

GRINNELL, IOWA, I

Robert Kerr Dies In Washington, D.C.

H-3 3-4-57

Robert Y. Kerr, former Grinnell resident, died very suddenly Saturday morning at his home in Washington, D. C. He had gotten up in the morning, apparently in his usual health and was stricken without warning. The body will be cremated and the ashes will be brought to Grinnell at a later date for burial beside a little daughter.

Robert Kerr for many years has been a well known name in Grinnell. A graduate from Grinnell college in 1912, he had always maintained a close touch with the college and wrote the words of the Grinnell Hymn, which is sung frequently on the college campus. He also wrote the words for a cantata, "Men of the Wilderness", with music by Professor Elias Blum, which was given in Grinnell on several occasions. For a time he served as assistant to the president of the college and was identified with many college and community activities.

For many years Mr. Kerr held a sort of roving commission as writer for The American Lumberman, and of late years had been located in Washington, D.C. in the interests of that magazine. He was a ready and forceful writer, a good friend and a genial companion.

Mr. Kerr married his classmate, Florence Stewart, who survives him. Their only daughter died in early childhood.

The Kerrs always maintained a warm spot in their hearts for Grinnell. Their last visit here was last year when they spent a few days visiting old friends.