

# APCO PROFILE

**Arthur Edwin McDole** was born with a keen sense of curiosity, a tremendous enthusiasm for life, and an abundant supply of energy to exploit these characteristics to the fullest. He has been Director of Communications for the County of Monterey going on to thirty-four years. In addition to developing a fine county communications system, including the nation's first county-wide 9-1-1 system, he has been active in chairing or being a member of numerous local, State, and national communications and disaster committees, is a member of several professional and fraternal organizations, and is an avid hunter, fisherman, and amateur naturalist. He is not a joiner for the sake of joining. When Art becomes associated with an organization, he participates actively, fully, and, as his colleagues know, competently.

Art maintains a fast work pace for eleven months of the year. July is, however, reserved for a fishing vacation in Colorado. He and his lovely wife, Mary, have a cabin on the Eagle River in Wolcott, Colorado. Art fishes as intensely as he works but his month-long change of activity seems to get his batteries charged up for another eleven months of work. Incidentally, he usually drives the approximately 1,250 miles from his home in Salinas to Wolcott nonstop. No dawdling around — let's get there and get a line wet!

Art was born in Colorado Springs but was soon taken by his family to the railroad town of Minturn. Access to a rail pass gave him the opportunity to travel, as a boy, throughout the Rockies. Here his love for hunting and, especially, fishing was born and nurtured. Here, too, he and Mary Cline were schoolmates. When Mary went off to Denver to train as a nurse, Art developed his ability to drive long distances with no sleep. By this time he had become a journeyman carpenter and, at the end of work on Friday, he would take off for Denver to spend a sleepless week-end courting Mary. It is reported that he awoke a couple of times in the ditch on return trips to Minturn but he must have chosen the right places to go off the road as he, with the luck of the Irish, survived.

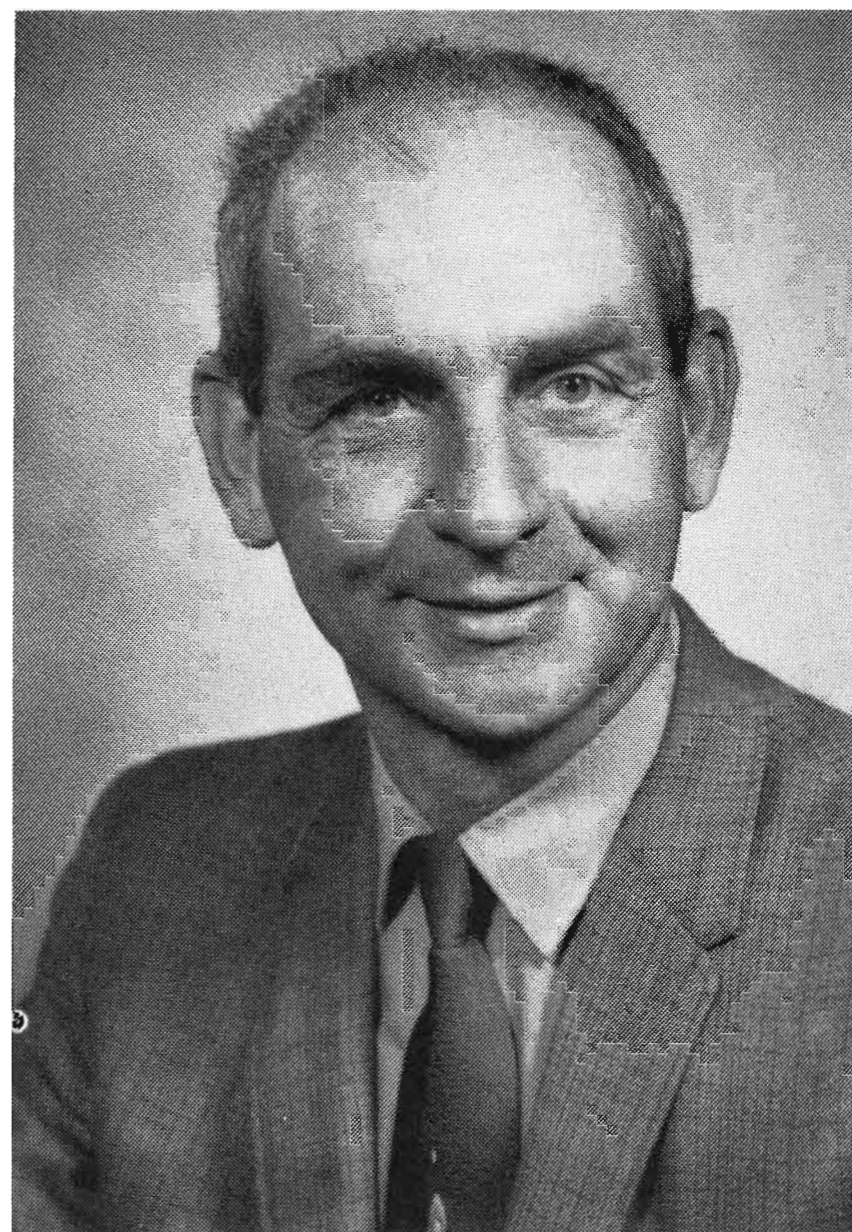
In 1941 Art and Mary moved to California and settled in Salinas. He continued to work as a carpenter and it was during this period that an encounter with a power tool in Willis' Cabinet Shop cost him two fingers. It was also during this time that self-study in the McDole style earned him his ham radio license and, later, a job with the Wired Music Company of Salinas. Wired Music operated a song-by-request system that some of our older APCOANS may recall. A central office staffed by young ladies with mellifluous voices, was connected by telephone lines to restaurants, taverns, and drive-ins. The young ladies would play phonograph records for customers who would deposit a nickel or a dime for this simple pleasure. Not only did Art do well financially at this new endeavor, but he gained in insight to telephone systems and operations — knowledge which was later very helpful to him.

In 1949 the Monterey County Sheriff's communications officer, Tom Bayley, accepted the post of communications officer for Solano County. Tom and Art had been brought together through the Monterey County Amateur Radio Club. Tom was able to convince Art that he should forsake wired music for the more solid job of Sheriff's communicator. So, on 1 August 1949, Sgt. Arthur E. McDole became the Monterey County Sheriff's Communications Officer. At this time the communications center was located on Natividad Road near the County Hospital in Salinas. The isolation of the center precluded relief for the single dispatcher on duty so it was necessary to abandon his operating position when circumstances forced him to do so. Art solved the major problem by installing a microphone and loudspeaker in the rest room adjacent to the communications center.

The county radio system had already been converted from the original base/mobile frequencies of 1674 kHz/35.22 MHz to high band. One repeater was in service. Art expanded the system with additional frequencies and more mountain top repeaters and has achieved essentially solid radio coverage, in difficult terrain, for Monterey County and the northern part of San Luis Obispo County where Monterey has responsibility for patrolling recreational Lake Nacimiento.

During this period he worked his way up to the rank of captain. He became proficient in pistol shooting and, in addition to his

## ARTHUR EDWIN McDOLE



communications responsibilities, was appointed firing range master, a position he kept until he left the department. With financial assistance provided by a federal grant, Art began to develop a new operating center. It was at this time the sheriff had a heart attack and suddenly eleven candidates for his job emerged. Nine of these were unqualified and, should one of these be elected, Art's communications program would be in jeopardy. So he did a very smart thing. He gained the support of the County Administrator to establish the Monterey County Communications Department completely detached from the Sheriff's Office. And so it remains to this day.

Art developed the first county-wide 9-1-1 system in the country. His telephone experience with the Wired Music Company paid off.

In 1965 Art McDole became Chairman of the Frequency and Engineering Advisory Committee of the Northern California Chapter of APCO. And, some 10,000 coordinated frequencies later, is still coordinating and has earned the respect of colleagues in APCO and the FCC from coast to coast for his knowledge and efforts in this field.

Art was recently appointed Director of Emergency Services for Monterey County. This formalizes many functions he has been performing in flood and mud slide incidents in the Big Sur area and law enforcement activities in connection with the Laguna Seca Raceway and the Crosby Golf Tournament.

He is Chairman of the State 9-1-1 Committee, serves on the Spectrum Management Council, Chairman of the Disaster Council of Monterey County, member of the Emergency Care Committee of Monterey, and has been the Emergency Coordinator for the County.

He is active in the German Shorthair Club and attends all local and some national field trails. He has been Gunner for this area for many years and has served as National Gunner for the National German Shorthair Club.

Art is Life Member of APCO (without having been national president), member of IEEE, Fellow of the Radio Club of America, and is a Master Mason.

He has a vast knowledge of trees, shrubs, and wild flowers and can describe and name — common and scientific — hundreds of varieties. He and Mary are enthusiastic bird-watchers and are accomplished wild-life photographers.

Art's love for fishing transcends all these activities. Show Art a trout stream and his is in heaven. Like the time the Northern California Chapter enjoyed the hospitality of Pacific Gas and Electric at the Caribou Powerhouse on the Feather River in Northern