



## Monroe J. Paxman

April 7, 1919 - September 25, 2017

Born to relish and appreciate life, Monroe J. Paxman arrived on April 7, 1919 to William and Achsa Eggertsen Paxman in Provo, Utah. He was fourth of five siblings. As a child he raised rabbits and learned how to work with his hands. He was a bright, outgoing person who was curious and imaginative.

Monroe attended Provo schools and served an LDS mission in England and, due to the onset of WWII, in the North Central States. He was part of a traveling vocal quartet in his mission. After his return, he worked at Culver Aircraft in Wichita, Kansas, to help the war effort. He received his JD from the University of Utah. Following law school he practiced law with his father-in-law, Isaac Brockbank, and was subsequently appointed juvenile court judge of the Fourth District Court, a position he held for 16 years. In 1969, he was appointed Executive Director of the National Council of Juvenile Court Judges, and the family moved to Reno. In 1972-73, he was a visiting professor at the University of Illinois Law School in Champaign-Urbana and afterward taught at BYU in the political science department until his retirement. He adored teaching and was the recipient of the Abraham O. Smoot Community Service Award. Monroe was also awarded two Fulbright grants to implement innovative judicial services in Europe.

He married Shirley Brockbank Paxman in the Salt Lake Temple in 1942; together they had seven children and created a magical home environment. They nurtured people of all ages as they entertained in their homes. They worked along with other Provoans to preserve the BY Academy building (which now houses Provo Library).

Known as Uncle Pax to several generations of kids at Wildwood in Provo Canyon, he invited them to float tubes on the creek, swing on his handmade swings, or walk across the creek on his rope monkey bridge. He created spaces for kids to have fun and use their own imaginations: tree houses, an attic with a soda fountain, play sets. He was a dream facilitator, happy to lend his many skills to help people achieve their dreams, whether building a boat out of scrap wood or getting into graduate school. He served as a Scout leader for many years

Pax had an eye for beauty and enjoyed the arts. He grew flowers, planted trees, learned the crafts of wrought iron, stained glass, and wood carving, and built a cabin with his family. He was a wonderful storyteller. Pax and Shirley attended performances at BYU and UVU for decades and served together on the UVU Humanities Board. They loved to travel and lived in England, Germany, and Turkey, where Monroe taught with the University of Maryland's extension program.

Pax was a lawyer, an electrician, a plumber, a hiker, a singer, and in his eighties he took up genealogy and watercolor painting. He compiled several books of family history. He wrote impromptu tributes at special events and was a master of gratitude and expressed appreciation. His was a life of service, positive effort, love pats, and encouragement. He had deep faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ and its power to improve and enrich lives.

Preceding him in death are his wife Shirley, their daughter Mary McGee, and their grandson David Thomas. He is survived by his children John and Petrina Lee Poy-Paxman (Montreal), Carolyn and Marion Bentley (Logan), David and Kathryn Pope Hoopes Paxman (Mapleton), Nancy and Peter Thomas (Sun Valley), Annette and Scott Bowen (Seattle) and Susie and David Hatch (Seattle), as well as many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 12:30 p.m., Saturday, September 30, 2017 at Academy Square (Provo Library), 550 N. University Ave., Provo, Utah. Friends may call at the LDS Chapel at 502 East 200 North, Provo, Utah, Friday, September 29 from 7-9:00 p.m. and at the library Saturday from 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. prior to services.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the UVU Monroe and Shirley Paxman Scholarship at <http://give.supportuvu.org/paxman>. Condolences may be expressed to the family at <http://www.bergmortuary.com>.

# Cemetery

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## Spanish Fork City Cemetery

400 East 420 South

Spanish Fork, UT, 84660

# Events

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**SEP 29** **Visitation** 07:00PM - 09:00PM  
LDS Chapel  
502 East 200 North, Provo, UT, US, 84606

**SEP 30** **Visitation** 10:30AM - 12:15PM  
Academy Square  
550 N. University Ave., Provo, UT, US, 84601

**SEP 30** **Funeral Service** 12:30PM  
Academy Square  
550 N. University Ave., Provo, UT, US, 84601

# Comments

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“ One of my FAVORITE memories of life in Provo was the Circus at the Paxman home. That circus was the best, and I still remember one of the older Paxman boys who pulled a shirt over his head, had his chest nipples colored up as eyes, and "whistled" with his belly button which had lipstick painted around it, looking like lips.

That circus, plus the fact that Annette had the name that I envied beyond words!

And democrats to boot! The best!

Love,  
Betty Van Wagenen  
Carmel by the Sea, CA  
braevan@yahoo.com

**Betty Van Wagenen** - October 04, 2017 at 11:52 PM



“ Thank you, Betty. We appreciate your memories of Mom and Dad. The circus, the evolution from Republicans to Democrats, the good old times when life was simpler and Provo smaller. So many good family friends like you. How wonderful that you live in Carmel—one of our family's favorite places (our grandma Brockbank had a house on the bay in Pacific Grove, and it is still owned by one of our aunts).

Susie Paxman Hatch (youngest of the Paxmans)

**Susie Paxman Hatch** - October 12, 2017 at 04:10 PM

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“ (Sorry to have discovered this late, but we were out of the country.) I have often thought of "Pax" and wondered how he was doing since Shirley's passing. They were such a remarkable team! We loved running into them at various concerts around the valley and know of much good they both have done. Condolences to the family. Wishing you the comfort of grand memories!

**Laurie Williams Sowby** - October 04, 2017 at 06:09 PM



“ Thank you, Laurie. We know Mom and Dad appreciated you and your writing. Dad lived on his own in the house on 200 North until about three weeks before he died. He had a mild stroke and then a fall and then was hospitalized. We're grateful he was able to be independent so long.

**Susie Paxman Hatch** - October 12, 2017 at 04:05 PM



“ Susie Paxman Hatch, youngest of the Paxmans

**Susie Paxman Hatch** - October 12, 2017 at 04:06 PM

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“ What a wonderful, compassionate, supportive man. Great sense of humor. He is an example to us all.

**Bert Mitchell - Glenwood, Utah** - September 30, 2017 at 03:54 PM

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“ To Carolyn, Marion, and to all of the Paxman family, we express to you our sincere feelings of sympathy and condolence in the loss of Monroe, your wonderful and magnificent father. How we have admired and appreciated his solid and sterling example of leadership and love in the community, in the Church and in your great family. Please know of our heart-felt regard for all of you at this tender time. Our love and remembrance. --George & Debra Taylor

**George Terry Taylor** - September 30, 2017 at 02:16 PM

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“ The Kader family in Provo were Muslim immigrants from Palestine and encountered lots of hitches and obstacles in their attempts to make new lives in Utah County...including encounters with juvenile court. But Pax and Shirley were always there to help and guide them. They interceded when necessary and laughed with us years later as we recalled some good and bad times. Omar taught with Pax at BYU and they included us in many of their entertainments in their unusual and lovely home.  
We were lucky to have had them in our lives and we miss them!  
Nancy and Omar Kader  
Vienna, Virginia

**Nancy Kader** - September 30, 2017 at 12:20 PM



“ Nancy, thank you for your kind words. We've all loved the Kaders for as long as I can remember. I came along later in 1956, but I remember some of the stories. I enjoyed listening to you and Omar interviewed recently (two parts) and loved your humor, good sense, and storytelling. Thank you for being beacons of intelligence and sound thinking in our world.

Susie Paxman Hatch (youngest Paxman)

**Susie Paxman Hatch** - October 12, 2017 at 04:15 PM

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“ While attending BYU, we lived across the street from the Brigham Young Academy and were saddened to see the once great historic building vacant and crumbling away. Years later when we returned to visit, we were glad to see it had been rescued from ruin and converted into the beautiful Academy Square Library. More recently we were honored to meet Grandpa Paxman at his Wildwood cabin as part of wedding celebrations when our son married one of his great granddaughters, and we were thrilled to learn Grandpa Paxman and his family had played an important role in the rescue of the Academy. His strong influence for good is evident in his wonderful posterity, and we wish you all the best as you gather to share memories and bid him farewell and comfort and strengthen each other in this time of loss. May the knowledge that he is enjoying a similar reunion with family and friends on the other side be a comfort to you now.

Todd & Maryl Johnson

Todd Johnson - September 30, 2017 at 01:43 AM

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“ I can only echo what so many others have already said: Shirley and Monroe were examples of lifelong learners, working into their schedules and attending every possible play, concert, cultural event, poetry reading, and lecture. They took notes. They asked questions. They greeted and conversed with people before and after the events. They invited so many to their Wildwood cabin to thoughtful and delightful soirees. The evening I spent there with Wayne Booth and Elouise Bell will remain a sweet memory for as long as I live. Pax vobiscum. Madison Sowell

Madison Sowell - September 29, 2017 at 05:48 PM

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“ Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Monroe J. Paxman.



September 29, 2017 at 12:53 PM

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“ I noted with sorry the passing of your great father, whom I have known since my early days in Provo. He was a stalwart in the legal profession, in the Church, and in the community. I am sorry that the events of our October conference have prevented me from attending either the viewing or the funeral.

I join with you in rejoicing in the assurance we have of the reality of the resurrection and the love of God that sees us through difficult times in our lives and beckons us onward to our eternal destiny. You have my deepest sympathy and best wishes.

Elder Dallin H. Oaks

**Elder Dallin H. Oaks** - September 29, 2017 at 10:07 AM

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“ Rarely would I attend a cultural event in Provo that I did not see Monroe and Shirley Paxman near the front row waving to friends, quietly taking in the performance, and then afterward lingering to speak with audience members of all ages and backgrounds. Monroe and Shirley welcomed warmly friends and family in their Wildwood Cabin where they always seemed ready for a conversation over washing dishes or sweeping the deck. Few people could pack more adventure, creativity, and service into a single day than Monroe and Shirley, and yet they were never too busy to put you at ease and inquire about your life and the ideas on your mind. Our thoughts and aloha go to all members of the Paxman family at this tender time, and especially to David who kindly shared his remarkable parents with me and Robyn during the last forty years.

Ned Williams

**Ned Williams** - September 29, 2017 at 05:28 AM

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“ We remember Monroe and Shirley Paxman in many ways. We saw them at funerals, concerts in the Provo Tabernacle, at Browning Society meetings while it existed. We remember their unsuccessful battle to save the St. Francis Catholic Church and their successful one, with others, to save the BY Academy building. Monroe was an early recipient of the Provo Peak Award for excellence in Scouting in the Provo District. Their dedication to community service was wonderful. We will miss them very much.

**Kent Harrison** - September 28, 2017 at 11:27 PM

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“ Pax was a wonderful, kind man who always made sure to let people know they were appreciated and worthwhile. He will be greatly missed by our children (his grandchildren) and by us. We are saddened by the passing of such a great man but when we think of what he can accomplish when not tethered by earthly restrictions, we are happy that he can now be free, at peace and move forward eagerly to accomplish amazing things with Shirley by his side. Our deepest condolences to his family. Our hearts and thoughts are with you all.

Leonard McGee and Robin Davis

Leonard McGee and Robin Davis - September 28, 2017 at 02:06 PM

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“ Many great memories! He is a good man!

**bonnie studdert** - September 28, 2017 at 12:13 PM



“ Monroe and Shirley Paxman brought an element of magic to the lives of every child who had ice cream in their attic soda fountain, performed in colorful costumes as directed in their backyard circus, enjoyed the hospitality of their handmade swing and dammed creek for paddling in an inner tube at "Wildwood," and sitting near them while swatting bugs at "the church beneath the trees and beside the stream" in Provo Canyon's "Wildwood." They were a dynamite team, who raised children blessed with confidence, ability, adventure, and love. The Grant A. and Elayne Taylor Fisher Family loved Monroe and Shirley, and several of their children, as life-long friends. Thank you for the "magic" you brought to life, and for the kindness with which you iced it, Monroe and Shirley. You are both remembered with affection, admiration, and gratitude... How saddened I am that I could not attend Monroe's funeral service. With my love,  
Terri Fisher Jensen

**Terri Fisher Jensen** - October 01, 2017 at 05:09 AM



“ I was just notified yesterday of the passing of Monroe Paxman. I remember first going to the Paxman home as a Cub Scout with Shirley Paxman as a Den Leader. The upstairs with the ice cream bar and back yard was exciting with the barn and log towers. It was such an exciting place to experience. As a Boy Scout we enjoyed a trip to California, sleeping in a park in Las Vegas, then on to the beaches of California, Disneyland, and Knotts Berry Farm. I don't know how Monroe got us all in the Station Wagon for that trip, or put up with us, but it was fun. I also remember times when we he went on his circuit with the court to Fillmore and letting us float on inner tubes down the Sevier River. I also remember letting us go to the Paxman cabin at Wildwood and using the rope swing, swim in the creek, and taking trips on inner tubes down the Provo river. Monroe Paxman was a fantastic leader of young men and a great teacher and leader. Thanks for sharing your life with the boys of the old Provo 5th Ward.

John R. Day

**John R Day** - October 01, 2017 at 12:31 PM



“ Our sincere condolences to all of the Paxman Family member which we grew up together at the BY High School and Elementary School. We always appreciated the Paxman family's continual fight to preserve downtown Provo.

The Richard and Lois Larsen family.

**Lewis Larsen** - October 02, 2017 at 07:48 AM



“ David & family, what great parents and grandparents you were blessed to have in your lives. It's a blessing that lasts in our memories for the rest of our mortal lives. You'll find many times thinking to yourselves "that's what dad used to say", or doesn't that remind you of Grandpa"! Please know how grateful we are to know you, & the circle of this life just keeps getting larger as we pass along our memories. May you feel peace Mac & Michelle McKell

**Mac McKell** - October 02, 2017 at 05:07 PM



“ Christian Rhodes and Orvilla Mae Luke Jeppesen (my parents John Jeppesen) were very good friends of Monroe and Shirley. Mom told stories of going to the ice cream parlor with Monroe when they were growing up in the Provo 6th Ward. The last time that Orvilla went to see them (about 2004), we took with us a collection of Mom's stories and poems which we had compiled in a book (Scraps of Verse: Liting or Terse). My father Rhodes had a 16mm movie camera and I have a movie of myself and sister Colleen participating in the Paxman Circus when we were quite young. I know that they all had a great reunion at his homecoming.

God Bless, John

**JOHN JEPPESEN** - November 11, 2017 at 11:21 PM



“ I adore the Monroe and Shirley Paxman family. I slept overnight with Nancy, many a night through the 60's. That home was, indeed, magical. Brother Paxman let me hold onto his foot the entire trip, tubing down the Provo River. Monroe and Shirley are the BEST! My love to you all, Carol Evans Anderson

**Carol Evans Anderson** - March 12, 2018 at 10:34 PM