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BACON/WAGNER EXCAVATING, INC.

Written By: Brian Hoover



Dan Wagner, President, Bacon/Wagner Excavating, Inc. trenching for lift station.

Performing Wet and Dry Utilities and Roadwork at Pali Mountain Retreat & Conference Center in the San Bernardino Mountains

Dan Wagner was born and raised in Running Springs, a bedroom community located in the San Bernardino Mountains that serves as a major gateway to several popular mountain resort destinations, with a population of just 5,000 residents. Many who live and work on this mountain are employed by a service industry that is geared to the tourist market. While many commute to the mountain for work, there are a select few that have been able to either find a job or start their own company, allowing them to remain on the mountain full time. "Running Springs and this mountain community are part of who I am," says Wagner. "I grew up here and raised my children on this mountain and it means a lot to me to have a business that will allow our family to remain here for many years to come."

Wagner first started working for Charlie Bacon at the age of 10. The company went by the name of Bacon Excavating in those days and Dan would spend his summers working part time, sweeping and cleaning up jobsites and even hand grading small lots at the end of a job. He then went to work full time for Charlie Bacon right out of high school in 1981. "I remember riding



Far Left (L-R): Phil Butler, Pali Mountain Retreat, Dan Wagner, Bacon/Wagner and Dennis McShane, Westrax Machinery.

Left: Carol Wagner, Vice President, Bacon/Wagner Excavating, Inc.

Above Right: New 29,000 square foot dining hall being constructed at Pali Mountain Retreat.

around on my bicycle with a shovel and broom in between the sissy bar and handle bars," says Wagner. "I did this every summer until going to work full time right out of high school. I eventually worked my way up from laborer to operator and finally to the role of foreman."

Dan purchased the company in 1993, after Charlie announced that he was ready to retire. He used the funds from his company IRA as a down payment and went out and secured his C12 A contractors license. Under the new name of Bacon Wagner Excavating, Inc. (Bacon Wagner), Dan continued to work primarily on excavating, paving and grading projects from Big Bear to Crestline and occasionally on jobs down in the valley, as far south as Temecula. They have been fortunate to have a contract with the San Bernardino County Special Districts over the past seven summers that entails asphalt repair and maintenance work from Chino Hills to Barstow. The company has also remains busy with land clearing work for commercial and residential construction companies. This has included grubbing and tree

removal, as well as performing cuts, footings and running wet and dry utilities.

Bacon Wagner Excavating has been working over the past year on the single largest job since the company was originally established back in 1969. The job is for Pali Mountain Retreat & Conference Center (Pali Mountain), a 74-acre sanctuary, surrounded by 2,000 acres of protected national forest, lakes and abundant wildlife. Pali Mountain offers unforgettable adventures for children of all ages, families and other organizations like church groups, high schools and universities, sports groups and a variety of organized youth groups to name just a few. They offer a variety of programs, including Pali Institute, an outdoor school and science camp that offers three or five-day programs in Outdoor Education, Science and Leadership categories. Pali Adventures is another program that offers traditional, yet unique camp experience for children and teens, ages 8 to 16, where campers can design their own summer camp adventure. Children can participate in one of 18 custom-designed one and

two-week resident camp specialty programs like Film Camp, Watersports Camp, Motorsports Camp, Fashion Camp, Rock Star Camp, Culinary Camp and 12 other wonderful choices.

Known as, Southern California's ultimate location for group retreats, Pali Mountain is building a new 29,000 square foot conference building and dining room. Bacon Wagner has been contracted to perform all of the wet and dry utilities associated with the new construction, in addition to the infrastructure for the new roadway leading to the conference building. Bacon Wagner started out on this project Jan. 7, 2014 and should have everything wrapped up by February 2015. To date, the company has excavated and installed 5,500 lineal feet of 8" C900 water main, 1,500 feet of 2" gas main, 1,000 feet of 8" sewer main and 500 lineal feet of 24" reinforced concrete storm drain. In addition, Bacon Wagner is installing two lift stations in the valley below that will be necessary to pump sanitary waste up the 300-foot hillside, on into the public utility sewer. The company has finished the



Above Left: Trenching for lift station.

Top Right: Digging footings for new dining hall.

Middle: Footing for retaining wall at dining hall.

Bottom: Installing 24 inch RCP drain pipe.



grading of the approximately 1-mile section of roadway. "We recently sold our paving machine and will soon be purchasing a new unit, so we subbed the asphalt paving portion of this project to GoldStar Asphalt Rentals and crew out of Perris," says Wagner. "They have done an excellent job so far, putting down approximately 2,000 tons of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch PG 64/10 hot mix asphalt with their LeeBoy paving machine. We really liked the LeeBoy and we are looking at purchasing a new one from Nixon-Egli Equipment for our operations very soon." Bacon Wagner points out that this particular job has been challenging in the fact that the camp is run on a 24/7 basis and it was made clear that camp activities could not be disrupted during construction. "Performing this magnitude of work with 400 students running around has kept us on our toes. I have to say that everything

has gone flawlessly and we have enjoyed working for Pali Mountain Retreat."

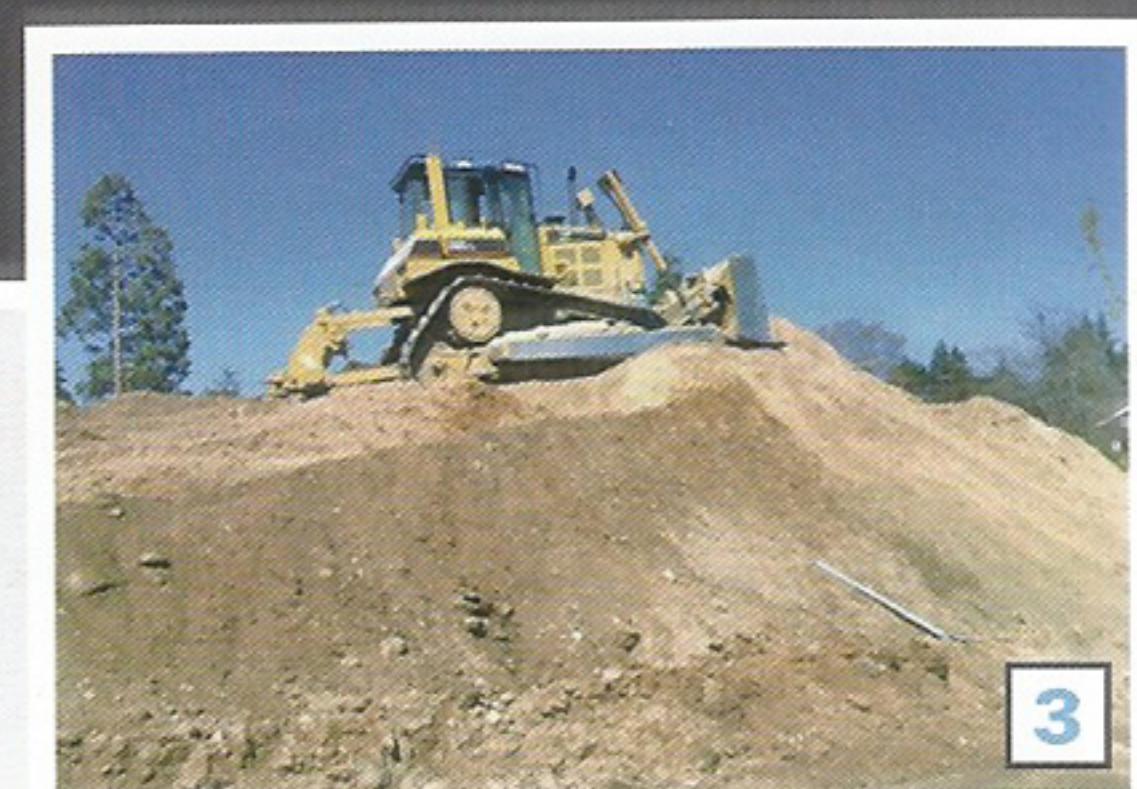
Bacon Wagner crews have worked long hours and utilized a long list of heavy construction machinery, including 3-yard wheel loaders, two large excavators and three backhoes, in addition to renting a dozer, motor grader and wheel loader from A.S.A.P Heavy Equipment Rentals. Dan Wagner recently purchased a new LiuGong 842 wheel loader and a new LiuGong 915D 34,000 lb. excavator from Westrax Machinery in order to expand his fleet to handle current utilization levels. "I have known and been friends with Dennis McShane of Westrax for 10 or 12 years. I first met him in Havasu, where we both have a getaway and I purchased equipment from him when he was with another brand. Dennis has never steered me wrong and when he asked me to take

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Above: Dan Wagner stock piling material with his new LiuGong 842 wheel loader from Westrax Machinery.

(1). Three of six new dorms being constructed at Pali Mountain Retreat.
 (2). Digging footings for dining hall.
 (3). Cat D6 pushing stock pile dirt for roadway.
 (4). GoldStar Asphalt Rentals paving 2nd phase.



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a look at LiuGong, I happily agreed," says Wagner. "The performance and quality was just outstanding and what it all really boiled down to was the fact that I could not beat the price or warranty." Dan also purchased an angle blade for the wheel loader for his snow removal division and he points out that the price was still well below the competition, even with the blade. "Our new LiuGong loader has a Posi Lock transmission, which we need for our terrain up here in the mountains," explains Wagner. "The power and comfort is equal to any other machine I have been in and we did not sacrifice a thing, but only gained on this loader purchase. I wish I could afford three more of these machines." Bacon Wagner uses the LiuGong 915D excavator for much of their utility trenching work. "I love the power, speed and comfort of our new LiuGong excavator as well and knowing that both units are equipped with the trusted Cummins engine is just an extra bonus."

Bacon Wagner Excavating, Inc. is a family business with Dan's wife of 30 years, Carol, running the inside operations as the Vice President of the company. His stepson, Jeremy Lanier is the company's superintendent and helps Dan oversee operations, while also acting as the lead operator on projects. "I married Jeremy's mother when he was just 4 years old and in my heart it is as though he is my own natural son," says Wagner. "I also want to recognize Matt Phillips and Brandon Sorby, who are both tremendous operators and Rudy Guerro, one of our newest laborers, as well as Tommy Hijonosa, who is our newest operator in training. Last but certainly not least I want to thank, April Smith, who has done a great job for us as our flag safety officer." Dan and Carol have five children between them and six grandchildren.

Bacon Wagner will take on million dollar plus jobs for clients like Pali Mountain Retreat and when possible still perform a \$350 asphalt approach for a local homeowner. We have worked

hard to build a reputation based on trust in knowing that our clients will always get the very best that we have to offer. We have some good jobs coming up and I feel like the future is bright," says Wagner. "We are currently bidding on some decent public utility work up here and continued growth appears to be in the cards. I want to thank my wife and family and everyone that has been a part of our success over the years." **Cc**