



In Memoriam Hans J. Wehrli

Hans J. Wehrli passed away on February 20, 2020. He was an early pioneer in adapting computing power to the field of photogrammetry, through his work with Kern Instruments, Inc.

Hans understood early the benefit of electronics to improve productivity. For example, the DKM2-A, a universal one-second theodolite became the standard for a new generation of optical/mechanical theodolites with automatic vertical indexing. And when combined with an electronic distance meter, displayed the distance in digital format. In addition to surveying uses, the next generation of this new theodolite found wide acceptance for highly precise industrial measurements.

Hans was instrumental in 1969 in having Kern optical lenses accompany the moon landing of Apollo 11 where these lenses were used in the craft's acquisition cameras which filmed the tests of reactions of men and materials in space.

Even after retiring in 1988 when Kern was merged with Wild Leitz (Hexagon), Hans continued to influence the photogrammetric market. He designed and implemented the low-cost Alpha 2000 (analytical stereo plotter), RM-1 to RM-6 photoscanners and DAS digital aerial cameras under the company Wehrli & Associates.

(Source: ASPRS Newsletter)