## Walter Camp STEM Scholarship Fund



Walter Camp constructing a stone arch.

Created in honor of Walter Camp by his family, wife Jane and sons Tomki and Blaise, the Walter Camp STEM Scholarship is awarded to a Mendocino County high school senior (excluding Ukiah High School\*) pursuing a career in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) at an accredited community college or an accredited four-year college or university within the United States.

Walter Camp was a true renaissance man. Science, music, art, and engineering informed his life work and that of his family. When the family decided to honor Walter's life after his passing, it was a natural fit to create a scholarship supporting Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) education for high school seniors in Mendocino County.

"Walter had a scientific background," says his wife Jane Camp. "His father was a physicist who was very well known in the world of sonar development. Walter went out many times with his dad in a boat with a hole in it for scientific study and was always worried it was going to sink," Jane shared with a laugh.

Dr. Camp was on loan to British Government after World War II, so Walter went to boarding school in England. Walter returned to the United States and studied physics and chemistry at UCLA. While there, he became immersed in the folk music scene of the late '60s. Eventually partnering in the ownership of McCabe's, an acoustic instrument repair shop.

Walter learned how to fix guitars and the shop became a famous folk music hang out. Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, and others became regulars at McCabe's. Walter's parents never understood his participation in the music store. They thought he was wasting his time. "The family changed their tune after McCabe's was written up in Time Magazine," Jane explained.

While working at the music store, Walter became interested in the back-to-the land movement. He wanted land that had water, that they could afford and where you could hear no traffic. The acreage outside of Willits was the first place that met all three criteria. In 1971, at age 33, Walter and his family relocated to Mendocino County.

Walter reveled in the rural community and used his renaissance mind to build a thriving life. He found that his knowledge of Pythagoras and Archimedes came back to him in unexpected ways, as can be seen in his extensive gardens filled with all manner of structures like stone arches and pathways.

After Walter's passing in 2016 at age 77, the family knew that they could honor his life by supporting young students interested in STEM careers. "If you are passionate about something like science it shows. We hope students can bloom and succeed with a scholarship like ours," says Jane. The family has chosen to make the scholarship available to all high school graduates in Mendocino County (with the exception of Ukiah High School, which has the Ed Brown Scholarship for those pursuing STEM careers). They look forward to supporting the next generation of renaissance thinkers.