Frederick Preston Willcox
Class of 2020

Frederick Willcox graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1927 and was a member of the Honor Society and the Drama Club. In the early years, the OHS yearbook was called The Alpha and other than photos of the seniors, clubs and the senior wills, very little else was there. Frederick's will read simply, "I will my winning ways to Billy Wally."

Frederick served in World War II in the United States Army, 1940-45, attaining the rank of Major! He received an Honorable Discharge in 1945.

Prior to entering the Army in 1940, Frederick served as a Private Practice Research and Development Engineer Consultant. His work as a consultant was interrupted while he served in WWII, and upon his discharge, he returned in this capacity until 1951. Following this work, he served as a Government Consultant, 1949-50, then from 1951-60, was Technical Vice-President, Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation in Long Island, New York.

From the 1954 edition of Coronet Magazine article Cameras in the Sky, "*Actually, this is only part of the miracle that goes on inside that lilliputian mechanism. Somehow or other these blades must be stopped. Ready for the next shot. How it is done without tearing that paper-thin piece of metal to pieces is a triumph for the inventive genius of the Fairchild scientist, Fred Willcox, the man who developed the Rapidyne shutter."* Fred also invented the Double torsion spring-energy-storage photographic shutter, 1963 F.P. Willcox ETAL.

In 1960, Frederick embarked on a 36-year career as an Inventor, researcher and developer in New Canaan, Connecticut. He is the holder of over 90 patents in Photography, Graphic Arts and Data Communications Equipment, High Speed Teleprinters and Typewriters. His patents include:

- Camera with focal plane shutter apparatus.
- Paper feeding and guiding system.
- Ribbon and directing structure cartridge.
- Rotary stepping motor having improved construction.
- Carriage guiding system and frame for a printer.
- Squeeze printing mechanism.
- Articulated ribbon-guising structure.
- Compliant ribbon-guiding structure.

Some of Frederick's photographic work is exhibited at the Smithsonian Gallery in Washington, DC and in 1951, he was the recipient of the Sherman Fairchild Photogrammetric Award, American Society of Photography. He was also a Fellow, American Association for Advancement of Science and a senior member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

For the ten-year period, 1989-1999, Fredrick was listed in Who's Who in the World and also for 1989-90, in Who's Who in the East. Some of his memberships include, The Optical Society of America, The America Defense Preparedness Association, The American Society of Photogrammetry, and the Society of Photographic Scientists and Engineers and The American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Frederick's half-sister, Florence Grisso was in the Class of 1957 at OHS and resides in Roseville, CA. She wrote in her letter of support for her half-brother, *"It was in 1952, that my father got a letter from Fred and the article that came out in the Coronet Magazine about Fred's latest accomplishments of an invention to take pictures with a jet plane. My father asked me to take it to the high school, and show it to one of my teachers, which I did."*

Frederick was born on August 1, 1910 in Los Angeles, CA and passed away on October 26, 1996. He was the son of Frederick William and Kate Lillian Willcox. He and his wife Velma Rose had one daughter, Ann Louise.