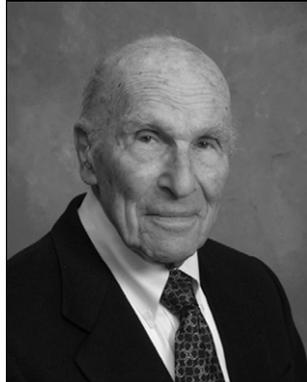


In Memoriam: Harvey Picker

Harvey Picker, physicist, inventor, educator, businessman, and philanthropist, died on March 22 at the age of 92 in Camden, ME. He was born in New York, NY, in 1915, the same year his father organized the James Picker Co. to offer sales and service of X-ray equipment and supplies. He graduated from Colgate University in 1936 and earned an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1938. In 1938 he joined Picker X-Ray Company, headquartered in Cleveland, OH.

In World War II, Picker X-Ray, in collaboration with the U.S. Army, developed compact and sturdy radiographic equipment that could be easily transported and even parachuted in for use in field hospitals. The Picker Field Unit became the mainstay of diagnostic imaging in the war. At the end of the war, Picker and his father sent a check for \$3 million to the U.S. Treasury, explaining that the family did not wish to profit from the conflict.

While serving in the U.S. Navy during the war, Picker worked on the secret development of radar with a team of physicists at the Radiation Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After returning to civilian life, he headed Picker X-Ray for 25 years, leading the company as it produced groundbreaking developments in nuclear medicine diagnostics, cobalt therapy, and oceanographic ultrasonics, a precursor of medical ultrasound.



Harvey Picker

In 1971, Picker returned to Colgate University as an adjunct faculty member, with an academic focus on global science and technology themes. In 1972, he became the dean of the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs. The school tripled in size during his decade-long tenure.

Moving to Camden in 1982, Picker, an avid sailor, bought Wayfarer Marine Corporation and maintained a busy schedule of local and regional public service. In 1994 he took over the operations of Picker Institute, which he had

founded in 1986 in partnership with his wife, Jean. A global independent nonprofit organization, Picker Institute is credited with having coined the phrase “patient-centered care” and also pioneered and popularized patient satisfaction surveys. The Picker Surveys have become a standard measure of patient care worldwide. In 1999 Picker founded the Picker Engineering Program at Smith College, his wife’s alma mater. It was the first engineering program at a women’s college and has become a model for attracting women to the field.

In a statement released after his death, representatives of the Picker Foundation noted that “he believed that he had been graced with an enormous amount of luck and good fortune in his life, and he never ceased to express his gratitude for it.”

The Picker Foundation