

Francois D. "Bud" Uzes, L.S. 3175
1934 – 2006



It is with utmost sadness that we announce the passing of our dear colleague, Land Surveyor and author Bud Uzes. He died unexpectedly after a surgical procedure on February 7th, 2006.

Mr. Uzes operated his own consulting business called Boundaries Unlimited for 18 years. Prior to that he worked 33 years for the California State Lands Division where he was head of the surveying and boundary determination section. His strong interest in all aspects of land surveying included techniques, education, instructions, laws, and technology.

He has worked as a consultant and expert witness in surveying and boundary disputes in over 100 cases, including twice testifying in proceedings before Special Masters of the U.S. Supreme Court. One of the cases involved the California-Nevada interstate boundary, which resulted from discrepancies he uncovered while doing research for his 1st edition of Chaining the Land.

Mr. Uzes served 6 years as first president of the Surveyor's Historical Society, was Life Member and Fellow of both the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping and the National Society of Professional Surveyors, and was Honorary Life Member of the Sacramento and Gold Country Chapters of the California Land Surveyors Association. In addition to authoring Chaining the Land, 1st and 2nd editions, he is also the author of Illustrated Price Guide to Antique Surveying Instruments and Books, and was contributing author to several editions of Boundary Control and Legal Principles. He made numerous contributions to published journals.

He was in great demand throughout California and the nation as a speaker at professional surveying conferences, seminars, and other gatherings. Topics of his presentations included: water boundaries, cadastral surveys, historical surveys, antique instruments, fraudulent surveys, interstate boundaries, expert testimony, title and boundary research, and legal issues pertaining to land surveying.

Bud was an avid collector and exhibitor of historical surveying instruments, books, and tools. Surveyors appreciated his exhibits as a rare opportunity to learn about their predecessors. They were also popular among the general public, and have been featured in the California State Museum, Placer County Courthouse, and many other venues.

His final exhibit is still on display at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento. It is a diorama that depicts a 19th century survey crew. Those who look carefully will find his image in the attendant mural.

His expertise in historical surveys appeared to have no bounds; his research and field investigations made significant contributions to our understanding of ancient Egyptian and Anasazi Indian surveying technology.

For all of his achievements, he was a humble and gracious man who consistently placed service to the profession above personal recognition. He provided counsel freely to those around him, and through his writing, provided counsel to those he would never meet. Bud Uzes was our mentor and our friend. His devotion and contributions to surveying cannot be overestimated. He showed us, by example, how to live a life of honor, integrity and service. We miss him greatly.

