

JOHN FRANKLIN SILVER
1911-1990

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John Franklin Silver died on December 20, 1990, just 21 days short of his eightieth birthday. With his death the Engineering profession lost a valuable colleague, the business world a competent manager, and the QCU (Quartz Crystal Unit) industry a true friend.

John was born January 11, 1911, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He received the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Engineering from Ohio State University in 1935. The same year he was married to Miss Thelma Cooper. They were married more than 55 years.

His first employment was with the Crosley Radio Company where he was responsible for the triple-tuned I-F transformer which was a feature of Crosley receivers. In 1941 he transferred to the Collins company and later to the Motorola Corporation where he worked on problems associated with two-way radio communication systems. He remained with Motorola from 1945 to 1954 during which he sponsored a program at Colorado State University resulting in the development of the IT-cut piezoid to replace the AT-cut in transmitters operating at temperatures above 70 degrees C. This was the first doubly rotated thickness-shear unit and the predecessor of the SC-cut. For a short time he was VP of the Motorola Corporation.

He earned the degree of Master of Arts in Business from the University of Chicago in 1947 and it was the union of Electrical Engineering and Business Management which most characterizes the professional career of John Silver.

In 1966 John became President of the James Knights Company of Sandwich, Illinois. He remained in this position for 14 years during which J-K became the largest manufacturer of QCUs in the United States, if not in the entire world. John realized that the Quartz Crystal business lacked strong technical support and assisted educational programs at Northern Illinois University, New Mexico State University, and McMurry College in Abilene, Texas with equipment and money for student grants. He then offered summer employment to these

students, many of whom became permanent employees of J-K and other QCU companies. Some of the leaders in the QCU industry began their careers in the educational programs begun by John Silver at the J-K Company in Sandwich, Illinois.

But John did not devote all of his energy to engineering and business. He was active in civic and church programs and in Boy Scout activities. He served on the School Board of Park Ridge Elementary School and was its president in 1952. He supported cooperative programs for students of Electrical Engineering and strove to make Engineering a "true profession"; as essential and recognizable as Law and Medicine. He was opposed to anything which tended to diminish the professional ideals of Engineering and did everything in his power to enhance the prestige of the profession. He is greatly missed.

