

HENRY J. KAISER

industrialist. shipbuilder. father of managed medicine.



Sketch portrait of Henry J. Kaiser

Henry J. Kaiser, was a man who has contributed greatly to the American people. He was involved in building american infrastructure, such as the Hoover Dam. Advancing medicine with the development and construction of hospitals, medical centers and medical schools. He event helped stablsh Kaiser Permanente, the first health maintenance organization, which is now a model for modern day healthcare.

Here are some facts about Mr. Kaiser's life:

- Born on May 9, 1882, in Sprout Brook, New York, the son of Franz and Anna Marie (née Yops) Kaiser, ethnic German immigrants.
- He worked as an apprentice photographer early in life, and was running the studio in Lake Placid by the age of twenty.
- Married Bess Fosburgh on April 8, 1907, and had two children, Edgar Kaiser, Sr and Henry Kaiser, Jr.
- Henry Kaiser was an early advocate of bringing American aid to those suffering from Nazi aggression in Europe during World War II. He provided much-needed clothing for the refugees from Hitler's war.
- Created the Kaiser Shipyard in Richmond, California; during World War II and adapted production techniques that built cargo ships in an average time of 45 days. Known as "Liberty ships" and were later supplemented in the mid-war period by improved, larger and faster "Victory ships".
- Implemented a pioneering idea of Dr. Sidney Garfield on August 10, 1942, by opening the Kaiser Richmond Field Hospital for Kaiser Shipyards. It was financed by the U.S. Maritime Commission, sponsored by Henry J. Kaiser's Permanente Foundation, and run by Dr. Garfield.
- By August 1944, 92.2 percent of all Richmond shipyard employees had joined Kaiser Permanente, the first voluntary group plan in the country to feature group medical practice, prepayment, and substantial medical facilities on such a large scale.

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