

Tanacross Chief, Walter Isaac, Dies After Stroke at Age of 81

Tanacross, Alaska
April 12, 1965

Tundra Times
Chena Building
Fairbanks, Alaska
Gentlemen:

We thought you might be interested in having the enclosed writeup on Chief Walter Isaac who passed away on Saturday, April 10th.

We would appreciate a copy of your paper with this writeup in it.

Sincerely,

/s/ OSCAR ISAAC

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Walter Isaac was born in 1883 and upon the death of his father, Walter became chief of Mansfield Village in 1912. Shortly after, the Mansfield Village moved to the shores of the Tanana River where the village of Tanacross now is.

A few years later, a village council with elected officers was formed, and Chief still followed in the steps of his father influencing his people to live a good life and encouraging them by his own example.

In the early 1900s he married Maggie Demit from Ketchumstock

and they were blessed with seven children, only three of whom are living now.

In February of this year, he suffered a number of strokes and spent some time in the A.N.S. hospital in Anchorage. After returning home from the hospital on March 8, he was completely bedridden.

On April 10, at 8:00 a.m., he passed away. Funeral service was held in St. Timothy's Mission Church Tanacross, on Monday, April 12, and burial was held at Mansfield Village on Tuesday, April 13.

Besides the villagers, many outsiders will long remember the friendly smile and the warm handshake of dear old Chief Walter Isaac.

He is survived by his wife, Maggie, and his three children, Jessie David of Tetlin, Oscar Isaac and Mary Charlie, both of Tanacross, and fifteen grandchildren.