



Werner G. Nistler, Jr.
Chronology
Education, Jobs, Community Involvement

- 1946 - 1959 Raised on North Dakota farm: “Earned doctorate in common sense.”
- 1959 - 1964 Beach, North Dakota jobs included numerous paper and milk routes, setting pins at bowling alley, bagging groceries, hoeing and picking potatoes, and doing other general farm work.
- 1964 - 1968 Attended University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Worked as Manager at Smith Cafeteria for three years; ROTC; received Bachelor of Science in Accounting.
- 1968 Worked at Touche Ross in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for the summer.
- 1968 - 1969 Attended Arizona State University and worked as a Graduate Assistant—taught entry accounting; prepared tax returns for Ernst & Ernst; worked as bartender; earned Master of Science in Accounting.
- 1969 - 1971 Managed Fort Riley Officers Club in Kansas. Because Club had been losing money, the General had fired the Club officer and hired Werner with his master’s degree in Accounting.
Managed Taegu Officers Club in Korea. Purchased slot machines at the Korean Demilitarized Zone to aid the Club’s financial performance.
- 1971 - 1973 Worked at Arthur Andersen & Co., starting in the audit department, moving to small business, and advancing to the tax department.
- 1973 - 1978 Worked at Roderick Enterprises, a chain of nursing centers/retirement communities. Created balance sheets from shoeboxes of financial receipts and implemented state-of-the-art financial systems; helped grow the company from five to 18 properties.
- 1974 - 1984 Purchased Dickinson Nursing Center in Dickinson, North Dakota. Retained the Dickinson Nursing Center when selling his interest in Roderick.)
- 1975 - 1980 Obtained private pilot’s license, followed by instrument and multi-engine ratings. The owner of two planes, Werner used to fly to nursing centers in North Dakota.

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- 1976 - 1980 Built four custom homes in Lake Oswego and Tigard, Oregon.
- 1978 - 1986 Formed Computran, a medical records technology company and batch-basis service bureau that captured physician orders for medications and treatments, reducing medical errors. Computran grew to serving 700 nursing centers across the country whereupon Werner sold Computran to Beverly Enterprises, the largest nursing center chain in the U.S.
- 1980 Developed the Dakota Enterprises Office building in Beaverton, Oregon, with his parents and nine siblings. The building serves as Touchmark company headquarters.
- 1980 Started Touchmark. Originally, Werner named the company Transamerica Living Centers, Inc. to reflect his vision of opening retirement communities across the country. He changed the name in 1988 to Touchmark, which references the “mark” master artisans put on work they create, allowing him to trademark the name.
- 1980 - 1985 Purchased KBLG 910 AM, Billings, Montana. (The station was launched in 1955 and ceased operating circa 1980. This is when Werner purchased it and brought it back to life with the thought to create a history channel for Touchmark’s communities. The station continues operating today under ESPN, <http://www.espn910.com>. For a time, Werner operated another radio station in Helena, Montana, within Touchmark’s retirement community there.)
- 1980 - 1988 Helped lead the formation of the Beaverton Banking Company, a state-chartered bank; served as Chairman of the Board at age 34. (In addition to the bank, they formed a mortgage company and SBA loan processing company. This bank merged with Valley National Bank of Forest Grove where he continued as a Board member before selling to U.S. Bank.)
- 1980 - 1988 Formed the Oregon Building Group, a group of 10 Beaverton Banking shareholders, to build and own the bank building, which was then leased back to the bank, thus saving bank capital for loans.
- 1982 - 1985 Assembled 20 acres on I-5 and Highway 217 in Portland, Oregon, and named it Liberty Park with the plan to build a hotel and office buildings.

(After working this development for three years, Werner had to sell the project at a significant loss. All investors and the bank were made whole.)
- 1985 Began participating in marathons, the first being the New York City Marathon. (After Liberty Park, Werner “needed a finish line.” He had never been to New York City nor run any marathons but started training. Over several years, he ran 58 marathons, finishing all of them, including the New York City Marathon four times and the Boston

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Marathon's 100th race. "They were very therapeutic—a good way to cleanse the body and the soul and reset focus.")

Purchased and operated:

- 1985 - 2006 Crestview Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Portland, Oregon
 - 1987 - 1991 Aberdeen Nursing Center, Aberdeen, South Dakota
 - 1989 - 2006 McKenzie Manor, Springfield, Oregon
 - 1989 - 2006 Treasure Valley Manor, Boise, Idaho
 - 1995 - 2006 Riverpark Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Eugene, Oregon
 - 1996 - 2006 St. Francis Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center and Child Care Center, Bellingham, Washington
- Werner sold the package of nursing centers in 2006 to generate money for expansion of Touchmark's retirement-community portfolio.
- 1986 - 1996 Formed Dynatran, the desktop version of Computran. Werner sold this company to Omnicare, which provides pharmacy services to long-term care providers.
 - 1986 - 1991 Started process to develop Waterford on South Hill in Spokane, Washington. After court battles with a neighbor from 1986 to 1990, Waterford on South Hill opened in 1991. Ironically, the neighbor moved into Waterford in 2015. This community was the first Touchmark retirement community built to Touchmark standards, realizing Werner's vision of creating a better life for seniors by providing a home for couples to live together longer, versus one needing to move to a nursing center and the other remaining at home.
- Opened the following Waterford and Touchmark communities:
- 1996 Waterford at All Saints, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
 - 1997 Waterford on Saddle Drive, Helena, Montana
 - 1998 Waterford at Fairway Village, Vancouver, Washington
 - 1998 Waterford at Harwood Groves, Fargo, North Dakota
 - 2000 Waterford on West Century, Bismarck, North Dakota
 - 2001 Touchmark on West Prospect, Appleton, Wisconsin
 - 2002 Touchmark at Mount Bachelor Village, Bend, Oregon
 - 2003 Touchmark at Meadow Lake Village, Meridian, Idaho
 - 2005 Touchmark at Wedgewood, Edmonton, Alberta
 - 2005 Touchmark at Coffee Creek, Edmond, Oklahoma
 - 2018 Touchmark at The Ranch, Prescott, Arizona
 - 2018 Touchmark in the West Hills, Portland, Oregon
 - 2018 Touchmark at Emerald Lake, McKinney, Texas (in development)
- 1999 - 2001 Formed Touchmark at Peterkort Woods. Issues relating to a recession and land-owner partner impeded progress. Since he didn't have majority ownership, Werner was forced to abandon the project.
 - 2002 - present Assembled 17 parcels of land—80 acres—at Miller and Barnes roads in Portland, Oregon. After Peterkort project, Werner decided to develop
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this property—Touchmark Heights—solely through cooperating banks and internal investors.

- 2005 - 2015 Served for approximately 10 years on the Board of Directors of Capital Pacific Bank, which was purchased by Pacific Continental Bank.
- 2006 - 2016 Owned Northwest Crossing office building in Houston, Texas.
- 2011 Waterford communities rebranded as Touchmark for one consistent brand.
- 2013 Werner, Colleen, Touchmark CEO Marcus Breuer, and winemakers Matt and Nancy Vuylsteke launched Swede Hill Vineyards adjacent to Touchmark in the West Hills in Portland, Oregon.
- 2014 Planted first Pinot Noir grapes on Touchmark Heights property and formed Swede Hill Vineyards.
- 2015 - 2018 Construction of Touchmark in the West Hills, Portland, Oregon: opening June 2018.
- 2015 - 2018 Construction of Touchmark at The Ranch, Prescott, Arizona: opening fall 2018.
- 2017 Opened The Finn™ Restaurant & Pub at Touchmark at The Ranch with his wife Colleen as a tribute to her great-grandfather and his winning horse. (The Finn won the Belmont Stakes in 1915.)
- 2017 Inducted into the University of North Dakota Accounting Hall of Fame.
- 2018 Received approval from U.S. Trademark Office for Amaterra™ that will become the wine label for Swede Hill Vineyards, a portion of Amaterra wines. Amaterra means “love of the earth.”
- 2018 Received approval from U.S. Trademark Office for “The St. Mark” for the approximate 750 single-family and condominium homes to be built on Touchmark Heights land.
- 2019 The North Dakota Board of Higher Education and UND recognized Werner and Colleen’s many accomplishments and contributions with the naming of a new building for the College of Business and Public Administration. The new building and the College are now the Nistler College of Business and Public Administration.
- 2020 UND named Werner a recipient of the prestigious Sioux Award, which recognizes alumni for their professional achievements and service, two hallmarks of Werner’s life.

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2022 Amaterra® opened. Co-founded by Colleen, Werner, and Marcus. the acclaimed winery, restaurant, and event center are located in the West Hills of Portland, Oregon.

Community service

2002 - present Ongoing major charitable focus for Werner, Colleen, and their family:
University of North Dakota
Valley Catholic School
Jesuit High School
Catholic Youth Organization
Friends of the Children
De La Salle North Catholic High School
St. Andrew Nativity School

“I am truly blessed with a wonderful family that includes my siblings, wife Colleen and our children, and all the allies, friends, and givers within the Touchmark family.”
– Werner G. Nistler, Jr.

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