

H-R October 6, 1986
Louis Zirkle

rites Tuesday

Louis G. Zirkle, 54, of 1409 Summer St., a professor of art at Grinnell College since 1961, died Friday.

His body was found slumped in his car at Grinnell General Hospital early Saturday morning. An autopsy was planned, and the cause of death was not immediately known.

Funeral services will be conducted at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in Herrick Chapel on the college campus, with the Rev. Philip J. Ramstad, pastor of the United Church of Christ-Congregational, officiating. Pianist will be JoAnne Ritacca. Burial will be in Hazelwood Cemetery, with the Smith Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

A memorial fund is being established.

Mr. Zirkle is survived by his wife, Merle W.; one son, Joel P., a student at Cornell College in Mount Vernon; one brother, Robert G. of Conroe, Texas; and one sister, Joyce Craig of Springfield, Ill.

H-R October 9, 1986

Louis G. Zirkle memorial held

Louis Glenn Zirkle, 54, of 1409 Summer St., Grinnell, a sculptor and professor of art at Grinnell College, died Friday, Oct. 3.

A memorial service was conducted at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at Herrick Chapel, with the Revs. Philip J. Ramstad, pastor of the United Church of Christ-Congregational, and Dennis Haas, Grinnell College chaplain, officiating.

Music was by pianist JoAnne Ritacca. Pallbearers were Jonathan Andelson, Luther Erickson, Grafton Boehner, Robert McKibbin, Raymond Obermiller and John Worley.

Burial was in Hazelwood Cemetery, with the Smith Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Zirkle was born on May 10, 1932, in Hoopston, Ill. He was educated at Southern Illinois University, receiving a B.S. degree in 1957 and an M.F.A. degree in 1959.

He was married to Merle Waller in Carbondale, Ill., in 1959. They came to Grinnell in 1961 as artists-in-residence, and their son, Joel, was born here in 1965. The Zirkles were among the first faculty members in the country to be hired under a shared contract. Mr. Zirkle was promoted to the rank of professor in 1974.

Prof. Zirkle worked in a variety of media, and his sculpture has been exhibited widely. His most recent completed work was in Indiana limestone, and he had planned to work in metal during the winter.

He was the recipient of numerous awards during his career, not only for sculpture but for crafts and jewelry. His works are on exhibit at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery in Lincoln, Neb., at Grinnell College, and in numerous private collections.

While at Grinnell, he taught sculpture, jewelry,



Louis G. Zirkle

silversmithing, design and ceramics. He was the creator of Grinnell College's President's Medal, awarded annually to a top senior at Grinnell, and the President's Medallion, worn at ceremonial occasions by the college president.

In March of this year, Prof. Zirkle's works were among those in a Grinnell faculty invitational exhibit at Coe College, and he won an honorable mention award in the 21st Area Competitive Art Show at the Charles H. MacNider Museum in Mason City, a show held during the period June through August.

He was actively involved in the establishment and successful operation of the Grinnell Community Art Gallery.

A memorial fund has established.

Prof. Zirkle is survived by his wife, Merle; his son, Joel, a student at Cornell College; one brother, Robert G. of Conroe, Texas; and one sister, Joyce Craig of Springfield, Ill.

He was preceded in death by his father, Gale B. Zirkle, and his mother, Irene Clendenen Zirkle.