

H-R July 4, 1977

William Roecker is dead at 62

Word has been received here of the death of William A. Roecker, formerly associate professor of German at Grinnell College. Mr. Roecker, 62, died of a heart attack on June 28 at Escondido, Calif.

A native of Oak Park, Ill., who received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California at Berkeley, Mr. Roecker served on the Grinnell College faculty from 1962 to 1975. Previously he had taught at Berkeley, San Bernardino College, and the University of Oregon.

He had also served as a member of the teaching staff of the Iowa Regents' Universities Program Abroad in Austria and as a visiting professor at the University of Iowa.

Elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Mr. Roecker served two terms as president of the Iowa Association of Teachers of German and of the Iowa

Named associate professor emeritus of German at Grinnell College in 1976, Mr.

Roecker was in semi-retirement at the time of his death. Survivors include his wife, Pirkko, director of the Grinnell College Folk Dancers and member of the faculty for eight years, and two daughters, Gretchen Schmidt of Berkeley, Calif., and Kathi Lowry of Oakland, Calif.

At Grinnell College he served on various faculty committees and, in the city community, was a member and past president of the board of directors of Uncle Sam's Club, Foreign Language Association. He was also a member of the American Association of Teachers of German, the Modern Language Association, and other professional societies.