



TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Will Jackson – Founder

Many people ask how a Connecticut Yankee like me ended up with a ranch in California. Well it happens that even as a youngster, open space and scenic landscapes resonated with me. I enjoyed reading about the explorers, the opening of the West and the land rush. I was excited by the idea that, even in the late 1800's, you could still go west and lay claim to vast tracts of some of the most beautiful land in the world.

As an adult working in New York City from 1956 to 1989 and living in the heavily populated suburbs of Connecticut, the allure of the West continued. But I was an Easterner and Long Island Sound, on which Connecticut fronts, was my open space, and a sailboat became my covered wagon. Eventually I bought an acre of land on the Sound, built a house and happily raised a family there. But this isn't the end of the story...

One Friday in 1985, I saw an ad in the "Wall Street Journal" for an 850-acre cattle ranch with over a mile of oceanfront in Mendocino County, California. I had no idea where Mendocino was, but I was intrigued. My wife, Marty (who passed away in 1996) and I called a friend who lived in the area and asked him to check out the property. He called us back and said, "It's beautiful. You'd better come out here and take a look." So off we went. At last, I was beginning to feel like a pioneer going west.

When we arrived at the ranch, Bonita and Jessie Vanderpool, who operated the Orca Inn located on the property, met us. We stayed in a little cottage, which was part of their B & B operation. The Vanderpools had a dune buggy and showed us around. We had just two days to explore, and could only see a small slice of the property. We couldn't cross the creeks and logging roads and the trails in the back, where the redwoods are, were blocked by earth slides and downed trees, so we walked a lot. When we finally reached the top of one of the hills, the view of the coast was absolutely breathtaking. I knew in that moment that we should buy the property and in 1986 the purchase was finalized.

The ranch now totals over 2,000 acres with a mile and half of oceanfront and three miles of contiguous ridge lines with panoramic views. Over the years, we've opened up twenty miles of trails through the redwoods and along the streams and rugged coast. We can now explore most of our ranch comfortably by horseback, hiking or on ATVs, and my dream of being part of the vast and beautiful west has come true!

My children and my deceased sister's children now own the ranch. After many family discussions and lots of planning, we decided to build a small but special Inn to give the property a more meaningful purpose and to leave something tangible and beautiful for future family members and guests to enjoy. Thus the Inn at Newport Ranch was created for those wishing to explore old trails and the magical coast. I'm reminded of a quote from J. Monroe Thornton, who hiked extensively in British Columbia in the early 1900s. He wrote "We are not pioneers ourselves but we travel old trails that are new to us and with open hearts, who shall distinguish."

Come stay with us, walk the old trails and be a modern pioneer.

And now I'd like you to meet the rest of the team...

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Patricia & Singyn Hunter – Innkeepers

Singyn and Patricia joined The Inn at Newport Ranch family in October 2017. Between them, this power couple has nearly two decades worth of experience in the hospitality industry. Singyn has a serious passion for the culinary arts, is well-versed in menu creation and has a deep knowledge of food. The majority of his culinary and managerial education was gained during a decade of traveling the globe as Executive Chef on National Geographic/ Lindblad Expedition Cruise Vessels. Two years on their flagship, the National Geographic Explorer, helped to further his knowledge and ability to source fresh, local and sustainable ingredients from ports all over the world. Years of hotel management and restaurant ownership have provided Patricia with the opportunity to step into every position, and she is comfortable in both the front and back of the house. Patricia thoroughly enjoys the guest relations side of the business, and is very creative in the field of food, wine and cocktails. She particularly loves the satisfaction that comes from executing a successful dinner service or special event, and knowing guests have had a memorable visit. Most recently, the couple spent three years at Stonewater Cove Resort and Spa in Missouri, with Singyn serving as Executive Chef and Patricia as the Lodge Manager. Singyn and Patricia are excited to bring their talents to The Inn at Newport Ranch, and to provide guests with exceptional service while sharing all of the wonderful experiences the ranch has to offer.

Dave Sellers – Architect*

David is founder and president of Sellers and Company Architects in Warren, Vermont, an internationally recognized leader in environmental and community related designs. Known for his innovative architectural design involving the development and implementation of cutting edge sustainable technology and his improvisational approach to modern architecture (which eventually led to what is known as design/build), his work focuses on designing and building with nature, with special emphasis on custom craftsmanship and a preference for sustainability. Named one of the world's top 100 architects by *Architectural Digest*, his work in town and community planning has received national recognition for pedestrian and human-scaled settlement patterns.

Jim Sanford – Architect*

Jim Sanford of Sanford/Strauss Architects, a practicing architect for the past 30 years, has extensive construction experience that results in the personally crafted quality that separates his work from the rest. Featured in the “New Americans” exhibition in Turin, Italy, his work has been published and exhibited widely, most recently, in a one man show “Dreams Come True” at Norwich University. He has taught architecture extensively and regularly acts as a critic at architectural schools throughout the US. Sanford/Strauss is licensed in New York, Vermont, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, N.C.A.R.B. registered, and a member of A.I.A.

** The work of both architects focuses on designing and building in harmony with nature, with a special emphasis on custom craftsmanship.*

Robin Cannell Baker – Design Consultant

Robin Cannell Baker’s design career began in Los Angeles in her family’s interiors business, Cannell and Chaffin. Robin is a 3rd generation Southern California designer influenced by nature’s beauty, early California artists and architects and regional cultures. Robin has lived and designed in the majestic mountains of Telluride, CO and on California’s Mendocino Coast, with its craggy shoreline, as well as in the sculptural Sonoran desert of Tucson, Arizona (which she now calls home). Robin’s designing efforts extend to her work in glass, clay, paint and gardens, and her aesthetic is casual elegance with an old world flair that envelops your senses. Robin is a Professional Member of the American Society of Interior Design (ASID).

Brent Anderson – General Contractor

Brent Anderson first entered the construction trades in 1962, at the age of fourteen, working alongside his stepfather. By the age of eighteen he was running construction crew and building homes, room additions and remodels. He became a licensed contractor in 1986, involved in both the physical and intellectual demands of owning a successful business. The Inn at Newport Ranch is the latest accomplishment in a long list of custom homes, additions and remodels along the Mendocino coast over the past forty years.