

## **Jerry Landis**

Jerry Landis, a pioneer in Aerial Photography, has influenced the industry since 1957. His innovative approach to his craft, as well as his creative techniques, have provided clients in retail, industrial, commercial, and government services with invaluable solutions to their respective challenges.

Born February 22, 1933, in Long Beach, California, Mr. Landis, when he was five years-old, developed asthma, and doctors recommended he move to Tucson, Arizona, where the dry climate could help improve his chronic and life threatening condition. His parents followed three years later and Mr. Landis grew up and worked in the family business until he joined the U.S. Army in 1955. Two years later, after he completed his tour of duty, Mr. Landis purchased his first airplane and camera and began to photograph homes and other properties on a professional basis. In 1958 he founded Landis Aerial Surveys (now called Landiscor), based in Phoenix, Arizona, where he provided imagery to the real estate industry and government planning agencies. His photography and methods revolutionized the manner in which cities planned and properties were bought, sold, and marketed. In 1989, Mr. Landis sold Landiscor and entered retirement for a brief period.

In 1994, Mr. Landis became interested in Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Specifically, he wanted to know how Digital Aerial Photography could be utilized in the emerging era of computer mapping applications. After several years of research, development, and monitoring the refinement of digital technologies, he formed Aerials Express, a hybrid and extension of his past professional experience. Since its creation, less than a decade ago, Aerials Express has managed to photograph a majority of U.S. cities; he has covered over 300,000 square miles, 111 Market Statistical Areas (MSAs), and 86% of all U.S. households.

Mr. Landis's resolve, leadership, and the consequences of his vision, have created a virtual digital library, a resource sought out by industry leaders and government agencies across the country.