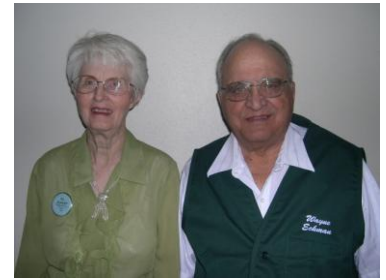


Wayne Eckman's Biography

September 18, 1930, has turned out to be a “Double Trouble” date when twin sons, Wayne and Blaine Eckman were born to Roy and Gladys Eckman in Murray, Utah, numbers five and six of a family of nine children. We were so small and fragile at birth that the doctor declared we wouldn't last the night, so it would be best to call the elders to at least give us a name and a blessing. Joseph Blain blessed us at the time that we would live a matured life and fulfill our missions on this earth. That priesthood blessing was a rich source of strength to us throughout our lives.



On my father's side, his ancestors accepted the Church in Sweden in the 1880's, and moved to Utah. On my mother's side, I have all four great grandfathers who joined the Church in the early days. Hyrum Dayton was baptized by the Prophet Joseph Smith in Parkman, Ohio in 1832. Others joined in England in the 1840's and 1850's, and one great grandfather and his family were in the first handcart company in 1856.

One of the great values of being a twin was having someone there when you needed him. If I wanted to play ball, he was there, or if I needed someone to argue with or pound on, I didn't have to look far. Our similar sports interests enabled us to have some great and cherished experiences. We went through all the grades together in school and ended up both graduating from Utah State University in education in 1959. I later got my Master's Degree at BYU in 1972. Both of us filled a 2 ½ year mission to Sweden 1950-1953. We worked together as missionaries only one day and met a Golden contact, whose family was baptized. Blaine passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on March 19, 1999. This was a tremendously traumatic experience for me.

The great day of my life occurred when I met Paralee “Pal” Miles on a blind date, in Salt Lake City. One of her best friends who married one of my friends introduced us following my mission. Shortly thereafter my brother and I were drafted in the army (September 1953) and served in Trieste, Italy, and Austria until July 1955. Pal and I were married on September 24, 1955 in the St. George Temple. We are proud parents of 5 daughters and 4 sons who thus far have produced 29 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Three sons and a daughter have filled foreign missions to Ecuador, Thailand, Taiwan and Austria. Seven of our children now have college degrees.

I spent 32 years in the teaching profession, one year as a high school coach, and the rest as an elementary school teacher in Laketown, Tooele, Murray, Sandy and St. George. I also served as the Southern Utah Schools Newspaper in Education literacy Coordinator for the Daily Spectrum for 3 years after retiring from teaching in 1991. In 1994-95 my wife and I filled a full time mission together in Sweden. In 1999-2000 we served a mission in Connecticut. I have served several ward and stake and member locator missions locally. My wife and I recently completed a two year service mission at the Meadows Assisted Living facility where we were in charge of Family History indexing. At this point in my life, indexing has enabled me to try and keep my brain active and useful and I really enjoy it.

My church experience has been varied and interesting. I have served at least ten years as Stake Athletic Director in three different stakes, twenty years in all areas of scouting and in several teaching positions in the Sunday school. I have had three stints in bishoprics and served on the high council and served as an Elders Quorum President, and five years as a Temple ordinance worker. I look at home teaching as my favorite and most enjoyable assignment.

I shared the same goal in life that my father fostered, that of having the respect of family and friends everywhere. What more is there after all is said and done?