



Birk James Petersen

MAY 1, 1933 - NOV 25, 2015



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Birk James Petersen

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Birk James Petersen, 82, collector, restoration craftsman, builder of scale models, and appreciator of old mechanical things passed away Wednesday, November 25, 2015 at UVRMC due to complications from surgery. Birk was born on May 1, 1933 in Axtell, Utah to James Raymond and Vennetta Petersen. Birk married his sweetheart Darlene on September 15, 1953 in Manti, Utah. Their marriage was later solemnized in the Manti Temple.

Birk loved building steam engines, small scale models, and whimsical creations of his own imagination. He loved showing his amazing collection to visitors. Some of Birk's favorite visitors were kids, he enjoyed watching their enthusiasm as they turned cranks, got their hair to stand on end, and dumped out a whole scoop of candy from the steam shovel. He loved handing out slips of paper with his blog to everyone he met. <http://birkpetersens.blogspot.com>

After high school Birk enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served as a welder and mechanic, stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Birk then hired on at PDM, where he worked as a draftsman and engineer for 41 years.

Birk spent more than 30 years as a scout master, influencing and shaping the lives of many boys. He received the Silver Beaver Award as recognition of his service.

He is preceded in death by his wife Darlene, Daughter Diane, and his parents.

Birk is survived by two sons; Mark (Angela) Petersen of Mapleton, and Gail Petersen of Pleasant Grove, three daughters; Joy Petersen of Pleasant Grove, Annette Cooper of Provo, and Liz (Dave) Brady of Saratoga Springs, seven grandchildren, five great grandchildren and sister Nola Monk of Richfield.



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The family will be holding a viewing on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 from 6-8 PM at the Edgemont 2nd Ward, located at 555 E 3230 N in Provo, Utah. A graveside service with full military rights will be held on Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 12:00 PM at the Provo Cemetery. Afterwards friends and family are invited to a luncheon at the church, provided by the Edgemont 2nd Ward Relief Society.



Events

Birk James Petersen

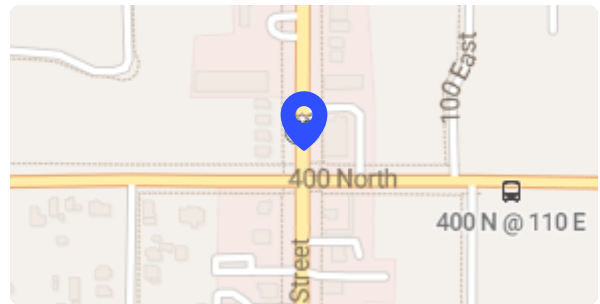
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Cemetery Details



Provo City Cemetery

610 South State Street, Provo AK 00000





Tribute Wall

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CS

C. Gail Stout posted:

Dear Petersen Family:I am saddened to hear of Birk's passing. I had the honor of getting to know him and his sweet wife Darlene as I served as hospice chaplain for Darlene during her last days. I will always remember the sweet and gentle care Birk gave his sweetheart and how she responded to him when she knew he was near. What an example for us all.During the last year Birk invited me and my two teenage grandsons to his home to see his "museum" of creations. I had been there before and couldn't wait for my boys to see what can be accomplished with a creative mind and skilled and gifted hands. They were overwhelmed and continually talk about this wonderful memory created.Birk leaves a great legacy. I'm so grateful to have known him.My deepest condolences to you and your family. May you find peace during this time of loss.C. Gail Stout

December 4 at 6:46 AM

ST

Susan Beck Taylor posted:

Greetings Petersen Family,I send my condolences to you. Birk was a gentle giant with many talents that he willingly shared with many. Annie, I hope you are still in Provo and working for Provo City-probably by now you are retired. Thank you for some fond memories as friends and roommates. My best to you and your family. Susan Beck Taylor (my phone number is in the phone book for Sandy, UT

December 2 at 1:21 PM

Jl

Janet Bradshaw Izatt posted:

Birk taught a lot of boys how to be a man. My husband had the opportunity of being a scout master with Birk. He cherished the lessons learned from Birk and the great friendship they enjoyed. I'm sorry I am out of town and will not be able to come to the viewing, but I honor your family for the good they have done. I send my love and sympathy but also feel to rejoice in the full life your father lived.Janet Bradshaw Izatt (former ward member and Primary teacher).

December 1 at 6:11 PM



Tribute Wall

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BW

Bob Weirick posted:

Birk was a friend, mentor, and confidant. He shared his skills and his accomplishments with grace and good nature. He talked me through a difficult time of moving away from Salt Lake City after 40 years and beginning again in a new place with an as yet unfinished shop now six months later. He never believed my doubts and always included an inquiry about my progress in his e-mails, sometimes two or three times a in a day.I am very sorry to be unable to return to Utah right now to pay a personal tribute to Birk and to extend my sympathy to you his family. My own ladder-incident injury several years ago suddenly flared up last Wednesday and it is requiring continuing medical attention.I will certainly be there in spirit.Bob WeirickBozeman, Montana

December 1 at 3:16 PM



Sarah Yorgason posted:

Our family just moved to Provo in August and I just knew I needed to meet the man behind the creations by the school Birk invited us in to see his creations and we were amazed by his skills. I returned several times and got to know him better each time. I took two items which needed repair and he fixed them on the spot, not wanting to have something hanging over my head. He also generously gave me boxes of his canning jars from his basement. I am so saddened by the news of his passing, but I am glad for the short time I knew him. Sarah Yorgason

December 1 at 4:36 AM

DH

David Hurtado posted:

When I was in first grade we moved to Edgemont due to my parents divorce. My first friend was John Giles. He took me over to see Birk many times. As an adult I've been fortunate to live near him again and to have my kids get to know him. We are all saddened at his passing. He was a true friend and a great personal role model to me. I have always admired his skill and craftsmanship. Yesterday I dug through boxes in my garage looking for the neckerchief slide he made for me. It's a microscope. We will miss him. David Hurtado family

December 1 at 2:33 AM

PB

Perry Bowers posted:

what a amazing man, and a great family !!!god blessPerry Bowers

November 30 at 7:39 AM



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DE

Deb posted:

I was so sad to hear about Birk. I consider him one of my dear friends and am glad that the kids, Andy and I were able to visit him when we were in Utah last July. I consider him and Darlene family (Darlene babysat Harrison for the first 4 years of his life - he called them Grandma Darlene and Grandpa Birk). I was honored to continue to correspond with him via e-mail for the past several years. So lucky to have known this man and his family!!Love,Debbie (Nixon) Riggs

November 30 at 5:31 AM

MB

Melanie Misbach Ballard posted:

I'm so sorry to hear about the passing of your father! Being a friend of Lizz when I was young, I have many fond memories of your home and family. I remember the great kerchief ties he made the scouts, particularly the one for John Giles which was a toilet. I remember him fixing a tent pole for me before I went on the young women you went to backpack trip. When my parents went on a mission to Mongolia, my husband and I moved into my parents house, and I again had the opportunity to visit your parents. My son Cameron was about 18 months old when your father took him on a tour of his models. Cameron loved the monkey that would climb up the rope, and your father let him try it over and over again. He even mentioned Cameron in an article he sent to a machinists magazine. Couple of months ago I took the rest of my seven children to see all of the wonderful things your father has made. He remembered Cameron right off the bat and the day that we came by 15 years earlier. His work and creativity were truly amazing and inspiring! I hope that there will be a place to have them displayed for generations to come. He will be remembered in our family with great fondness for many many years to come. Much love, Melanie Misbach Ballard

November 29 at 5:33 PM

LM

Lynn Mikesell posted:

I enjoyed immensely the time I spent getting to know Birk and working along side him at PDM. He was a great mentor and truly loved his family. Birk will be sorely missed. Lynn Mikesell.

November 29 at 8:40 AM



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CC

Carl And Jeri Craner posted:

We are extremely sad and at Birk's passing. He and Darlene have been friends and neighbors for 50 years. We have so many memories of doing things with them and of the many times he showed us the inventions he has made. He was a remarkably talented man. His kindness to and care for Darlene during her final years were absolutely unbelievable. We are going to miss him terribly.

November 29 at 8:15 AM

LM

Loren Martin posted:

We had a particular fondness for Birk. All our family loved him. When our youngest son was 6 or 7 years old he would sometimes go missing for a while and when he returned we would ask him where he had been--"Over playing with Birk." I once told Birk that there was no one in the world that I had greater respect and admiration for than him. He commented, "If I had a quarter I'd give it to you." Many times I would go over just as he was finishing a project and he'd say, "I don't know what else to do. I don't have any more ideas. Guess I'll just quit." But the next time I'd go over he'd be in the middle of another project. When I'd hear the roar of a jet engine in the neighborhood I knew it was the sound of Birk's furnace and he would be casting something. Often I would go over to participate in the wonderment. I don't know if he realized the respect he engendered of all the people in the neighborhood. I never heard anyone mention his name except with great respect and admiration for his creativity. He was a good, good man and we will remember with fondness the association we had with him.

November 29 at 5:28 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Birk by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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