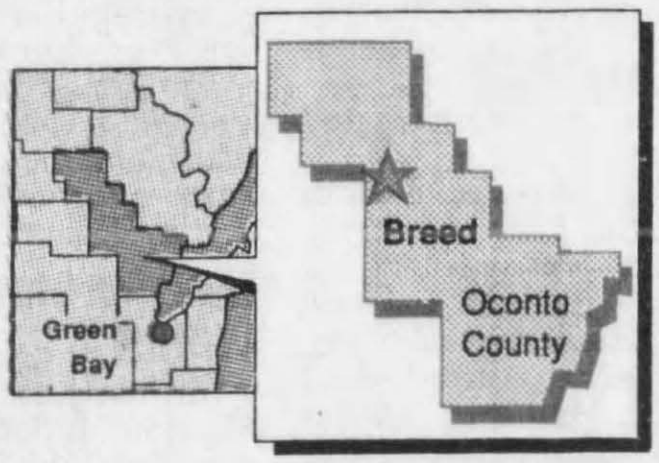
Douglas Cook's dental office is nestled in the woods a couple of miles from Breed. Many of his patients come from other areas of the United States to have mercury filings replaced with a porcelein bonding material, he said.

Breed, from the eyes of a 10-year-old, offers other perks.

"I like being out here because I can ride my bike a lot," said Sue Ann Jagodzinski, whose parents, David and Mary Carolyn own Breed Electric Contractors.



Tooth pick: Douglas Cook, a dentist near Breed, works on the teeth of his assistant, Amy Burrack of Suring.



The Breed file

- **Population:** About 40
- **Vain name:** There once was a horse farm on Chester and Norma Giese's property, but the name has nothing to do with horse breeding. The village was named by the first postmaster, George M. Breed.
- **Location:** Breed is about 52 miles from Green Bay between Suring and Mountain, bordering the Menominee Indian Reservation.

■ **Next week:** Rankin in Kewaunee County

Animal lover: Mildred Hamberg of Breed shows some of her pets.

Making arrangements: Lois Tuschy arranges flowers at her business, Flowers by Lois.