PHOENIX, Ariz. — American Golf Corp. acquired Superstition Springs Golf Club in Mesa in October, the third Phoenix-area acquisition for the California-based golf course management firm in as many weeks.

AGC bought Tatum Ranch Golf Club in Cave Creek and The Legend Golf Resort in Glendale in separate transactions, bringing the total number of courses owned in Arizona to 10.

According to Kevin Roberts, American Golf’s senior vice president of operations for the West Coast, AGC has been monitoring the progress of the three Arizona resort courses for several years.

“It has always been our intention to expand our presence in the high-end, resort-type golf courses,” said Roberts from the company’s Phoenix office at Tatum Ranch.

Superstition Springs is an 18-hole resort course. According to General Manager Jeff Lessig, the purchase included the par-72, 7,000-yard golf course, clubhouse and practice facilities from Phoenix-based DMB Associates.

The Tatum Ranch purchase includes the par-72, 6,780-yard resort course, clubhouse and existing practice facilities. It will be one of the key Arizona operations centers of AGC and headed by Gary Klein, regional director for Arizona and Nevada. Klein, a 25-year veteran of the golf industry who has been with American Golf since 1975, comes to Phoenix from the Sahara Country Club in Las Vegas.

The Legend Golf Resort is located in the master-planned community of Arrowhead Ranch in Glendale.

Mich. designer awarded $2.45 million in Alaskan contract suit

By PETER BLAIS

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A jury awarded architect William Newcomb $2.45 million in a breach of contract against the operator of the Anchorage Golf Course.

The course manager, Boyne (Mich.) USA subsidiary The Golf Co., claims the jury misread the evidence and is asking the state Superior Court judge to set aside the verdict.

Newcomb and The Golf Co. formed a partnership in 1984 to construct the course on municipal land with the intention of eventually selling it back to the city, the architect said. It opened in 1987.

“Today’s market, that type of arrangement is not unusual,” Newcomb said. "Limited funds are available for construction. So I was a good partner for the first three years. Then we saw things differently.”

The Ann Arbor, Mich.-based architect, who has been head pro at Pelican Hills Golf Club in Fountain Inn S.C., Links O’Tryon Golf Club in Campobello, S.C., and Kettle Moraine Golf Club in Lisbon, Wis. Prestwick is a national golf course brokerage, management, appraiser and consulting firm with corporate offices to Arnold Palmer’s Bay Hill Club here. Part of the Bay Hill Lodge was converted into offices for the APGMC staff. The new address is Arnold Palmer Golf Management Co., 9000 Bay Hill Blvd., Suite 300, Orlando, Fla. 32839; telephone: 407-876-6700.

PRESTWICK BUSY

Prestwick Golf Properties Ltd. recently participated in the sales of Westport Golf Club in Denver, n.c., Carolina Springs Golf Club in Fountain Inn S.C., Links O’Tryon Golf Club in Campobello, s.c., and Kettle Moraine Golf Club in Lisbon, Wis. Prestwick is a national golf course brokerage, management, appraisal and consulting firm with corporate headquarters in Elm Grove, Wis.

FALCON'S FIRE NAMES GOLF DIRECTOR

ORLANDO, Fla. — Kenny Winn has been named director of golf at Falcon’s Fire Golf Club at Seralago, Winn has been head pro at Pelican Hills Golf Club in Newport Coast, Calif., since September 1991. He previously worked at Moreno Valley Ranch Golf Club in Moreno Valley, Calif., and PGA West in LaQuinta, Calif. Rees Jones designed Falcon’s Fire, which was developed by Newfield Enterprises International of Los Angeles and is managed by Western Golf Properties Inc. of Scottsdale, Ariz.

Tommy Armour Golf Management Awards Scholarships

Six Professional Golf Management students at Ferris State University received 1992/93 scholarships from Tommy Armour Golf. Receiving awards at the PGM Student Association banquet were Michael Hindelrifter of Portage, Mich.; Charles Karnolt of Winsted, Conn.; Ken Hartmann of Dallas; Andrew Rogers of Wildwood, Fla.; John German of Grinnell, Iowa; and Jeff Rainey of Tonawanda, N.Y.

CLUBCORP COURSE OPENS

The first course at Jack Nicklaus-designed Indigo Run on Hilton Head Island, S.C., opened recently for limited play. The private golf and residential community is operated by Club Corporation of America and The Melrose Co. Construction of a second course is scheduled to begin this spring.
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Bennett: 20 to 30 supers capable of winning GCSAA title

Carlton Oaks and Steele Canyon will host the championship flight. Bennett believes 20 to 30 superintendents are capable of winning this year's event. Among his stiffest competitors, he believes, will be past champions Roger Null (1983, '90 and '91) of Norwood Hills Country Club in St. Louis; Dave Powell (1985, '88 and '89) of Myers Park Country Club in Charlotte, N.C.; Mike Apodaca (1982 and '87) of Tijeras Arroyo Golf Club in Albuquerque, N.M.; and David Oliver (1986) of Martin Downs Country Club in Hobe Sound, Fla.

Looking for a darkhorse? Try Andy Campbell of Brook Valley Country Club in Winterville, N.C. "The last three years he's either tied or beat me in the team qualifying competition," Bennett said.

Dick Stunte of Alvamar Country Club in Lawrence, Kan., was a sentimental choice mentioned by fellow competitors and others in the GCSAA hierarchy.

"He's been close several times," said Dave Fears of nearby Blue Hills Country Club in Kansas City, Mo., a 14-handicapper, candidate for the board of directors and close friend. "It would be nice to see him win."

Stunz has a second, third, and fourth-place finish to his credit, although his best shot resulted in a lower finish at Houston in 1988.

"I had a four-shot lead with 11 holes to go. But, I absolutely collapsed. Everything that could go wrong did go wrong. A bunch of people went by me and Dave Powell won. I finished something like eighth. Just another disappointing point," he said.

Stunz said there are too many good players to designate anyone as the favorite. The Iowa State University graduate likes his chances as much as anyone's and has particularly fond memories of Carlton Oaks.

"I played there 20 years ago. It was the only NCAA tournament I qualified for," he said.

Past champion Oliver of Martin Downs Country Club in Hobe Sound, Fla., was particularly intrigued by last year's runner-up, Jim Sparks of Champion Hills Club of Hendersonville, N.C. The 6-4, 225-pounder "is a very long hitter who could do very well," Oliver said.

Apparently, though, 1993 won't be Sparks' year.

"I was busy with other things and forgot to send in my application," said Sparks, who played in his first GCSAA tourney last year.

"So I guess I won't be playing," Oliver considers himself one of 10 players with a good chance of winning, even though course reconstruction work and building a new house have limited his play the past 12 months. He finished 5th last year and 12th the year before that. An eagle on the 14th at Palm Valley in Palm Desert, Calif., was the key to his 1986 victory.

"I shot par the rest of the way and some other people fell back. I won by one stroke, but didn't know it until I was in the clubhouse," he said.

Newcomb awarded $2.5m for breach of Alaskan contract

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The maintenance staff in- creased from 10 to 17 the year after Newcomb's option expired, the jury foreman told the Anchorage Daily News.

"I don't know how long that will last. But their days are numbered. There should be a new owner there by spring," Tebo said.

"I shot par the rest of the way and some other people fell back. I won by one stroke, but didn't know it until I was in the clubhouse," he said.