

APCO Life Member and Illinois Chapter Historian Ero E. Erickson (KA9DYS) died September 4 in a Chicago hospital. Ero, 83, suffered a heart attack while in the hospital for an apparent calcium imbalance. He leaves his wife, Sylvia, and daughter, Linda.

He was born in 1910 and had been interested in radio communications since he was in high school. He was a ship-board "sparks" operator in the 1930s and then served with the Illinois State Police Communications for many years, both in Springfield and Chicago. After retiring from the State Police, he began a second career owning his own communications business in Chicago, which he operated until his death.

Ero joined APCO in 1941, only a few months after the Illinois Chapter was chartered. He worked as a radio-telegraph operator for the Illinois State Police in Chicago at the time. He served as President of the Illinois Chapter in 1943 and 1944. Ero later served many years as the Illinois Chapter APCO Frequency Coordinator.

Silent Key

Ero Erickson, APCO Former National Secretary-Treasurer; Past President Of Illinois Chapter

He was elected to the post of National Association Secretary-Treasurer at the 1943 Annual Conference and served in that position until 1948. This was during the era long before APCO had its own office, paid staff or even an executive director. As Secretary-Treasurer, Ero ran the "National Office" out of his own home.

During his first year of 1943-44, APCO grew from 314 members to about 800. During that same year, APCO grew from four chapters to nine, adding Michigan, Ohio, Mo-Kan (Missouri, Kansas), New York and Florida.

Ero was a prolific writer and maintained all of the correspondence to guide APCO's growth during those very formative years. The transcript of the 1944 Annual Conference tells about how he wore out the dining room rug in front of his typewriter by spending so much time working there. Ero also liked to tell about how all of the Association's records fit in his shirt pocket when he took the job; but it took a truck to haul them away when he finally left office. The Association grew from four chapters (Northern California, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin) to 15 chapters under his guidance. During the 1948 Annual Conference, representatives from the Michigan Chapter presented Ero with a gift and praised his efforts in helping them get their chapter chartered and functioning.

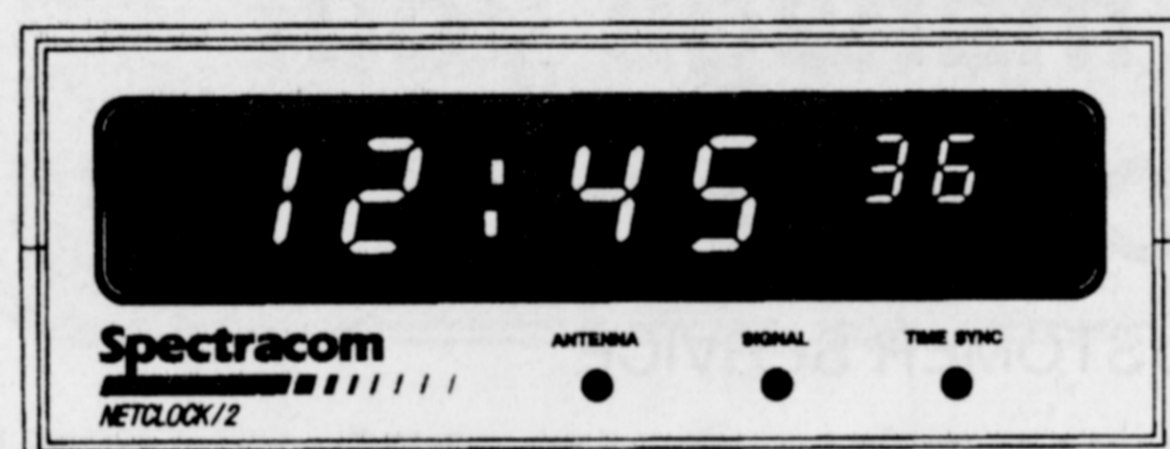
In addition to APCO, Ero was a member of the Society of Wireless Pioneers, the Radio Club of America, the Quarter Century Wireless Association, the Morse Telegraphers and the Radio Amateur Megacycle Society. Ero also was an editor and regular columnist for the publications of several of these organizations. His "Rain Static" column in the APCO

Bulletin was a regular feature during the 1940s and 1950s. The "Rain Static" column reported on communications activities of the Chicagoland and downstate Illinois police agencies, as well as news from adjoining states. He also was an avid photographer, dutifully recording most of the APCO events he attended.

Ero did a lot of great things for APCO and it was an honor for us to recognize him for those accomplishments. He used to tease some of his chapter members about getting him "sentenced to life" when referring to his award of Life Membership in APCO.

The Illinois Chapter is planning to dedicate a scholarship or special memorial within its historical collection in memory of his dedication to APCO. When we were planning this collection, it was Ero who first urged us to locate it "in a university or a place of learning, rather than in a dusty place of archives."

The collection was then established at the Bradley University Library in 1982. Ero's humor and wisdom will be deeply missed. ■



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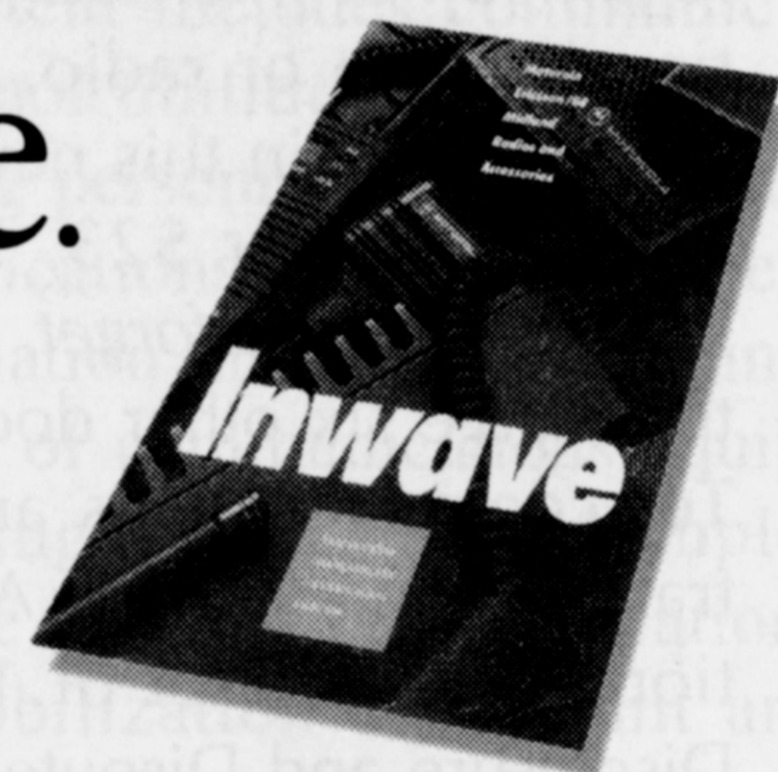
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