



Gerald W. Hohmann

**GERALD W. HOHMANN**  
**1940 - 1992**

The electromagnetic induction community suffered a severe loss with the passing of Jerry Hohmann, Professor of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Utah, on May 23, 1992. Death resulted from complications related to a bone marrow transplant and chemotherapy intended to combat multiple myeloma, a form of bone marrow cancer.

Jerry received a B. S. degree in Geophysical Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines in 1962, followed by a two year commission as an officer in the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, and then two years as field geophysicist with Kennecott Copper Corporation. He obtained M. S. and Ph. D. degrees from the Department of Engineering Geoscience at the University of California at Berkeley (graduating 1970). The main resulting paper, "Electromagnetic scattering by conductors in the earth near a line source of current", published in *Geophysics* in 1971, laid the foundation for a large body of important literature in integral equations for EM modeling. The landmark paper in this series was perhaps "Three-dimensional induced polarization and electromagnetic modeling", which received Best Paper in *Geophysics* for 1975, and was developed while Jerry was chief research geophysicist at Kennecott (1970-1977). He was appointed to the full-time faculty of the University of Utah in 1977. Since that time, his research emphasized numerical modeling of EM responses and the last several years focused on time-domain methods. He authored or co-authored over 40 journal papers, mostly with his students. Among other citations, he received the Departmental Outstanding Teaching Award in 1981, the University of Utah Distinguished Research Award in 1991, and Honorary Membership in the Society of Exploration Geophysicists in 1992.

Building largely upon infrastructure established previously by Stanley H. Ward, Jerry Hohmann continued to attract outstanding students to the electrical geophysics program at Utah. His very easy-going nature, coupled with his own reputation and standards, encouraged these students towards high achievement in a relatively low-stress environment. For myself, Jerry was my primary scientific advisor who taught me that there is no approach equivalent to the quantitative and rigorous one, but that it also requires focus and patience. There was also shared appreciation for the outdoors and wilderness which, in general terms, may be somewhat unique for earth scientists. We scattered the ashes in his beloved high desert canyonlands of southeastern Utah on a warm, clear (but breezy!) day last September. We still very much feel his vitality, but shall miss his presence.

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