#### SILENT KEYS

### Almer Keith, Past President of CPRA

Past CPRA Chapter President and Frequency Coordinator Almer H. (Al) Keith, 72, died last fall.

He was the president of CPRA (California Public-Safety Radio Association, which is the Southern California Chapter of APCO International) in 1963 and served as chairman of the chapter's Frequency Advisory Committee from 1955 to 1960. He had been an active member of APCO International from 1954 to 1975.

Mr. Keith retired from the City of San Diego in 1978 after 24 years of

#### J. Pat Martin; Founded Marcom Engineering

John Pat Martin, 44, of Boerne, Texas, chief engineer and founder of Marcom Engineering Company in Boerne, died September 16 of a heart attack. He was a member of the Texas Chapter of APCO International.

He was in the telecommunications business for 23 years. Mr. Martin was a registered professional engineer. Suzan F. Martin, owner of Marcom, said that although Marcom bears this tremendous loss, "we will continue strong because of the high company and personal standards that Mr. Martin established."

#### Remembering His Courageous Friend

Editor's Note: Jimmy Rhoades' Silent Key was in last month's APCO Bulletin. This is a remembrance by Lt. Norman Ott of the Azle Police Reserves. Mr. Rhoades, a member of the Texas Chapter of APCO International, was an Azle police communications officer.

When I think of one word to describe Jimmy, the word that comes to mind is courage. During my career, I have seen courage demonstrated in many different ways. I believe that there are different types of courage, and the most common is the physical courage of

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Almer Keith

distinguished service as a division superintendent. He was superintendent of both the Electrical Division and the Buildings and Electrical Division which included the Communications Section and finally the Equipment Division. He also was active in the Vehicle Technology Section of the IEEE and served as the arrangements chair of the 1972 IEEE Conference in San Diego. He was a San Diego native, graduating from the University of California at Berkeley before going to work for the city.

Outside of work, he had been an ardent model-railroad buff for most of his life and was a life member of the National Model RR Association. He was a Mason and past master of the Silver Gate Lodge #296 of F&AM. He leaves his wife, Virginia.

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