Maude Kegg, or Naawakamigookwe (Middle of the Earth Lady), was a renowned Ojibwe artist, writer, and cultural preservationist. She was born near Portage Lake in 1904 and was an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Throughout her life, she worked to preserve Ojibwe language and culture. She wrote several books recounting Ojibwe life and stories and in later years, she worked as an interpreter at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum & Trading Post.

Kegg is perhaps best known for her beautiful beadwork. Her pieces include intricate Ojibwe floral designs and were created using geometric loom techniques. In 1990, she received a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Learn more about Maude Kegg and Ojibwe culture and history at the Gale Family Library:

- Read books written by Maude Kegg
- Hear Kegg’s story and other oral histories related to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
- Watch films documenting wild ricing and sugar-bushing
- Research Ojibwe family history
- Learn about the Ojibwe language

Visit sites.mnhs.org/library/ojibwe-history to learn about Ojibwe history resources at the Gale Family Library.

QUESTIONS? Contact the library:
651-259-3300 • reference@mnhs.org • mnhs.org/library

IMAGES:
(front) Killy, Monroe. Maude Kegg with wiigob for basketmaking, Mille Lacs. 1947.
(top) Killy, Monroe. Stirring Maple Syrup, Lake Mille Lacs. 1948.