

Greg Norman, right, digs into "a little bit of home" — soil imported from his native Australia — at groundbreaking ceremonies for the Royal Melbourne private golf course he is designing in Long Grove, Ill. Kemper Sports Management's Benny Blake, left, also takes a turn with the spade. Royal Melbourne is also the name of a well-known course in Australia — designed by Alister Mackenzie — and Norman said, "Mackenzie is one of the greatest golf course architects of all time and we hope to take inspiration from his work." The first course Norman has designed on the continental United States, Royal Melbourne is under construction and will be operated by Kemper



Sports Management of Northbrook, Ill.

American Golf buys Colo. club

American Golf of Santa Monica, Calif., announced it has bought Heatherridge Golf Club, a private country club in Aurora, Colo., and Z. Boaz Golf Course, an 18-hole public facility in Fort Worth, Texas.

Heatherridge facilities include a clubhouse, pro shop, snack bar, full-service dining and banquet facilities, indoor and outdoor tennis courts, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, an 18-hole golf course, driving range and racquet-ball courts.

Boaz Golf Club has a clubhouse, practice area and food and beverage facilities.

NEWS

Matthews have three generations in ASGCA

There have been many famous father-son teams of golf course architects.

With the associate membership of W. Bruce Matthews III in the American Society of Golf Course Architects, the Matthews family is the first family with three generations of golf architects who are members of the prestigious society.

W. Bruce Matthews started the tradition 65 years ago and is a fellow member of the ASGCA. His son, Jerry, serves as treasurer for the society and is the past membership chairman. Bruce Matthews III, grandson and nephew, became an associate member this spring.

In 1959, Bruce and his son, Jerry, founded what is now known as Matthews & Associates, P.C. with offices in Lansing and Grand Haven, Mich. The firm has designed more than 75 golf courses in the Great Lakes area and remodeled numerous others.

For the past two years Golf Digest, in its annual review of best new courses, has recognized the designs of Matthews & Associates by naming The Lakes at Michaywe Hills Resort in Gaylor, Mich., and Timber Ridge in East Lansing, Mich., among the top new public courses in the United States.

Grand Haven Golf Club, which the elder Bruce Matthews designed and built in 1965, has been selected by Golf Digest as "one of America's 75 Best Public Courses in America" for three consecutive publications of the list in 1981, 1984 and 1988. Bruce Matthews owns and operates this facility.

Other notable courses in Michigan designed by the Matthews firm include Salem Hills Golf Course, Antrim Dells Golf Course and Birchwood Farms Golf and Country Club. Besides the design of numerous courses, the Matthews firm also has completed major renovations of "The Jewel" Golf Course at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, Blythefield Country Club in Grand Rapids, Pine Lake Country Club in Orchard Lake, Midland Country Club and Muskegon Country Club, among scores of others across the Midwest.

W. Bruce Matthews, founding father of the clan, remarked on his family's commitment to the profession: "It's been a great life. And, along with my children and grandchildren, we hope to continue in this most challenging industry and provide golf courses people enjoy playing. After all, that's what it's all about."



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