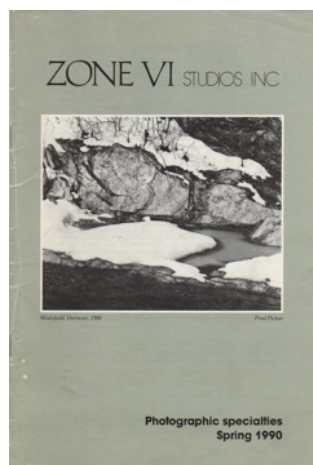


B&W Photo Magazine Fabio Cremasco UNDERWATER 8X10" CAMERA Film is NOT Dead Springsteen-B&W Video
Great B&W Movies: The Artist Evan Prince, Bodybuilders Bobby Chitrakar Jim Mortram One-Shot Harris Kodak and Film
Eric McCormack Note to Readers Crouser's Darkroom Great B&W Movies II Dave Labossiere Richard Southall
Herman Miller Tatiana Ambrose F.A.Q. Tram Project Crouser's Dog Run, and More William Castellana Chris Kovacs
Crouser: Tri-X and Talent Lauri Herrala Great B&W Movies Aurora Demasi R.I.P., Herman Leonard Print Space NYC
Jim Marshall Iulian Ignat Brian Parillo Pop Photo's Darkroom Sabrina Guitart Iggy & Stooges Blues & Buildings
Why Use B&W? Rogovin at 99 Surfing in B&W Timeless B&W A New Camera Store B&W from Poland
Kodachrome, R.I.P. B&W Blasts/Past Classical 8x10 B&W New to B&W Classic Desert B&W Ray Ruiz Rocks Editorial
Jason Brunner Meditative B&W Mission Statement Clyde Butcher's Best-2008 Civil Rights B&W Baseball in B&W
B&W Punk Rock PoPsie's Pop Music Russia: The Land B&W vs. Color Neapolitan B&W B&W Blog
Digital B&W: Big & Bold Horowitz Gallery Chandler: Dreamlike B&W B&W Photos in the Media Email Us
Raab's 6x7 Street B&W Ansel Adams B&W for Newbies **Picker & Zone VI** Blank 2 Fun Stuff! Brad Pitt's New Camera
B&W of the Month "Oscars" Photo Feature About Us Clyde Butcher Lightens Up Polaroid 20x24 Medium format...\$175
Rental Darkrooms My B&W Abstract B&W Found Photography Vonnegut on B&W Cool B&W Links NYC - Urban Fervor
Leonard Cohen "Hallelujah" Jazz TV

Fred Picker and Zone VI

Fred Picker's company made view cameras, enlargers, cold light heads and assorted clever darkroom gizmos, but mostly he helped build and sustain a Golden Age of black-and-white photography



Spring 1990 Zone VI catalog cover, left, and their 8x10" and 4x5" cameras, right.



Zone VI Newsletter content and catalog images appear courtesy of Calumet Photographic: <http://www.calumetphoto.com/cgi?ac.ui.pn=search.Search&query=zone+vi&x=0&y=0>

Many of us lucky enough to have been B&W photographers during the heyday of Zone VI are probably familiar with this special company and the man who started it, Fred Picker.

Fred Picker did as much as anyone to champion B&W and large format photography during the 1970s - 1990s, helping to usher in, and sustain, something of a Golden Age for both B&W and big cameras. He also instilled in many an appreciation for slow photography and careful B&W printing. His video series, especially *Printing with Fred Picker*, remain essential additions to the knowledge base of serious B&W workers. Many items he sold are still available from Calumet to this day; other discontinued items are hot sellers on ebay.

Picker, notably, demystified the Zone System, making this expressive tool accessible to many more photographers. He had his detractors, and some of his products and teachings stirred controversy, but Picker was clearly devoted to his field and pursued it with passion and energy.

(Zone VI was a photographic-specialties mail-order company based in Vermont. It sold a long list of items, from the mundane to the esoteric, including its own brand of view cameras, B&W paper, chemistry, enlargers and cold light sources, and highly specialized devices such as compensating print development timers that adjust development time based on precise measurement of the developer temperature.)

Zone VI was sold to Calumet Photographic in June 1990 but Picker continued his involvement with the operation, and the wonderful catalogs, for several years; he died in April 2002.

bwphotopro would probably not exist had I not sent away for a thin Zone VI catalog in the mid-eighties, after seeing their tiny ad in a photo magazine. So we're going to pay tribute to Fred Picker by running short excerpts from his Newsletters and catalogs as often as possible.

We'll start with Newsletter No. 1:

From Zone VI Newsletter No. 1, August 1, 1973

"We who photograph seriously share an interest in the most exciting, expressive visual medium of our times. Photography has had a short history but we have already seen great accomplishments. Many of its early greats are gone - Hill & Adamson, Curtis, Stieglitz, Steichen and Weston. But Adams, Caponigro, Strand, Gagliani, Smith and others continue their search in the great tradition." (Ed. Note: Remember, this was written in 1973.)

Picker described assisting his friend Paul Caponigro in producing his Portfolio II, consisting of 100 sets of eight prints.

"We began the printing with a lovely photograph of stones on a beach. It was a beautiful negative and seemed to present no problems. My guess is that more than a dozen test strips were made utilising different combinations of paper, developer, dilutions of

developers, development times and developer additives such as glycin, B. B. solution, etc. Finally straight unmanipulated prints were made (from this one negative) - about 15 or 20. They were toned for various times in different dilutions, washed and dried. Each print's formula had been listed on the back. Of these, Paul chose the single print that had the feeling, the atmosphere that he wanted to convey. The print "lived." Two and one-half days of hard work lay behind us - but we had the formula. Dodging and burning procedures were minimal and quickly worked out, and 150 exquisite prints (from this one negative) were then produced.