

# The Minneapolis Tribune

● Mr. Fixit . . . . 29

● Weather Map 29

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## Ojibway, Christian Funeral Rites Conducted for State Indian, 124

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WARROAD, Minn. — John Ka Ka Geesick, who practiced Indian herbal medicine until his death Friday at the age of 124, was given both Ojibway and Christian burial here Tuesday.

Ka Ka Geesick ran a trap line along the shores of Lake of the Woods until four years ago, and was a member of the Midewiwin — the Ojibway grand medicine society.

Following the Medewiwin service in his native language attended by family and Indian friends, and the traditional Christian service, Ka Ka Geesick was buried next to his brother, Chief Na May Puk in the Indian Highland Park Cemetery.

MANY Warroad businesses were closed yesterday afternoon for the services in the high school auditorium, a tribute to the Indian who said he was 16 years old when Abraham Lincoln became president.

About 300 persons, half of whom were Indian, attended the Christian services conducted by the Rev. Leonard Lindholm, minister of the Evangelical Covenant Church in Warroad.

The pallbearers included: Richard Roberts, mayor of Warroad, and two former mayors of the village.

Ka Ka Geesick, who entered the Warroad Nursing Home four years ago, is survived by a daughter, Mary Angus, Warroad; three grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and 6 great-great-grandchildren.

Daniel Raincloud, the Midewiwin medicine man from the nearby Red Lake Reservation, conducted the Ojibway service in the auditorium while the minister and those attending the Christian services waited outside.

RAINCLOUD SANG two Ojibway honoring songs over a small bundle of food and a package of cigarettes. He accompanied himself with a small rattle.

Raincloud then placed a pair of red cotton gloves in



JOHN KA KA GEESICK

He died at 121

the coffin to accompany Ka Ka Geesick to the grave.

Ka Ka Geesick probably was born at Buffalo Point in Canada on the shores of Lake of the Woods. He was given a land patent in 1905 signed by President Theodore Roosevelt.

Until four years ago, Ka Ka Geesick lived in a small house on the 102-acre land grant on Muskeg Bay, in Warroad.

THE UNCERTAINTY of Ka Ka Geesick's birth was resolved in 1964 when the Warroad village council passed a resolution establishing his date of birth as May 16, 1844.

On the same day the council decreed that the name of Muskeg Bay should be changed to Ka Ka Geesick Bay two years after the

death of the Indian medicine man.

Tom Lightning, now 94 and recognized as the oldest Indian in Warroad, said of Ka Ka Geesick that "he was an old man when I was a little boy in the village."

Ka Ka Geesick was dressed in a blue suit, white shirt and blue striped tie. But he was remembered by residents of Warroad as always wearing moccasins, a buckskin jacket and in the winter, a muskrat hat.